

# The Painswick Beacon

*Sine praeiudicio*

Volume 35 Number 8

November 2012

## Post Office latest

The Post Office provides so many services which we must use if we want our excellent local branch to continue. There are far too many to list in the Beacon but hopefully our regular updates will give some helpful information.

As Christmas approaches it is good to know that you may be eligible to buy discounted Christmas stamps. If you receive Pension Credit, Employment and Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit you should fill in the appropriate form which either you will receive or which you can pick up at the Post Office. Karen stresses that you should ask if you have any questions – she and her staff are there to help. Christmas stamps will be available from 8th November and last posting dates are:

Tuesday 18th December – 2nd class

Thursday 20th December – 1st class

Saturday 22nd December – Special Delivery

For overseas, parcels etc a list is available in the Post Office.

After the car tax disc debacle which affected many customers (the Post Office had failed to send any discs to our local branch), finally and only after Karen had made many telephone calls they arrived in the week of 19th October. Karen offers her sincere apologies to everyone who tried in vain to renew their car tax in Painswick. She also stresses the need to avail yourselves of this service locally rather than elsewhere or on-line as it supports the need for the local Post Office branch.

You may have noticed that Moulton Haus, the estate agency, is advertising properties in the Post Office window. No, the Post Office is not actually selling properties but this is an example of local businesses supporting each other. There is a strong element of support among our local businesses generally and this particular partnership is presenting both the public and the businesses with greater opportunities and access to information - beneficial all round.

The Post Office will not participate in the Goodwill Evening due to a prior engagement. However, everyone is invited to join the staff on Saturday, 1st December for a drink and nibbles. Now there's an offer not to be missed!

*Carol Maxwell*

## Painswickian(s) of the Year

Nominations are invited for this annual accolade.

See page 6 for details.

**On other pages this month:** Remembrance Day 2012, **bonfire and fireworks**, seasonal fun at the Painswick Centre, **girl guides**, DASH, **magical Christmas fayre**, Apple Day success, **Merrywalks Christmas trees**, new zumba class, **support for firefighters**, Painswick Christmas Goodwill Evening, **Painswick players**, end of an era for the Patchwork Mouse, **goodwill and wassailing**, sports reports, **shine together**, muddy feet fitness, **property report**, and more...

## New Life at the Royal Oak

The Royal Oak is up and running again. With new managers, Mike and Gill Brickell, at the helm the Oak has been given a much-needed face-lift and is all set to earn its place as the 'village pub' once again.

Mike and Gill have an impressive CV when it comes to pub management. With 35 years experience, mostly in the south-west and a short spell in Spain, they understand what makes the business work. Mike is a fully qualified chef (he has worked closely with Keith Floyd) and is also an NVQ trainer. He will be doing the cooking. Gill will be working front-of-house – a position much suited to her warm and friendly personality.

The Oak re-opened on 12th October after much hard work to improve its presentation. Enterprise Inns who own the premises agreed to completely refurbish the first floor accommodation, but Mike and Gill have redecorated the whole of the public area themselves. There was much work to be done as the whole place had been rather neglected and they were determined that it should be spotlessly clean and fresh. The result is very satisfying and a welcome change.

Mike and Gill have decided that a completely new kitchen should be installed. No food will be prepared until the work is completed. This operation is under way and they hope that before long they will be serving some tempting pub fare. The intention is to specialise in traditional English pub food using locally-sourced ingredients as far as possible. Many local people will certainly be pleased to know this – the Oak was renowned for exactly this some years ago. Real ales, plus a weekly change of ale, will be a significant feature.

There are plans to make the courtyard an attractive outside area but that is for the future. The outside facilities generally are being improved. There is also a plan to introduce a piano into the restaurant area which should create an interesting ambience. Mike and Gill stress the importance of team work and this is behind their strategy for running the pub. They understand the importance of making customers feel "comfortable, warm and contented". They want the Oak to be a true village pub, but they also recognise that that means starting afresh with the Oak.

At present the Oak opens 11.30-2.30 and 5.00-11.00 Monday to Thursday, and 11.30am-late Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It is certainly good to see its doors open again and stepping inside to a clean, friendly 'just as it should be' traditional local hopefully signifies an assured future for the Royal Oak. Do go in and see for yourselves.

*Carol Maxwell*



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS *by Mike Kerton*

*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.*



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman Rob Lewis opened the Meeting and stated that the retrospective planning application submitted by the Court House had been refused by the District Council and that an Enforcement Order and letter of refusal was being issued to the applicant.

### Catbrain Quarry

The Chairman reported to the meeting that the floor of the quarry was being cleared to allow a building to be erected. The face of the quarry was being prepared for hydro seeding. Plastic sheeting would be attached to the face to retain soil which would be seeded and planted.

The Chairman went on to say that the Council has a close working relationship with the District Council's Enforcement Officer and takes all matters relating to the quarry seriously.

The Council always reacts quickly to complaints made by members of the public and it was important that any complaints made directly to the District Council were copied to the Parish Clerk.

Members of the public had reported the movement of heavy lorries to and from the quarry to the County Council. The Highways Department are investigating the complaints.

### Matters requiring a decision.

There were four matters requiring a decision. The Council supported three of the applications but after a vote objected to the application from the Old Bakery (The Chairman) for change of use of the ground floor from A 1 (retail) to A2 (Profession and financial services). Although the Applicant had confirmed that he would continue to trade as a retail unit until the business was sold, Councillors were concerned that the change of use would mean the loss of a retail unit in the centre of Painswick. There was only one vote in support of the application.

The Chairman explained that even with the introduction of the "Localism Act" it would still be necessary for such changes of use to be submitted for approval as Painswick was in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the building was Grade 2 listed.

### Presentation by Sue Oppenheimer, Chair of Glosvain

Sue Oppenheimer explained that Glosvain was an alliance of Town and Parish Councils who were opposed to the siting of the incinerator at Javelin Park. She was Chair of the group and had been invited to attend the meeting following last month's Council Meeting. By use of an overhead projector she outlined what the group thought were

the principal reasons for opposing the incinerator – pollution, height of incinerator, constant stream of heavy lorries visiting the site and probable incinerating waste from areas from other authorities. Although no planning application had been received nor would Painswick be directly involved in the planning process she sought support from the Council in objecting to any planning application. No questions were raised by Councillors at the conclusion of the presentation.

### Presentation by John Rohrbeck village contact for Fairtrade

John confirmed that the village had recently successfully applied for renewal of their Fairtrade Licence. He presented a laminated copy of the certificate and photographs were taken of the certificate being presented to the Council. There was now universal support by the majority of supermarkets for retailing Fairtrade goods, including our local shop and bed and breakfast proprietors offering Fairtrade coffee to guests. John stressed the need for the local community to continue to support the initiative by purchasing Fairtrade goods.

## PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Martin Slinger then opened the Meeting.

### Matters of Urgency

Rob Lewis suggested that at a future meeting "The Javelin Park Incinerator" be included as an Agenda item. It was important that the Council sought a balanced view on the incinerator and they should request a Cabinet Member of the County Council, involved in the project, to present a counter argument to that put forward this evening. After a discussion it was agreed to ask the County Council to make a presentation prior to a Council Meeting.

It was announced that the local Post Office had not been re-supplied with vehicle tax discs. Currently it was not possible to either tax or renew your vehicle tax at the local Post Office. Both the Post Mistress and Chairman Martin Slinger had received personal letters from the local MP, Neil Carmichael, in which he stated that the DVLA were running a "procurement competition" for the services presently provided by the Post Office. He stated "his intention to defend our current post offices and help them expand the range of services they can provide".

The Council had received a letter from the organisers of "Art Couture Painswick" seeking financial support. Councillors Ian James and Caroline White both stated that no business

plan or evidence to support the request was included with the letter. It was agreed to refer the request to the Finance Committee for them to make a recommendation to the Council.

A letter has been sent to the Charity Commission seeking clarification as to whether or not charges can be made by local organisations for visitors parking on the Recreation Ground. Discussions have been held with the Tourist Information Office. It has been agreed that the Office will remain open during the winter period until 2.30pm. The Council will consider providing space in the storage cupboard adjacent to the Council Offices. This will be fully discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

### Co-options to the Council

There have not been any applicants seeking co-option to the Council.

### County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Joan Nash advised the meeting that the County Council had agreed that each Divisional Councillor would be awarded £10k for Highway work. As she had 13 villages in her division she would be supporting small schemes such as providing additional salt spreaders, salt bins or an additional snow plough – attachment to a tractor. Other ideas were a speed survey using radar, gully cleaning or weed spraying. The County Council was now responsible for management and issue of concessionary bus passes. About 90,000 passes expire on 31st March 2013 and letters explaining the application process will be issued over the next 3 months. It will be possible to renew online, automated telephone service, by post or through libraries.

Old bicycles can be taken to Household Recycling Centres (excuse the pun!!). They are collected by a charity who carries out repairs and safety checks before selling them to the public. This provides employment and training for people seeking employment including the young.

A new booklet, Help to live at Home Guide has been produced and is available from the Adult Help desk on 01452 426868.

The Council have teamed with a green energy company with a view to saving £6.5m in the next four years.

### Land and Buildings Committee

Following a meeting of this Committee the Council endorsed the recommendation to replace the curtains in the Lower Hall, install an automatic warning system in the Town Hall and replace the notice board outside the Town Hall at a total cost of £5745.



# Remembrance Day

Communities across the country, led by the Royal British Legion, have sought to recognise the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month by holding an Act of Remembrance at an appropriate location. Some years ago the Parish Council assumed responsibility for organising the service in Painswick which was to be non-denominational, open to all members of the community irrespective of their faith and held at the War Memorial.

This year, the eleventh of November falls on a Sunday and the main Act of Remembrance will again be at the War Memorial starting at a few minutes before 11 o'clock. There will be a Remembrance Sunday service at St Mary's church starting at 9.30am which will conclude at the War Memorial where the congregation will join with other members of the community in the Act of Remembrance. The Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Martin Slinger, will lay a wreath on behalf of the community at the Memorial and representatives of other organisations will also lay wreaths.

On this occasion, we remember not only those who have died in the wars over the years but also those who continue to suffer as a result of these conflicts. It is a time when we also seek to dedicate ourselves to the work of peace, justice and reconciliation in the world entrusted to us. In London's Whitehall, the National Day of Remembrance is usually held on the nearest Sunday to the eleventh of November.

All are welcome.



## Bonfire and fireworks

**The Croft School  
Monday 5th  
November  
Gates  
open 6pm,  
fireworks  
start 6.45pm  
Mulled  
Wine, toffee  
apples, glow  
sticks**



# Painswick Library

It has been a busy month in the library with lots of people coming in for the first time. Baby Bounce and Rhyme for the under 5s started in October and the singing, rhymes and stories are being enjoyed by a group of toddlers and babies. Sessions take place every Wednesday afternoon at 2pm. We were delighted to welcome Painswick Brownies one evening. They explored the library with great enthusiasm and completed a big part of their book badge. The girls exhibited the beautiful bookmarks they had made, presented library staff with some super posters, and during the evening learnt about libraries and caring for books. A big thank you to everyone who helped, baked cakes, or came along to our coffee morning and book sale. Over £200 was raised which is a great start to library fund-raising.



We're constantly adding new books to the Library shelves, amongst the new titles are J.K Rowling's "A Casual Vacancy", the Booker prize winner "Bring up the Bodies", two new Horrid Henry stories for children starting to read and several books covering medical matters. The local interest section is also being expanded and thanks to the Beacon Committee now includes a reference set of all the issues of the "Beacon".

Why not visit the Library in the Upper hall of the Town Hall between 10 and 1 and 3 to 6 on Wednesdays and Fridays, plus Saturday morning between 10 and 1.

*Julia Churchley*



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### CCTV in Painswick

Rob Lewis reported that following meetings with both the Police and the District Council he is now reviewing the information prior to arranging a meeting of the working party.

### Parish Plan

A letter has been received expressing concern over the delay in producing the plan. Martin Slinger stated that a meeting would be arranged in the near future.

### Ward Reports

Ian James reported that he had contacted the church in Sheepscombe reminding them to submit a claim for the precept to assist with the upkeep of the churchyard.

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm.

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# Seasonal Fun and Fare at the Painswick Centre



## The Guild of Cheesemakers. Saturday 24th November at 7.30pm

Join us for the Guild's Annual Tasting in the Beacon Hall. Seated at tables laid with crisp white cloths, you will taste a selection of artisan cheeses, wines and breads and learn from a panel of experts. But don't be fooled into thinking this is just a cheese and wine-tasting. Over the course of the evening, you will hear about a mysterious, supernatural cheese. The experience invites you to question the essence of life and, eventually, make a collective decision that could alter the human race forever. Tickets are £20 each and must be pre-booked from Kate MacDuff on 813718 or email [kate@thepainswickcentre.com](mailto:kate@thepainswickcentre.com)

## Goodwill Evening. Friday 30th November 5.00 – 9.00 pm

A chance to complete your Christmas shopping at Painswick's Goodwill evening when many of the shops, art studios, galleries and cafes will be opening late. The Painswick Centre will be hosting a Christmas Fair with many stalls selling local handmade gifts, crafts, food and novelty items. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies to get you into the spirit and our Painswick Calendar for 2013 will be on sale. A few stalls are still available.

You can also visit the Cotswold and Green Rooms where you can enjoy Art Couture, Painswick's celebrated cocktails while admiring from this year's Festival. We are also inviting all local artists to take advantage of this glamorous occasion by exhibiting and selling their work. For further information contact Sue Lendon on tel. 813791.

## Hansel and Gretel. Saturday 1st December at 7.00 pm.

Banished to the woods by their cruel stepmother, Hansel and Gretel must outwit the witch and find their way home in this dark and tender adaptation of Grimm's classic fairy tale by Fairgame Theatre. Suitable for age 7+. Tickets are £7.00 each and are on sale from Painswick Post Office, Kate MacDuff (details above) or, subject to availability, on the door.

For more information about all our events, visit the Painswick Centre's new website: [www.thepainswickcentre.com](http://www.thepainswickcentre.com) Take a look at our homepage and join our email list to be among the first to hear about events at the Centre.

Gilly

Hill on behalf of the Trustee's.



# The Secret World of Bletchley Park Revealed



The Field Club's next Lecture will be held on Wednesday 7th November at 2:30pm when our speaker will be Sir Francis Richards. Until



recently, Sir Francis was Chairman of the Trustees of Bletchley Park and he will give us his personal recollections of this historic site, the home of secret British code breaking activities during WWII and birthplace of the modern computer. We expect this talk to whet our appetites for next year's visit to Bletchley Park when we look forward to seeing the famous cipher machines including the Enigma, pictured (© Bletchley Park Trust).

Refreshments will be served after the talk and visitors will be very welcome to join us (£3 charge).

Jane Rowe (tel 813228)

## Please wake up 'Painswickians'

Painswick Tourist Information is asking for your help to ensure (The Queen of the Cotswolds) does not become a Ghost Town. During November a feedback circular will be delivered to the homes in Painswick and available in all shops, asking for your help, creative ideas and suggestions, so that Painswick has a vibrant future.

The best suggestion will win a three course Sunday Lunch for two at the Falcon. Please support this important initiative.

Thank you.

Anne Smith

Painswick Tourist Information

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## Rococo Garden Creating Christmas!

As I sit at my desk writing this article and looking out at a garden filled with flowers, it seems hard to believe that Christmas is less than a hundred days away! But it is and we on the Friends Committee are not going to be caught out by a lack of preparation! On Saturday 24th November the Coach house will be opened for creating Christmas, an event designed to celebrate the fun of Christmas and to provide you with a chance to buy original presents and cards.



The restaurant will be open for teas, coffees and homemade cakes, so why not arrange to meet a friend or bring your children for an early piece of Christmas cake or a mince pie.

During the day we will be also having a series of demonstrations of Christmas crafts. Caroline Tatham from the Cotswold Gardening School at Gossington Hall will be demonstrating wreath making and selling her wreath kits; there will be a demonstration

of felt making; Claire and Lucy Moir will be making mince pies and you will be able to see how chocolate truffles are made as well as many more ideas of how to create a truly Cotswold Christmas. The Coach House will be open from 10.30am-4.00pm and, as parking is free, what better way is there to start the festive season. Let's get in the party mood – the gardens may be asleep but the Friends are bright eyed and bushytailed and looking forward to seeing you all on 24th November!

P.S. Charity Christmas cards will also be on sale so there is no need to travel miles in wintry weather when you can just pop into the Rococo Garden.

*Vicky Aspinall*

## DASH - Delivering Aid to Stroud Homeless.

DASH groups have been formed in Painswick, Cranham and Sheepscombe (and in other local villages) with the aim of supporting Marah, the charity working with homeless and disadvantaged people in Stroud, providing hot meals 3 times a week, emergency food, clothing, the chance to have a hot shower etc as well as advice and counselling and help with finding accommodation.

Marah are currently appealing for tinned meals (sausages and beans, macaroni cheese etc) and for warm clothing (especially but not exclusively men's) - particularly sweaters, socks and gloves. Any items you are able to donate can be placed in the box at Murrays Estate Agency or in the boxes in Painswick, Cranham or Sheepscombe churches. (Note: Marah works closely with the Food Bank and donations are shared between them as appropriate.)

In addition to the above items, DASH runs a small change collection scheme. Even a few 5ps, 2ps and 1ps soon add up and over the past 3 years we have collected £950 in this way to provide emergency help (e.g. the fare to a hospital appointment or a new pair of underpants). Please any you have collected to Alison Robinson (812 286) or Frances Watson (812 071) or we can come and collect it from you, if that is easier. We can assure you that Marah is immensely grateful for all the help we have provided so far and the need increases as the weather and economic situation deteriorate.

## Girl Guides



## Girlguiding

Julia Mundell

writes that the Girl Guides have restarted and meet every Thursday evening in the Church Rooms. There were 23 girls at Painswick Guides before they had to close the group two years ago. They want to exceed this number! She says "come and have fun with us". Julia asks if anyone is interested would they please contact her either by email or telephone.

Email: [Jules\\_at\\_woodbury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Jules_at_woodbury@hotmail.co.uk)  
Tel: 07814854562.



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## Magical Christmas Fayre

You are welcome to join us  
on

**Sunday 9th December  
3.30pm - 6pm**

**At The Croft School,  
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## Richmond success

The Royal Horticultural Society held its annual Bloom competition on Thursday 6th September at Henley-in-Arden Golf and Country Club when Owen Vaughan, Richmond's Head Gardener, won two major prizes. In the 'Thriving' Award, the judges' comments were that "The grounds & gardens to Richmond Painswick are breathtakingly beautiful with classic border planting schemes giving a wow factor at every twist and turn. The whole area is immaculate and well maintained. The area is tranquil and in harmony with the landscape, greatly respected. It is a sanctuary for all creatures great and small".

'Gardening Excellence' is a new award this year as it was felt that Owen deserved special recognition. The judges commented, "So impressive is Owen Vaughan's gardening expertise that it is deemed necessary to introduce, within the Heart of England in Bloom's RHS IYN campaign, a new award. The gardens at Richmond Painswick are outstanding in their design and presentation. Owen is an accomplished plants man and his knowledge, respect and love of flora depicted in Richmond's Wild Flower Meadow is a joy for all".

Subject to agreement by our residents, Richmond will be opening their gardens in 2013 for the National Gardens Scheme.

*Julia Mundell, Activities & Events Co-ordinator,  
Richmond Painswick.  
Tel: 01452 813902 ext 224.*

## Painswickian(s) of the Year

The Beacon invites nominations for the accolade of **Painswickian of the Year (POY)**. The title is conferred on a person who has made a significant contribution to the life of the community in recent times. Last year for the first time we introduced a second award which is for **Young Painswickian of the Year (YPOY)**. The choice of POY and YPOY will be published in the January 2013 issue. We need to have nominations submitted by Monday 19th November. Reasons for the nomination should be of no more than 100 words and delivered to the Painswick Beacon postbox in New Street or sent by email to the Beacon address: [beacon@painswick.net](mailto:beacon@painswick.net). We don't give a definition of 'young' so we leave it to you to decide. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Thank you for coming to Apple Day!

A huge thank you to everyone who came to Painswick Apple Day 2012. We were delighted to see so many villagers as well as plenty of new faces. Despite this year's shortage of apples people brought enough fruit to enable Greg McCormick to do a couple of pressings on our great oak press.

We hope you enjoyed the music from 'out to lunch' and the field kitchen food run by Nick Simonin and his band of wonderful volunteers. The pork and apple stew was absolutely delicious as were the apple fritters. The children had fun eating toffee apples and getting thoroughly wet bobbing for apples!

We would like to thank everyone who entered the baking competition, especially the children who put a lot of thought and effort into their entries. Founder of The Foodie Bugle, Silvana de Soissons was a fantastic and enthusiastic judge and congratulations to winners of the children's category sisters Lucie and Emma Allen who baked a magnificent blackberry cake. Congratulations too to Jane Warren who won the baking competition with her apple cake and to Jo Living who won the 'best fruit in a jar' category; they will both be sharing the prize of a day's baking course at Thyme at Southrop Food School. Many thanks to Thyme at Southrop for donating such an amazing prize.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and to St. Mary's Church for kindly allowing us to hold Apple Day in the beautiful churchyard.

If you would like to be kept up to date with news and information about Painswick Orchard Group, then visit [www.painswickcommunityorchard.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.painswickcommunityorchard.blogspot.co.uk), fill in your email address and we'll send you email updates. And do come and take a look at our map of Painswick fruit trees in Painswick Library and add your own trees or any communal trees you know of.

*Painswick Community Orchard Group*

Pictured left to right are: Jo Living, Sylvanna de Soissons and Iris McCormick



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## Christmas Trees

Our Christmas Tree Plantation is situated in Pitchcombe off the lane to the church and village hall.

It was started on a trial basis in 1979 when a small area of grassland was planted with Norway Spruce to see if aspect, soil type and drainage were suitable. The outcome was positive and the plantation has been in continuous production ever since, supplying a strong demand for fresh, locally grown trees. The Plantation now consists mainly of Norway Spruce, the ever popular Christmas Tree. Causcasion Fir, otherwise known as Nordmans, are also grown.

Harvesting of trees (height range 2' – 20' is carried out from late November onwards, when some of the smaller trees are lifted and containerized. Others are cut prior to sale, or individually selected from within the plantation, either to take away or name-tagged for cutting and collection later. Our trees are for sale this year from 3rd December – 24th December at the Plantation, each type and height according to availability. Contact Nick Grimsley on 813282 or mobile 07943820803.

## Vicki's Fascinators

Vicki Moore can certainly produce a fascinator to suit every occasion. Whether it's a wedding or the races or a party or that very special event, she will create the perfect little headpiece to order on a very individual basis.

Vicki, together with her husband and two children, has recently moved to Painswick from Luckington. She was formerly a solicitor but the arrival of children gave her the opportunity to turn her hand to something more creative. After several short courses she invited friends to view her headpiece creations and the orders started coming in. At this point the designs were set pieces. However, it began to expand into more of a bespoke business as customers wanted specific designs for special occasions and now the headpieces are mostly made to order.

Each piece is beautifully hand-made. Vicki uses a huge range of materials in a vast array of colours. Her creations are not hats; as she points out, millinery uses a very different set of skills. Her fascinators are headpieces ranging from simply decorated headbands to very elaborate creations involving clips, bands, elastics and combs as a base. They can be fun, elegant, quirky, glamorous, beautiful, in fact whatever suits the occasion.

Recent events have given rise to a growth in the demand for fascinators and headpieces and they have become very fashionable and are certainly easy to wear. Vicki's business has now been running for three years and in its present form is aimed at women and children. Her garden shed has been happily converted into her workshop. If you have a special occasion looming large or if you simply like the idea of a beautiful headpiece you can arrange a consultation with Vicki at her home in Tibbiwell Lane. Her telephone number is 810707, email her at [Vicki@vmoore.co.uk](mailto:Vicki@vmoore.co.uk) or take look at her website [www.vmoore.co.uk](http://www.vmoore.co.uk) where you will see a small sample of her fabulous fascinators.

*Carol Maxwell*

## Vehicle taxation and the Post Office

There has been considerable concern expressed by residents that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is running a procurement competition for services that are presently provided by the Post office. The Stroud Member of Parliament, Neil Carmichael, has responded to inquiries made to him, with the advice that the DVLA "is required by European Law to competitively tender this contract and it is therefore, a fully open and entirely commercial process and one which the Government cannot take sides on". He goes on to say that "he is confident that the Post Office will be presenting a very competitive bid to retain this contract."

In his letter Mr Carmichael says, "However, this Government has made it clear that it does want to see the Post Office become a genuine front office for Government at both national and local level. I completely agree with this position as post offices are a natural place for people to access Government services such as identity verification. The Post office is a separate business to Royal Mail. It is not for sale and there will be no return to the closure programme of the last Government, which saw 5,000 post offices close across the country, including sadly, several in the Stroud constituency. During this Parliament, the Government is investing £1.34 billion in the Post Office network to modernise the network and safeguard its future. In return, Post Office Ltd has agreed to maintain the network at around its current size of at least 11,500 post offices. In time, I hope the Post office could be converted into a mutual like the John Lewis Partnership or Cooperative Group as part of innovative new plans to transfer its ownership and running to employees, sub-postmasters and local communities".

Mr Carmichael writes that he "hopes this is reassuring to you and thank you for contacting me. As your local MP I intend to defend our current post offices and help them expand the range of services they can provide".

The full text of Mr Carmichael's letter is available in the Parish Council office.



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## New Zumba Class

Ally Bennett writes that she is a qualified Zumba instructor and has been holding private classes for nearly a year. She wishes to open up the classes to all the ladies in Painswick. She is very hopeful that the class will be a success, especially approaching the party season when people will be looking for help to fit into their little black dresses but also, Zumba is a very sociable and fun mood lifter that has changed the lives of millions, herself included. All levels are welcome for men and women although it is mainly for women from 16 to 64. The venue is the Painswick Centre. The day, Thursday and the time 6pm to 7pm. Please contact Ally for details of the class price at <http://www.allyzumba.co.uk/> Tel: 07875227549.



## Impressive support for our firefighters

As reported in last month's Beacon, the recruitment evening for our local team took place at the station on Tuesday, 16th October – and what an amazing response there was. Ten keen local people attended the event of whom seven, including two ladies, are now moving forward to the next stage.

Station manager, Mike Powis, reports that this is probably the best response to the call for more recruits the team has had to date and it certainly impressed the officer from headquarters who was present. During the course of the evening those attending were made fully aware of the rigorous process involved in both the stages of recruitment and subsequent training. None were deterred. A good age range was represented which was in itself very pleasing. For those emerging successfully from the initial stages actual training and participation will probably commence as early as January.

This is really good news for our local team as it means its future is assured. Mike and the team would like to express their heartfelt

thanks to all those who came forward and to wish them well as they embark on the course before them.

*Carol Maxwell*

## Fairtrade

Parish Council Chairman, Martin Slinger, was presented with the Fairtrade renewal status certificate by local Fairtrade representative John Rohrbeck at the October Council meeting. A question was asked by a resident in attendance, had the Council met the five goals for this status? These are the five goals:



- The first goal is that the local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings, offices).
- At least four Fairtrade product ranges are readily available in the area's retail outlets (pharmacy and newsagents) and two products served in local catering outlets (cafés, restaurants, pubs).
- Local workplaces and community organisations (places of worship, schools, other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible.
- Media coverage such as this article and events raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.
- A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure the Fairtrade Town campaign continues to develop and gain new support.

Painswick actually more than meets the basic criteria for a village/town of our size and were particularly commended for the amount of publicity





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## The Beacon archive

In this month, we reported

### 10 years ago

The Croft School won the small schools 6-a-side football tournament beating Birdlip 2:1 in the final. Also in the GPSFA tournament, open to all schools, the Croft won in a penalty shootout the final against Heron School.

The Croft school receives a new building. Philip Oakley, as Chairman of the Gyde Charity Trustees, cut a blue tape and declared the new building open. The trustees had met the full cost of the new purpose built classroom

### 20 years ago

The Parish Council approved the decision for £17,280 to be spent on children's play equipment at the Recreation ground, which would include a new tiled playground surface.

Re-cycling starts in Painswick. Stroud District Council gave details of a trial re-cycling scheme for Painswick. It will involve the collection of Newspaper waste from households once a month starting Wednesday 4 November.

### 30 years ago

The Cricket Club declines to move its ground to Broadham sportsfield on a 60 to 40% majority although the Cricket Club Chairman Barrie Meadows was in favour. Due to this the Tennis Club should be advised that the possibility for permission of additional tennis courts at the Rec was unlikely.

Sunday 3 October the Baptist and United Reform Churches celebrated 'Harvest' together in the Baptist church. This is the first time both churches have held Harvest services together marked the beginning of a six-month trial period of co-operation.

On 4th October, Alex Nichols gave a presentation on "British Opera", having done a switch with Dennis Morgan who will now entertain us with "The Record Collection of an Eccentric" on 29th November.

Like many other listeners, I was surprised by the abundance of British operas and their tunefulness. The history of all opera resolves itself into the conflict between commercialism and idealism, and it was the latter that was needed to give British opera a firm footing, beginning with the work of the composer Rutland Boughton. Obstacles that had to be overcome were the belief that the English language was unmusical and unsuitable for singing (though not in oratorios!), the competition of the Italian opera, our lack of provincial opera houses, general public lack of interest and thus discouragement of British composers. Alex played recordings of works by 13 composers out of very many more which we greatly enjoyed. Thomas Arne's King Alfred ("Rule Britannia"), a "museum opera", was followed by later ones - outstanding the now famous "Immortal Hour" by Boughton, mentioned above, Elgar's "The Spanish Lady", Holst's "Savitri", Walton's "The Bear" and, good fun to end up with, the Opening tavern scene from John Rutter's 21st Century "Bang", sung by the Trinity Boys Choir.



Ralph Kenber

## Moulton Haus and James Pyle join forces

Moulton Haus Painswick Estate Agents and James Pyle and Co are proud to announce that they have joined forces to establish a new sales and lettings proposition in the Stroud region.

Rod Moulton, Managing Director at Moulton Haus said: "Many people will remember James' father Alan founding Lear and Lear in 1962. In an impressive career spanning 25 years James has also been at the forefront of local estate agency, and was for a number of years with Hamptons and more recently as a director of leading Wiltshire agents, Strakers. Clearly James' experience and knowledge of the business locally is unparalleled and we are delighted to be working with him".

James Pyle commented: "I am extremely pleased to be working with Rod, Hugo, Tobin, Steph, and Caroline at Moulton Haus whose modern professional and innovative style, as well as their dedication to quality customer service mirrors my own, and I am very much looking forward to meeting old and new friends and helping clients again in the near future."

Pyle, who recently established James Pyle and Co, independent agents situated in Sherston, will be based in both Painswick and Sherston.

## Amaury Blow as guest speaker



You are invited to join us at our AGM during which we will hear Amaury Blow talk on "What the Beacon means to me". (In this instance The Beacon is the location, not the publication you are now reading!) This is a rare chance to hear a gifted speaker talk on a subject dear to his heart. The meeting, in the Church Rooms on Wednesday, 14th November will begin at 7.30 p.m. It is free to members, visitors £1 each.

Four members have successfully earned qualifications to use brushcutter machinery. This will enable them to use our new machines on the Beacon and to mentor those who would like to become volunteer scrub clearers. The new Stewardship Scheme has given us an interesting and extensive range of improvement chores for the next nine years. So we are very keen to enlist more volunteers, ranging from teenagers to fit retirees. Alternate Saturday mornings in the autumn, winter and spring are when we meet to cut, carry and then often burn the smothering overgrowth. Tools, training and jolly company provided. Our modest annual membership is only £5. Do come along to find out more, or contact Secretary David Little (813734) or David Allott (812624) Chairman, Painswick Beacon Conservation Group.

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## Probus Women

Probus Women got off to a flying start with its inaugural meeting held on 8th October at the Church Rooms where 15 founder members discussed and agreed on a varied and interesting programme of speakers and visits for 2012/13. It was agreed that a visit to Tynesfield would take place on May 15th 2013.

The next meeting will be held at The Church Rooms on 5th November starting at 10.00 am for coffee, with the meeting beginning at 10.30. The speaker will be Mike Cooper on his experiences as an 'Olympic Volunteer'.

On 26th November a Christmas Theme Cookery Demonstration will be held at Waitrose in Cheltenham followed by an optional lunch at The Tivoli.

Subscriptions were fixed as follows: October–December 2012 £6. The rate for January 2013–December has yet to be confirmed. Visitors £3 per meeting.

If you would like to come along to our next meeting as a visitor, before deciding whether or not you want to take out a subscription, we would be very pleased to welcome you.

*Jill Roberts*



## Probus Men

### Living Museum and the First Road Vehicle

A coachload of us descended on the Black Country Museum, a canalside collection of buildings moved from diverse locations. It consists of houses, workshops, shops, a community hall, roads with historic vehicles and even a coal mine!

We saw tradespeople in action and intruded upon cottages showing living conditions during the early part of the last century. However, the most popular venue proved to be the traditional chippy (See photograph).

The day finished with a narrowboat trip through a vast network of underground tunnels that had been dug to mine limestone and other minerals. We marveled at the determination of the men who built these workings.

On October 3rd, serious vintage car addict Trevor Picken related a fascinating story of how contacts with two separate French / American vintage car enthusiasts led him to the nub of his talk - his discovery of the first ever powered vehicle, NOT the usual suspect, the Benz but the steam powered 'Fardier' produced by a French engineer in 1770!

A replica of this 3 ton monster was produced in Florida and exhibited at the prestigious Retro Mobile exhibition in Paris where it steamed and snorted around the exhibition to great acclaim.

*Glynn Nixon*



## Christmas is coming!

Painswick's Country Market cooks are already planning their Christmas baking and welcome your orders for Christmas cakes and puddings, Yule logs, mince pies and much more. Please drop in to the Town Hall on Fridays between 10 and 11:00 am to place your orders or contact the Country Market Manager, Pamela Westcott, on tel. 812471.

Or, would you like to send a gift parcel for Christmas or to cheer up a sick friend? Country Markets operate a local and nationwide Parcel Scheme and Pamela Westcott will be happy to provide details.

Our last Market before Christmas will be on Friday 21st December, when pre-ordered Christmas baking can be collected. Enjoy a mince pie with a cup of filter coffee served by friendly helpers.

## Bakers Sought

Do you enjoy baking? Would some extra income be welcome? We welcome all new producers but especially bakers, as our cakes and savoury stalls regularly sell out and we are left with nothing but disappointed customers! Painswick's Country Market is run on a co-operative non-profit-making basis, but producers receive the full price of their sold goods, less 10% to help us cover overheads. We can provide packaging, labelling and bags of practical advice, particularly about food safety and direct selling to the public. Please call into the Market or contact Pamela Westcott for more information.

*Jane Rowe, Secretary, email: info@painswickmarket.co.uk*



## Annual General Meeting 2012

The Chairman and committee of CTAP warmly invite you to their AGM on

**Thursday 15th**

**November at 7pm in St. Mary's Church Rooms (Assembly Hall), Painswick.**

The meeting will be followed by refreshments, and then there will be a talk given by the Chaplain at St. Edward's School, Cheltenham, Father Basil Postlethwaite, entitled "Journeys of a Pilgrim".

This should prove a most interesting evening

We look forward to your support.

*Rita Bishop, Secretary CTAP*



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INDEPENDENT LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

# Painswick Christmas Goodwill Evening

On Friday 30th November, between 5 pm and 9 pm, Painswick will host its fourth Small But Perfectly Formed Christmas Goodwill Evening.

Please delay your search for Christmas presents until you've had a chance to peruse the wonderful and unique range of handmade gifts and produce that will be available at the two Christmas Markets, taking place at the Town Hall and the Painswick Centre.

As darkness falls, many of our very own shops, art studios, galleries and businesses will also be opening late, to attract you with their own ranges of Christmas inspiration and tempting you in with delicious aromas of mince pies, mulled wine and bountiful servings of Goodwill!

Take a stroll around beautiful Painswick on the 30th November, enjoy the warm welcome and goodwill that Painswick has to offer and discover the unique Christmas gifts you've been searching for.

A feature of the Christmas season in Painswick in recent years has been the lights on the Memorial Ground yew trees. This year

we are planning to switch on the lights on Friday November 30th for the Goodwill Evening being held that night. The lights are powered by rechargeable batteries and half of them need changing over each day. There was a gang of 6 of us who did this last year on a rota basis. This spread the load and meant that typically only two duties a week were needed, on average, each week. Most of last year's stalwarts are willing to help again but it would be very helpful if we could recruit a few more to help out. If you could help with this task please contact Chris Mercer in The Chairman's shop or ring or e-mail me. (814205 ; dc.bishop@btinternet.com). Many thanks.

*David Bishop*



**Anne-Marie Randall**  
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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. Please supply the Beacon with your full name and address although such details will not appear in the Beacon unless you so request.

## Anastasia Heath writes:

We lived in Painswick from 1937 to 1950 and I wonder whether anyone else remembers a freak event on January 28th 1941 (my seventh birthday). Torrential rain, which froze on reaching the ground, coated everything with an inch of ice. It became impossible for adults to walk along the streets (children tend to be more agile) and I am afraid I hugely enjoyed seeing all my elders slithering to the ground! The bare trees looked unbelievably beautiful, laden with ice in the winter sunshine, though huge damage was also done as great branches crashed to the ground under the unaccustomed weight. I think this freeze was local and only places within about a mile of Painswick were affected. I would love to know whether anyone else remembers this great freeze and – best of all – whether they have any photographs.

*287 Banbury Road, Summertown,  
Oxford OX2 7JH. Tel: 01865 511823*



## Ever had the urge?

Have you ever had the urge to act but been too afraid to have a go? Well, this may be your chance to see what it's like to slap on the makeup and tread the boards. The Painswick Players are considering the possibility of staging Jeffrey Archer's play Beyond Reasonable Doubt as our next production on the 9th, 10th and 11th of May next year. This is a serious and challenging play for the principal actors, but there are several minor parts which are ideally suited to those of you who would like to try acting for the first time. We are planning to read the play at our next play-reading, in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre on Tuesday 27th November, beginning at 7.30pm. Newcomers are always welcome at our play-readings, even if you have no intention of ever acting!

The Painswick Players Christmas social is to be held on Friday 14th December. Details from Jill Walford at 810888 or copsam@talktalk.net.

*Stephen Friar*

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## Waite Rose

If some interesting new dishes have recently been served at your dinner table: Navarin of Lamb, or Peach and Rhubarb Crumble for instance, it probably means that the lady of the house attended Yew Trees WI September meeting! On that evening Chris Moseley from Waitrose in Stroud gave a very interesting talk on the history of the store from its beginnings. In 1904 Mr Waite, Mr Rose and Mr Taylor set up a grocery store in Acton Hill, London; (Mr Taylor departed after 4 years) and in 1937 Waitrose was acquired by the John Lewis Partnership where every employee or 'Partner' has a say in the governing of their company. Chris, who is obviously very happy in his job, kept emphasising that the success of the company is due to the fact that it is such a fulfilling place to work. His words were endorsed by his colleague Shirley, who had prepared a delicious selection of delicacies for members to taste. If this was not treat enough, they then sent their audience home with a cookery book each.

One member told how she had taken advantage of the Gloucestershire Federation special offer of 5 golf lessons for only £6. She knew little about golf but on her recent retirement had determined she would try her hand at new ventures. She enjoyed the introductory 5 lessons so much she is now on her third set of lessons, and has promised that if and when she wins her first trophy we will be the first to know! An inspiring story that lives up to the WI slogan "Inspiring women"!

Ladies if you would like to be inspired why not come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 27th November when Richard Cann will give a talk entitled "Heavenly Light – a look at Stained Glass". It will be at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Rooms and will be followed by our AGM.

*Celia Lougher*

## The Patchwork Mouse – end of an era for Dawn

The Patchwork Mouse has been sold. For Dawn Mallinson, and indeed for Painswick, this is a very significant event as it brings to an end a business unlike any other. Dawn will continue to trade for the next few weeks and would like everyone to know that there will be a massive sale of stock (not including cards) starting Monday, 12th November.

There will be further news on the future of the premises in a later edition of the Beacon. Meanwhile, do go in and enjoy this wonderful little shop whilst you can.

*Carol Maxwell*



## Local History Teaser

This fine study was the domain of an eminent Painswickian from past times. Are you able to name the man and say in which house the study was located? Answer in next month's Beacon.



Last month's photograph was rather apt inasmuch as the drive to recruit more firefighters was front page news. The picture showed the Painswick firefighters of 1922 but alas none were identified.

## ... and the Local History Society

At the October meeting of the Society Steve Coleman, until recently Ringing Master of the Diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, gave a lively, entertaining and very informative presentation on the history of English bell ringing. He demonstrated how English bells are unique because of the clapper action and gave a thorough explanation of how they work, with considerable audience participation.

Throughout history bells have been used for many purposes and the practice goes back over many centuries. The Whitechapel bell foundry has been producing bells since the 14th century and it and the Loughborough foundry are the only remaining bell manufacturers. For many years ordinary working people, both men and women, were the real bell ringers but in the 17th century more wealthy young men, usually Royalists, took to the practice partly, according to Steve, because it shocked their elders. They were, on the whole, literate and it was from this time that bell ringing activities began to be recorded. He also expounded his theory about the fact that women have generally been more concerned than men to create musical rounds.

Painswick is famous for its participation in competitions. The Painswick bells are, according to Steve, far superior to any others in the diocese, including the cathedral, and with so many different changes possible have frequently been rung for many hours. The longest peal in recent decades lasted for 17 hours in Loughborough in 1963. The very complex compositions appear to be random but are in fact mathematically quite sophisticated. The competitions were particularly popular in the 18th and 19th centuries when large crowds would gather and the composers could earn big money. Medieval life was governed by bells and they have continued to signify important occasions, both good and bad. During the Puritan era bells were rung to declare the sermon about to start, this at a time when many went into the church only for the sermon. An interesting endpiece – Painswick church has the only steeple with a padlocked gate, installed after the steeple keeper suicidally threw himself from the top in 1874!

At next month's meeting John Putley will give a presentation on Roman Medicus. Tuesday, 20th November, 7.30pm, Croft School. Everyone is welcome.

*Carol Maxwell*

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# Uganda

A massive thank you to everyone who donated to my fundraising efforts for the charity Soft Power Education in Uganda, through collections in the Post Office and my cake sale on the Olympic Torch day, Painswickians helped me to raise £150 towards my target which helped immensely.

My time spent in Uganda in June and July was truly inspiring, and I was able to see firsthand where all the money we raised was spent, whether it be the mortar and cement which we mixed by hand or the tools required for the physical building of classrooms of schools in remote areas, everything was provided by Soft Power. It was wonderful, too, to get to know the builders who work long and arduous hours making and placing each individual brick for the classrooms, and it was a privilege to be given an insight into their lives.



The first two weeks of my trip were spent in a very rural area of the country at a school run by a tiny community on the edge of a rainforest. The people of this village showed great interest in us being there having had no previous experience of tourists, or even westerners. We became very fond of the children who were fascinated by our books, mirrors, cameras and tents as we inhabited their school for a

fortnight. With the younger children being taught outside on the floor under a mango tree, it was clear to us how desperate they were in need of properly built facilities, which motivated us to get stuck into the building work despite the scorching heat.

The second fortnight of the project was based at a school which had successfully adapted more of a structure and daily routine due to the charity's former contributions. Here we were instructed to paint the classrooms with knowledge that a bright and attractive school had been proven to encourage a larger attendance of children in Uganda, and we had to turn a grey and boring classroom into something more exciting for this very reason.

Living in such basic conditions with no running water, toilets or sanitation and eating the basic staple diet of plantain shocked me into a realisation of how developed and commodified our lives in the UK are. However, what struck me was not how poverty stricken and desperate people were, but how happy and content they were with the very basic lives they live.

I am to return to Uganda next year on the same project, however this time as one of the group's leaders which I am very excited about. I can't wait to return to see how our contributions and the classrooms we helped build this year have developed the schools and children's lives. Thank you again for all the donations!

*Lucy Speed*

# Painswick Community Orchard Group – Goodwill and Wassailing

Please come and join us on Goodwill Evening, 30th November at Red Lion House, opposite Hamptons on Vicarage Street, for hot mulled apple juice and roast chestnuts and take home some mistletoe and traditional Christmas biscuits. There will be a chance for your children to decorate their own biscuits too.

Save the date for **Wassailing on Saturday 12th January**. This is the moment when in the deepest and gloomiest part of the winter we make our way in a noisy lantern-lit procession to the orchards and wake up the trees from their winter sleep. We drink some warming cider from the Wassailing cup and 'toast' the trees! Children and grown-ups can put on animal costumes and make merry with the clanging of pots and pans and loud singing! We are then planning to return to an indoor venue for music, hot food and more cider – exact location and time to be confirmed in next month's Beacon.

# Stroud and District Mencap Fayre

The Fayre this year is in the Stroud Baptist Church hall in Union Street, right opposite then Farmers Market, on Saturday 24th November from 10.00am until 2.00pm. This event is even more important this year as all Government funding for our residents is being drastically cut and they will need the Society's support more than ever. Painswick has always given us huge support with Mencap fundraising, for which we are very grateful, and we look forward to seeing you in Stroud this year.

*Marion Sadler*

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# Sports reports *assembled by John Barrus*

## Rugby Club

### Saturday 20th October - Gloucestershire Premier league

#### WHITEHALL 20 PAINSWICK 36

PAINSWICK produced a committed display away against Bristol side Whitehall and came away with another bonus point victory. Whitehall are a hard nut to crack at home but they had no answers to Painswick's pacey backs and dogged forwards. Whitehall played a different game using their bigger forwards but came up against a determined Painswick pack who never took a step backwards. Skipper Austen Smith got Painswick off to a flying start when he went over under the posts for their first try after only ten minutes, Ali Bressington added the extras.

Minutes later they increased their lead when winger Will Hewer scored a try after an excellent break from full-back Rob Sidwell. The homeside hit back just before the interval after a rare visit into Painswick's 22 when their prop forced his way over wideout.

With only a 7 point lead it was crucial Painswick started the second half strongly and they did with the forwards winning plenty of possession, and eventually Bressington made an excellent break from just inside his own half and raced away to score under the posts: he added the conversion. Sidwell then secured Painswick's bonus point when he scored their fourth try following an exchange of passes from winger Tom Fox, once again conversion slotted over by Bressington.

The victory sees Painswick staying third in the league only one point behind leaders Drybrook and Frampton Cotterell who are joint top. For Painswick this was an excellent team performance but man of the match went to hooker Rob Wood for his all action display.

### Saturday 13th October

#### PAINSWICK UNITED 22 OLD PATS III 21

THE UNITED recorded an excellent victory against an experienced Old Pats side on Saturday 13th at Broadham Fields. Their victory was based on a committed team performance with both forwards and backs combining well.

Other result... Saturday 6th October in the Gloucestershire Premier league  
**PAINSWICK 32 TEWKESBURY 18**

## Short Mat Bowling

Not yet an Olympic sport, but we're working on it.

A modest little club we effectively take over the Town Hall's lower room on Mondays. The mat is rolled out on those mornings, together with sets of bowls, fenders, chalk and jacks. The mid-game provisions for coffee and carefully selected biscuits are close by!

These days we play in 'sets', groupings of six in the mornings and late afternoon. An even number (it could be foursomes) who commit to be there and ensure that true games can take place. Nothing too strenuous across the near two hours we spend together and, for those who believe that overall fitness is crucial, we can report that most of the 'ailments' which accompany the ageing process are spread among us. It has to be reported, with pride, that short mat bowling attracts players of any ability and just about every disability too.

At present we have two ex-members keen to return and find two others to make up a foursome to play in the evening, say 6.30 or 7.00pm. Also, the mat stands somewhat idle on Monday afternoons - ready to receive new players between 12.30 or so and 5.30pm. We would be only too pleased to demonstrate the sedately calm pleasures of this pass-time, one for which there are no boisterous touch-line critics or massive reports to be published in the national press. Just contact 813101 or 812960 if you would like a 'taster'.

*Leslie Brotherton*



## Golf Club



The summer competitions in the Seniors (over 55s) section concluded with the results of the Summer Eclectic competition – in this competition, each golfer's best score for each hole in all the summer's competitions are added together. The winners were Brendan Nunan in the 18 and under handicap section and Roy Henderson in the over 18 handicap section. The monthly medal competition (in Stableford format) took place on 18th October and was won by Brendan Nunan with an excellent score of 38 points.

There have been three Texas Scramble competitions in the last few weeks. The seniors' competition held on 27th September was won by David Walker, Alan Fisher and Ken Holbrook with a score of 46 points. Then on 16th October a combined event between the ladies and seniors was won by Sylvia Walker, Mike Carter, Bill Devine, and Richard Wright. The Margaret Kemp Texas Scramble – a competition with mixed teams from Painswick and Minchinhampton Old Course – took place on 10th October. The winners were the team of Lesley Wilde and Alan Fisher from Painswick and Eve Clements and Roger Giles from Minchinhampton with a net score of 57.

A very successful Mixed Team Event was held on Friday 19th October. The competition, which was a Stableford Bowmaker, was organised by the Ladies Section. There were 76 participating players from 15 different clubs. The winning team of: Bett and John Gazzard, Lynn Pearce and Kevin Curtis came from Cotswold Edge and they had a score of 102pts.

Whether you enjoy an informal round of golf with friends or a more competitive round, you will be most welcome at Painswick Golf Club. If you are interested in playing, please get in touch with our professional - Marc Cottrell (01452 812615) - or Peter Rowe (813228) for further details.

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## Tennis

### Club championships this year produces a lot of first time winners

Liz Cowan made a clean sweep winning all three trophies in the annual Painswick tennis championships. Liz had been in the finals of the ladies singles for the past 5 years losing to Alicia Barnet each time. This year she managed to win beating Sophie Barnet 6:1, 6:1. Liz partnering Vanessa Roderick then went on to beat Loraine Ristic and Sharon Hall in an exciting ladies doubles match. Finally Liz with Mark Wontumi won the mixed doubles beating Richard Bailey and Lisa Balfour.

In the men's singles James Barnett came out on top against Jamie Gordon 6:2, 6:1 and in a closely fought men's doubles James Barnett and Matt Lakin beat Mark Wontumi and Paul Hodges. 7:5, 6:4.

It was an afternoon of high quality exciting tennis that reflects the exceptional standard of the club. Congratulations to all the finalists. (photo shows the winners).



## Shine together

Art Exhibition and Sale  
1st – 2nd December  
10am – 4pm.  
Painswick Town Hall

Shine is an exhibition of art across all media from both well-known and up-and-coming local artists. All of the exhibits will be available to purchase throughout the event with proceeds kindly donated by the artists to The Prince's Trust.

## Muddy Feet Fitness

Nick Turner Sterling writes that Beacon readers may be interested to learn about an initiative called Muddy Feet Fitness which has been devised by Simon Schofield who lives close to the Painswick Parish boundary in Stroud's Uplands. Simon is recently medically retired from the army because of prolapsed discs. He tried to find something he could do using the skills he learned in the army. He hit upon the idea of running a forest adventure style, boot camp session called Muddy Feet Fitness. If anyone wants a fun filled way of getting fitter and slimmer then this is a must! All abilities are catered for.

Nick reports, "there is no running involved, just tabbing, which is army slang for forced speed marching with or without weight, on cross country forest tracks, with some taxing hill reps involved, and plenty of mud and puddles: it's awesome for bums, tums and cardio. It is intended to start off at a slow pace, building up speed over the weeks and introducing weight as we go. Secluded forestry with plenty of adventure, group challenges, team building exercises, motivation and fun. It's also a great way to meet new people. Lots of mud and fun and giggles, come rain or shine! We currently use Popes Wood as a venue for some of our sessions. Sunday 14th October saw the launch of Muddy Feet Family, sessions involving families, which was very successful, and great to see all the kids having fun with their parents.

Simon can be contacted through his Facebook page 'Muddy Feet Fitness, or by email at muddyfeetfitness@gmail.com or by telephone 07791758078."



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NOVEMBER OFFER

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## “Know it. Check it. Treat it”.



With the onslaught of winter upon us (did it ever go away you might ask yourself?) I thought I'd let you know about the COPD campaign that is being run in Gloucestershire at the moment. \*Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a serious lung disease that over time makes it hard to breath. It kills more people in the UK each year than bowel, breast or prostate cancer. COPD is a term used for a number of conditions; chronic bronchitis, emphysema and chronic obstructive airways disease, these are all COPD. The objective of the campaign is to seek out the 5,000 undiagnosed people of Gloucestershire with COPD.

### So ... Know it

The main symptoms are shortness of breath and a persistent cough, both of which get worse in winter. Everyday tasks can become difficult and it is easy to dismiss the symptoms as being a sign of getting older or a smoker's cough, but please have it checked out with your GP or nurse.

### Check it

- Are you over 35?
- Do you smoke or have smoked in the past?
- Do you get out of breath?
- Do you cough several times a day most days especially in the winter?
- Are you coughing up phlegm in the morning?

If you answer yes to several of these questions, it's important to get it checked out. If you have COPD symptoms, being diagnosed as early as possible can reduce the need for hospital treatment and improve your quality of life.

### Treat it

If you are diagnosed with COPD your doctor or nurse will

talk to you about how you can live with the disease. There is currently no cure for COPD, but your doctor or nurse can help you feel less breathless, cough less and keep more active. Managing COPD effectively can also help you avoid going to hospital. Managing COPD effectively can involve lifestyle changes such as gentle exercise to improve your breathlessness, fitness and activity levels. Although it can be very difficult to do, quitting smoking will reduce further damage to your lungs. You may also be referred to a COPD support programme where you can meet other people with COPD.

You can drop in on them following sessions:  
Monday 5th November, 10.30am-4.00pm at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.  
Tuesday 6th November, 10.30am-4.00pm at Beechwood Arcade, Cheltenham.  
Thursday 8th November, 10.30am-4.00pm at Cheltenham General Hospital.  
Friday 9th November 10.30am-4.00pm at Tesco Superstore, Stroud.

Please call me to arrange a home visit if you have any queries about this article or any other matter that is causing you concern.

\*Source NHS Gloucestershire

Village and Community Agents are here to help you to make contact with agencies who are able to provide you with the service or services that you may need. The team offer a countywide free facilitated signposting service primarily to the over 50s and are able to visit people in their own homes.

*Lou Kemp. Tel:07776245767*

## PROPERTY REPORT for October from Hamptons International

Murrays have continued to do well over the past few months with both an increase in viewings and sales and it is looking like the run up to Christmas is going to be equally as busy with many more properties coming to the market even as Winter approaches.


The housing market has remained positive according to the Nationwide with house prices recording their biggest monthly rebound in more than two and a half years. Prices rose by a surprising 1.3% in August reversing declines that were recorded over the previous two months and making the biggest monthly increase since January 2012. The Nationwide predicts that house prices will remain fairly stable over the next two years while incomes are likely to continue to rise gradually helping to support affordability. The Bank of England have also published figures showing a rise in mortgage approvals which is also an indication of what is to come for the property market. This all appears to be moving in the right direction and looks positive for the year to come.

We have continued to take on lots of lovely new properties including Kingsmill House an impressive, historic 5 bedroom 17th Century Mill with 3 acres of gardens and paddocks, Normanhurst a 4 bedroom Victorian house with large garden on the borders of Painswick and Pitchcombe, 4 Churchill

Way an immaculate 3 bed detached house near the school, 14 Canton Acre a well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached in Painswick, Wellspring House a substantial 4/5 bed bungalow on Painswick Beacon, Lyndale, a 4 bed family house in Upton St Leonards, Redroofs an immaculate 3 bed bungalow in the Colony at Whiteway, The Old Cottage a charming 2 bed cottage with detached annexe in Duntisborne Abbots and Waters Meet Barn, an impressive 4 bed barn conversion with annexe, commercial use and planning for further 2 bed cottage in the garden in Hardwicke.

Properties that we currently have **under offer** are Holcombe Farm and land on the edge of Painswick, Englewood House in Cotswold Mead, 8 Canton Acre in Painswick, Greenbank on The Green in Edge and Greyholme in Pitchcombe. Properties that have now sold are Tilling on Kingsmill Lane in Painswick, Dynevor House on New Street in Painswick, 16.5 acres of equestrian land off Yokehouse Lane in Painswick, Pheasant Field on The Knoll and 7 Church Close both in Cranham and 4 Ashgrove Cottages in Ruscombe.

*James C Murray - Partner*



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**NOVEMBER**

Sat	<b>3</b>	Sue Ryder Christmas Fair Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing working party: location check 813734	Town Hall Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 12noon 10.00am
Mon	<b>5</b>	Probus Women: I was an Olympic Volunteer - Mike Cooper  Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 813627) Community Lunch - Hosts: Puffins Croft School Bonfire & Fireworks event: gates open 6.00pm Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Church Rooms  Town Hall Ashwell Centre Croft School Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	10.00am to 12.00noon  10.30am 12 noon to 1.15pm Fireworks 6.45pm 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
Tue	<b>6</b>	Painswick Community Choir - Mondays (Enquiries: Sophie 01453 298138) Cupcakes for Carers Bingo: Tuesdays - Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139	Painswick Centre  P. Centre Green Room Ashwell House	7.00 to 8.30pm  1.30 to 4.30pm 6.30 to 9.00pm
Wed	<b>7</b>	Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Baby Bounce & Rhyme (Library) Wednesdays Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Lecture: Bletchley Park - Sir Francis Richards. Enq. 813228 Hort Soc: Design and Create a Garden to be Proud Of Table Tennis - Wednesdays. Enq. 812464	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Town Hall Painswick Centre  Church Rooms Painswick Centre Painswick Centre	9.30 to 11.00am 2.00 to 2.45pm 2.30pm  7.30pm 7.00 to 9.00pm
Thu	<b>8</b>	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	Town Hall Church Rooms Town Hall Town Hall Town Hall	9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 9.30 to 12.00noon 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
Fri	<b>9</b>	Country Market - coffee available - Fridays Friday Club AGM (1.45pm) followed by talk: Birds & Wildfowl at Dowdeswell Reservoir - Arthur Bell	Town Hall Town Hall	10.00am 2.30pm
Sat	<b>10</b>	Theatre Club Outing to Oxford	Stamages Car Park	11.00am
Mon	<b>12</b>	Community Lunch - Hosts: Conservation Society	Ashwell Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Wed	<b>14</b>	Probus: Peoples of the Stroud Valleys 100 years ago - Howard Beard  Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: AGM & Talk - Amaury Blow - "What the Beacon means to me." Visitors welcome	Painswick Centre  Church Rooms	10.00am  7.30pm
Thu	<b>15</b>	Churches Together Around Painswic AGM & Talk: Journeys of a Pilgrim - Fr. Basil Postlethwaite Music Appreciation Group: Juxtapositions in Music	Church Rooms  Richmond Village	7.00pm  7.30pm
Sat	<b>17</b>	<b>Copy Date for December Beacon</b> Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing working party: location check 813734	Painswick Beacon	10.00am
Mon	<b>19</b>	Community Lunch - Hosts: Painswick Parish Council	Ashwell Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	<b>20</b>	Local History Society: Roman Medicus - J. Putley	Croft School	7.30pm
Thu	<b>22</b>	Music Appreciation Group: Concert Outing to Symphony Hall, Birmingham  Joint meeting with Glos. Naturalists' Soc. & Bird Club - 'Beneath the Dark Canopy' - Michael Leach	Stamages Car Park  Town Hall	4.00pm  7.30pm
Fri	<b>23</b>	Friday Club: Ideas for Christmas Cakes - Chris West	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	<b>24</b>	Stand & Stare present The Guild of Cheesemakers - an evening of cheeses, wines & breads, drama & mystery! Enq: 813718	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Mon	<b>26</b>	Probus Women: Christmas Theme Cookery Demonstration followed by optional lunch at the Tivoli, Cheltenham	Waitrose, Cheltenham	10.55 to 12noon
Tue	<b>27</b>	Community Lunch - Hosts: Christian Aid Yew Trees WI: Heavenly Light - A Look at Stained Glass Richard Cann (followed by AGM) Painswick Players playreading: "beyond Reasonable Doubt" - Jeffrey Archer. New faces welcome.	Ashwell Centre Church Rooms  P. Centre, Green Room	12 noon to 1.15pm 7.30pm  7.30pm
Wed	<b>28</b>	Probus: Royal Flying Corps. - James Tabor	Painswick Centre	10.00am
Thu	<b>29</b>	Music Appreciation Group: British Opera	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	<b>30</b>	Christmas Fair, Art Couture Cocktails & Goodwill Evening. Enq. 813791	Painswick Centre	5.00 to 9.00pm



**DECEMBER**

Sat	<b>1</b>	<b>December Issue of The Painswick Beacon published</b> Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing working party: location check 813734	Painswick Beacon	10.00am
		Fairgame Productions present Hansel & Gretel - Musical Theatre for the family. Enq. 813228	Painswick Centre	6.45 for 7.00pm
Mon	<b>3</b>	Community Lunch - Hosts: Terry & John Rohrbeck	Ashwell Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	<b>4</b>	Cupcakes for Carers	P. Centre Green Room	1.30 to 4.30pm
Wed	<b>5</b>	Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Lecture: Norway & Lofoten Islands - Theo Stenning Enq. 813228	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
		Hort Soc: Herb Gardens Historic and Modern	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Thu	<b>6</b>	Christmas Bingo for Cobalt Appeal Fund & Bring & Buy Stall	Town Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Fri	<b>7</b>	Country Market - Coffee available - Fridays (Christmas Orders by 14th December to 812471) Friday Club: Christmas Lunch	Town Hall	10am
Tue	<b>11</b>	Yew Trees WI: Christmas Gathering	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Wed	<b>12</b>	Probus: Club Christmas Dinner	The Hill, Stroud	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thu	<b>13</b>	Music Appreciation Group: Christmas & Jubilee Social	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	<b>15</b>	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing working party: location check 813734	Painswick Beacon	10.00am
Fri	<b>21</b>	Christmas Country Market - mince pies & coffee available - final market in 2012	Town Hall	10.00am

**2013  
JANUARY**

Thu	<b>10</b>	Music Appreciation Group: Ella Fitzgerald	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	<b>11</b>	No Country Market (until 18th Jan.)		
Sat	<b>12</b>	Painswick Community Orchard Group: Wassailing Enq.812879 (meet at Painswick Centre)		T.B.A.
Mon	<b>14</b>	Probus Women: The Story of Tea - Alan Hudson	Church rooms	10.00am to 12noon
Tue	<b>15</b>	Local History Society: Gloucester Docks - Tony Condor	Croft School	7.30pm
Fri	<b>18</b>	Country Market re-opens - coffee available	Town Hall	10.00am
Thu	<b>24</b>	Music Appreciation Group: The Edwardians	Town Hall	7.30pm

**FEBRUARY**

Tue	<b>5</b>	Bird Club: World Wildfowl and their Conservation - Graham Maples, Vice-President of Friends of Slimbridge	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	<b>7</b>	Music Appreciation Group: Concert Outing to Bristol	Stamages Car Park	4.00pm
Tue	<b>19</b>	Local History Society: Illustrated Presentation by David Archard	Croft School	7.30pm
Sat	<b>23</b>	Shoemith and Maudsley in Devious Minds: Comedy, Magic & mind-Reading! Enq. 813718	Painswick Centre	7.30 for 8.00pm

Entries for the Village Diary should be sent direct to **Eddie Buttrey at: [mikeandeddie@thebuttreys.com](mailto:mikeandeddie@thebuttreys.com)**

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# PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

## NEW APPLICATIONS

**THE MALT HOUSE**, The Green, Sheepscombe  
Revised fenestration to existing listed building consent  
S.12/0620/LBC  
**OLD BAKERY**, New Street  
Change of use of ground floor A1 (retail) unit to A2 (Professional and financial services).  
**ROCKFIELD HOUSE**, Rock Mill  
Erection of extensions.  
**SCHOOL HOUSE**, Slad Road, Slad  
Alterations and enlargement of existing parking bay, replacement of concrete roof with slate roof and the addition of lantern rooflights and garden room extension.  
**JAYS HILL**, The Park  
Installation of dormers to rear (SE) and side (SW) elevation and roof lights to the front (NW) elevation to facilitate loft conversion.  
Conversion of existing garage to form kitchen extension. Erection of new attached double garage.  
**GYDE HOUSE**, Gyde Road  
Walnut Tree: Thin crown by 5% and lift to 2 metres. Remove dead wood and branch stubs.  
**LITTLE ORCHARD**, Cotswold Mead  
Rear single storey extension.  
**KENIDJACK**, Back Edge Lane, Edge  
Removal of conservatory and sun lounge and erection of extension.  
Revised to approved scheme (S.11/1594/HHOLD) with addition of a basement.  
**GREYCOT**, Far End, Sheepscombe.  
Proposed new external parking and bin/refuse store.

## CONSENT

**BEACON HOUSE**, New Street  
Reduce Sycamore to about 4-5m, Poplar to be felled, Holly trim  
Over.  
**MEISTER MASONRY LTD**, Catbrain Quarry  
Variation of condition 10 from outline planning permission S.11/0369/OUT (Minor elevational changes).  
**DOVER HOUSE**, Vicarage Street  
New external door and minor internal alterations to provide study, kitchen and dining area. (amendment removing works to windows from scheme rec'd 24/10)  
**ST MICHAELS COTTAGE**, Paradise,

Painswick. Approval  
S.12/1720/MINAM - Minor amendment to planning permission  
S.09/1789/HHOLD, (Installation of 3 velux windows in pitch roof)  
**WASHWELL FARM**, Cheltenham Road  
Extensions to existing agricultural barn.  
**LAND AT UPPER VATCH MILL**, The Vatch, Slad.  
Installation of Parish Council notice board.  
**SHEEPSCOMBE HOUSE**, Jacks Green, Sheepscombe  
Erection of a Conservatory.

## REFUSAL

**RICHMOND VILLAGE CENTRE**  
Erection of sign boards to promote the care home and provide information.  
**COURT HOUSE**, Hale Lane  
Works to garden to include formation of terracing with balustrades, erection of walling and erection of shelter. (Part retrospective and following refusal of application S.11/2248/HHOLD & S.11/2249/LBC)  
Erection of porch extension and internal works.

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## MINI-ADS

**Garage Sale** including electric lawn mower, Gardman tumble composter, wheelbarrow, garden tools, chest of lego, booster seat, chairs, corner cabinet and bric-a-brac. 12 - 4 pm on Saturday 17th November at end of Cotswold Mead. 810878

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### Garden Services.

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# The Personal Column

Jenny Gaugain

## Wedding

Congratulations to HOLLY ASHFORD and LEWIS KNIGHT who were married recently at Healaugh, North Yorkshire.

## Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of ELIZABETH McMEEKAN, CHARLES MULLER and MARGARET COGGINS who have died recently.

## Personal Messages

CAROL PARKER wishes to thank everyone who sent letters and cards of sympathy following the deaths of her aunt Freda Huddleston and Freda's son William, who died a week before his mother.

JOHN and CAROLINE MILNE have moved to East End House, East End, Fairford, Glos GL7 4AP, Telephone 01285 712157. They would love to see any Painswickians should they be in the area

*You could help Jenny Gaugain, if you would relay information about those you know and for whom a mention in the Personal Column would be appreciated.*

## Charles Muller

Sadly I have to report the death of Mr Charles Muller, who died at his home in Bath after a considerable period of ill-health. The Muller family arrived at Lovedays Mill in 1976 and soon after I came to look after the household until they moved to Bath in 2004. I had a great regard for this clever modest man. He was a great traveller, all over the world, sometimes with his wife, in his capacity as a Lloyds Broker, with many visits to South America. He was also a Lloyds Underwriter. He served as a Councillor for more than 30 years, was one of the last Aldermen and Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea 1967/8. He was well known in all the South American Embassies in London. The Argentine Ambassador and his entourage travelled down from London when Felicitas Wood was dedicated at Lovedays Mill. He was for many years President of the Stroud Conservatives, hosting many MPs at Lovedays.

I don't know if people know but he was an avid collector of postcards. How many albums? I lost count. Some were donated to South America. Panama received such a donation and published the postcards in a book, a copy of which I am lucky to own. Paraguay awarded Charles the Order of Merit. There are still many to be deposited with the Embassies in London. He travelled with them to the various countries. He was treated with great esteem. He had a great local collection of over 400 which he donated to the Gloucester Record Office to keep for future reference. He will be sadly missed by his wife Mary and his four children and grand-children.

*Ann Daniels*

## Liz McMeekan

Many readers of the Beacon may have come across Liz McMeekan in the last 20 years – a lover of Painswick and a strong campaigner for the village and its beautiful valley. 15 years ago Liz was a key member of the Painswick Valley Group successfully fighting proposals against the development of the valley. More recently she was one of the leaders in the development of the community library in Painswick. Liz was cheerful, independent and strong minded. She died too young. We will miss her, and we are sure many of you will too.

*Her nephews, Simon McMeekan, Martin Dickinson and Andrew Dickinson.*

Peter Corley writes:

Liz was an enthusiastic supporter of Painswick Community Library. She was a member of the group of volunteers who launched the project in February 2011 and contributed to its development and implementation. She served as a Trustee both of the original Library Association and latterly of the Charity.

## Subscriptions

We print and distribute 1550 copies of the Beacon in most months.

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**Peter Roberts**  
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## Thank you

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