

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 23 No. 1

April 2000

## Difficult time for Youth Club

Painswick Youth Club is going through a difficult period as they are having to adapt to new funding arrangements and are desperately short of assistance on Club nights. The number of club members is also lower than hoped.

Of these problems, the need for helpers is the most vital. Assistant leader Jan Tilsley left the Club at the end of March because of other commitments, and a replacement is urgently required, both legally and for practical reasons. Club leader Jenny Broadbank is looking for someone who can either provide practical support such as running the coffee bar or be a back-up with actual club activities.

A long-term commitment is important, but short-term volunteers would also be welcomed. Remuneration will be available for the job of Assistant Leader. People who are interested should contact Jenny (Gloucester 611072) to discuss the requirement. She will be away between 9th and 23rd April, but people may leave their details with the Parish Clerk at the Town Hall at any time. Jenny expresses her gratitude to Jan for all her work and enthusiasm, without which the Club would never have got off the ground.

As from this month the County Council's Youth Service has ceased to meet the leaders' wages costs. Given advance knowledge of this likelihood Painswick Parish Council earmarked £3000 of the current year's Council Tax budget in case the Club needed help. The Council was especially keen to retain the services of the current Club leader.

At last month's Parish Council meeting Chairman Terry Parker said that Jenny Broadbank had informed him that because of the lower numbers and the funding dif-

ficulties she is planning to reduce the number of club evenings from two to one per week. Terry Parker said that, allowing a sum for running costs, the sum budgeted would enable the Council to cover the staffing costs of Jenny and her assistant for one night per week.

Jenny Broadbank is keen to see more juniors join the club to replace the older members who are coming to the end of their membership. Jenny recently distributed questionnaires to parents of Croft School pupils, and she asks parents who have not completed them to do so and return them as soon as possible to the School Secretary. They will be collected early next week (commencing 3rd April). An influx of juniors, plus hopefully some involvement of parents, is seen as vital for the future of the Club. In future, Club evenings may be divided, with juniors and seniors having different time periods.

The situation is not all doom and gloom. As well as the assistance from the Parish Council, Painswick Probus has promised support if the Club continues. The Club will be closed after 6th April for the rest of the month, giving an opportunity for some of these problems to be sorted out.

## WATER WORK - END IN SIGHT?

First the good news: John Kennedy Engineering have stated that the long drawn-out Severn Trent water mains refurbishment work should soon come to an end. The bad news is that the final stages are likely to be quite painful!

A temporary road closure notice has been issued for New Street next weekend, from 7pm Friday 7th April until 6am Monday 10th April. This is to enable John Kennedy's to re-open their excavations so as to complete their work. The stretch of road affected is similar to last July's closure of New Street - from Victoria Square to the Gloucester Street/Bisley Street junction.

Many residents will be perplexed at the need for a second round of excavations. Mr Andrew Smith of Kennedy's told the Beacon that the mains were refurbished in the first phase of works, and it is now necessary to link sections together. If this had been done in the first phase the centre of the village would have been closed for a much longer period.

It is likely to be even more inconvenient this time, because the Gloucester Street junction is expected to be closed

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 3*

## The last shall be first...



*The WI team at last month's village quiz night. Wooden spoons are held aloft, but that proved to be an inaccurate forecast of their final position! Clockwise from the left: Margaret Richards, Jane Otway, Nina Harris and Janet Dent. (See page 16)*

## Painswick Fire Station Open Day

Painswick Fire and Rescue Service are holding an Open Day on Sunday 16th April between 2pm and 4pm at the Fire Station in Pullens Road. All Painswick residents, young and old, are invited to meet your Fire Service personnel and view our facilities.

Robert Goddard

## Council Meeting on 15th March

Reported by Alan Bamber

### Communications Masts

Councillors commented on the controversial application for a communications mast at Minchinhampton, noting that the potential health risk was being taken into account, whereas in the recent approval of a mast at Painswick Surgery this factor had not been considered. It was recognised that it was too late to do anything about the Painswick mast but councillors criticised the District Council for its lack of consistency.

### St Mary's Street Toilets

Councillors were dismayed at the District Council's decision to withdraw their support for the public toilets in St Mary's Street. The Parish Clerk, Peter Grant, confirmed that after seeing an article about this in the Stroud News and Journal he had written to the Director of Housing and Environmental Services, K A May, pointing out that the toilets are owned by the Parish Council and that the parish pays rates, water bills, insurance and all maintenance except cleaning, which is carried out by the District Council. He invited Mr May and Councillor D Booth to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain the decision. Mr May had replied confirming that the Environment Committee had decided to withdraw its services from six locations across the district, including St Mary's Street, and that key points in the decision were the principle of retaining "one toilet facility within each category 1 high usage zone" (two in Stroud), and that "consultation will be held with parish councils concerning the need and manner of service provision in conveniences not identified for retention with the aim

to close such facilities over a 5 year period".

Discussing this, some Parish Councillors felt that the District Council had totally misunderstood the position because they could not close something that belonged to the Parish Council. Malcolm Watts also pointed out a lack of logic in that the District Council had claimed that a factor in their decision was the public's high level of dissatisfaction with the quality of the service provided. He thought it a strange way to improve the service. Terry Parker added that when the Stamages Lane car park toilets were built the District Council had acknowledged that they were needed as a facility for visitors, as they were some distance from the existing toilets in the centre of the village.

The Clerk said it was open to the Parish Council to budget for the cleaning services in the parish precept, making them independent of the District Council's services, but councillors thought this might precipitate an immediate withdrawal of support and that the best course was to arrange a date when the District Council representatives could come and meet them to discuss the matter further.

### Travellers

Council Chairman Terry Parker said there were about fifteen travellers encamped on Painswick Beacon and he had spoken to the police about the difficulties of moving them on. It appeared that the police were taking a more lenient attitude as a result of guidelines received from the Home Office, and that they use their discretion in deciding whether or not to take action in a particular case. They are more likely to do so on public land. The Beacon is manorial land open to the public, but it is not regarded as public land by the police. Another problem is that Painswick Manorship say it is very costly for them to take legal action.

Councillors were worried about the lack of action which could give the impression of a permanent settlement and possibly attract other travellers to the area. They agreed to write to the police expressing their unease and asking for more information about the guidelines that are used in deciding whether to take action.

### Village Design Statement

The Council Chairman reported that the Committee of Painswick Conservation Society had floated the idea of their coordinating the production of a 'Village Design Statement' and that if the Parish Council thought the idea worthwhile the Society's committee would put it to their members at their forthcoming AGM.

It was clarified that a Village Design Statement (VDS) is a report specifying detailed guidelines on future development

within the village, building on information derived from the Village Appraisal and Parish Blueprint documents. The report would have a statutory significance in providing supplementary guidelines to be used by the District Council when deciding on planning applications.

A long discussion ensued. Councillors generally applauded the willingness of the Conservation Society to be involved in this work but several members felt it was inappropriate for a particular group to be in control and that it should be a village-wide undertaking, perhaps with the Parish Council coordinating things. After much haggling over words, it was agreed to write to the Society's chairman welcoming their initiative and offering to discuss the objectives with them in the event of the Society's members wishing to proceed.

### Trig Point

The Council was informed that next month English Nature will remove the trig point from the top of Painswick Beacon. Trig points are no longer needed and soil erosion has occurred there as a result of people treading a path to the top of the Beacon. The removal is to be undertaken by the person who put it there in 1948, Mr Whitting. Councillors discussed whether it could be re-sited elsewhere in the parish and Ann Daniels suggested that it be incorporated into the Plantation wall. The Council agreed to ask whether Mr Whitting had any plans for its use and, if not, to request that the Council be allowed to place it elsewhere.

### Bledisloe Cup

Councillors weighed up whether to enter this year's Bledisloe Cup (Best Kept Village) competition. Painswick was entered, but Slad and Sheepscombe councillors did not wish their villages to be put in for it. Edge was not represented at the meeting. Familiar arguments were aired, such as the alleged emphasis on artificial tidiness at the expense of wildlife, and Sheepscombe's fear of attracting an infestation of grockles if they were to win. Ann Daniels (Painswick) said she was against it because it was difficult to get everyone to pull together to make sure the village looked its best. She said she has to pick up rubbish around the village every day.



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# Provisional support for revised application

Last month brought some important new developments in the progress of the 'Care Village' application. Richmond Healthcare submitted revisions to their outline application, removing the detailed plans previously provided (which become "illustrative material" only). They also agreed to include ten units of affordable housing within the development. At a special meeting on 22nd March the Parish Council's Planning Committee decided to support the revised application subject to a number of provisos.

Latest information is that the District Council will consider the application at their May meeting at the earliest.

The original application included details of the size and density of the proposed development and the nature of the buildings, and in the main it has been these details that have caused most problem with local councillors and residents. At their January meeting the Parish Council unanimously opposed the development on the grounds of its size and density within the AONB, whilst reaffirming their support in principle for a nursing home and associated dwellings. Following discussions with the developer a further vote was taken in February, when a proposal to suspend Standing Orders, which would have enabled the decision to be reviewed, failed by a narrow margin.

The revised application consists of plans showing the location of the proposed development. The field is divided into four "zones" numbered 1 to 4. Zone 1, at the top of the field, is described as the "most visually conspicuous zone", which should "ideally be retained as an open space". Zone 3, in the lower corner opposite, is described as the "least conspicuous zone, suitable for mixed nursing home and residential units". Zone 2, a band across the middle, is an "intermediate zone suitable for small-scale dwellings", and zone 4, an area in the

middle of the field, is a "central open space" linking the other zones. The application will also include a plan showing site access design, which at the time of writing has not yet been submitted.

The accompanying description adds that "none of the previously submitted plans forms part of the application. These plans are to be treated as illustrative material which shows the typical design approach which the applicant would wish to follow."

In a follow-up letter dated 21st March, the applicant's agent, Robin Bradbeer Ltd, states that "following discussions with a number of housing associations my client is prepared to include an element of affordable housing within the development. This will comprise 10 units of which 5 will be provided at a capped rent and 5 will be for shared ownership." The description of the proposed development has been amended to read: "Nursing Home and associated dwellings, to include ten units of affordable housing."

At the monthly Parish Council meeting on 15th March it was decided to hold a special meeting of the Planning Committee the following Wednesday. Once again this attracted a sizeable gathering of residents. Chairing the special meeting, Terry Parker advised councillors that they should treat it as a fresh outline application, and as the number of units was no longer specified as part of the application this could not be taken into account. Despite this, Councillor Keith Hardwidge expressed the hope that the affordable housing units would be a part of the 43 units and not additional. Terry Parker also confirmed that the "illustrative material" was not binding on the developer and such detail would therefore have to be considered at the time of any subsequent detailed application.

In the ensuing discussion several councillors were concerned at what they

felt was a lack of precision in the boundaries of the four zones. The markings on the plan, described several times by councillors as a "string of beads", did not give a clear enough indication of the zones. It was thought vital at this stage to have a precise knowledge of which parts of the field were to be subject to development and where the most prominent buildings would be situated. Councillors also disliked the use of the word "ideally" in reference to zone 1 (see above). It was felt this word should be omitted so as to give the top of the field protection against development.

Terry Parker said that although some information had been gleaned as to the developer's intentions regarding highways and access, formal proposals and the County Council's reaction to them were not yet to hand.

After some difficulty framing a resolution, the Committee finally agreed to support the outline application for a nursing home and associated dwellings including ten units of affordable housing, subject to three provisos: (i) the word 'ideally' in respect of zone 1 should be deleted; (ii) the perimeter and zonal boundaries should be more clearly defined; and (iii) the Council reserves its position on issues of access and traffic movement pending the outcome of the County Council's audit.

## Water mains work, continued from page 1

as well. This means that traffic coming from the Cheltenham direction will have to turn off the A46 at the golf course or at Lower Washwell Lane. Motorists coming from the south will turn into Victoria Square and work their way through via St Mary's Street and Vicarage Street.

Problems were caused last time when through-traffic, including some heavy lorries, found its way into the village. Andrew Smith says that better sign-posting at Pitchcombe and Brockworth, plus greater vigilance by the police, should prevent this happening again. The Parish Council's Traffic Chairman, David Hudson, requests that residents steer clear of the central streets if at all possible, and he asks "Is your journey really neces-

sary?". Major Hudson also hopes that long-distance traffic will be kept well away this time, and that there will be better sign-posting in the village, so that motorists do not, for example, attempt to return to the main road by driving up Bisley Street.

Andrew Smith said that apart from some remaining work in Churchill Way, this should see the end of all their work in the Painswick area. However, residents may have seen two large boards in Kingsmill Lane which give notice of a road closure for five weeks for water mains refurbishment, and as we go to press Kennedy's have confirmed that further work is required in that area, though hopefully not lasting five weeks.

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## New cricket season beckons

Painswick's cricketers have been very active in preparation for the new season, holding a series of practice sessions and several social events.

At the Annual General Meeting the following officials and team captains were elected: President - Mr J N (Jack) Smith; Chairman - Terry Parker; Hon. Treasurer - Robert Cook; Hon. Secretary - Andrew Wise; Fixture/Match Secretary - Simon Base; First Eleven Captain - Phil Jones; Second Eleven Captain - Rob Mitchell; Midweek Captain - Simon Base.

A social evening was held on 17th March when the players were pleased to host a buffet supper for the Club's Vice-Presidents and their ladies. During the evening the following awards were made:

First Eleven Player of the Year: Jim Parks. Second Eleven Player of the Year: Jerry Kerry. Most Improved Player: Phil Wylie. Young Player of the Year: Steve Holford. Clubman of the Year: Ian Hogg.

Members paid tribute to Ian Hogg for his work as first eleven captain over a number of years and for his considerable contribution to the Club's activities both on and off the field. The incoming captain, Phil Jones, said that Ian was a hard act to follow but he knew that he could rely on the players' support and thanked them for their confidence in electing him to the position. Ian is, of course, continuing as a playing member.

Members also expressed their appreciation to Alan Hudson for his continuing commitment to the club as first eleven umpire. The importance of a regular umpire cannot be overstated and Alan's expertise as an arbiter is widely recognised.

Anyone with an interest in joining the club is asked to contact either Andrew Wise (01453 755202) or Terry Parker (812191) for further information. New players will receive a warm welcome.

## Marathon Man 2000

Jonathan Unwin will be running his third London Marathon on Sunday 16th April. He is raising money for FSID (the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths) which funds research into cot deaths and supports affected families.

Please sponsor him. You will find sponsor forms in shops around Painswick or ring Jon Unwin on Painswick 812591.

*Photo right: Jon Unwin competing in the 1999 Nationwide City of Bath half marathon. Photo: Mike Nicholson*

## News from Painswick Bowling Club

We are looking forward to the start of the summer bowling season and our green opens on 15th April. We have a full programme of league and friendly matches for men's, ladies' and mixed teams as well as our own club competitions, less competitive games and social events.

One event early in our season on Wednesday 3rd May is a friendly mixed away match against the Pensioners at Chelsea Hospital, where we are sure we shall receive a warm welcome. We are travelling by coach and it is likely there will be seats available for non-members.

The cost should not be more than £11 per seat and this will include a free tour of the hospital at 1.30pm. If you are interested in a day trip (or even a one way trip) to London at a reasonable price please give Derek Sanders a ring on 813077.

We are always keen to increase our membership with new or established bowlers and can provide instruction to get any new members going. If you would like to know more about Painswick Bowling Club please contact our secretary Anthony Strickland on 01453 750160.

## Close call for Painswick

Painswick's rugby players had an anxious hour after their match against the Bristol club, Aretians, last Saturday (25th March) waiting to hear the result of the match between another Bristol club, Southmead, and Chosen Hill. With Painswick and Southmead in contention at the bottom of Division 1 it was essential for Chosen Hill to have won if Painswick's first division status next season was to be assured. There was, therefore, considerable relief at Broadham when the news came that Chosen Hill had won by 8 points to nil. Earlier that afternoon in the match against Aretians, Painswick had made a sluggish start and at one point were 26 points to nil down. To their credit the local side rallied in the final quarter with Simon Stewart and Mark Henley both scoring unconverted tries.

Although Painswick were disappointed not to have won their last league match of the season it was, in the end, a

creditable performance as the victory for the Bristol team confirmed their position as Division 1 (Gloucestershire) leaders: they are therefore promoted and next season will play in the Gloucestershire/Somerset Division.

Results [(L)denotes league match]  
Sat 4 Mar. Painswick 1st XV 30 Chipping Sodbury 1st XV 31.

Sat 11 Mar. (L) Old Cryptians 1st XV 20 Painswick 1st XV 3. Painswick United 29 Old Cryptians 2nd XV 17.

Sat 18 Mar. Painswick 1st XV v Cainscross 1st XV - match cancelled as Cainscross were committed to a Combination Cup fixture. Cainscross 2nd XV 12 Painswick United 17.

Sat 25 Mar. (L) Painswick 1st XV 10 Aretians 1st XV 26.

## Coffee Morning at Falcon BC

The Falcon Bowling Club will be holding a Grand Sale of various items on Saturday 8th April at 10.30am in aid of Club funds. This will be held in the new Clubhouse (come and have a look!) behind the Falcon Inn. Please leave your car in the public car park. Stalls will include home made cakes, bric a brac, books, good quality second hand clothes, etc. Tea and coffee - everyone welcome.

The new season gets under way on Saturday 15th April with the opening of this ancient and attractive green. During the season, there is a packed programme of games and competitions to suit all tastes. Anyone interested in trying their hand at bowls is very welcome to come to the Club nights. These are held on every Friday evening at 6.30pm, when you will find a warm welcome at this friendly club. If this is not a convenient time, please arrange an alternative by telephoning the Club Secretary, Norman Rampton, on 01452 813928.



## Celia Hargrave of Sheepscombe shares her experiences of competing in the Himalayan 100 Stage Race

The idea of competing in the Himalayan 100 Stage Race 1999 came to me in a tent in the Sahara Desert during the Marathon de Sables - a 144 mile stage race.

The 1999 Himalayan Stage race was the ninth event of its kind. It was an international competition - runners came from the USA, UK, Japan, Germany, Austria, Singapore, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa.

The 100 mile course covered a huge variety of terrain. We ran through isolated jungle, pine forests, small settlements and villages, and crossed major rivers.

At the higher stages competitors enjoyed spectacular views of four of the five highest peaks in the world.

### Day 1 - 24 miles

We departed Mirik at 5.30am for a 90-minute bus ride to Maneybhanyang. At this small village, situated at about 6,000 feet, we were greeted and blessed by a village dignitary before the final countdown to the start. From Maneybhanyang we had to run, crawl and stagger a climb of almost 6,000 feet to Sanakphu.

This day was almost a disaster for me! At about 10 kilometres I fell badly as I was going down a steep, rocky path. I got up to find I was covered in blood and grazes and that my right knee looked particularly battered. Fortunately I managed to get going again. The scenery was spectacular and I was helped by the extra sympathy I received at each aid/water station. The final pull to Sandakphu was totally exhausting and quite frightening. I was finding it nearly impossible to breathe and was utterly daunted by the enormity of the climb. Eventually there was the welcome sight of the finishing banner and I reached the mountain huts. Once I'd crossed the line I found myself being sick and feeling keenly the pain of my injuries - I was hurting. Four more days to go!

**Day 2 - Sandakphu and back - 20 miles**  
This day was memorable for the pano-

ramic views at sunrise of Mount Everest, Lhotse, Makalu and Kanchenjunga and the beauty of the Sandakphu National Park. The climbs were tough, especially at Molle, the half way point, but the main difficulties for me were coping with the breathing problems and the feeling of nausea brought on by running at such high altitudes.

### Day 3 - Sanakphu to Rimbik - The Everest Challenge Marathon Day - 26.2 miles

This day, while it was incorporated into the main event, was also a separate race. Before the race we were warned about the difficult terrain of the last section and the huge downhill drop of almost 6,000 feet. The warnings proved justified as the final twelve kilometres was a nightmare of rocks, gullies, crevasses and slippery mud. Such horrors finally led us to the crashing sounds of a huge river - luckily with a bridge, which we crossed - and then we ran along paths through the forests and settlements of Rimbite.

### Day 4 - Rimbite to Palamjua - 13 miles

This day was probably the easiest stage. However, the long - about 5,000 feet - run downhill on track was fairly scary, though nowhere near as alarming as the return by coach up and around the hairpin bends. The scenery along the flat road section was stunning - our route followed the beautiful river valley. As we ran we were warmly greeted by families from the small huts scattered along our way.

### Day 5 - Palmajua to Maneybhanyang - supposedly 17 miles but nearer 19

At last, the final day. After an 11 kilometre climb it was literally down hill all the way to the village of Maneybhanyang and the finishing tape of the Himalayan 100! The end was a wonderful moment with cheers and encouragement from fellow competitors, the support team and local people. I then sat on the roadside enjoying a meal which had been prepared

in the back of the van, and shared in the excitement and achievement of other runners as they too crossed the finishing line. Finally, we were taken by bus back to Mirik for a special evening of festivities and awards.

### Special things I shall remember

- Marvellous hospitality was provided wherever we stopped - even in places with very limited facilities. If we were breakfasting at 5am, preparations would start at about 3am. Nothing was ever too much trouble. "Guests were gods".
- Two cultural evenings where participants in the race and local people shared dancing, singing and music - these were wonderful experiences, especially the faces of the children when the hakka was performed.
- The friendship and support of the group.
- The sheer effort of the climbs.
- The deprivations of altitude - lack of sleep and breath, nausea, inability to eat.
- Mr Pandey and his team of organisers - the miracle workers.
- The magic and beauty of the setting.
- The totally different cultural setting and experience - we have a lot to learn.
- My achievements. I was the second woman overall, third woman in the Everest Challenge Marathon, first woman veteran, eleventh overall out of 35 competitors. My total time for the 100 miles was 20 hours and 28 minutes.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Beacon welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local interest. Short letters are more likely to be included. Long letters will be summarised or edited, as will those containing comments that the Beacon considers unsuitable for publication.

### Bonfires

Now that spring has arrived and summer is not too far away, we are at last able to open windows and let fresh air into our houses and lungs. Unfortunately not so in Painswick; the moment a fine day arrives, out come the pyromaniacs with their evil smelling bonfires. Neighbourliness or any thoughts about clean air for all has no truck for them; the bigger the fire and the more dense smoke the better as far as they are concerned, especially if the wind blows it well away from them. Please, please can 2000 be a defining year when you decide to compost or dispose of the garden waste, not burn it, so that we can all have a smoke-free day and evening.

N H Turner, Hambutts Mead

### Care Village application

In defence of the majority of Painswick Parish Councillors who voted to reject the plans for a Care Village [February meeting], I would make the point that a visit to the Richmond Care Homes development in Nantwich was not necessary in order for them to make their decision (a point made by two Beacon readers' letters in March issue). The quality of care that RCH provide is not in dispute. The reasons for the widespread local opposition in Painswick are environmental and demographic, and no amount of free trips to Nantwich will alter that, except to serve to underline the major differences in the two locations.

1. Nantwich is a rapidly-growing town

of about 40,000 inhabitants, gradually becoming absorbed into the industrial conurbation of Crewe.

2. The Care village is built on flat ground, covering about 3.6 acres, compared with the sloping 4.8 acre site in Painswick.

3. The Nantwich site is surrounded by housing estates and a railway line, and does not lie in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

4. The majority of the buildings at Nantwich are only two storeys high. The nursing wing on the Painswick site is 4-5 storeys.

The circumstances of the two situations are too disparate to make realistic claims that 'what is good for Nantwich, is good for Painswick'.

Maggie Drake, Tibbiwell

It is a great pity that as Jane Douglass was moving to join the community in Berry Close she did not wait a little to write her letter (March Beacon). Now that she has met a number of us she knows that the reality is a far cry from her previous picture of us, there being only one house out of 15 bought by a widow.

The reality is that some of us were close to Jane's age, or even younger, when we came to Berry Close, but Berry Close being such a happy community we have stayed and aged gracefully with the houses. We have been very pleased to welcome new members of the Close as people have moved on for a whole variety of reasons.

If we follow Mercy Summerhayes' example and live to over 100 a number of these houses will not become vacant for 30, 40 or more years. So some would say we need more small houses in Painswick. The meaning of the term "affordable" depends entirely on one's income.

Clare Haynes, Terry Causon, Hazel Hendry, S Avery, Eileen Lambert, Freda Huddleston, Helen Baker, Lilian Gerrard, Margaret Ellison, Elsie and John McCabe, Nora and Thom Carroll. (Berry Close)

With reference to the letter from Jane Douglass in the March Beacon, we would like to make the following comments:

Terry Parker does indeed live in Painswick and has done so for 32 years. He is an active and contributory member of the community.

When I purchased 2 Hyett Close in 1977, I was not a widow and was not much older than Jane. Hyett Close at present is a good mixture of people: two young families, two couples, one mother and daughter, two single people, four widows one of whom was married when she moved in. As several residents have commented, Jane will, whether she likes it or

not, grow old. Let's hope the young people then will show more thought and kindness. The gardens are not suitable for older children; self-evident by them playing on the road. Some residents have moved in because they were no longer able to cope with large properties and did not wish to leave Painswick and long time friends. Isn't she lucky to have secured such a sought-after property!

Duccio Leoni; also signed by Anne Leoni, Karin Johnston, Vera Illingworth, Joan Broughton, Ruby Yarwood, Terry Palmer. (Hyett Close)

No one who read your riveting account of the Parish Council Debate on 16th February could fail to be struck by the warmth of commitment shown. Mention was made of a 'smaller nursing development in Painswick'. This must be something promising since support for it appeared to justify rejection of a project which had taken five years dedicated work by four very able members of our community to put together.

Some of us who have witnessed at close quarters the anguish of incapacitated old age, and of terminal illness, had come to believe that the best available resource against the attendant sadnesses of separation, loneliness and unnecessary discomfort had been found in the thoughtful and comprehensive scheme of a Care Village.

After the shock of what appeared to be a rejection of that scheme by a majority vote, we are badly in need of some firm good news from the Council. Is this 'smaller nursing development in Painswick' firm good news? Or is the good news that the Council were really only differing about details of the Care Village scheme?

John Sharwood-Smith, Stroud Road

In reply to letters in last month's Beacon:

1. The idea that the building of a village within a village is an opportunity not to be missed is a strange one: presumably most people live in Painswick because they like the size and structure of it as it is, not deformed by a large, totally unnecessary development, designed to increase the average age of the population which is surely not the way the village should be going in the future.

2. What is right for Nantwich - which by no stretch of the imagination can be likened to Painswick - is not right for this locality.

3. The assumption that a large number of people are in favour is a misconception. The original meeting involved around 200 people. What about the other 3,100 or so people that live in and around Painswick?

4. There is absolutely no guarantee that

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CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

houses vacated by any elderly people will enable young families to come into the village.

5. To those people expecting an easy entry into the 'Twilight Towers' - do not hold your breath! Any developer will fill properties such as these on a first come first served basis, from wherever possible.

6. Finally there is no guarantee that any employment will be given to local inhabitants - jobs will be given to those best suited, not necessarily local people.

These are not the comments of NIMBYS but people who are genuinely concerned about the physical, environmental, medical and age structure impact this development will have on this beautiful village if allowed to go ahead.

David and Hilary Simpson,  
Cotswold Mead

In a separate letter received too late for inclusion last month, Hilary Simpson wrote that "having noted all the comments in recent Parish Council meetings and the Beacon regarding the proposed development of a Nursing Home in the field off Stroud Road, it seems very surprising that there has been no input at all from the Local Conservation Society, a body which is usually very local on such matters. Is there a reason for this?"

The Beacon invited the Chairman of the Conservation Society to respond, and he has done so as follows:

"Responding to the letter from Hilary Simpson I would point out that the Conservation Society did provide an input to the District Council when the original Outline Planning Application was submitted to them in November last. You may recall that there was (then) a very short period in which to make responses; our committee met especially for the purpose on 7th December and considered all aspects of the proposals then on the table. Our views were communicated to SDC and can be viewed there, as may all others, as follows:-

"That the Outline Planning Application be supported, but

(a) the closest regard should be given to aspects of landscaping, especially when viewed from differing positions close to or far from the site, and

(b) architectural styles and materials should be in sympathy with the other principal dwellings in the core of the Painswick village.'

That the Society did not consider whether to seek special publicity for its views at that time differs in no way from our usual position; we communicate our observations to SDC and move on to next business. In any event, there was no shortage of others expressing their views - as indeed should be the case, for whatever reason they may have - personal or in the interest of others. We reported, among

many other things, the conclusion to which we had come to the annual meeting of the Society last week, and drew no comment from those present.

Might I use this opportunity to add one corrective observation, that the revised application which is currently under consideration remains for a care centre and associated dwellings, not just a nursing home."

Leslie Brotherton Chairman

In the March issue of the Beacon a correspondent relates the Richmond Care Village with charitable homes he has helped to run. Two other recent letters used phrases like "open to all walks of life" and "regardless of their means" in promoting it. However, Mr Cockell, the potential developer, has himself made clear more than once that "the proposed care village scheme would involve care costs that Social Services could not support and therefore the scheme would only be available to people of private means."

Another writer suggests that Mr Cockell can be seen as a sort of philanthropic engineer, rather than a developer. He must smile at that, for even Mr Cockell has been at pains to point out that he is in the business of making profit.

In the light of that, perhaps correspondents who talk of NIMBYism can better understand my concern at the substantial *loss* of value of our property, and the significant impact of three-storey (and more) buildings that will affect our historic village forever, and not just the short term interests of a minority, no matter their perceived needs.

That is not to be seen as uncaring; my wife and I have always been supportive of the request for a nursing home for the needy. But I suggest the village should seek a circumspect balance rather than be overwhelmed by the attempts of the vociferous few.

Tony Crook, Queens Mead, Painswick

The developers of this project paint a wonderful picture of the benefits to all Painswickians to live out the rest of their lives in peace and contentment, a virtual Utopia. But beware, when you buy the picture, you must also purchase the frame and the wall to hang it on. This takes the form of 46 dwellings, which is the minimum requirement for Richmond Care Homes to make the project viable and, what's more important, profitable.

46 dwellings with roads, street lighting, cars, alterations to the A46, traffic islands and all the other paraphernalia which comes with building another village.

Everyone will recall the action taken by the Painswick Valley Group who, when threatened by the possibility of a major development in their AONB,

fought a dedicated and constructive campaign, that was a tribute to their Committee and its supporters.

The fact that we face a major building programme on the edge of our village (also in an AONB) seems to be of little concern. The few that are in favour of the Care Village seem to have brainwashed themselves into thinking that it is a *fait accompli*, that if we want a Nursing Home, we must accept all that goes with it.

Personally, I like the picture, but I would prefer to hang it somewhere else.

Alan Hudson, Butt Green

It seems unfortunate that Mr Keith Cockell wanted to argue in your last issue about the validity of past accident figures on the A46 adjacent to his proposed Care Village. The details of the 25 accidents were given in my previous letter and the eleven pages of data from the Gloucestershire County Council have been on view in the Painswick Library.

Mr Cockell's Traffic Consultant prefers to use personal injury figures and not include damage-only statistics. The reasoning for this may be that only one in five damage-only accidents are referred to the police and thence to the County Highway Accident Records Department. However, many of us who have personally witnessed the frequency of collisions on this accident black-spot could ask ourselves on occasion "How was this accident not a fatality? Was it only by luck or by the Grace of God?"

Recently I stood at the proposed access to the site and visualised cars forming queues on the S-bends as vehicles enter or leave the Care Village, and these queues being rammed from the back. Putting paint on the road, or speed limit signs, or gateways, or pedestrian refuges, or other impediments, will do nothing to prevent this frightening scenario.

Carole Ross, Queensmead

#### Car Park

Mrs D French has sent the Beacon a copy of her letter to SDC arguing for the retention of parking charges at Stamages Lane car park.

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**Millennium Bible project**



The Croft School has taken part in a project involving thirteen primary schools in the Stroud area, creating a special illustrated book of Bible stories to celebrate the new millennium. The stories and pic-

tures have been incorporated into a beautiful leather-bound book which will be held in Stroud Library.

Our photo above shows the five pupils of Class 4 who did the work (illustrated stories of the Good Samaritan and Creation cartoons): (left to right) Lucy Moir, James Barnett, George Livingston, Richard Goddard and Harriet Bentley. As well as the leather-bound book (left), a copy has been produced (right) which will be kept at the school.

**'Red' - a poem**

Red is a hen sitting on an egg,  
 Red is a ball balancing on a hedge,  
 Red is a sun shining in the sky,  
 Red is a box under the Christmas tree,  
 Red is a fox hiding in the field,  
 Red is a red-ink pen  
 Red is your tongue after you had a lolly.  
 Freddie Unwin, aged 6

**Learning Support**

The Croft School is looking for someone who would like the job of Learning Support Worker (Classroom Assistant) in one of the infant classes. The hours are 9.30 to 12, Monday to Friday.

For further details and rates of pay, please contact Mr B Jones at the Croft School, telephone 01452 812479.

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**A poem for  
 World Book Day**

**'Faces painted in the sky'**

2000 years have gone by,  
 Faces painted in the sky.  
 Stars for different purposes,  
 Down on Earth to help.

Botticelli, El Greco,  
 Matisse, Dali, Francisco,  
 Leonardo da Vinci,  
 Michelangelo.

Isaac Newton, Einstein too,  
 Marie Curie, nobody new.  
 Nobel, Whittle, Galileo.  
 Alexander Bell.

Edward Elgar, Ketelbey,  
 Wolfgang Mozart, Bob Marley,  
 Elvis Presley, Beatles too.  
 Jennifer Lopez.

Mary Shelley, Kipling, Lee,  
 Writing books for you and me.  
 Carroll, Rowling, Jane Austen,  
 Defoe, Nesbit, Dahl.

Monroe, Williams, Bronson, Moore,  
 Windsor, Hugh Grant, Tracy Shaw,  
 Garrick, Siddons, Anderson  
 and Dame Judi Dench.

Many people are now dead,  
 But their new ideas, it's said,  
 Began a new dawn for us all.  
 Let's remember them.

*The children of year 6 wrote the poem (above right) and on Thursday 9th March they read it at Cheltenham Town Hall at an event to launch World Book Day.*

*The Croft pupils' poem is included in an anthology of work from Gloucestershire Schools called 'World Book Day 2000'. Well done Year 6! The picture below shows Croft pupils with their copies of the book.*



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## OPEN GARDEN

Trench Hill garden will be open under the National Gardens Scheme on Easter Sunday and Monday, 23rd/24th April, from 11am to 5pm.

Entrance on both days is £1.50 for adults, children free. Tea and plants will be for sale.

Thank you for your support at our open day on Sunday 20th February. We raised almost £400 for charity.

Celia and Dave Hargrave

## Midsummer Ball - an update

Tickets are hot! People are wasting no time organising their tables for what promises to be another fabulous Midsummer Ball at Painswick Mill on Friday 23rd June 2000.

As the melodious notes of The Roy Kirby Jazz Band greet you, a bucks fizz reception will be followed by a delicious buffet of summer delights prepared by William's Kitchen. Then it will be time to dance the night away to a selection of live bands or take a turn at the casino tables.

Tickets are still available at £55 each from Ruth Smith, telephone: Gloucester 813693.

The charities being supported this year are both local. The Haven provides assistance to families in distress with pre-school children. It offers hot midday meals, professional nursery care, laundry facilities and advice to parents. Headway is a well-known local charity providing support\*to survivors of head injury and their families.

If you would like to sponsor some part of the Ball, sponsor a table or provide a tombola prize (worth £10 or more) please call me on 814012. Thank you for your support.

Helen Froggatt (Chairman),  
PMB Committee

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## Interested in computing.com?

If information reaching me is anything to go by, there seem to be ever more people in Painswick acquiring computers. Many are acquiring some frustration too!

There seems to be a variety of reasons for having such equipment; purely as a personal hobby, to get on to the Internet and keep in touch by a computer link to friends or relatives around the world, or to have such an aid available to help in work with voluntary organisations or with small businesses. Some are teaching themselves from manuals or straightforward experimentation, discovering the benefits of using computers for word processing, tabulations, designing newsletters and advertising material, and so on. And there are those attending courses at Stroud College or are already familiar with computers.

In addition, there are many who do not want to get into purchasing and setting up all the equipment required for a computing set-up at home, but would very much like to send or receive an E-mail once in a while; if they only knew how.

It is not unusual for villages much smaller than Painswick to have created a form of community computing centre. This may take various forms, but the most popular are those where several computers are located and there is the support of access to the Internet, scanners, various computer programs (including

teach-yourself ones), printers, etc. These prove to be attractive for all age-groups, some being keen to attend in the mornings, youngsters in the late afternoon or early evening or weekends, and so on. The bonus is being able to share knowledge, help one another, or experiment with techniques which would otherwise remain a mystery.

There is a room 10' by 12' in Painswick Centre which the Management Committee are willing to make available exclusively for this purpose, on advantageous terms. Significantly, there are grants to help set such groups up; but self-help with the practicalities is also essential.

So, one wonders whether there is sufficient interest in this community to create what might become known as the Painswick Computer Club (a PaCC), or whatever? The only way to find out is to suggest a date and time when anyone interested, at any level of competence, young or not-so-young, can meet with others and talk the idea through. Would you care to join me at Painswick Centre on Tuesday 11th April at 3pm and let us see if there is sufficient enthusiasm to give this a go. If you are very interested but cannot manage that date, please let me know on 813101 and I will try and ensure you are kept informed.

Leslie Brotherton

## 'ELEMENTAL'

Earthy ceramics, Lively collages, Ethereal etchings, Multitudinous garden artefacts, Eclectic crafts, Numerous paintings, Tactile embroideries, Affordable glass, Landscapes in oils... it all adds up to ELEMENTAL, the new Spring Exhibition at the Fiery Beacon Gallery. For three weeks from Tuesday 18th April until Saturday 6th May. Opening times Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 5pm, Sunday 2pm to 5pm. Also Easter Monday, 24th April, 11am to 5pm.

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## 'Religion and Worship in Painswick'

Following last month's special article by Ted and Elizabeth Burge on 'Religion and Worship in Painswick', Jim Hoyland and Ted Burge have compared notes on the history of the Friends Meeting House in the early part of the last century. Jim writes to say that according to the 'Nailsworth and Gloucester Monthly Meeting' minutes, the Plymouth Brethren leased the Friends Meeting House in Painswick from 1906 to 1953. In 1953 the Friends took it over once more.

Ted (who gave the dates of the Brethren's use of the building as 1928 to 1950) concludes that some of the dates in the 'Victorian History' would appear to be unreliable!

Any further comments on the history of Painswick's places of worship would be welcome.

## USA holiday house exchange?

A retired couple, living in a very nice 4 bedroomed house at Berckmeyer Beach, Lady's Island, South Carolina, USA, are interested in a house exchange with someone in Painswick. For further information contact Derek or Irene Hodges, 813635.

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## A tribute to Lucy Lee (1917 - 1999)

By Sue Armitage, cousin of Lucy Lee

Lucy Lee of Painswick, and prior to that Cranham, died on 4th September 1999, a few days short of her 82nd birthday. She had a very varied career but essentially was a historian whose last job was teaching at Stroud High School.

Lucy was the only daughter of Stephen Lee, who was a history don at Magdalen College Oxford, and Eleanor, a graduate of Newnham College Cambridge who was a teacher and who played hockey for England. They had three children and Lucy's brothers were John and Roger. Hers was a very happy home in Oxford full of all kinds of interests and stimulation. Her education began with a governess and then she went to the Dragon Prep School with her brothers. She then went on to Sherborne School, Dorset, where she got a major history scholarship to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, in 1936, but changed to read Classical Greats.

During the Second World War Lucy worked for the Forestry Department in Scotland but in February 1941 joined the Foreign Office as a temporary civil servant, in the coding and cyphering section. After training in London she went to the British Embassy in Washington and was there until 1944. This was a very exciting and fulfilling episode of her life but sadly she had to come home to support her parents as her elder brother John, who had survived Dunkirk and been mentioned in despatches, was killed in action at Anzio. This was a devastating blow to such a close-knit family. Sadly, her younger brother Roger, who followed a medical career, also died prematurely.

Lucy then joined the Commonwealth Relations Office (then the Dominions Office) and from 1945 to 1947 was Assistant Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, Lord Addison. She slightly surprisingly did not apply for a permanent post but instead joined the Women's Institute as General Organiser. She was involved in drawing up the WI's constitution and travelled extensively throughout the country. One of her tasks was to start a branch in the Channel Islands with money received from the

Carnegie Trust to heal the breach between the inhabitants and those who had collaborated with the Germans.

Lucy left the WI in 1952 and became Secretary of the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics. She was in that post for ten years. Then, when her father died she moved down to the Gower Peninsula in South Wales to be with her mother.

After her mother's death she remained living there and trained at Swansea University to become a teacher of history. At last she had found her true vocation.

Her first teaching job was at Queen Mary's High School for Girls in Walsall in the West Midlands. Then in 1966 she moved to Grove Cottage, Cranham, to start teaching at Stroud High School. Thus began the last stage of her career and the start of her very happy life in Cranham and then in Painswick, in Berry Close. She seems to have tried to retire from Stroud High School on several occasions but was always going back to help out. In addition to her teaching skills she is remembered at the school for her direct and incisive questions in staff meetings and as a superb organiser. One school trip is particularly remembered when the whole of the fourth year (more than 120 girls) went to Dyrham and spent the day on a variety of projects organised by Lucy - staff learnt as much as the girls did. Her history lessons were loved because of her wealth of knowledge and tremendous enthusiasm for her subject - more was always learnt than the strict syllabus.

One of the best phrases describing Lucy is "enthusiastic interest". She was interested in so much and her great intellect and historical knowledge meant she could launch into many very different activities, be it computing, learning Italian and Spanish or minutely researching and exploring Hadrian's Wall. Her special interests were English churches and her membership of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society. Another important part of her life was her role in the local community. She was involved in the Adult Literacy Scheme and then the Housebound Club at Ashwell House where she arrived to set out chairs (always knowing which chair each person liked and where they liked to sit), helped with everything and stayed until all was cleared up. Lucy also helped in the Tourist Information Office where she was a fount of knowledge.

Although Lucy was a historian and interested in all things historical, she did not live in the past. She looked to the future, loved meeting young people and did not keep saying the old days were better. She is greatly missed by her family, her neighbours and her many friends.

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# Honoured by Romania

Ian Crook, son of Frank and the late Ivy Crook of Kingsmead, has been awarded the Order of the 'Star of Romania' with the rank of Knight - the highest honour bestowed by the state of Romania. The award is in recognition of Ian's work for the past seven years in arranging technical assistance for numerous projects aimed at improving the Romanian economy and the quality of life in that country. He was awarded the honour by President Constantinescu of Romania at a ceremony in the presidential palace.

Ian Crook works as a consultant in Romania, acting as the resident representative of an organisation called BESO - British Executive Service Overseas. BESO keeps lists of skilled voluntary advisers (many of them retired professionals) who are prepared to go to Romania to provide assistance to businesses and other organisations, and Ian is the man on the spot who identifies areas requiring help and does the initial ground-work. His list of completed projects over the past three years makes fascinating reading, including projects as diverse as promoting tourism, nurse training, preserving fruit, advising a second-hand clothes shop and designing a sewage system. BESO is financed by the British Government together with the European Union and British Industry. It is one of only twelve bodies that have Development Agency status, along with organisations such as Oxfam and Save the Children.

Ian was born in 1947, just before the Crook family moved to Painswick, and he lived in the village for thirty years. He went to Leicester and Aston Universities where he trained as an industrial designer



*Ian Crook is presented with his award by President Constantinescu*

and he subsequently embarked on a successful career, first for a company in London and then as a self-employed consultant. Like his Romanian projects, his own designs show great variety, from radiator control valves to an all-plastic wheelbarrow.

Shortly after receiving the award Ian described the experience in a letter to his father. He amusingly recounts how he was taken completely by surprise when he arrived at the palace, firstly by being one of only four people (and the only British person) to be honoured when he had expected to be one of a large throng, then by the high rank of the award, and finally by being expected to follow the lead of the other award-winners by making a speech in the presence of the president. The length of the German and Swedish speeches were worrying but gave him time to prepare and in the event it well down well, and "the President looked mighty relieved that I didn't ramble on. No risk of that."

Afterwards he "hopped on a trolley bus and went home, probably the only person on the No 79 with a gong in his pocket."

## Fashion news

At the Coffee Morning in the Town Hall in May in aid of Cotswold Care there will be a collection for sale of good quality second hand spring/summer ladies' fashion items. Any donations for this event will be gratefully received. Please ring 813128 for further information.

Reigh Sutton

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## The Seaside Poem

As the tide splashes onto the shifting sands, the sounds of the sea echo through my ear.

All my bad troubles seemed to sweep away through my thoughtless mind as the fishes swam peacefully in the blue pure ocean.

The sands cover me as I sunbathe in the bright hotness.

As the sun fades away in the blue sky, we all go away wondering what could be hidden behind a pure blue wave.

by Joy Standen, aged 8

## Bird watching

A Kingsmill Lane resident reports that they have "a mistle thrush nest with eggs in the classic location for this bird, that is near the house in an apple tree, despite the fact that it is a shy bird."

## By the way...

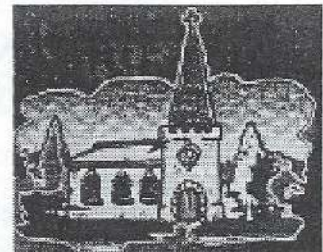
... Looking at a Painswick street name the other day, I was wondering whether they wanted a crescent named after Eric the French footballer but unfortunately lost the scent. Or was it once a cricket field where it was easy to score 100s? Or did the builder have Chinese connections? Or is it somehow connected with the House of the same name? Or the man who's commemorated on a plaque on the wall of Stroud Town Hall? I really don't know! Perhaps you do. But do you know what I was looking at? Answer: page 16.

'Rambler'

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## EASTER SERVICES AROUND PAINSWICK

*Churches Together Around Painswick welcome you to Easter Services. Services are in Painswick unless stated. LMT - Local Ministry Team*

### *Palm Sunday 16th April*

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP): St Mary's Church
- 8.30am Mass: Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Therese
- 9.20am Palm Ceremonies and Sung Eucharist: St Mary's
- 10.30am Morning Worship: Christ Church (Baptist/URC)
- 11.00am Palms & Holy Communion: St John's Sheepscombe
- 11.00am Palms & Family Communion: St James the Great, Cranham
- 11.00am Meeting for Worship: Friends' Meeting House, Vicarage Street
- 6.15pm Evening Prayer: St Mary's
- 6.30pm Service: Methodist Chapel, Sheepscombe

### *Monday 17th April*

- 8.00am Holy Communion: St Mary's
- 8.00pm Holy Week Prayers with LMT: St John the Apostle, Sheepscombe

### *Tuesday 18th April*

- 9.00am Holy Communion: St James the Great, Cranham
- 2.30pm Holy Communion, Ashwell House

- 8.00pm Combined Service with Rodborough Tabernacle: Christ Church (Baptist/URC)
- 8.00pm Holy Week Prayers with LMT: St Mary's Church

### *Wednesday 19th April*

- 9.30am Holy Communion: St Mary's
- 8.00pm Holy Week Prayers with LMT, St James the Great, Cranham

### *Maundy Thursday, 20th April*

- 9.00am Holy Communion: St John the Apostle, Sheepscombe
- 7.30pm Service with Communion: Christ Church
- 8.00pm The Last Supper, St Mary's Church

### *Good Friday, 21st April*

- 9.00am Matins said (BCP): St Mary's Church
- 10.30am Churches Together Around Painswick. Procession of Witness from St Mary's Church followed by coffee and hot cross buns in Christ Church Hall
- 11.30am Worship for Good Friday: St James the Great, Cranham
- 12.00 - 3pm Three Hours Devotions: St Mary's Church
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer said (BCP): St John the Apostle, Sheepscombe.
- 7.30pm Beacon Singers Passion Music: St Mary's

### *Holy Saturday, 22nd April*

- 8.00am Morning Prayer: St Mary's
- 8.00pm Vigil and Easter Ceremonies and Communion: St James the Great, Cranham

### *Easter Day, 23rd April*

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP): St Mary's Church
- 8.30am Communion Service: Christ Church
- 8.30am Mass of the Resurrection: RC Church of Our Lady and St Therese
- 9.15am Breakfast in Christ Church Hall
- 9.30am Easter Ceremonies and Sung Eucharist: St Mary's Church
- 10.30am Service including Communion, Christ Church
- 10.30am Meeting for Worship: Friends' Meeting House, Vicarage Street
- 11.00am Easter Ceremonies and Holy Communion, St John the Apostle, Sheepscombe
- 6.30pm Celebration of the Lords Supper, Methodist Chapel, Sheepscombe
- 6.30pm Evensong for Easter Day with Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament: St James the Great, Cranham

For details of services at Prinknash Abbey and the Catholic Church in Stroud, please see the notice board in the Church of Our Lady and St Therese, Painswick.

## SWAC Project for the Homeless

Having lived in Painswick all my life I know that the people are always willing to help others less fortunate than themselves.

As many people are aware I work as an outreach worker for Stonham Housing Association helping those in need of advice and support. During my day to day work I have recently recognised that more

and more people are living rough, through no fault of their own, in the Cheltenham and surrounding areas.

Having recognised the need I have started up a project with the aim of providing sleeping bags for those who are homeless. If you have any sleeping bags which you no longer require please contact Cristina Luker on 01242 700062, or take them along to Painswick Pharmacy.

A big thank you to Mike and Gill Powis for all their support and for letting me use the chemist as a drop off point.

Cristina Luker (Outreach Worker)

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## Christian Aid Week

14th - 20th May

HELP!

Please contact Jean Newell (812083) to help in the kitchen or bake for the lunches on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

Please contact Hilda Musty (812236) to help with the cake stall or make cakes or preserves.

## 10th Catholic Church Coffee Morning

Town Hall, Saturday 15th April, 9.45am - 11.30am

This is our tenth annual Coffee Morning to raise funds towards repairs and redecoration in Our Lady & St Therese, general funds for the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Stroud and Father Franco in Papua New Guinea. In this our tenth year we will be giving a donation to the Cotswold Care Hospice Fund. There will be our usual cake stall, general stall including plants and books, a raffle with ten prizes for ten years, home-made biscuits and as much tea/coffee/chocolate as you wish. We look forward to welcoming friends old and new. See you there, we hope!

Helen Baker and Anne Leoni

## A gift from Painswick WI

A pleasant little ceremony took place on Hambutts Field off Edge Road on the afternoon of 10th March, when the President and Secretary of Painswick WI, Barbara Thorley and Doreen Boon, completed the planting of an oak tree that the WI has donated as part of a new millennium project. They have also given three walnut trees and these have been planted in other parts of the field.

The field will shortly be transferred from the ownership of the Open Spaces Society to a new local Trust. The gift was received by Dick Jarrett, Chairman of the Trust, together with tree expert and trustee John Workman, who chose the trees and their locations.

Our photo shows Doreen Boon taking a turn with the spade, with Dick Jarrett, John Workman and Barbara Thorley looking on.



## Painswick 100 years ago

Miss Vanstone had recently inaugurated a Band of Hope at Painswick. Meetings were held every Tuesday at Bank House.

At the School Board monthly meeting, the Rev W H Seddon presented the Scriptural Examiner's report on his scripture examination which he had conducted at Painswick School. "It is impossible" he said, "to speak too highly of the efficiency of the instruction in religious knowledge of the School."

The Uplands School was still closed on account of the epidemic of measles. They would seek authority to open the school on Easter Tuesday.

With sunny and warm weather being experienced, the 'Painswick Season' was said to have commenced. On the 10th Mr M E Ireland fetched a party from Stroud to The Verlands. The visitors were honoured by being brought by the new char-a-banc "Express", which was to run between Painswick and Stroud.

At the quarterly meeting of the Painswick Parochial Council the Chairman Rev W H Seddon read a report with estimate from Messrs Taylor of Lough-

borough, advising on work required to be done to the bells to put them in thoroughly good order. It was more costly than previously thought and would amount to more than £500.

There were special services for Good Friday at the Parish Church. The three hour service, 12 o'clock to 3 o'clock, was conducted by Revd F de Freville. In the evening there was a limelight lantern service. Rev W H Seddon gave the address on the crucifixion, which was appreciated by the large attendance.

The first business of the Parish Council's meeting was the election of chairman. Mr F A Hyett was proposed and elected; Mr E Reed was reappointed vice-chairman. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Skinner for the gift of a strip of land for widening the road from Watkins Mill to Brookhouse Mill.

At the end of the month Rev W H Seddon was ordered away by his medical adviser for a change of air. He went to Sidmouth and it was thought he might be away for some weeks.

John Bailey

## Urgent need for blood donors

Do something amazing! Enrol as a blood donor.

We urgently need new donors in the Painswick area. Please help support your local community. If you are between 17 and 60 and in general good health and interested in becoming a blood donor, please support your local session on WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL, at The Painswick Centre, Bisley Street. Times: 1.30 - 3.15pm and 5 - 7.15pm.

A minute of your time can mean a lifetime to someone else.

National Blood Service

## POLICE REPORT

*Incidents: 11.02.00 - 13.03.00*

House Burglaries: Nil. Business Premises: Painswick 2. Sheds: Painswick 1. Vehicles: Painswick 2. Other: Painswick 2 (theft 1, damage 1), Cranham 1 (theft), Edge 1 (theft), Sheepscombe 1 (theft), Slad 1 (theft).

*Items Stolen:*

Car wheels (6), car badge, mini excavator, wall stone, caravan.

*Reported Incidents:*

Eleven incidents were reported and five were of value to the police. Thank you.

*Security Improvement Recommendations:*

In the case of the three burglaries, entry was gained but no property was taken. Theft continues to be the main crime with items being taken from unattended sites. Car wheel theft is a popular crime throughout the Stroud Police Area at present and the fitting of wheel lock-nuts is recommended.

Police Team & Liaison Group Coordinator

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# Desert Challenge 2000 - a thrilling experience

Last month's CLIC Desert Challenge - a sponsored cycle event in which local residents Libby Graesser, Maggie Slader and Sally Bateman took part - was an outstanding success, both as a fund-raising event and as an exciting experience. Libby Graesser says that CLIC (Cancer and Leukaemia in Children) hope to raise around £150,000 in all, and that the local threesome have raised about £9,000 from their sponsorship including the Fashion Show held in February.

The challenge was to cycle from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea, taking a route that took the participants across some 250 miles of difficult desert terrain over a period of five days. Libby has wasted no time in recording her experiences for the benefit of those who sponsored her (she wrote it on the flight home!). She says "it was not just a bike ride but an emotionally charged week". There was an interesting mix of participants, including two people who had sadly lost a child to Leukaemia, another two who had a child undergoing treatment, an 18-year old young man whose brother was receiving treatment, a group from Bristol Sick Children's Hospital including an anaesthetist, nurses and administrators, builders and firemen, three physiotherapists, people who just wanted to support CLIC, and friends and family of all these. Ages ranged from 18 to 66 with "a mix of abilities, fitness and fears".

Some of the highlights picked out by Libby were taking a dip in the Dead Sea, seeing Massada, descending into the Ramon Crater, huddling around an evening fire "with Bedouins playing

drums and coffee grinders for music and smoking apple-wood", sleeping in a Bedouin tent with 25 men and 17 women, and the final celebrations when champagne flowed and a gala dinner had everyone in a celebratory mood.

The group fully deserved this because the cycling was very demanding (involving struggling up what the leader described as "negative downhill"), and was not helped in Libby's case on the first day when "the only thing that kept me going was the thought of a gin I had packed in my case, so you can imagine the horror at finding that it had leaked all over my clothes." On the last day, with

the adrenaline waning, the group didn't fancy the idea of sitting on their saddles for another day, but "yet again our leaders humourous us through the day. Max, our incredibly funny but soft-hearted Jewish Scotsman was my main inspiration while others preferred the sleeker lines of the two Flying Dutchmen!" The gala dinner coincided with the 66th birthday of the oldest participant, Doug. "He had done brilliantly and was an inspiration to us all. He had taken up the Desert Challenge 2000 because his grandson was receiving treatment. I think we can all say that we felt incredibly privileged and lucky to be part of such a special group."



*Libby Graesser, Sally Bateman and Maggie Slader pause for a rest in the desert*

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## Planting of millennium yew

At 9.25am tomorrow morning (Sunday 2nd April) there is to be a planting of the 'millennium yew tree' in St Mary's Churchyard. Parishes all over the country were given yew trees by the Millennium Yew Tree Campaign, the young trees all being propagated from an ancient tree estimated to be at least 2000 years old. The tree will be planted beside the path running alongside the war memorial garden at a spot where there is only one tree instead of the usual pair. Whether this will take the number from the legendary 99 to 100, or from 106 to 107, or some other figure, we leave readers to calculate.

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# European title brings joy - and concern about coping with it

The news that Painswick has been chosen as the European 'Village of the Community' for the year 2001 has been greeted with enthusiasm, but also some concern about the implications for traffic, parking and accommodation.

In gaining this accolade Painswick has been selected from among thousands of candidate villages across Europe. As many readers will be aware, the title 'Village of the Community' is awarded annually by the European Union, and it is given to a village which is considered to epitomise the strength of communal links and traditional activities within its boundary. The selection panel (a sub-committee of the European Commission) looks for examples of community spirit as shown by a wide range of leisure activities taking place in a small locality, supported by interesting customs and traditions. In Painswick's case there can be no doubt that traditions such as the annual Clipping Service and Victorian Market were key factors in the village being chosen, together with its impressive variety of clubs and societies.

It is normal for the 'Village of the Community' to put on a number of special events during the year, assisted by a grant from European funds, culminating in a grand 'Community Festival Week' during the summer, when all sorts of special activities take place, usually involving visits from other villages and towns which have interesting customs. Next year's Community Festival Week has been fixed for 17th to 24th July.

Work on planning these events has yet to start, but an indication of the possibilities is given by this year's 'Village of the Community', Gaillac-St-Honoré in the Dordogne, where there are to be large-scale re-enactments of the battles of Crecy and Agincourt. In Painswick's case there is talk of the possibility of local events such as the Three Choirs Festival and Cheltenham Festival of Literature being partially staged in Painswick.

Thousands of extra visitors can be expected for the Festival Week, and this is bound to be something of a headache for the various authorities. Special car parking and traffic management schemes will be required, plus the provision of additional bed and breakfast accommodation.

As an encouragement, there is a European Fund which will enable B & B establishments to receive some remuneration over and above their normal charges during that week. Painswick Tourist Information Office will be co-ordinating this task and people who are interested in providing accommodation are asked to contact the Office (01452-813552) as soon as possible after it opens for the season on 18th April. Existing B & B establishments should also apply for the special grant.

## Library news

Painswick Library Manager Rosalind Davie reminds readers that there is an on-going book sale with many good bargains in the library.

Rosalind also points out that they have a growing video section with many new titles, should people feel like a change from the printed word. She adds that this section is becoming quite popular and that some people say it offers a better service than video shops in the local towns!

## Open Day at Record Office

Tomorrow (Sunday 2nd April) is 'Open Day' at the Gloucestershire Record Office, Alvin Street, Gloucester. From 11am to 4pm the public will have the chance to see behind the scenes, including tours of the Record Office, including the new strongrooms, a chance to use the new wills database and a visit to the Conservators' workshop.

There will also be exhibitions to see, and light refreshments and free parking are available.

## Antiques and Craft Centre closes

Residents will be sorry to note yesterday's closure (31st March) of the Antiques and Craft Centre in New Street, which has been a welcoming attraction for both locals and visitors over the past fourteen years. Owner Bob Short says he is very sorry that the Centre has had to close and he is grateful to all the people who have supported them. He especially thanks his very loyal staff.

Mr Short said it has been something of a social centre, and many people who frequently visited - including some regulars from abroad - had written expressing their regret. Assistant Hilary Kilby added that it was a sad moment for the staff, who have made a lot of friends there - especially the 80 or so people whose goods have been displayed in the shop and sold on their behalf.

The property is subject to a planning application for change of use from retail to office accommodation, and the Beacon understands that it has been purchased for office use by a Painswick businessman.

## WEEKEND REMINDERS

Don't miss the Coffee Morning in aid of the Additional Curates Society, today (1st April), Church Rooms, 10am to 12 noon.

And there is a 'Granny's Attic Sale' at the Town Hall tomorrow, Sunday 2nd April, 11am to 4pm. Stalls include clothes, bric-a-brac, knitware, books, shoes, hats, pictures and toys. Admission is free.



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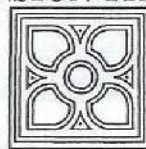
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## New name on the shield

There's a new name on the shield awarded to the winners of the Beacon's annual village quiz - that of Painswick WI. After three years in which the St Mary's Church team has reigned supreme, the WI finally knocked them off their steeple with a fine performance which saw them accumulating some very high scores over the last few rounds of last month's quiz. In second place - for the second year running - were PaDS (a final dress rehearsal for next year?), and third were the team from Slad.

In all, nineteen teams competed at the Painswick Centre on 18th March, not quite the full house of previous years but a respectable number in view of the slow bookings that had concerned us last month. We hope everyone enjoyed taking part as much as we did organising it, and we were pleased to see that a number of teams brought mascots or came along amusingly attired. 'The French Connection' won a special prize for their colourful assortment of striped jerseys, onions and baguettes. And a word of thanks to PaDS who ran the bar for us.

On accepting their prizes, WI team member Janet Dent said it showed that the WI could do more than just make jam!

A brief perusal of the answers was re-



'The French Connection'. Clockwise from the left: Dawn Mallinson, Austin Weltman, Jenny Gaugain and Gus Gaugain

vealing. We discovered that whilst nearly everyone knew the name of Captain Mainwaring's wife in Dad's Army, hardly anyone could name the character played by Julia Roberts in last year's hugely popular film Notting Hill, or the name of the child heroine of the world's most popular musical, Les Misérables. This seems to show that Painswickians need

to get out more! And proof that even intelligent people will believe anything if you say it with a straight face: no less than seven teams thought that the game of conkers was named after a medieval religious doctrine called conciliarism in which bishops indulged in debating con-

tests.  
Hope to see you all again next year.

### By the way... (see page 11)

Answer: I was looking at Canton Acire. If you know the real reason it was given that name, please let the Beacon know.

## Wartime visitor from the States

The Parish Clerk, Peter Grant, has received a letter from William L Flagler, of San Jose, California, who was in Painswick during the Second World War. Does anyone remember him?

William was in England from 1943 to 1944, and he says he visited many of his relatives, including two aunts in Painswick. They were his grandfather's sisters, who came back from India in 1939 after forty years as missionaries. He says "their address was their name - Rosemary Cottage, Painswick... Is Rosemary Cottage still there?" (Peter Grant intends to send him a picture of Rosemary Cottage in St Mary's Street.)

William, now 78, says that England is a part of his heritage and he hopes to return one day. He came across on a D10 as a combat medic and he was stationed at a hospital in St Neots. Among his recollections are going to a factory in Birmingham where they made mess trays for the US and British troops, and visiting people in London during the air raids.

On returning to the USA William gained degrees in Education and later Library Science, and he had a long career in teaching, library management and computing.

William's address is 4346 Redden Drive, San Jose, CA, 951340.

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# In memory of Agnes (Nessie) Gyde

The family of the late Agnes (Nessie) Gyde wish to thank everyone who sent many cards, letters and messages of sympathy and attended the funeral service. Special thanks to Canon Bird, Bill Varah, and David Archard of Selim Smith and Co and his bearers, for their kind words and sympathetic approach. Thanks also to kind friends and neighbours, the district nurses and doctors at Painswick Surgery, Ward C1 Standish Hospital, Brookthorpe Hall, Pam Bailey and folks at Ashwell Day Centre, and lastly to the staff of Ward 5 GRH for their kindness and compassion in the last few days of Mum's courageous fight for life, but sadly it was not to be. All donations to the Ward 5 Fund c/o Selim Smith and Co, 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham. Bless you all.

## Bird Club

The next meeting of Painswick Bird Club will be at the Town Hall on 20th April, 7.30pm, when Mr Mike Sutcliffe will give a talk entitled 'Bird Identification and Waders'

## Brooke Hospital

We are holding a sale in aid of the Brooke Hospital on Saturday 8th April from 10am - 12 in the Town Hall. Please come and support us. We shall be serving tea and coffee and will be selling cakes, bric-a-brac and good quality clothes.

If you have any bits and pieces you can spare we shall be happy to collect them, just give us a call on 812340 or 813329.

Michele Phillips and Jill Alder

Ann and her late mum, Nessie Gyde, always loved the following words, so Ann would like to dedicate them to Nessie's beloved family who were so supportive in her last days.

To Bob, John, Alex, Michele, Laura, Paul, Peter, Leigh, Matthew, Dylan, Alison, Jessica, Adrian, Liz, Michael, Lauren, Pearl and to her many friends.

### 'Do not stand at my grave and weep'

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there. I did not die.

## Christ Church coffee morning

On Saturday 8th April Christ Church will be holding a coffee morning in the Church Hall, Gloucester Street, from 10am to 12 noon. This is in aid of P2K (the Pentecost 2000 event at Cheltenham Racecourse) and The Kings Table, a group who help the homeless in Cheltenham. There will be a cake stall, bric-a-brac, and bring and buy. Everyone is welcome.

## Hamptons

An advertisement for Hamptons (formerly Lear & Lear) has appeared on the front page of the Beacon nearly every month since July 1978. It no longer does so because the Beacon committee recently decided not to place adverts on that page. Hamptons have asked us to make it clear that the disappearance of the advert in no way indicates that they no longer wish to advertise with us (please see Diary 'Property Report'), and in turn we wish to place on record our gratitude for their support of the Beacon for so many years.

## Good Friday concert

Readers are reminded that the Beacon Singers will be performing Fauré's Requiem at St Mary's Church on Good Friday, 21st April, at 7.30pm. There is no admission charge but there will be a retiring collection.

## Line Dancing classes

Julie Cole will be starting a new Line Dancing Class tomorrow, Sunday 2nd April, for absolute beginners. It is held weekly on Sunday evenings at the Painswick Centre, 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Phone Julie for more details on 01453-752480.

## Marling School production

In the coming week pupils of Marling School are putting on a stage production of the classic jury-room drama 'Twelve Angry Men'. There are evening performances at the Studio Theatre, Wycliffe College, Stonehouse, on Sunday 2nd, Monday 3rd, Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th and Friday 7th April at 7.30pm.

With a budget of over £2,000 the production has involved purpose-built scenery created by year 12 pupils, period costumes and props, research and cast interviews, a big sponsorship drive, and rehearsals three times a week for three months. It promises to make for a very exciting evening at the theatre.

Tickets are on sale at the Marling School at £4 for adults and £2.50 for students and concessions. Please call in or phone 01453-762251 for further details.

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# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

## Applications

- Painswick Squash Club, Yokehouse Lane. Erection of five garages in connection with planning permission 99/406.
- 2 Upper Washwell. Erection of detached garage with new access onto Upper Washwell.
- Painswick House, Gloucester Road. Change of use of Old Brew House to craft workshop for antique furniture restoration.
- Plot 3, Paul Camp, Back Edge Lane, Edge. Erection of one 4-bedroomed house.

## Revised Plans

- Highbury, Cheltenham Road. Erection of single storey extension. Main changes: Alterations to outbuildings and change in ridge height of extension.
- Gyde House. Conversion and refurbishment of existing house to provide 18 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Main changes: Retention of original doors, additional landscaping, revised parking layout, new drying areas, revised satellite location, alterations to roof of car port and further details on stone boundary wall.

## Conservation of verges

So much of our countryside has changed over the past fifty years that the species-rich grasslands and wildflower hay meadows that were once common have now all but disappeared.

In many parts of the county all that remains of these habitats can be found on the roadside verges. In your parish Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has identified a Conservation Roadside Verge - an area of wildflowers which would once have been commonplace. We are looking for a few volunteers who would be interested in learning about this area and monitoring it on our behalf. If you think you might be interested, or would like to know more, please do contact me, Rosie Cliffe, on 01452 383333.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

## Consent

- Mynd House, The Highlands. Erection of 2-storey extension. Existing single storey extension and garage to be demolished.
- The Lamp House, Victoria Street. Creation of a self-contained 1 bedroomed flat on first and second floor of house, with construction of external steps.
- Pound House, Gloucester Street. Erection of ground floor extension to include bedroom and conservatory.
- Hilles House, Edge. Erection of stone walling column, topped by dovecot to either side of entrance to drive.

## Refusal

- Lady Jane Residential Home, Longridge Court, Bulls Cross. Change of use and alteration of existing double garage to form staff flat.

## Note - Barns

Painswick Conservation Society recently sought information about the planning regulations relating to barns and agricultural buildings. The Parish Council Chairman checked on the situation with the District Council and was given a copy of the guidelines covering this area, which have been forwarded to us.

There are three categories - developments needing normal planning permission, those requiring 'prior notification' to the District Council before work is started, and those that are 'permitted development' not requiring notification.

The rules that determine which category applies are too detailed to be reproduced here (with 13 different types of development requiring planning permission), but, to give some indication, developments requiring planning permission include any new building greater than 465 square metres, those within 25 metres of a classified road, and livestock buildings or extensions within 400 metres of a non-agricultural dwelling. New agricultural buildings never fall within the 'Permitted Development' category; they always require either full planning permission or prior notification.

## Photo call!

Dawn Mallinson of The Patchwork Mouse says that lots of people haven't yet collected their New Year's Day photograph, and she reminds people to call in at the shop and collect them.

## PAINSWICK PAPERS

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## Brownies' fundraising

The Brownies are holding a fund-raising evening on Monday 10th April, 7pm, at the Croft School, Painswick. There will be a cake stall, raffle and refreshments. Please come and support us. Patsy Ratcliffe, 813854

## Playing with numbers

Painswick Playgroup is going from strength to strength with the topic this half-term being 'numbers'. The children are playing games involving counting and number recognition and are learning new number rhymes and action songs. They are also practising their cookery skills, following recipe cards to make bread and other goodies. The home corner has been transformed into a ship and there is lots of play with sand and water, exploring their different characteristics.

For all enquiries about Playgroup, please contact Beaty Bell between 8.30am and 12.30pm on her mobile, 0961 528879, or at home on Gloucester 610997.

## Beacon subscribers

Most months the Beacon publishes a small table showing the latest position on subscriptions. The figures speak for themselves, but a comment from time to time is probably justified.

With closure of our accounts for 1999-2000 we would like to share with you that the total for the last year has once again exceeded the one before, by about 6% to reach 657. We wish to express our thanks to all subscribers for this support.

Most receipts will have been delivered by the date of publication of this issue, but if yours has not it should be with you in a day or two.

If these figures are a gentle reminder to subscribe for 2000-1...

### Beacon subscribers - at 20th March

	2000-01	1999-00	1998-99
New/Returned	38	139	123
Renewed	329	518	498
To date	367	657	621

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## Gloucestershire's own, and all that jazz...

Actually, with the Painswick Music Appreciation Group it was the other way round: the jazz came first.

Appreciation of music can only be satisfied if it straddles genre, and 2nd March was no exception. We welcomed Cheltenham-based Andrew Brotherton now in his fourth year with us, this time joined by three charming young ladies - Lucy Poole, Sara Phillips and Jane Bartholomew. A mix of vocals and guitar solos each received generous applause, not least for their sincerity of rendition.

Andy, compèring the evening himself, demonstrated his virtuoso skills on guitar. Choosing music composed by great names from jazz across the century, as well as his own composition "Undefined Blues", he enthralled us with his powers of interpretation, style and sheer excellence of control of his adopted instrument.

The girls have been singing together for five years now under the name "Moka" and now have new fans in Painswick! Bridging the generation gap was no easy task for them, but there was an immediate empathy with their style and choice of music. Their selection included music known to just about everyone present. Encores were urged and gratefully received, with Chattanooga the audience's obvious favourite.

Another night to remember with four performers very much alive and truly in harmony.

'Parry in Gloucestershire' on 16th March was a complete revelation for most of us, certainly for Lawrence Turner who so admitted in his charming vote of thanks

### PaDS speechless

Jack Burgess reports that he was so overcome by PaDS finishing in second place in the village quiz that he has been unable to put pen to paper ever since. Hence no PaDS article this month. But he reminds readers that 'Spring is in the Air' at Painswick Centre this afternoon, 1st April - a collection of prose and poems followed by cream teas, 3pm, admission £3.50 by programme - and that the next major production is 'An Inspectors Calls' at the Painswick Centre, 18th to 20th May.

#### NEW COMPUTER?

*Need help with "getting going"?*

Just one hour or several sessions - whatever will help to increase your confidence and solve initial problems.

I am a wordprocessing specialist with many years of training experience.  
Please call Gill Cox on 01452 814367

to our speaker, Robin Hales. His precise and well-paced description of Parry's career was a model of delivery, aptly spiced with no fewer than seventeen musical illustrations. The less knowledgeable among the listeners, your reporter included, will have known "Jerusalem" and perhaps some songs and sacred music, and about his association with the Three Choirs Festival, but we certainly did not realise that he had written such impressive instrumental music.

Outstanding along the 35-year long journey through his compositions were 'Job' (1892), his son-in-law singing the Narrator in the Gloucester Three Choirs Festival; the Coronation Anthem "I was glad" (1902); the revised scherzo of his 4th Symphony (1900); the finale of his 5th Symphony (1912); his symphonic work "Death to Life" which mirrored the two sides of his character (1914); and "Frolic", the last movement of his English Suite - lovely folk dance rhythms (1915). We heard Parry disliked Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius" (anyone who heard it in Gloucester Cathedral two days later may well disagree...), but he struck up a good relationship and could well be re-



Andrew Brotherton

garded a worthy forerunner of that great English composer.

Lastly: all aboard for Finale! Members Choice, on 13th April: music and wine, and do bring your favourite recording, and tell us why it is!

Ralph Kenber

## An epic journey recalled

Early in the 20th century Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen were making history, exploring uncharted lands in Antarctica. Before the century ended organised holiday parties were visiting the area from this country.

Antarctica, as big as the United States, may not be a place the average summer holiday maker would try; but Francis and Jane Otway did, and obviously enjoyed themselves enormously. They recalled their experiences for the entertainment and enlightenment of Painswick WI, showing the Cruise Ship 'Marco Polo' that they joined off South America, having flown from London to Buenos Aires.

The vessel, a fine looking ship of 22,000 tons, was seen taking on board eggs, milk and other necessary supplies as the passengers began to embark and settle into their comfortable cabins before making their way to the restaurant for the first main meal.

Early in the cruise came lifeboat drill for everyone on board, each passenger wearing a scarlet waterproof, windproof and hooded jacket, while the ship's personnel were in bright yellow, making a colourful picture against the grey sky.

As the ship cruised towards Antarctica ice floated on the sea, snow was on distant hills and mountain peaks, seals took a rest on an iceberg here and there. Ashore, there were so many hundreds of

penguins to be seen that it was almost incredible to European eyes. They are protected, so the passengers needed to keep a certain distance from them.

Jane, Francis and the rest of the party visited Scott's base of ninety years ago. Bales of hay for his ponies still stood as a poignant reminder, as did tins of cocoa, preserved in the cold, dry air. They visited Shackleton's hut and stores, noticing bottles of salt and tins of beef still standing.

Back on board, though, it was hot soup and mugs of Bovril on deck, with knee rugs and a deck chair in the bright sunshine.

Table tennis was available on board, exercise machines for the enthusiastic, shuffleboard, golf (practising chipping), bridge sessions and a visit to the ship's bridge. There were, too, craft classes, where Jane made two interesting penguin brooches.

After Antarctica 'Marco Polo' sailed for New Zealand, the weather became warmer and everyone landed at Lyttelton, south of Christchurch in South Island, the final slide showing a peaceful, sunlit, leafy scene on the River Avon in Christchurch.

Now Francis and Jane have certificates to prove that they have somehow missed a day through crossing the international date line, but it was surely worth it!

Dorothy Binns

## Two musical firsts in Painswick

The Schubert Ensemble of London are making a return visit to Painswick on 8th April. They are now firmly established as Britain's leading chamber quartet performing music for piano and strings. The ensemble will play Schubert's delightful "Trout" quintet and a piano quartet by Dvorák. Their programme will also include one of the highlights of Painswick Music Society's millennium season - a newly commissioned work. Pavel Novák, who has written a large number of chamber works performed in the UK, has composed a celebratory work entitled St Mary Variations, which will incorporate the theme of the "Clipping Hymn". We hope that Pavel, who comes from Czechoslovakia, will be present at this first performance.

We are indebted to the Schubert Ensemble for their work with local schools. During February and March the Society arranged for them to hold workshops and concerts which have proved very successful.

Later in the month, on 29th April, we will welcome our first orchestra. We are



*The Schubert Ensemble. (Photo Clive Barda)*

very excited at the prospect of being able to include a symphony in our concert programme and we are sure that this will also be a very popular event. The Orchestra of the Swan has a unique combination of talent, experience and enthusiasm and has earned a high reputation as the chamber orchestra of the Heart of England giving concerts at prestigious venues and festivals

throughout the UK. They will perform works by Mozart, Elgar and Handel.

Concerts take place in St Mary's Church at 3pm. Tea is served in the Church Rooms afterwards. Tickets, which are selling fast, can be obtained in advance from Hywel James, 812419, and The Shetland Shop or on the door (subject to availability).

Naomi Dunn

## About green men and asthmatic women...

"If you go down in the woods today..." you probably won't see Teddy bears but possibly you will see Cedric Nielsen, who came to Senior Circle on 25th February to show us slides of local trees and to give us a fascinating talk on the subject of The Green Man.

In Saxon times people lived very close to nature and worshipping trees became a form of Pagan religion. First signs of Green Man appeared in a decorative way in early Norman churches, possibly a "belt and braces" idea as new Christianity took hold. Today we still have Green Man amongst us. Woodchester, Tewkesbury, Cam Church (near the Uley shrines), Norwich, St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol all have many such embellishments. Our own St

Mary's has a Green Man at the north end of St Peter's Chapel. Some appear happy, others sad, but always with greenery coming from the mouth and the head covered with leaves.

We saw slides of famous trees in and around Painswick: the Bottle Tree, some 600 years old, near Broadham Fields, and the Great Oak of Painswick, some 32 feet in circumference and 800 years old. And the Bikini Tree on the road to Holcombe with a bikini-clad girl carved by a GI stationed nearby bearing the Americanised 7.4.44 marking US Independence Day. Could his local sweetheart still be amongst us today? An unusual tree which confused our experts turned out to be a radio mast superbly disguised - shape of things to come?

As one who spent her childhood 'midst the Green Lanes of Middlesex, where the Green Man held very different connotations, I recommend this as a subject of further study.

On 11th March Dr Roddy Jaques, wearing his own Olympic tie, gave us a first-hand account of the British Medical team's work at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. 10,000 athletes with 21,000 security staff, and every female

had to pass a saliva test to prove she really was a woman!

The British medical team held clinics by day and were on call at night - upper respiratory infections being the main problems. Air conditioning caused one sore throat to spread to others in the British team and meant a hasty removal of the sufferers to prevent it spreading (not, as the Press reported, dissatisfaction with their accommodation). As to multi-vitamins, it is peer pressure rather than need that makes athletes take them. One third of the male and half the women swimmers in the British team who train year round in chlorinated pools require Asthma medication. That is real dedication!

But why do we do so badly in the Games? Computer education is high on the school curriculum and less and less sport. Sports fields are sold and children go to school by car. Obesity in children is a real problem as is smoking amongst girls from 12 to 18. Why do the Africans do so much better? They have much more muscle power and as children often run five miles to school each day. What of our future? - not very promising until we change our present sedentary way of life.

Daphne Hudson

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# The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 6th MAY 2000

April			
Sat 1st	Coffee Morning/Bring & Buy in aid of the Additional Curates Society	Church Rooms	10am - 12 noon
	"Step into Spring" - PaDS present an afternoon of poetry and prose with a cream tea. Tickets £3.50: Tel: 812167/813379	Painswick Centre	3 - 5pm
2nd	Grannies' Attic Sale	Town Hall	11am - 4pm
	Line Dancing Class commences, for Beginners. Enquiries 01453-752480.	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
3rd	Austerity Lunch: Host - Fred Semark	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
4th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
	PCMS: Mr D W Martyn, Gideon International, "Wherever You Are"	Church Rooms	8pm
5th	Conversational French Classes (Advanced) - 5th & 12th April Conversational Italian Classes (Intermediate) (Some places still available for both classes)	Library Rooms " "	9.30 - 11am 11.30am - 1pm
6th	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
7th	W.I. Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
	Senior Circle: Antiques in your Attic - Barbara Blatchley	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 8th	Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy in aid of P2K and The King's Table	Christ Church Hall	10am - noon
	Sale in aid of the Brooke Hospital for Animals. Tea and Coffee.	Town Hall	10am - noon
	Coffee Morning and Grand Sale.	Falcon Bowling Club	10.30am
	Antiques and Collectors Fair	Painswick Centre	10am - 4pm
	Painswick Music Society Concert: Schubert Ensemble of London	St Mary's Church	3pm
10th	Brownies' fund-raising evening. Cake stall, raffle, refreshments, etc	Croft School	7pm
11th	Mothers' Union: "The Sanctuary Trust" - Mrs Joan Nash	Church Rooms	2.30pm
	Computer Club: Get-together of anyone interested in forming a Club	Painswick Centre	3pm
12th	Painswick Probus Meeting: AGM	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Horticultural Society: Booking Morning for Outings	Church Rooms	10am - 12 noon
	Horticultural Society: Ponds & Marginals - Duncan Coombs	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Wives' Fellowship: "Cloud Nine" - Liz White	Christ Church Hall	8pm
13th	W.I.: The New Museum in the Park for Stroud District - Dr Kenneth Southgate	Town Hall	2.30pm
	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Finale! Members' Choice. Music & Wine, bring your favourite recording	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat 15th	Catholic Church Coffee Morning: Hosts - Helen Baker & Anne Leoni	Town Hall	9.45 - 11.30am
18th	Local History Society: Research Presentation Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
	"Elemental" - (New Spring Exhibition)      Tuesdays - Saturdays - Until 6th May	Fiery Beacon Gallery Sundays	11am - 5pm 2 - 5pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm



19th	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
20th	WI Market (Please note change of day)	Town Hall	10am
	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	12.30pm
	Painswick Bird Club: Talk - Bird Identification & Waders. Mike Sutcliffe	Town Hall	7.30pm
21st	PLEASE NOTE: No WI Market	Town Hall	
	Good Friday Procession of Witness (Please see page 12 for details of all Easter services)	St Mary's Church	10.25am
	Beacon Singers; Faure Requiem	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
23rd	<b>COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Postbox in New Street</b>		
23rd/24th	Open Garden for charity under National Gardens Scheme	Trench Hill, Sheepcombe	11am - 5pm
24th	Blood Donor sessions	Painswick Centre	1.30pm - 3.15pm & 5pm - 7.15pm
24th	"Elemental" New Spring Exhibition - open Easter Monday	Fiery Beacon Gallery	11am - 5pm
27th	<b>DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Postbox, New Street</b>		
28th	Senior Circle: Talk by Brian de Courcy Ireland	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 29th	Painswick Music Society Concert: Orchestra of the Swan	St Mary's Church	3pm
	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing Social Evening	Painswick Centre	8pm
May 2nd	PCMS: The Church Today, Yesterday and Future - Fr. David Ryan	Church Rooms	8pm
3rd	Conversational French Classes (Advanced) Conversational Italian Classes (Intermediate) (Some places still available for both classes)	Library Rooms " "	9.30 - 11am 11.30am - 1pm
	Coffee Morning in aid of the National Asthma Campaign Bring & Buy. Raffle	Yew Tree House, Vicarage Street	10.30am - 12.30
Sat 6th	<b>MAY ISSUE OF THE PAINSWICK BEACON PUBLISHED</b>		
18th - 20th	PaDS Production. 'An Inspector Calls'. Evening performances plus Saturday matinee. Tickets £5 and £6.	Painswick Centre	

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# HAMPTONS

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## HAMPTONS' PROPERTY REPORT APRIL 2000

Whilst the Chancellor's recent budget increasing stamp duty was not unexpected, thankfully he did not hit the £250,000 and under bracket. However, the extra half per cent increase above this figure will make it difficult to sell a house between £250,000 and £270,000 as the new stamp duty of 3% will be a lot to find for just going over this threshold. Above £500,000 it is now 4% which is considerable but we do not envisage this will deter buyers at this upper end of the market. A number of properties rushed to exchange before the budget - just in case of stamp duty increases, and these were:

Beechcroft in Lower Washwell, Pride House in Upton St. Leonards,

The Antiques Centre, Briar Cottage in Sheepscombe; and Damsells Cottage, The Park, is due to exchange in the first week of April.

We are delighted to offer the following houses for sale: Valpre a 3/4 bedroomed cottage in Vicarage Street with views over to Sheepscombe, Kingsmill Lane cottage - an idyllic cottage with 3 bedrooms and also magnificent views. In Cranham, Beechfield is a 5 bedroomed modern property, close to the Church and School with lovely outlook over Cranham Woods. In Kingsmill Lane we are offering a quality detached house with 5 bedrooms leading down to the Painswick Stream and at Stockend we will shortly be offering 1&2 Randalls Cottages - a wonderful opportunity to create a beautiful period home in a large garden in a peaceful setting.

All our above properties appear on our website: [www.hamptons.co.uk](http://www.hamptons.co.uk), or ring us for details on Painswick 812354.

## Conservation Society's AGM

A most stimulating talk was given to a packed meeting of the Society last week when Ian Stainburn, resident architect of Gloucester Cathedral, drew our attention to aspects of maintenance of the most outstanding structure in Gloucestershire.

Mr Stainburn illustrated his exposition with a number of slides taken in nooks and crannies, mostly way up in the intricate stonework of the tower, roof and high windows. Rapt attention was given to the techniques applied to restoration and, in some instances, preservation pending possible replacement of stonework at a later date. His depth of knowledge was clearly phenomenal, and he was able to share with us the constant dilemma he and the skilled masons face of distinguishing between *conservation* of what is now deteriorating stonework and *preservation* of the original design, often ornate, by replacement. These are sometimes regarded as conflicting concepts when debating local matters ourselves!

In addition to receiving a detailed report upon aspects of activity and action of the Society during the past year (a copy of which is available to anyone interested) the meeting considered changes in officers consequent upon the retirement of Maggie Drake as Secretary, and Patrick Ridgwell as Treasurer after many years of dedicated service. With the end of my own tenure as Chairman looming a year

hence the meeting welcomed and supported my nomination of Douglas Robinson as Chairman Elect. Jenny Gaugain was elected as Secretary and husband Gus as Treasurer.

Under guidelines commended by the Countryside Commission, villages are encouraged to prepare what are called Village Design Statements. These are published documents which, as with the Painswick Adopted Local Plan of the 1980's, include providing supplementary planning guidelines for those seeking consent; that is, supplementary to guidelines prepared and enforced by the District Council. Through having such VDSs local communities create and have much influence upon managing changes in their area, this reflecting their own expectations.

A VDS is not about preventing change, but managing it more sensitively. The offer of the Conservation Society to provide a lead in the devising of a VDS in the coming year or so was accepted by the Parish Council, with whom the closest collaboration is regarded as essential. The meeting unanimously supported this suggestion, and we look forward to reporting through these columns, later in the year, how the involvement of all who have an interest in such an important and challenging task might be achieved.

Members unable to attend the AGM, but wishing to renew their subscriptions in person, can now do so at The Patchwork Mouse, in New Street.

Leslie Brotherton

## Wives Fellowship

Painswick Wives Fellowship thanks everyone who supported their Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th March. The sum of £240 was raised for Winston's Wish.

## WI Market

The Easter Market will be held on **Thursday** 20th April 2000 in the Town Hall at 10am (not Friday this week).

Please remember to order early to avoid disappointment.

## Research Evening

It has become the tradition in the programme of the Painswick Local History Society for members of the Society to present at the April meeting the results of any research they have undertaken. On Tuesday 18th April Helen Briggs will talk about the early history of the Central Stores and John Bailey will describe how he has been tracing the history of the Birt family. The meeting will be held in the Croft School and start at 7.30pm.

## MINI ADS

**Gas Cooker**, 'Leisure' never used. Large oven with eye-level grill. £195. 812234.

**Moquette** Cottage suite in good condition, £75. 812400.

**Wardrobe**, antique pine, double doors with hanging rail and shelf. £395. 812234.

**Ford Escort** 1.3 Estate. Taxed to end March and MOT to August. Faulty lock. Excellent runner. £250 o.n.o. 812444

MINI-ADS - non-commercial, maximum of 30 words - are 10p per word with a minimum payment of £1. *Beacon* subscribers have 25% discount. Please send money with mini-ad to Leslie Brotherton, Longhope, Blakewell Mead. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to *The Painswick Beacon*. Receipts are not forwarded unless requested.

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# The Personal Column

## Golden Weddings

Congratulations to PAM and GUY BENTLEY of the Fiery Beacon Gallery who celebrated their golden wedding on 25th March;

and to MARION and PETER SADLER who married fifty years ago on 1st April.

## Ruby Wedding

Congratulations to JEAN and DAVID RYLAND who were married forty years ago on 19th March.

## Diamond Wedding

Congratulations to QUEENIE and BERT GRANT of Ashwell who will celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 6th April. Love from all the family.

## Engagements

Congratulations to MATTHEW BOUCHER and SARAH MILLER of Puddleton, Dorset, who announced their engagement recently;

also to NICOLAS DADSWELL of Painswick and EMMA KNIGHT of Norfolk who announced their engagement on 29th February;

and to ELLIE DIVITO of Lyndhurst, Blakewell Mead, and STEPHEN BISHOP from Cheltenham on their engagement.

## Baby

Congratulations to DELLA and ALAN GOULD on the birth of their son Alexander on 6th March.

## News from Italy

We hear that former Painswick Librarian Eve Leckey is "in lively good form" and now working for UNICEF on the publishing side. She works in a superb building created by Brunelleschi - the former Foundlings' Hospital in Florence.

## Comings and Goings

We welcome Dr and MRS MAWDESLEY-THOMAS and family who have moved into Whitehall Cottages.

Farewell to MR and MRS CURTIS who have moved to Hucclecote;

and to the BRESSINGTON family who are moving to Upton St Leonards;

and to JOHN OVENELL of the Pound House who will be moving to Ross on Wye.

## Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to GUY BENTLEY, JANE PEARSON, IRENE LEAR, BRIAN BIRT (Doreen's son), BEATRICE PURCELL, JOHN ROBB, DOROTHY McEUNE, and several people who are recovering from bad falls - LUCY BICKFORD, SUE AVERY and MARGARET ELLINSON.

## Did You See?

CORAL ATKINS was the subject of last week's ITV production 'Seeing Red', and NICOLA BARNFIELD took part in this dramatisation of her story.

## Thank You

FREDA COX wishes to thank all the kind neighbours and friends who have sent cards, visited and helped in so many ways during her stay in hospital and on return home. Moving to Painswick was the best thing I ever did; it houses such a lovely lot of folk.

JOHN ROBB would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kind enquiries and offers of help during his two spell in hospital and since.

ROZ LITTLE (Bullingham) who moved to Weston-Super-Mare in February with her husband Michael is sorry to leave all her friends in Painswick, where she had lived for 43 years, forty of which were spent at Woodbury, Vicarage Street. She will be back frequently to visit.

The MERRYWEATHER family would like to thank everyone for their help and kindness during Reggie's recent illness.

## THE PAINSWICK BEACON

### Next Issue

Publication Date  
**SATURDAY 6th MAY**

Items for publication to Jillie Speed\*,  
The Old Carriage House, Edge, by  
**SUNDAY 23rd APRIL**

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton,  
Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by  
**SUNDAY 23rd APRIL**

Business adverts: Contact Liz Fisher,  
Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by  
**THURSDAY 20th APRIL**

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey,  
14 The Croft, by  
**THURSDAY 27th APRIL**

\* Articles for publication, and other items for the Beacon Committee, may also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in New Street (next to the telephone kiosk).

Items for publication are welcomed on computer diskette (returned to you after use) or by e-mail to:  
[Painswick.Beacon@dial.pipex.com](mailto:Painswick.Beacon@dial.pipex.com)  
In all cases please give your address and phone number. E-mail messages received by the copy deadline will be acknowledged on or before that date.

### Beacon Committee

Editor: Alan Bamber	814500
	(Beacon calls only)
Copy Editor: Jillie Speed	814148
Personal Column: Rachel Taylor and Angela Hudson	813402 813250
Business Advertising: Liz Fisher	812130
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