

The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 22 No. 11

February 2000

What a swell party...

Dear Karen

Thank you ever so much for arranging such a wonderful Millennium Party. We all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. The cake was excellent. Thank you ever so much for giving up your time to arrange such a memorable event. It's a shame none of us will be around in the next millennium. The new millennium wouldn't have been the same without such an enjoyable event. The magician was absolutely brilliant. I hope you enjoyed the party as much as we did.

Love from

Ellie

Ellie Jackson, on behalf of the children of Painswick

Painswick Town Hall was filled with excited children on Sunday 9th January when they gathered for a special Millennium Party. Second from the left in our picture (of the grown-ups, that is!) is Karen Goddard who was the main organiser of the event. Further picture inside.



PARISH COUNCIL OPPOSES 'CARE VILLAGE' APPLICATION

At their monthly meeting on 19th January Painswick Parish Council voted to oppose the outline application by Richmond Healthcare for a 'care village' in a field adjoining the A46 north of Cotswold Mead. At the same time the Council reaffirmed its support for a nursing home and associated dwellings at the site and, in a separate motion, voted to offer to discuss a new plan for the site with the developer.

These votes, which were unanimous, came at the end of a long debate in which councillors reviewed the conditional decision that they had made after the public meeting on 15th December. At the De-

ember meeting the Council had supported the outline application with the proviso that their support should not be taken as endorsing all the details submitted by the applicant. They subsequently wrote to the District Council stating that whilst supporting the application they reserved their position on the issues of density and design pending the submission of a detailed application.

With the District Council not due to decide on the application until February (now put back further until at least March) the Parish Council had a further opportunity to discuss the plans at the January meeting, and they suspended Standing

Orders in order that they could review the previous decision. They had to hand numerous letters from residents, both supporting and opposing the application. Further evidence of villagers' interest in this issue was the presence of about fifteen residents - most unusual for a standard council meeting when the Beacon reporter often sits in isolation. The Managing Director of Richmond Healthcare, Keith Cockell, was among those present.

One reason for the extra time available for debating the issue was that the County Council's highway's department had not yet reached a decision on the traffic implications.

The agreed motions state that (1) "the Council opposes the outline application on matters of scale, size and density within the AONB but supports the building of a nursing home and associated dwellings on the site", and (2) "the Parish Council offers to discuss with the developer a new development plan for the site."

In the debate leading up to these votes, a succession of councillors expressed their disapproval of the application as it currently stood. A common thread was the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Council Meeting on 19th January

Reported by Alan Bamber

'Radio Transmitter'

Chairman Terry Parker said that the District Council had granted planning permission for a communications mast at Hoyland House despite the Parish Council's objection to the application. He had been told that in recommending approval the Planning Officer had taken the view that the post was not so intrusive given the presence of lamp posts of a similar height in the vicinity, and the decision conformed to government planning guidelines relating to masts. Mr Parker added that "the jury is still out" on the question of health hazards.

Youth Club premises

Terry Parker said that a County Youth Officer had looked at the recreation field pavilion and had written a report on the condition of the building and the items requiring attention by the Rugby Club before their lease terminates. It was felt that the Rugby Club should attend to the work as soon as possible but that the 1st February deadline was unrealistic.

Council Procedures

Councillors scrutinised a Working Party report which recommended improvements to council procedures. Most of the points were agreed. The most difficult area was finding a better way of dealing with planning applications. It was agreed to request a duplicate set of plans so that one set could be retained in the office whilst the other one was being used by councillors. Failing this, it was proposed to divide the parish into geographical areas, each the responsibility of a particular councillor. That councillor will take the plans first and consult residents likely to

be affected by the application.

There was also some discussion about the way residents' letters should be handled. The report recommended that "correspondence should be handled by the Clerk and Chairman/Committee Chairman on receipt, and then, if unresolved, by reference to the appropriate committee. Only recommendations involving Council policy should come before the Council".

A letter from The Painswick Beacon expressed concern that, in the name of efficiency, residents' worries and opinions might never come to general public attention. It would be regrettable if people had to go to more effort to find out what ideas or complaints were being put to the Council by their fellow-citizens. The Working Party Chairman Keith Hardwidge responded that there was no intention to hide anything, and that matters affecting council policy would come before the full council. However it was important that "correspondence be picked up and dealt with at an appropriate level."

A summary will be made of all the changes accepted during the meeting, and the council will formally vote to adopt them at the next meeting.

At one point in the proceedings Malcolm Watts commented that "we appear to have lots of solutions but do we have a problem?"

Children's Medals

The design of the millennium medals was agreed.

New Year celebrations

In a letter to the Council, Paul Stamp expressed his thanks for the help given in financing the New Year's Day event, which he said had been a great success and fostered community spirit. A large framed print of the village photo was on its way to the Parish Council for hanging in the Town Hall. Councillors expressed their gratitude and agreed to write a letter of thanks and congratulation to those who had organised the event.

It was also agreed to write and thank Karen Goddard for organising the children's party on 9th January. Ann Daniels was full of praise for the organisers and helpers. She said it had been a brilliant event with about a hundred children there.

Slad councillor Jackie Woof said it was a pity that several families in Slad had not known about the party. She said it had been publicised at the Croft School but children living in Slad had not been invited.

(Response: Karen says she is very sorry if some children missed out, but in the limited time available she tried to spread the word around the whole parish and there was a good mixture of children from the villages.)

Frederick Gyde Trust

A letter from the Frederick Gyde Trust asked the Parish Council to consider taking over the administration of the Trust. The trust is responsible for the war memorial area, including the Wemyss birdbath and the memorial itself. The letter noted that the Parish Council has already accepted responsibility for maintaining the bird bath and war memorial and that it would be logical to oversee the maintenance of all the land, especially in view of long-term financial and other difficulties envisaged by the Trust.

Councillors generally felt that in view of the prominent situation and importance of the area it was right and proper that the Parish Council should take over this responsibility. Some councillors felt that more information was needed, especially the financial implications, before taking such a step. The Council agreed in principle to the change of administration of the Trust, subject to more information and financial details being made available.

Parking

Ann Daniels criticised the "diabolical" parking that had been evident in the centre of Painswick around Christmas and the New Year. She said that there had been numerous vehicles parked on double-yellow lines, and that Friday Street had been completely blocked at times. Traffic Committee Chairman David Hudson said he would be seeing Inspector Dave McFarlane (Stroud area police) about traffic matters and he would raise this with him. Johnny Johnston said that if the police put in an appearance one evening, the word would soon get around.

Cycling

In a letter to the Council a resident requested that a 'no cycling' notice be put up on the path between Hyett Close and Berry Close. The writer thought the activity was dangerous to pedestrians in that area. Terry Parker said he had been informed by a County Council officer that the path is categorised as a 'Class 6 highway' and that cycling is legal. However, it could possibly be made the subject of a traffic regulation order and if so it would be the first one made for such a 'highway'. David Hudson said he knew who the cyclists were and that a quiet word with them would probably be sufficient.

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Care Village application, continued from page 1

scale, density and siting of the units within the field. Some councillors added their particular concerns such as the effect on the age make-up of Painswick and increased traffic hazards. Councillor David Hudson also questioned whether the high proportion of villagers said to have supported the scheme in a survey were representative of what the village as a whole wanted. Whilst voicing these strong criticisms, many councillors took the opportunity to confirm their support for the idea of a nursing home; it was primarily the scale of the proposal that they objected to.

In the face of the mounting criticisms the Parish Council Chairman Terry Parker reminded councillors that a considerable number of residents had written in support of the application and that it was "the responsibility of the Council to reflect the views of the village". He commented on the developer's need for an economic number of associated housing units to support the nursing home, and he also cast doubt on the age-balance argument because residents moving to the care centre would free up housing in the village. He acknowledged, however, that the proposal constituted the biggest change to Painswick since the Croft area was built and that it would be a "dramatic change". Mr Parker advised councillors that if a resolution was passed opposing the application, then some residents would find it strange if the council did not seek to come to an accommodation with the developer. This gave rise to the motion offering discussions with the developer.

During the debate councillors' attention was drawn to a letter and accompanying sketch from Mr Cockell in which he responded to concerns about the "five storeys". The letter stated: "The upper part could be reduced to two storeys. However with a roof pitch of 47 degrees there would be little change in the height, and the building would simply have a large empty loft." He added that "the lower building uses the roof space also and is much like many three storey buildings in Painswick." Councillor Jennifer Crook saw this as evidence that, contrary to state-

ments made at the public meeting, the developer was able to scale down the plans. John Stephenson-Oliver agreed that there was room for manoeuvre and said that the developer would have calculated the number of units needed to make the project financially viable.

Following the passing of the two resolutions the Parish Clerk Peter Grant spoke to Mr Cockell outside the council room. He reported back to the Council that Mr Cockell did not wish to be adversarial. He had no objection to the outcome and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Council.

The Chairman of the Parish Council has informed the Beacon that the Council had an informal meeting with the developer on the evening of 28th January.

A letter sent to the District Council by the developer's consultants Robin Bradbeer Limited (12th January) clarifies the "five care options to be provided by the development" as follows:

Bedrooms only (care centre)	18
Bedsitting rooms (care centre)	12
Small suites (care centre)	11
Apartments (linked to care centre by a covered access)	6
Independent living units	43

The letter adds: "As you will appreciate this outline application is for the development described at box 3 on the planning application form and does not seek to fix the number of units at this stage."

Food, glorious food...



Jane Otway does a spot of advertising whilst assisting at the children's millennium party. Jane was one of several villagers and parents who helped out.

PAUL COOKE

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End of another trading era?

From early February onwards the Shetland Shop is having a clearance sale. There will be from 10% to 50% off all the items in the shop.

For over forty years the Shetland Shop has been serving the Painswick community but with rising prices and the lack of both local and tourist trade, which all Painswick shops suffer from, too much browsing and not enough buying, has finally taken its toll. We can no longer carry on as we are; the time for change has come. The choice of what to do has been difficult, either to close and lose another Painswick shop, or to revamp in such a way as to keep going.

The lack of attractions here for tourists is obvious. With huge increases in petrol costs there needs to be more than the beauty of the area to bring people to Painswick. It has been very hard to come up with a solution to serve both the population of the area and tourism, so the Shetland Shop will have to change.

From early May, a permanent Rock, Fossil and Dinosaur Exhibition called 'Wonders from the Earth' will open along with a smaller shop selling our usual variety of gifts. We will also continue and hope to expand the picture framing service. We would like to thank all our customers from the past, present and future for their patronage.

Paul Gray

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Another busy winter of tennis

We are halfway through the winter and some of the early match results are coming through. Midway through the Stroud Winter league Painswick A are leading Division 1 (eight teams) with 29 points. Painswick B are in fifth place with 12 points. In Division 2 (nine teams) Painswick C are fifth with Painswick D in last place. In the Cheltenham floodlight league, the A team finished midway in Division 3 whilst the B team stay firmly in Division 5.

The Minchinhampton floodlit tournament finished with the Men's team in third place out of five and the Ladies team fourth placed out of five in their respective leagues.

The first in-house tournament under floodlights at Painswick was concluded just before Christmas. It proved to be a considerable success, not least because of its structure which enabled all standards to compete. Another similar Tuesday night tournament began at the end of January. In addition, on Wednesday nights there will be the Painswick inter-club tournament with seven clubs competing: the tournament will run until March.

The next social event is a Live Music Dance at the Painswick Centre on Saturday 12th February at 8pm. Tickets are available from Committee members.

John Barrus

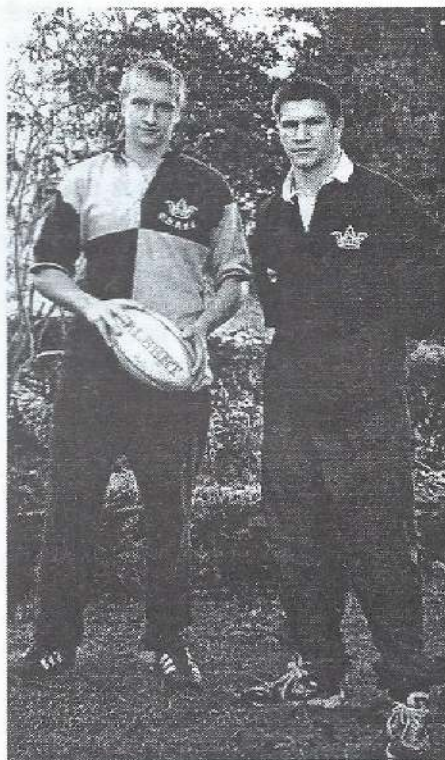
Dark blue is the colour

David and Nick Marsh of the Highlands, Painswick, are both making great strides on the rugby field at Oxford University. Nick has played about 25 times for the first team, and was on the bench for this season's Varsity Match against Cambridge. He was unlucky to miss out on his 'blue' because an injury cost him his regular place in the side. He is in his fourth year but may return next year, giving him a chance of gaining the coveted blue. He is one of the few undergraduates in the team.

Younger brother David is in his first year and has already been selected for the Whippets, the first year fifteen.

David and Nick are both at Magdalen, where David is reading Engineering Science, and Nick is reading Engineering, Economics and Management.

Those who know the Marsh family will be aware that there is a third brother, Andrew, who was also at Magdalen.



David (left) and Nick Marsh

News from the green

Not to be outdone by other Christmas and millennial activities - or was it an excuse to extend festivities? - over forty members of Painswick Bowling Club gathered for a party on 5th January.

The new well-heated clubhouse, beautifully laid out with attractive culinary tit-bits, provided the setting for a midwinter gathering and for members to start thinking about next season, which gets underway in less than two months.

The party was also an occasion to bid farewell to two long-serving and extremely active members. Norman and Dorothy Ash have decided to emigrate to Somerset, having, of course, assessed the bowling facilities in that area before committing themselves. Appropriately

Norman unveiled a plaque commemorating the building of the new clubhouse, an event for which he was consulting architect/Clerk of Works. Both have been active members and they will be missed although their move to Somerset might provide an opportunity for a short tour.

Over the years Norman has represented the county, been a sectional secretary, Honorary Life Vice President, singles champion, Club representative to the GBA and consistently overseen the Club's buildings - leaving a huge gap for members to fill.

As we look forward to next season with an excellent green, adequate buildings, bar and parking facilities, together with a full fixture list of league and friendly matches for single-sex and mixed teams, we welcome new members.

Subscriptions have been frozen at last year's level and Friday evenings have been set aside as open evenings to which all are invited and can be assured of a warm welcome in friendly informal surroundings. In the meantime more information can be obtained from current members or from Anthony Strickland on 01453 750160.

Keith Hardwidge

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Painswick's Cup run ends

Painswick's first fifteen were understandably disappointed in failing to reach the quarter-finals of the national Tetley Bitter Vase tournament when they lost at Broadham last week-end to the Essex side, Stanford Le Hope. They should not be too disappointed, however, as they played with considerable passion in a match which Cheltenham referee, John Hackett, said later was a fine example of the rugby game. Painswick were also aware that the Essex side was unbeaten this season, not just in the Vase but also in league matches.

There was a large crowd at the ground when Painswick ran on to the pitch wearing their unfamiliar navy blue and red quarters strip which is also worn by the Gloucester Club in European matches. Stanford wore cherry and white shirts which were very similar to Painswick's usual outfit, hence the reason for the local side's change of colours. Painswick began the match in tremendous style with Mark Henley crossing for a try in the first minute. Gary Lightfoot converted to give the home side seven points. Painswick then went further ahead when Gary Lightfoot was successful with a penalty attempt. From this point on the Essex fifteen began to get their game together and it was obvious that their backs had considerable ability. In the period before half-time, the visitors ran in two tries, which were both converted, and also

kicked a penalty goal. So at the halfway point Stanford led by 17 points to 10.

In the second half, roared on by their supporters, Painswick mounted a number of attacks but the visitors' defence was solid and the home side were denied the try they desperately needed. To Painswick's credit their defence was equally strong and the crucial score was not to come until the closing stages of the game. With barely seven or eight minutes left of actual playing time, Stanford launched an inspired movement which began with the forwards driving down the slope, only for the ball to be released to the backs. From here the ball reached the visitors' outstanding full-back who came outside his threequarter line and ran in for a try over a distance of some sixty yards at an exceptional pace. The try was converted and so, when the final whistle was blown a few minutes later, Stanford had won by 24 points to 10.

Painswick had moved into the last sixteen of the Vase competition by achieving a convincing win over Liskeard & Looe at Broadham on 8th January. The Cornish side was unable to come to terms with Painswick's pace and the power of its pack which laid the foundation for the victory.

Now that the interest in the Vase is in the past, the Club must seek to improve its league performances as the current position near the bottom of the Gloucestershire Division One is a matter of concern. The situation this year is even more relevant as the league is to be restructured next season and it is important that Painswick finish in the top five places if the first fifteen is to continue to play at the same level. The defeat against Westbury by 12 points to 10 was therefore particularly disappointing. Painswick can still achieve a top five placing but they must win their remaining matches and that will be a hard task.

Results [(L) denotes league match]
Sat 8 Jan. Vase. Painswick 1st XV 26 Liskeard & Looe 1st XV 10.

Sat 15 Jan. (L) Westbury 1st XV 12 Painswick 1st XV 10. Painswick United 19

Ladies hockey

Chris Jones is to be congratulated on her selection as the County's Second Eleven goalkeeper. Chris follows in the footsteps of seven other Painswick Ladies who have played for Gloucestershire since the Club was formed in 1982. It is particularly pleasing for Daphne O'Neil, a former Premier and County level player herself in Kent and London, who formed the Club.

Chris has outstanding talent and was first selected for the County's under-19 side. Unfortunately her job responsibilities and commitments denied her the opportunity to proceed any further at that time. She now has a second chance to reach the top but her absences could well cause difficulties for Painswick. As Daphne explains, "Painswick is a nursery club and therefore needs a flow of young new players. They all get a chance for glory and promotion to a higher level if they want it".

Although Daphne is continuing as Club Chairman and County Committee member, she is awaiting a hip replacement operation and therefore retired as a County umpire at the end of last year - temporarily it is hoped.



Line-out action from Painswick's cup match on 29th January

Westbury 2nd XV 14.

Sat 22 Jan. Painswick 1st XV 12 Old Richians 1st XV 18. Ledbury 2nd XV 10 Painswick United 54.

Sat 29 Jan. Vase. Painswick 1st XV 10 Stanford Le Hope 1st XV 24.

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'For the rain it raineth...'

It has been in the Percival family tradition to record the weather conditions. When my husband Claud and I moved to Painswick fourteen years ago we continued this practice.

More recently I have only made a record of the daily rainfall and the annual totals have varied quite remarkably. For instance, the lowest total annual rainfall was in 1990 when 25.87 inches were recorded. In 1993 the total was 35.86 inches. 1999 was quite exceptional with the total reaching 42.53 inches.

Three months in 1999 recorded exceptionally high rainfall amounts: in January 5.30 inches, August 5.70, September 6.14. The September figure was the highest monthly total recorded over the period of my residence here in Cotswold Mead.

J Percival-German

Stiles appeal

In December an appeal was made by Jennifer Crook, Chair of the Parish Council's Footpath Committee, for donations to help convert some local stiles so that they are more easily negotiated by the elderly and infirm. The Parish Council has informed the Beacon that Painswick Conservation Society has offered to meet the cost of converting the stiles below the Open Spaces field and off Kingsmead, about £270, if a corresponding amount is forthcoming from other sources. Proceeds from the memorial service to Roy Binney and a surplus from sales of the Painswick 2000 video have enabled the Society to make this offer.

People or organisations wishing to follow in the Conservation Society's footsteps are invited to contact the Parish Clerk at Painswick Town Hall. (812722).

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The car park - residents and traders have their say

Contrasting views were once again apparent when some thirty residents and traders attended a public meeting at the Town Hall on the evening of 25th January, called to review the effect of the introduction of charging at Stamages Lane car park last April. Alison Fiske, Principal Estates Manager of Stroud District Council, and John Lindsay, Gloucestershire County Council's Traffic Manager, were in attendance, assessing whether local experiences were such as to warrant ending the charging or introducing other measures. Terry Parker chaired the meeting.

The decision to introduce or rescind parking charges lies with the District Council, but Mr Lindsay explained that the County Council monitors traffic hazards and has the power to make "recommendations or directives" to SDC.

Those in favour of charging argued that the fees are modest ones which the well-off residents of Painswick can easily afford, and that the charges deter long-stay parking by ramblers and others and thereby free up space for the tourists on whom trade so much depends. The former point was put vividly by Revd Bob Miles, who said that "Painswick must be the meanest-minded place there is" if people refuse to pay 10p for an hour's parking. The point about tourism was put with equal force by Mr and Mrs French, owners of Painswick Woodcrafts. They said that visitors to their shop now express pleasure at the ease of parking in Painswick, and they contrasted the fee with the amount charged at other places where it is as much as 30p for half an hour.

In contrast, other residents referred to the increased traffic hazards and claimed that the reduced use of the car park had nothing to do with meanness. People had "voted with their feet" and it was absurd to have a situation where severe on-street parking and traffic-flow problems went side-by-side with a half-empty car park. Former District Councillor David Harcup was scathing about that council's motives, saying that they would "fight tooth and nail" to keep their income, and that they hadn't done a proper survey. His own survey, he said, had shown 90% to be against the charging. A letter from current District Councillor Joan Nash was read out,

claiming that the charging policy simply pushed people into the road and encouraged them to go to Tesco instead of shopping locally.

There were differing views also on the extent to which a problem had existed before last April. Alison Fiske said that patrol officers had reported that there were very few spaces in the car park and that the Parish Council had frequently drawn attention to this problem. Some residents counter-argued that they had lived here for years without experiencing much difficulty in parking there except perhaps at some weekends and during August. This prompted Ann Daniels to recall that the Parish Council had requested charging at weekends rather than during the week, and she asked Alison Fiske whether such an arrangement was a possibility. Ms Fiske simply replied 'no'.

No decisions were made but John Lindsay gave a broad hint when he said that he was minded not to seek the reinstatement of free parking but to introduce some limited on-street restrictions so as to reduce the traffic hazards.

Staff of St Mary's Home made a plea for special dispensation. They said that as public servants it was unfair to ask them to meet the cost of all-day parking, and they could not afford to do so. It was especially unfair, they said, for a second payment to be made when one person took over from another at the end of a shift. Ms Fiske said it wasn't her decision but that SDC might consider making a concession in their case.

Vandalism in the Parish Church

Last year, in two separate incidents, the glass panels in the west facing doors of the church porch were maliciously damaged. On 21st January this year, one of the recently restored panels was again deliberately broken.

If you can cast any light on who may be responsible, please, in confidence, pass on the names to me or the churchwardens, or, better still, the police.

Revd Bob Miles

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Painswick Centre

From I Dicks, Vicarage Street:

I feel I must write this letter as a member of Painswick Club for forty years. The Club has now been closed for fourteen months and all we read of in the Beacon is that the new Painswick Centre is struggling financially and that the trustees are to launch a millennium appeal. It is a pity that some of the people helping to run the new Painswick Centre and the trustees did not give the same support to the ex-Club committee. This committee were paying a substantial rent to the trustees and would have been glad of some professional help to deal with their finances. Now the Club is closed this rent is lost and must add to the trustees' burden.

I, like many others, feel that the Club should be re-opened on a similar basis as it used to be and become the social centre of Painswick. I fear that the new centre will be opened for a select group of people and not as it should be for the majority. Perhaps the Centre Committee could comment on this and tell us exactly what is planned and when it will happen.

(In the absence of the Chairman of the Painswick Centre Management Committee the Beacon asked the Deputy Chairman, Keith Hardwidge, if he wished to comment. Mr Hardwidge said the concerns of Mr Dicks and others were noted. The committee is working on a detailed three-year plan which they hope will reassure Mr Dicks about future prospects for the Centre. They expect to have it ready to publish in a month or two.)

'Care Village'

From Nora Regan, Stamages Lane:

Care Centre is just a name for a commercial proposition which will be advertised nationally to accommodate approximately 100 elderly people, creating a great imbalance in the village. Accommodation cannot be reserved for when and if local people need it. The proposed shared expenses for the residents - for the upkeep of houses, grounds and staff - are approximately £30 per week over and above

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.

normal living expenses, depending on the number of occupants; less houses - more expensive. It is generally agreed that the proposed outline plan is over-development.

The nursing home dominates the site and its surroundings by its height and architectural style which is not in keeping with its AONB designated surroundings or the village of Painswick. Because the plot is on a steep hill, the proposed nursing home - already three stories high - will appear to be at least five stories high. To put this large overpowering building and the surrounding density of buildings, as applied for on this sensitive site, would cause great and adverse criticism and distress to both inhabitants and visitors.

(Mrs Regan goes on to acknowledge the need for new houses and advocates dwellings of different sizes at the site, some for the elderly and some family-sized houses. She also regards Gyde House as being much more suitable for a nursing home because of its situation and the philanthropic attitude of its benefactor)

From Carole Ross, Queens Mead:

The Shire Hall Accident Investigation and Prevention Department database records 25 accidents on the A46 from Stamages Lane to Kingsmill Lane between 1.1.90 and 30.11.99. Fifteen of these accidents resulted in injury, one fatal. The remaining ten "damage only" figure could be higher as a collision with Lullingworth's wall and another known incident are not shown on the print-out. (Shire Hall suggests they were not reported to the police)

The Care Village outline planning application for 30 ensuite bedrooms and 17 apartments, surrounded by 43 living units (with integral garages!) surprisingly states: "Existing traffic flows for the A46 Stroud Road have not been obtained from Gloucestershire County Council. However, site observations would suggest that this section of road between Stroud is relatively lightly trafficked. The A46 is not a strategic route and the M5 motorway to the west of Painswick provides a faster route between Stroud and Gloucester" (2.12).

It is a pity Richmond Healthcare did not consider the excellent traffic census produced during October and November 1996 by John Sutton. His table shows that a daily average of 8,500 vehicles pass through the village between 7am and 7pm.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications

- Lady Jane Residential Home, Longridge Court, Bulls Cross. Change of use and alteration of double garage to form staff flat.
- The Fieldings, Slad. Extensions to dwelling. Revised pedestrian access.
- The Lamp House, Victoria Street. Creation of self-contained one bedroomed flat on 1st and 2nd 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 dry stone walling column topped by dovecot to either side of entrance to drive.

Revised Plan

- The Lamp House, Victoria Street. (see above) Main changes: Revised position of external staircase and revised porch.

Consent

- Woodleigh, Jack's Green, Sheepscombe. 2 storey side extension.
- Beacon House, New Street. Replacement fireplace in dining room.
- Hoyland House, Gyde Road. Installation of 15m lamppost style radio transmitter and cabinet.
- Woodside Cottage, Elcombe. Erection of 2 storey extension.
- Madison House, New Street. Introduction of partition and wall.
- Pyll House Farm, Jack's Green. Erection of four new calf rearing pens.

Refusal

- Land at Jack's Green, Sheepscombe. Erection of one dwelling with consulting room on ground floor.

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It's time to book your place at the annual village quiz

*An event that always goes with a fizz
Is the annual Beacon Village Quiz.*

Which just goes to show that we should stick to writing mundane things like the Parish Council News.

Anyway, the above at least serves as a reminder that it's time to book your places on the Quiz, which this year is on Saturday 18th March, starting promptly at 7.15pm in the Painswick Centre (in what we believe is now called - appropriately! - the Beacon Room).

We are hoping as usual to welcome a full house of Painswick clubs and societies to this fun event. As well as our shield awarded annually to the winners, there will be prizes for the first, second and third teams, and also a prize for the team with

the most appropriate dress or mascot. So we are looking forward to seeing the current champions, St Mary's Church, togged up as gargoyles (no comment please) and the WI impersonating jam jars.

As usual it will be for teams of four, and we are pleased to announce that yet again we have kept the entry fee at just £12 per team. Where else could you have a great evening's entertainment, including substantial refreshments at half time, for just £3 per person?

The door (and bar) will be open from 6.45pm.

You will find a tear-off slip at the bottom of the diary. To be sure of a place, please send your team's entry in as soon as possible. Please contact the editor on 814500 if you need more details.

Painswick 100 years ago

At the Rural District Council Mr A Bailey, sanitary inspector, reported on the broken bottles and tins scattered over the road at Painswick Common. Mr Ayres agreed that it was a disgrace but stated that this matter had been reported before and there was some doubt about responsibility. The surveyor was instructed to have the refuse removed.

Dr Balfour Fergusson received instructions from Headquarters at Gloucester to examine members of the Royal Engineers Corps who were going to the front. The doctor appeared at the School Board meeting in smart uniform and he was complimented upon his military appearance.

"Holy Street" was the latest name applied to New Street. The street had been watered in the course of steamroller operations by water obtained from the Baptist Chapel. There had been a baptism recently and the holy water had been utilised in the road work outside.

During the previous few weeks sickness had been rife in Painswick - Russian influenza was one of the ailments - and many had been brought to death's door, whilst others had crossed the threshold. Richard Ireland of Hillfoot would be missed from his accustomed place in church, where he had served faithfully as sidesman and churchwarden.

For four days, in spite of a snowstorm, Mr Maurice Ireland ran his bus to Gloucester. On Wednesday the 21st the bus got stuck in a snow drift at the Brimps, at Upton St Leonard, well known as one of the most exposed places in the district. The occupants of the bus, anticipating trouble, had taken shovels with them, and had to dig their way out in order to proceed. Nevertheless it took four horses to pull the load up Painswick Hill.

Painswick was not free from excess water either. There had been a tremendous rush of water from Damsell's Flour Mill and a large volume collected around the town's two 'upper mills', which were situated on a lower level. As a result, the lower portions of Savory's and Reed's mills were flooded, whilst damage was done to the surrounding property which for some hours was under water. Fortunately the water level soon lowered but considerable litter remained to be cleared away. Messrs Watkins' Pin Mill was similarly affected and was closed for several days.

John Bailey

'HOLY JOE'

The following review of the Croft School's Christmas performance of 'Holy Joe' was written by Croft pupil Annabel Sidwell:

"Fantastic!"

"It was brilliant!"

"I didn't think that you could do better than last year, but you proved me wrong!"

These are just a few of the quotes that our audience conjured up after experiencing our Christmas play, 'Holy Joe', which we performed on 8th and 9th December. The hall looked especially Christmassy, decked with ivy and real ribbon. I was backstage, helping Mrs Bedford with the music, and from where I was I would have said the same. The choir looked very smart with ties and white shirts, and sang beautifully. The angels looked really glamorous with glittering hair dos and silver halos. The Three Wise Guys, played by Daniel Creed, Darren Wheatley and Tom Smee, were in my opinion one of the funniest scenes. Not only did they look good, they performed brilliantly. Another of my favourite scenes was Herod's Palace in which Antony Creed starred as King Herod and Kirsty Kemmet as Mrs Herod. Unfortunately I didn't see much of this part because there is a lot of music needed for the dancers, jugglers and gymnasts, who looked stunning in their outfits.

Behind stage, teachers worked hard at getting people on and off, while Mrs Skinner kept the choir in time. The costumes were made by Mrs Ratcliffe and Mrs Cowley who busied themselves with needle and thread. There were also a lot of parents who helped in the costume making. (I remember the title of the letter we took home very clearly. Eighty costumes in two weeks? No problem!)

The two main stars of the show were Mary and Joseph, played by Lizzie Chapman and Bradley Towell.



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1st JANUARY 2000



A reminder of the village photograph taken on New Year's Day, when several hundred residents and friends gathered for this unique occasion. More than 200 people have purchased various sized prints of the photo, taken by Ian Sadler of Five valleys photography. Dawn Mallinson of the Patchwork Mouse says she will be pleased to take further orders for prints and pass them on to Mr Sadler.

PENTECOST 2000

Pentecost 2000 will be a huge, extravagant millennium celebration at Cheltenham Racecourse on Saturday 10th June, organised by Churches Together Around Gloucestershire. Numerous activities for all ages, speakers, acts of worship, workshops, seminars, and a huge tent village, will culminate with an evening gig by Delirious and other bands and a laser show. There will be creches and play areas and many events to join in with or to watch, and things to buy. Watch this space for further details.



P2k is planning transport to and from the racecourse from all areas and need some idea how many seats would be required. Please contact Jane Robinson on 812590 if you think you would like to use their service. They hope to have two or three return journey times and the entrance wristbands allow re-entry.

Tickets to the evening event are extra and will be subsidised for Gloucestershire people, so look out to get your ticket early before the nation gets them!

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Notes from the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group

A committee meeting was held in the Church Rooms on 24th November 1999. In addition to the chairman, secretary and publicity officer, representatives of the scrub clearers, Painswick Parish Council and English Nature were present.

The chairman, Cedric Nielsen, made a welcome announcement that Mr Amaury Blow had kindly agreed to pay £100 a year to the Conservation Group. This will provide a much appreciated addition to our funding.

The representative of Painswick Parish Council, Malcolm Watts, offered to explore the possibility of a joint meeting with the local Bird Club so that an outside speaker on this topic could be invited.

** By the Way **

Following last month's 'By the Way' poser, Paul Griffiths has written to point out that readers may find it difficult to obtain a pint at the 'Brewers' in Stonehouse, or even to find it, because it has been demolished as a result of recent road works! Paul offers his tribute to local hostelryes past and present with an added verse to Frank Mansell's 'Cotswold Choice':

*By Gloucester House and Butchers,
By Plough and by the Star,
By the Adam and Cross Hands,
In all I've had a jar.*

by 'Imbiber'

So, inevitably, this month's offering asks you to locate some of the above, plus a couple of others.

Do you know where the Plough and the Star were? Or the Adam and Eve and the Cross Hands? And how about two New Inns? Answers: page 12.

by Rambler

The ongoing discussions about the proposed notice boards continued during the meeting. Since the Cotswold Way is now a recognised Trail there will be money available to improve it. The meeting agreed that the notice boards will be mounted on stone plinths.

A letter has been written to the Parish Council to thank them for generously agreeing to finance the board which will be placed near to the walkers' car park. However, further funding will be needed beyond that, which may come from national funding, arranged by English Nature. The chairman was asked if he would approach other interested groups. It was noted that the Golf Club had already generously agreed to make a contribution. Local funds are likely to be required to finance the stone supports and the chairman agreed to approach local builders to obtain estimates for the erection of these pillars. It is expected that these boards will be in place by next spring.

The clearance of scrub from the Beacon continues. Grass cutting near the 16th fairway and bramble and scrub clearing near the 15th green has been greatly assisted by the Golf Club. Further clearing is scheduled for 22nd February. By the time these notes appear in the Beacon another session on 23rd January will have been completed.

Duncan McKenzie

Thank you

Although not born in Painswick, we have lived here the best part of our lives together, and consider it a privilege to be nominated 'Painswickians of the Year'. We would like to convey our sincere thanks to the Beacon Committee and to the many kind people of Painswick who have supported us over the years at Ashwell House.

Charles and Margaret Say

Space travel with the Brownies

To celebrate the start of the new millennium the Brownies recently spent a fun fact-finding evening "travelling through space".

After an energetic game of "shuttle launcher" the Brownies, armed with their own space passports, started to collect information about the planets. Strange carrot-like alien creatures appeared during the evening but we weren't quite sure which planet they came from. We all then returned safely to earth, having enjoyed our space travel.

At present our pack is full. We have twenty-six Brownies and a growing waiting list. Brownies start at 7 years old. We always welcome new members and if anyone wishes their daughter to join our lively pack, please put their names down as early as possible.

Patsy Ratcliffe (813854),
Pam Currier (813450)



A group of Brownies with space passports and aliens. From the left: Harriet George, Georgia Taylor, Hayley Doolan, Rosebud Moir, Matilda Ffrench, Rebecca Youngs

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Women's World Day of Prayer

Four services are being held in this area on the Women's World Day of Prayer, Friday 3rd March. Each service has a different speaker. The details are:

- 10am Ashwell House. Coffee followed by service at 10.30. Speaker: Margaret Hampshire.
2.30pm Sheepscombe Methodist Church. Speaker: Sister Ruth Hinch.
6pm Church of Our Lady and St Therese, Painswick. Speaker Pat Harris.
7.30pm St James's Church, Cranham. Speaker Barbara Calvert.

All are welcome to the services - not just women.

This year's service has been prepared by Christian women of Indonesia.

London coach

The next coach outing to London will be on Wednesday 15th March. It will leave Stamages Lane car park at 8.30am, setting down at Harrods, Knightsbridge, at about 11.15am, and the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, at 11.30am. The return journey will be from Trafalgar Square only at 6.30pm. The fare is £9.

Bookings for the coach (cash or cheque made payable to Painswick L & B Outings) should be made with Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, Painswick, GL6 6XH. Enquiries to Joan Truman (813965) or Pauline Berry (813227).

Dark thoughts (part 1)

"I shall think of the Beacon whenever there is a power failure!"

Explanation: see page 12

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Local fund-raising for the Brooke Hospital for Animals

Happy New Year to everyone who has been involved with fund raising for the Brooke Hospital.

Our sale on 13th November, together with a few items that we sent to auction, raised £634.10. If we include the £1010 previously raised and the £410 raised by Rosie Burstal's coffee morning, the total for 1999 comes to £2054.10. This, we are sure readers will agree, is an amazing amount and could not have been raised without your generosity.

Recent figures show that, on average, each treatment costs the Brooke Hospital just £1.86 and as all the money raised is spent on these veterinary costs, it can be seen that we have helped a considerable number of horses and donkeys this year. The largest number of cases were wounds, followed by heat stroke caused by the animals working in 120F heat, and thirdly tetanus, a condition which is inoculated against in this country, but as the average family income is just 75 pence per day in the countries where Brooke works, it is too expensive for many people to afford.

At the end of November, Jill, who has been fund-raising for the Brooke Hospital for many years, was invited by Viscount Brookeborough to a luncheon reception at the House of Lords, which was sponsored by the Jean Sainsbury

Open Garden

The garden of Trench Hill, home of Celia and Dave Hargrave, will be open on Sunday 20th February, 11am to 5pm. Snowdrops, hellebores and cyclamen should be much in evidence, and the Hargraves hope that people will support their continuing efforts for charity, which last year raised over £1500.

Trench Hill is between Sheepscombe and Cranham and, coming from Painswick, is situated to the left of the road from the Park to Sheepscombe via Damsells Mill. It will be signposted.

For private visits by individuals or groups please ring 01452 814306.

foundation. Jill kindly invited me along as her guest. The reception took place on the terrace of the House of Lords which has wonderful views of the Thames and the London Eye. It was a lovely day which gave us the chance to meet the Brooke fund-raising staff and to learn more about what the money we raise is actually doing. The important news of the day was that the Charities Commission had changed the remit for the Brooke enabling them to now operate world-wide. As a result, the Brooke will be expanding operations into Ethiopia later this year. Ethiopia was chosen as the country most in need as there are over 10,000 equines but only 300 vets!

We hope readers will continue to support us this year. We really are grateful for your support and generosity. A special thank you must go to Joan Vickers of Edge who kindly allows us to use her chapel to store everything between our fund-raising events and makes it possible for us to accept donations of goods at any time during the year. Please keep us in mind when you are having your next clear-out.

Our next sale will be in early April at the Town Hall and this will be followed by a sale outside the Subscription Rooms in Stroud. We shall announce the dates nearer the time. As usual Jill and I will be happy to collect any bits and pieces you may be able to spare us, and we may be contacted on 813329 or 812340 respectively. Many thanks.

Michele Phillips (and Jill Alder)

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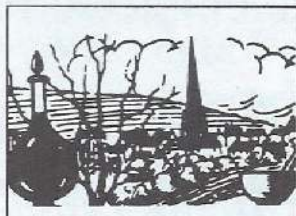
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Youth Club raffle

The Christmas raffle organised by Painswick Youth Club was a great success with around £350 raised. The money will be spent on repairing the pool and table-tennis tables, and also to fund the football team's strip. Club leader Jenny Broadbank says it is the first time the Club has held a raffle and that "everyone has been overwhelmingly generous both by donating prizes and by buying raffle tickets". Jenny, her assistants Jan and Jamie, and all members of the club thank Painswick residents for this wonderful show of support.

The full list of prizes, donors and prize-winners was as follows:

Prize	Donor	Winner
1. Week's holiday in cottage in Cornwall	Miss H George	Andrew Ind
2. Flying lesson or flight	Jamie Alcock	Tina Baker
3. 2 meals for 1 at Ban Thai Restaurant	The restaurant	Jennifer Crook
4. Tea for 2 at Painswick Hotel	The hotel	Geoff Burcombe
5. Meal for 2 at Woolpack Inn	The Woolpack	Martin Morris
6. Voucher £10 at Painswick Butchers	Allen Hale	Sue Herbert
7. Voucher £7.50 at P'wick Hairdressers	Hairdressers	Jim Ruddy
8. Teddy Bear	Shetland Shop	Debbie Lang
9. Bottle of Country wine	Falcon Inn	Paul Cullen
10. Bottle of Country wine	Falcon Inn	R Belton
11. Brace of pheasants dressed	Somerset Moore	P Eden
12. £3 Voucher for pot plant	J Saunders	Mr Stockbridge
13. National Trust Diary	David Archard	Beth Campbell
14. Bottle of wine	Royal Oak	Stewart Barnes
15. Bottle of wine	Royal Oak	Tom Humphreys
16. Millennium gnome	Jan Tilsley	Lorraine Wilson-Copp
17. Dried flower arrangement	Patchwork Mouse	H Houghton
18. Desk top calculator	Post Office	Simon Hart
19. Pot pourri bowl	Mrs Fleming	Mrs Alcock
20. National Trust book	David Archard	Johnny Johnston
21. Wall clock	Mrs J Hernen	Mr Tims
22. Set of four mugs	Miss E O'Sullivan	Ann Coles
23. Box of chocolates	Mr J Hulme	Beth Campbell
24. Bottle of perfume	P'wick Pharmacy	Mr R Hall
25. Bottle of whisky	Gyde builders	Mrs Evans
26. Bottle of wine	B J Living	Ben Zinkin
27. Christmas tablecloth	Mr A James	Mrs Curtis
28. Bottle of wine	Royal Oak	Steve Townsend
29. Bottle of wine	J Thynne-Russell	Mariane Greenfield

Cotswold Care Hospice

Painswick Support Group

The New Year opened with the surprise of the century for us which took our breath away. We received a magnificent donation of £800 from The Royal Oak, being the proceeds of the Christmas and New Year raffle.

We are most grateful to David Morris (the proprietor), his helpers, especially Perry who ran the raffle, and all their customers who bought tickets in support of the work of our local hospice.

We also had a most generous donation from Susan Shearer - a collection of the small change which her husband turns out from his pockets each day and saves up for us. Surprising how all these odd amounts add up. It is such a boost to our money raising efforts and we are most grateful to our supporters. We now look forward to future events - watch out for posters and notices.

Flora Semark

Dark thoughts (part 2)

The person who wrote it spent Beacon prize-money on a candle and candlestick!

By the way... (see page 10)

The Plough: Jack's Green, above Sheepscombe, Star Inn: corner of New Street/Gloicester Street. Adam and Eve: Paradise (of course). Cross Hands: junction of Kingmill Lane and Stepping Stone Lane. New Inns: Gloucester Street (Falkland House), and St Mary's Street (Painswick Hairdressers).

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POLICE REPORT

Incidents: 11.12.99 - 14.01.00

House Burglaries: Painswick 1. Business Premises: Cranham 1. Sheds: Nil. Vehicles: Painswick 2. Other: Painswick 2 (assault 1, damage 1), Cranham 1 (damage).

Items Stolen:

Handbag and contents, cash, Christmas presents, microwave, TV, cuckoo clock, tray, wooden box.

Reported Incidents:

Six incidents were reported and two were of value to the police. Thank you.

Security Improvement Recommendations:

Overall crime has fallen dramatically over the Christmas and new millennium period. Thank you for your effort and support. Please continue to remove property from your cars, secure your homes and continue to be vigilant at all times. Together we can crack crime.

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Two cycle rides for charity - please can you help?

CLIC Desert Challenge

Local ladies Libby Graesser, Maggie Slader and Sally Bateman have set themselves the daunting task of cycling from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea in March, participating in the CLIC 'Desert Challenge' marathon bicycle ride. The girls were motivated by a friend who sadly lost her 18-month old baby girl to Leukaemia and they decided to put their legs to some good use.

These intrepid ladies have joined forces with 'Blue' - a ladies fashion shop in Nailsworth, who specialise in natural fibres and earthy tones, to host a fashion show. This is in order to raise money for CLIC (Cancer and Leukaemia in Children) and sponsor their cycle ride for this important charity.

The ladies are delighted that Stephanie Schuster, one of Blue's fashion designers from New York, will be present on the night to talk about and display her wonderful clothes. Also on the night there will be a raffle with a generous array of prizes: outfits, hair do's, facials, flowers



Practising for the challenge - Maggie Slader, Libby Graesser and Sally Bateman

and much more, all donated by local businesses.

This special event will be held on THURSDAY 24th FEBRUARY, 8pm, at Painswick Rugby and Sports Club, Broadham Fields. Tickets, which are £10 and include a glass of wine, are available from The Patchwork Mouse, Bateman's

Sports and The Shetland Shop, or ring Blue on 01453 877388. It is hoped that many residents will support this event, secure in the knowledge that all the proceeds will be donated to this essential charity.

Anyone wishing to sponsor the cyclists can do so at the Patchwork Mouse.

Williams Syndrome Millennium Bike Ride 18th June - 1st July

This year the "Edge" bike riding team is planning their most adventurous trip ever, a 1000-mile ride from San Sebastian (Spain) to Edge Village Green. We hope to arrive home at 6.00pm on 1st July to coincide with the village fete, and to the sound of the band playing and champagne corks popping!

The aim of the ride is to raise money

for research into Williams Syndrome (WS). I am Chairman of the WS Charity and Valerie runs the WS parents association. Our son Sam, who is 12 years old and a pupil at the Croft school, suffers from Williams Syndrome. As this is the last charity bike ride that I will be organising, having previously cycled to Paris, Brussels, Berlin and Ireland, I have set a challenging target of £50,000 in sponsorship from the ride. Around twenty people will be taking part and as well as Valerie and myself there is Edward Marden from Edge, Paul and Alex Griffiths from Stockend and Paul Ratcliffe from Sheepscombe. The rest of the team either have a WS child or have been forced into the ride by me!

The target of £50,000 is probably a bit ambitious (as is the 1000-mile ride!)

but if you don't try you don't know whether you will succeed or not, so we're giving it a go! To reach the target we need your help, so if you see a sponsorship form being passed around please look kindly upon us and add your name to the list. If you don't see a form and would like to make a donation, or if you would like a form to fill up with sponsorship from friends and family, please contact myself or Valerie on 813107, or call in at The Little Ruin, Edge.

By the way, if you would you like to join us on the ride, either as a cyclist or as part of the support team, there is still time if you act fast and contact us now. I can promise you sand, sea, sun, rain, wind, and pain by the bucket load, plus of course lots of fun!

Mike Adlam



Sam Adlam

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CELEBRATION OF A LIFE - NANCY DICKINSON

We are grateful for receiving permission to publish the following address given by Hugh Dickinson, one of Nancy's four sons, in St Mary's Church on 17th January

Nancy, or Nan, as she was known to her family, lived a life which in years has almost exactly spanned the 20th century and physically carried her half around the world. She journeyed from a hidden and idyllic childhood long before the First World War on a remote sheep farm in the middle of the Karoo in South Africa, by way of Nigeria and Northern Rhodesia, to find herself living close to the central hum of the establishment world of England. But she also travelled in time from a world where there was no electricity, no radio, no cars or planes, no anaesthetics or antibiotics, no knowledge of the outer universe, to the beginning of a new millennium in which the horizons of the world have expanded to the infinities of space and technical inventions which have transformed our lives in ways which were unimaginable when she was born.

Not that these transformations much concerned her. Within that rapidly changing world she led her own life in her own chosen way; and also within the sometimes restrictive boundaries of events and circumstances beyond her control. She had to learn and conform to the often alien demands of etiquette and custom of the family into which she married; she knew the terrible pain of early bereavement, leaving her a young widow of 32 with four small boys; she faced the hard grind of feeding and clothing the family during the war with five or six moves of house. She was often uncomfortably dependent on the generosity of kind relations. She took up a variety of jobs in wartime, including driving an ambulance and acting as receptionist in a London club for the armed services during the blitz. Through all this she kept her inner, private world intact, and she learned hard

lessons in survival and self protection, a kind of gentle steeliness, like a bamboo which seems so pliable but has its own unbreakable strength. On first meeting her, people could think her soft; they soon discovered in her a streak of steely determination, even wilfulness. She almost always got her way not by direct action but by quiet subversion.

When after the war she settled in Painswick she found in the Poultry Court a haven for her soul; she and the house seemed to grow together and fit as comfortably as a hand in a glove. Here her spirit and her garden blossomed, and her new friends discovered what her family had always secretly known that hers was indeed a rare spirit. She had been trained to be a skilful restorer of church monuments. Many churches and several cathedrals, including our own cathedral in Gloucester, were refreshed and adorned by her sensitive artistry. She began to extend her creative gifts in painting and sculpture, learning difficult techniques and developing her natural sensitivity to colour and form. She had the true artist's eye, that rare ability to stand still and look, to look deeply until she could really see. She also became involved in the local community as a magistrate and with various charities here and in London. But much more importantly she was instrumental in gathering together a circle of artists many of whom also became dear friends, whom she nurtured and was nurtured by.

One of the enchanting things about her was the persistent quirkiness of her view of life, a kind of candid innocence that saw things at an oblique angle, at a slant. As she grew older this tangential viewpoint became increasingly evident. Sometimes we felt that she was the one who saw things straight while all the rest of us were seeing crooked. But inside it all there blossomed this independent spirit, full of humour, affection and gentle irony. It was impossible not to love her, even at her most eccentric, not only for her beauty, but also for an inner quality of life visible just beneath the skin. Her grandchildren all adored her and the house and garden which seemed to become per-

meated with her spirit. They knew she wasn't soft. If she said no she meant it and that was that. But I think she taught them too to look at things. She had the rare art of being able to love without a hint of possessiveness, just letting go, so we always wanted to come back. She treated everyone of whatever age as an equal.

It wasn't all sunlight - whose life is? There was always the loneliness of that long bereavement, the loss of her first and only love; there were many struggles with ill health born with characteristic stoicism. She had dear friends but I think no intimates; in many ways she was very private with an intense inner life. She had by heart a great store of poetry which she would murmur to herself or to the plants in her garden as she weeded around them.

Towards the end of her life there was a half conscious paring away of inessential exterior things, symbolised by her giving away or throwing out anything which caught her eye as unnecessary clutter. She still clung fiercely to her independence - she hated the loss of her car - and was a familiar bent figure staggering down to the village with her much loved ski stick and her home-made wheelie basket. Even in great old age when her face was lined and stricken that inner beauty still flickered and she would greet visitors with an impish smile even if she didn't know exactly who they were.

Sunday by Sunday she was always here in Church for morning worship. It meant a lot to her although she would never have tried to articulate exactly what it meant. She could be gently sceptical about the church and about parsons - I should know - and her open-ended mind would comment with delightful oddness about the Bible or the services. Religion was I think like another poem, to be recited and savoured and then tucked away while she hauled great lumps of plaster round her workshop or dragged the hoses out to water her flower beds. What she believed about the afterlife I have no idea, but this ancient religious poem which she knew by heart does tell of an unimaginable place and time where all tears are wiped away, all lost loves are knitted up, and all beauty restored by God's unconquerable joy.

To that place of peace and joy may she and all of us be carried at the last.

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Painswick Music Society's millennium concert season

Following a very popular and successful year in 1999, this flourishing society looks forward to another excellent season. To mark the new millennium, the Society has arranged a series of superb concerts, commissioned a new work and will be organising music workshops and concerts in local schools. Last season we sold out our first concert before the day, so please consider renewing, applying for membership or buying tickets as soon as possible.

The pianist Jeremy Menuhin (son of the late Yehudi Menuhin), deemed one of the greatest Schubert pianists of our time, will open our season in March. This is a return visit by Jeremy who gave us a brilliant concert three years ago. He will be playing two contrasting works by Beethoven and of course some Schubert.

In February and March the Schubert Ensemble of London will give schools workshops which will culminate in a special concert. The Society has been successful in its application for a 'Millennium Festival Awards for All', made possible through the National Lottery, in order to fund this project. We are also fortunate that this leading British ensemble will also be making a return visit in April for our concert season, this time as a quintet. Their performance will include Schubert's delightful 'Trout' Quintet and a newly commissioned work by Czech composer Pavel Novak. This celebratory work will be closely linked to Painswick and St Mary's Church, incorporating the tune of the Clipping Service hymn. A generous donation to the Society has made this possible. We hope that the composer will be able to come to this premiere performance.

Later in April we shall be hosting an



The Newbold Piano Quartet

(Photo: Chris Christodoulou)

orchestra for the first time in the Society's fifty-five years allowing the first performance of a symphony at one of our concerts! The Orchestra of the Swan, which is based at Stratford, draws its

players from very well established orchestras such as the CBSO, The London Mozart Players and The Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields.

This string and woodwind orchestra of sixteen instrumentalists will play beautiful works by Elgar and Mozart and also Handel's 'Arrival of the Queen of Sheba'.

We have always wished to encourage young artists and this season is no exception. We are fortunate to welcome

the Newbold Piano Quartet who incidentally have close local connections. Samantha Newbold, pianist and Director of the Ensemble, grew up in Eastcombe near Stroud. Violinist Matthew Denton came from Stroud and attended Marling School. Graham Broadbent, violist, is also from Gloucestershire and Tim Steggals, cellist, comes from Dorset.

This quartet has performed nationwide and in Europe and has won many competitions. One special prize was for their performance of Fauré, which will be part of their programme in May.

St Mary's Church provides a special intimate setting for chamber music. We have excellent staging and lighting and all concerts with piano have superb Steinways. Our tradition of serving teas after the concert will continue and it is at this time there is usually an opportunity to meet the artists.

All concerts are on Saturdays at 3pm. Membership, which includes tickets for the season of four concerts and AGM recital, is just £24 – a saving of £12 compared with the cost of four single tickets at £9 each (students & children only £1). Look out for our brochures and posters and library display.

Further details on membership and tickets are available from our Treasurer Hywel James, tel 812419, or the Shetland Shop, Painswick.

Naomi Dunn

Concert Programme:

March 25	Jeremy Menuhin, piano
April 8	Schubert Ensemble of London
April 29	Orchestra of the Swan
May 13	Newbold Piano Quartet

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Music from the frozen north and a desert island

Spartan clarity and severity of style, often sad and bleak, Sibelius's music evokes a sense of his homeland, with images of desolate, snow-bound terrain in the frozen north. And yet, there is also sweet gentleness sometimes, and warmth of spirit. At the Music Appreciation Group on 6th January Richard Farbrother harked back in the first half of his talk to his previous one, with excerpts from symphonies 1 to 5 and bits of Grieg, Mahler, Palestrina and Beethoven to illustrate similarities and derivations. In contrast, number 6 proved to be pastoral in repose with number 7 a majestic single movement work.

Next, on 20th January, came one of our favourites: Desert Island Discs. A record audience of forty-five had wondered who the victim might be this time. This was a well-kept secret until at the last moment, to his utter surprise, Leslie Brotherton was told it was he! Dulcie had chosen the music for him and Harold Wood was the DJ. The programme covered a wide range from classical instrumental and vocal to Dixieland and jazz, and in between Anne Smith extracted such confessions from his blameless past as Leslie was prepared to admit!

To come on 17th February: Yehudi Menuhin's career reviewed by Pat Burrows, with many musical illustrations. And on 2nd March: "Jazz - live in concert" with Andrew Brotherton's guitars and Rebecca Halifax vocals.

Ralph Kenber

PAUL A MORRIS

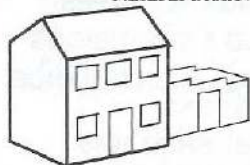
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PaDS: Rest In Peace?

With the Christmas production drifting into fond(ish) memory and rehearsals for the next yet to begin, PaDS is – as we AmDram folk like to say – resting. That's not to say that nothing is happening. However peaceful it may seem on the surface, like the proverbial swan, there is much furious PaDdling beneath.

For instance, our next production - the J B Priestley classic, *An Inspector Calls* (18th 19th and 20th May) - has already been cast. According to Director Gill Cox, casting was exceptionally difficult because of the wealth of new acting talent that turned up to audition, particularly in the younger male category. Fortunately for me, competition in the elderly male (short, balding, bumptious, overweight) category remains somewhat less intense! Rehearsals start at the end of February and - for the time being - Gill looks supremely calm and confident. Watch this space for an exclusive exposé of backstage drama and intrigue as the plot thickens.

Also in the planning stage, is another

of the ever-popular informal PaDS events of readings etc, reinforced by food and drinks. Last year we had an amorous evening for St Valentines and a spine-chilling Halloween. This year, the (as yet untitled) event is scheduled for 1st April and is being organised by Pauline Foreman. She refuses to reveal whether there will be any foolish undertones. I'll see what I can find out for next month!

Jack Burgess,

Painswick Dramatic Society

<http://freespace.virgin.net/louis.n>

Footnote: A large, stripped-pine blanket box and 'farmhouse' kitchen table disappeared from the stage of the Painswick Centre following the PaDS production of *Absurd Person Singular* in December. These items are the personal property of members of PaDS, who would be grateful to hear from anybody who can shed light on the disappearance and/or present whereabouts of their furniture. If you can help, please phone 813841 or 814483.

News from the Bellringers

The band has been struggling recently; illness has taken its toll of the members. But, with the help of new ringers, the bells were rung well at Christmas and to welcome the new millennium, Everyone enjoyed the ringing and there was a happy atmosphere in the tower, partly because of the champagne kindly brought by the Barker family.

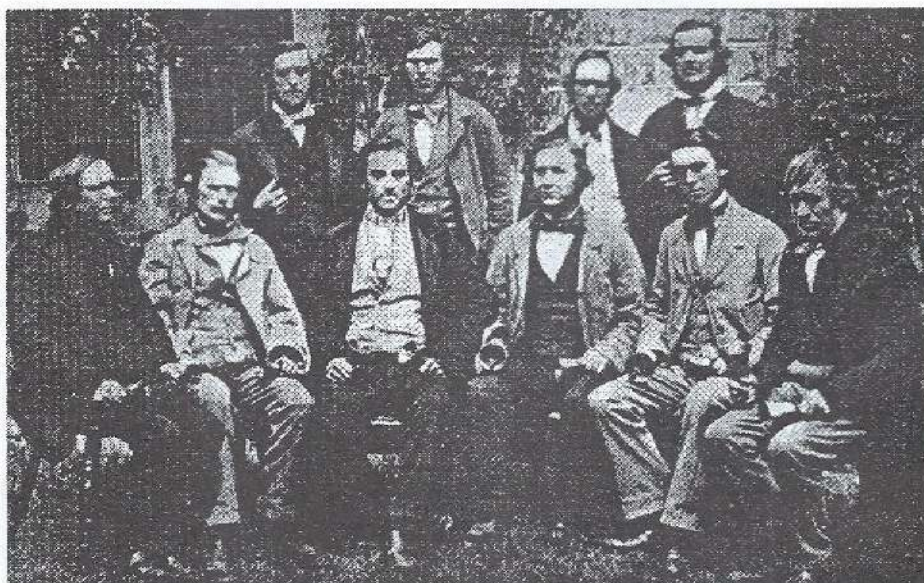
More champagne appeared on 17th January to welcome the arrival of Georgia Ryland, Jean's newest grand-daughter.

Congratulations to the Ryland family on this happy event.

(Incidentally it is very unusual for alcohol to be served in the ringing room - the ringers normally wait until they have reached The Falcon after practices on Mondays)

On 11th February (a Friday) a specialist band of change-ringers from Devon will be visiting Painswick and will be ringing the bells from 2.45 to 3pm.

Patsy Sykes-Wright



Ancient bellringers! This photo of the Ancient Society of Painswick Youths, taken some 140 years ago, is from the latest edition of the Painswick Chronicle, published by the Local History Society. The Chronicle is now on sale in village shops.

The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 4th MARCH 2000

February

7th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Wives' Fellowship	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
8th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	10 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
	Mothers' Union: English Cathedrals - Mr Chris Brooker	Church Rooms	2.30pm
9th	Horticultural Society: Towards Greener Gardening - Austin Perkins	Town Hall	2.30pm
	Conversational French Classes (Advanced) - Wednesdays Conversational Italian Classes (Intermediate) (Some places still available for both classes)	Library Rooms " "	9.30 - 11am 11.30am - 1pm
11th	W.I. Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
	Senior Circle: Better in the Millennium - Hugh Ross	Town Hall	2.30pm
12th	Tennis Club/Badminton Club dance (tickets from committee members)	Painswick Centre	8pm
14th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Catholic Church	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
15th	Local History Society: The Painswick Manorship Estate - Amaury Blow	Croft School	7.30pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
16th	Painswick Probus Meeting: Black is Beautiful - Ray Piercy	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Wives' Fellowship: Changing Scenes - John Mercer	Christ Church Hall	8pm
17th	W.I.: Thailand - A Talk by Roger Horsfield	Town Hall	2.30pm
	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Yehudi Menuhin Respected	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat 19th	Painswick Bird Club Field Visit to Great Witcombe Reservoir		10am
20th	COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Postbox in New Street		
	Open Garden for Charity (Celia and Dave Hargrave)	Trench Hill	11am - 5pm
21st	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Senior Circle	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
23rd	No French/Italian Conversational Classes	Library Rooms	

VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

TO: THE PAINSWICK BEACON. (Please post/deliver to Alan Bamber, The Croft, Knapp Lane, Painswick, Glos., GL6 6YE.)

Team:

We would like to take part in the Village Quiz Night on 18th March 2000 at the Painswick Centre.

I enclose £12 to cover the entry fee of our four team members (Cheques payable to 'The Painswick Beacon').

Name/Address/Telephone No. of team representative _____

Please indicate any special requirements such as vegetarian food



24th	DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Postbox, New Street		
	Fashion Show in aid of CLIC Desert Challenge. Tickets £10.	Broadham Pavilion	8pm
25th	Senior Circle: The Spirit of the Trees - Cedric Nielsen	Town Hall	2.30pm
26th	Theatre Club Outing to Bath	The Falcon	12.30pm
28th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - WI Markets	Christ Church Hall	12.15-1.15pm
March			
1st	Painswick Probus Meeting: Turkey: Last 100 Years - A.G.East	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Wives' Fellowship: Rococo Maze - Angela Newing	Christ Church Hall	8pm
2nd	Painswick Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
	Music Appreciation Group visit: BBC National Orchestra of Wales	Cheltenham Town Hall	7.30pm
3rd	Women's World Day of Prayer. Services at Ashwell House, Catholic Church, Sheepscombe Methodist Church and St James's Cranham	Ashwell House Catholic Church	10am for 10.30 6pm
Sat 4th	MARCH ISSUE OF THE PAINSWICK BEACON PUBLISHED		
Wed 15th	Coach Outing to London (Enquiries 813965 or 813227)	Stamages Lane	8.30am
Sat 18	PAINSWICK BEACON VILLAGE QUIZ	Painswick Centre	7.15pm

FORTHCOMING PAINSWICK RUGBY FIXTURES

	<u>1st XV</u>	<u>United</u>	<u>Adders</u>
Feb 5th	Brockworth (h)	Brockworth (a)	
Feb 12th	Ashley Down (a) [league]	Ashley Down (h)	Longlevens (h)
Feb 19th	Gordon League (h)	Gordon League (a)	
Feb 26th	Chosen Hill (h) [league]	Chosen Hill (a)	Chosen Hill (h)
Mar 4	Chipping Sodbury (h)	Chipping Sodbury (a)	Chipping Sodbury (h)
Mar 11th	Old Cryptians (a) [league]	Old Cryptians (h)	Old Cryptians (a)
Mar 18th	Cainscross (h)	Cainscross (a)	Cainscross (h)
Mar 25th	Aretians (h) [league]	Aretians (a)	

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able to wait for them to find somewhere. After all the Cotswolds is such a lovely area to live that many purchasers will wait for the right house and be very accommodating about timescale. If you fall into this category and would like to move this year - do ask us about our special service.

We are delighted to be offering the following properties - Briar Cottage, Sheepscombe, which is a delightful 3/4 bed roomed period cottage with a lovely conservatory and southerly views in the centre of this popular village. In Painswick is Mead End - a modern 3 bed roomed spacious detached house on the end of Cotswold Mead with a good sized level garden; and in Edge Road May Cottage is a period 2 bed roomed cottage with the advantage of a garage.

Exchanges in January included Edge View in Gloucester Street and Redwell House in Matson and we are hoping to exchange on three more within the next week.

Our lettings department has a number of 2 - 4 bed roomed cottages available - both furnished and unfurnished - in Painswick, Slad, Pitchcombe and Sheepscombe. Prices range from £400 a month and tenancy agreements are usually for 6 months or longer, but we do have a few cottages which will accept short lets.

Do call in for details of any of the above properties or telephone 01452 812354 and we shall be happy to be of help.

HAMPTONS PROPERTY REPORT

Advertisement

As expected the end of January has seen more property coming onto the market and an increasing number of marketing appraisals. We are also now preparing details on some properties which are coming to the market in the spring, but until then we will have them low key on our books.

We are finding that a lot of our vendors cannot find anything to buy and are reluctant to fully market their own homes - the low key tactic often works for these people as we often can find a buyer for own home who is in rented or



Unravelling the landscape

There was a splendid start to the proceedings of the Painswick Local History Society in the 21st century with the talk by Mr Mark Bowden on 'Unravelling the Landscape'. Mark, a member of the Society's committee, is Senior Archaeological Investigator with English Heritage. He explained how archaeology is not only about excavating sites and finding treasure but also about studying the landscape to discover what it can tell us about the past. There are four approaches to field archaeology. Aerial photography and geophysical surveys can reveal features not visible from the ground; field walking and just looking at the landscape are the non-technical approaches. These methods can be used to study all types of landscape from sparsely populated rural areas to heavily-industrialised urban sites. They can also be used to discover the more recent history of ancient sites - studies of depressions on the level ground within an Iron Age hill fort showed that they marked the position of an anti-aircraft battery in

the Second World War! Mark described how much can be deduced about the past history of the landscape by anyone who is observant, inquisitive and imaginative; the deductions can then be checked by referring to old maps and records. He showed photographs of some of the hill-sides around Painswick and pointed out the features which indicated how the land was used in the past.

In his engrossing and informative talk Mark communicated his enthusiasm for field archaeology and showed how we can try to unravel the many strands which form the historical fabric of our landscape.

There will be an opportunity to hear about a local application of field archaeology at the next meeting of the Society when Mr Amaury Blow will give a talk on the results of the archaeological investigations carried out on the Painswick Manorship estate. The meeting will be held in the Croft School on Tuesday 15th February and will begin at 7.30pm.

Gwen Welch

A hard act to follow

CURTAIN UP! and another season of the Senior Circle began with an act that will be hard to follow.

On 14th January Veda Warwick, who is currently rehearsing for a new production of Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads' at the Sundial Theatre Cirencester on 22nd February, gave us a most interesting illustrated insight into her life in the theatre.

She first became stage struck as a young girl with what she described as a "magical" performance by John Gielgud as Hamlet. Her parents were not too happy that their daughter wished to make the theatre her career but fate played into her hands. When taking both her Junior and Senior School Certificates Henry V and Macbeth were the chosen pieces. Gradually she overcame parental objections and in Manchester she had a worthy teacher who taught her to overcome her shyness and to project her voice - vital to a young actress.

Then came Drama School and to illustrate this period in her life we were treated to a very compelling taste of Joan of Arc's famous speech before her burning at the stake. Repertory in Perth for four years even taught her that with her deep voice and a quickly learned skill of fixing a beard, she could take on a male role!

The rendering of a scene from the Merry Wives of Windsor brought laughter again from us all and I especially en-

joyed Lady Bracknell's famous inspection of a possible suitor for her daughter. Then on to Larkrise and finally a sympathetic rendering of a poor old soul with a hip problem talking to herself which perhaps brought some of us down to earth with a bump!

We heard that in spite of her love of the theatre, marriage and the raising of two daughters was a very important part of her life and the family moved to Kent when her husband joined the Old Vic. In later years, as a widow, she finally came to Gloucestershire where she resumed her career at the Cheltenham Playhouse.

It really was a splendid afternoon's entertainment - it was hard to realise that the theatre had come to us - how did Veda make us lose ourselves in this way without even scenery or footlights, just sitting on Town Hall chairs?

She is a true performer who took us from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I into that of Queen Elizabeth II - 500 years of theatre in just one afternoon. Veda Warwick will indeed be a hard act to follow.

One cannot end without remembering Hilda Williams and Nancy Dickinson who have recently died. They will be sadly missed.

Daphne Hudson

FOOTNOTE: The Senior Circle's new Hon Treasurer is Diane Murray. Patrick Daly apologises for giving the wrong name last month.

MINI ADS

Trouser Press, electric, £20. Decorative electric fire, brass, Georgian style, resin coals, £100. Slow cooker, £10. Small microwave oven - good working order, £10. Sensible offers considered for all items. 812182.

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The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to GILLIAN and MALCOLM SMITH on the birth of a son, Cameron Robert, on 11th January, a first grandchild for Kay and the late Dave Smith;

also to KERRY and CHRIS RYLAND on the birth of their daughter, Georgia May, on 17th January, a first grandchild for Marilyn and Brendan Gibbs and a third grand-daughter for Jean and David Ryland;

and to SARAH and NICOLAS PAPACHRISTIDIS on the birth of a daughter, Eleni Sarah Grace, on 18th January, a sister for Hannah, Joshua and Noah, and a fourth grandchild for Rachel and Bob Miles.

Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of NANCY DICKINSON, VIC HILL and PANSY HOLDER who died recently. Also to Joan Broughton on the death of her daughter MARGOT whose brave struggle ended on 6th January.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to EDNA and BARRY REA who celebrated fifty years of marriage on 28th January.

Wedding

Congratulations to SAM LILLEY (elder daughter of Jenny and Tony Urbani) and MARK CHESTERTON who were married in Antigua on 7th December.

Farewell

Best wishes to BARRY and MARY COWLEY of Michaelmas Cottage, Vicarage Street, on leaving Painswick. Barry and Mary would like to wish every happiness to the new owners, CHARLES DORMAN and ANN YATES.

Welcome

We welcome JOHN and MORNA AULD and their children Sarah (15), Rowena (13) and Oliver (10) to Brierfield, Stroud Road;

also BERNARD and ANNE HAMILL who have moved into Staveley, Cheltenham Road, from Hull.

Happy Birthday

Best wishes to MARY LUKER and CHRISTINE LUKER who share a birthday on 6th February, from Sheena, (their grand-daughter/daughter).

And congratulations and best wishes to the new nonagenarians RALPH LOYDELL, 90 on 25th January, NORA JONES who will be 90 on 17th February and JOANNA WEATHERHEAD who will be 90 on 22nd February.

Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to AGNES and BOB GYDE, FREDA COX, GRAHAM ANDREWS and 'STEVE' STEVENS.

Thank You

JOAN BROUGHTON thanks the kind people of Painswick who have sent her cards of sympathy on the death of her daughter.

IRIS HILL and family wish to thank those who attended the funeral service at St Mary's Church on 18th January and also for flowers and donations received. And special thanks to all who cared for Vic in his final weeks.

We would like to thank all friends who sent cards, flowers and good wishes while we have been ill. (The first time in 58 years of marriage that we have both been ill at the same time.) Luckily our daughter came to our rescue and stayed for two weeks. Our doctors were marvellous and we cannot thank them enough. The staff at Gloucester Royal Hospital were most kind and attentive too. We are so lucky to live in Painswick. Christmas and the New Year passed us by but we hope to be around again soon.

Flora and Fred Semark

THE PAINSWICK BEACON

Next Issue

Publication Date
SATURDAY 4th MARCH

Items for publication to Jillie Speed*,
The Old Carriage House, Edge, by
SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton,
Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by
SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY

Business adverts: Contact Liz Fisher,
Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by
THURSDAY 17th FEBRUARY

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey,
14 The Croft, by
THURSDAY 24th FEBRUARY

* 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
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.

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