

The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 22 No. 10

JANUARY 2000

Painswickians of the Year

The Beacon is delighted to name Margaret and Charles Say as our joint Painswickians of the Year for 1999.

Last June, the Beacon featured the celebrations at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of Ashwell House. Our article conveyed the appreciation of numerous people for the vital role that Margaret has played as warden for the whole of those twenty-five years, often going well beyond the call of duty in providing friendship, care and interesting activities for the residents of the centre. Everyone who enters Ashwell House is struck by the happy atmosphere and to a large extent we have Margaret to thank for this.

It is difficult to accept that Margaret's husband Charles has no official role at Ashwell. Until he retired five years ago he had a demanding full-time job as an area manager for a national company, but both before and since then he has been deeply involved at Ashwell, helping to arrange many of the activities and sharing in the organisation.

As most people know, Charles and Margaret are long-time members of the Salvation Army, and, true to Sally Army traditions, they believe strongly in 'faith in action'. Margaret teaches in the Sunday School at the Citadel in Gloucester, and Charles has also shared in this activity. Currently Charles gives a lot of time to voluntarily helping the 'down and outs' of Gloucester. Since his retirement he has worked in the soup kitchen there, preparing food, and providing clothes and sleeping bags for those sleeping rough. He says the work is difficult and upsetting, with drink and drugs a frequent problem, but it is pleasing when people make good and return to say thank you.

Margaret and Charles are a delightful couple who have brought pleasure and help to all who have had the fortune to come into contact with them. We are sure all readers will join us in wishing them a happy and healthy New Year.

(Please see also page 15)



Margaret and Charles Say

VIEWS DIFFER OVER STROUD ROAD PLANS

Sharply differing views about the Local Plan and the application for a 'care village' north of Cotswold Mead were evident at a public meeting in the Town Hall on 15th December.

The submission of an outline application for development of the nursing home site and a detailed application for the conversion of Gyde House had coincided with publication of the deposit version of the District Council's Local Plan, and the Town Hall was packed with residents keen to hear more about these proposals and to make their own views known.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Council Chairman Terry Parker, and was attended by District Council planning of-

ficers Karen Dixon and Baljit Tiwana, who provided some background information about the Local Plan. Terry Parker informed the meeting that the County's Council's Structure Plan has already passed through these stages and has now been approved by Environment Minister John Prescott. The Local Plan must conform to the Structure Plan.

The Gyde House application was discussed first, and attracted the least comment. Residents raised few questions about the application, which involves the conversion of the property into eighteen separate housing units. This gave rise, however, to questions as to why ten "affordable housing" units had been switched in the Local Plan from Gyde Road to the Stroud Road (Cotswold Mead) site, and why they were now targeted on the elderly rather than young families. There was a lengthy debate about the extent of the need for affordable housing in Painswick, whether it was a realistic aim, who it was for, and where it should be sited. The Vicar of Painswick, Bob Miles, made an impassioned plea for a younger community. He said that when he first came to Painswick it was a throbbing, working community, but it had declined and be-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

HAMPTONS

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Council Meeting on 15th December

Reported by Alan Bamber

The greater part of this meeting was taken up with debates on the Local Plan and planning applications which are described in other pages.

Youth Club

Council Chairman Terry Parker said he had asked a member of the County Youth Service to come to a meeting involving the Youth Club Leader Jenny Broadbank and the Secretary of the Rugby Club to discuss arrangements for the continuation of the Club and use of the recreation field pavilion. He said that one of the County's youth leaders was planning to attend some club sessions in the new year to assess its future prospects.

(Problems have arisen because financial support from a local benefactor will no longer be available in the next financial year, and the County Council has indicated that it will not be able to meet the salary costs of the leader and her assistant. The Parish Council recently decided to earmark £3000 of its 2000/1 budget in case external funding is un-

available. Another element in the equation is that the Youth Club has been renting the recreation field pavilion from the Rugby Club, who have held the pavilion on a long lease from the Parish Council. This arrangement is to cease early in the new year, as the Council has required the Rugby Club to surrender its licence by 1st February and hand back the pavilion in good condition.)

Malcolm Watts questioned whether money should be spent on decorating the pavilion when there was a doubt as to its future use, but the general view was that the onus was on the Rugby Club to return the property in good condition.

New Millennium Funds

Keith Hardwidge presented a report of the working party that has been assessing the allocation of the remaining funds to new millennium projects. The total money set aside for such projects was £4500, comprising £3000 in 1999-2000 and £1500 in 2000-2001. Funds had already been allocated to: Medals for school children - £1400, Victorian Market - £1000, Painswick Centre - materials to the value of £500; leaving a balance of £1600 to be allocated to the new bids.

The Working Party Report stated that

there had been seven new bids totalling over £5000, and decided to allocate funds to them as follows: Sheepscombe seat £200, Edge seat £200, children's party £200 (conditional on it involving the whole parish), New Year's Day celebration £200, table on Painswick Beacon £400, lighting of St Mary's steeple £400. No money was allocated to mugs for Slad children because the other children's allocations were for the whole parish.

In summary, the Working Party report states that £1600 has been allocated to one-off activities for children (medals and party), £1200 for one-off activities for adults (Market and party), and £1700 for permanent community features (seats, Beacon table, St Mary's and Painswick Centre)

Stamages Lane Car Park

Terry Parker announced that a public meeting will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 25th January, 7pm, to discuss charging at Stamages Lane car park together with the related problems of on-street parking and the provision of alternative off-street parking. The County Traffic Manager John Lindsay will be present, as will Ms Alison Fiske of Stroud District Council.

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Boxing Day walk

The annual Boxing Day Parish Council footpath walk took place on Monday 27th December with twenty-five adults and two young people setting out from Stamages Lane car park: unusually, there were no dogs with the party.

The route took the walkers across Broadham Fields, past Washbrook and Upper Dorey's Mills before eventually coming to Sevenleaze Lane near Podgewell Cottage. From here the walkers made their way to Holcombe, returning

to the village along Holcombe Lane after some two hours at approximately mid-day.


The weather had been ideal for walking but the extremely wet conditions underfoot had meant a variation to the planned route which was to have brought the walkers back via Spoonbed.

Parish Skip service

During 2000 Stroud District Council will be providing skips for household rubbish on the following dates and at the stated sites:

- 17-20 March. Slad. Car park site.
- 24-27 March. Edge. Location to be notified.
- 7-10 April. Sheepscombe. Village Hall car park
- 5-8 May. Painswick. Hyett Orchard.
- 8-11 September. Edge. Location to be notified.
- 29 Sept - 2 October. Sheepscombe. Village Hall Car Park.
- 20-23 October. Painswick. Stamages Lane car park.
- 17-20 November. Slad. Car park site.

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PAINSWICK WELCOMES THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

Painswick celebrated the dawn of the new millennium in some style, when an enormous gathering of villagers, relatives and friends converged on Victoria Square around midday on 1st January. Estimates of the number varied - some reckon several hundred, others as many as a thousand. At all events, the number caused something of a headache for the organisers of the planned community photograph, and it seemed for some time that it would be impossible to fit everyone in one picture. The throng was eventually assembled in the war memorial area of the churchyard and the photo taken from a vantage point in a house opposite, in New Street. The picture was taken by Ian Sadler of Five Valleys Photography and it will shortly be on sale around the village.

Mulled wine and 'puppy dog pie' were freely available, and the joyful occasion was enhanced by a live jazz band, and colourful balloons for children. Many people have remarked on the excellent organisation and the wonderful community atmosphere that prevailed, and a frequent comment was the hope that we don't have to wait a thousand years for the next such occasion!

Great credit is due to the main organisers of the event - Paul Stamp, Anthony Robinson, Bob Shea, David Ryland, Libby Graesser and Edward Young. They were supported financially and in practical ways by several Painswick businesses and other well-wishers, as well as by the Parish Council.

On New Year's Eve many hundreds of villagers groped their way up Painswick Beacon for the lighting of the bonfire at 8pm. This was another happy

occasion, though it was a pity that the night was damp and misty, making it muddy underfoot and difficult to see very far.

Throughout the evening bonfires were lit on beacons all over the country, and locally there were also bonfires at Sheepscombe and Slad. The Slad event was unique in that the New Year was ushered in at 12.20am. (The village, having presumably declared temporary independence, calculated that 'Slad time' is twenty minutes behind GMT) The lighting of their bonfire was followed by a spectacular firework display. Fireworks were also much in evidence in other local meeting places and private gardens.

Quite a number of keen souls returned to (or stayed at) the top of Painswick Beacon to welcome the dawn of the new year, and they were rewarded by the sight of a spectacular sunrise.

Local pubs and restaurants were largely given over to private functions on New Year's Eve, but towards midnight a sizeable crowd took to the open air and there was a festive atmosphere in the centre of Painswick as the champagne corks popped.

In the midst of this revelry many people took time to remember the religious implications of the year 2000. The local churches had distributed millennium candles to every household in Painswick, and just before midnight on New Year's Eve people all over the parish lit the candles in their homes or wherever they happened to be, and reflected on the Millennium Resolution*.

Below: New Street and Victoria Street disappear under foot. Above right: Balloons, drinks and pies galore

Special services were held, and at the Catholic Church on New Year's Day Father David wore the Jubilee vestment which Father George brought from Rome where it had been made. It is very striking with an attractive logo which is also depicted on the large Jubilee candle in the Catholic Church.



*The Millennium resolution:

Let there be respect for the earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs, and from now on a new start.



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Cricket Club already looking ahead to the new season

Preparations for the 2000 cricket season are already underway at Painswick Cricket Club. The club finished strongly in last year's Gloucestershire County league campaign and the club committee is looking to build on that good form with a powerful challenge for honours next season. The club's wicket at Broadham was adjudged the best in the league, for which the players deserve considerable credit. Congratulations also go to Jim Parks who received the wicket keeping award for the highest number of dismissals in the season.

New players to bolster the squad will be very welcome, and particularly young players over the age of thirteen who will be selected for the Sunday development side. "It is important to develop young players, but in the past under 13 and 15 cricket has been something of a struggle. So we hope to play youngsters alongside more experienced cricketers in our Sunday side and in that way, we can help them develop," said club secretary Andrew Wise. As well as the development

eleven on Sundays, the club will be running first and second teams in the county league, a midweek league side and also entering national and local cup competitions. The cup campaigns begin with a National Village Championship tie at Wickwar on 29th April.

Inevitably running a cricket club costs a great deal of money and a number of fundraising events have been planned for the pre-season period. These include a race night on 11th February, the popular vice-presidents' and presentation evening on 17th March and a quiz night on 14th April. These dates are provisional and will be confirmed in a future edition of the Beacon. The club is looking for a team sponsor for the season. Match sponsorships are also available and anyone who wishes to join the loyal band of vice-presidents would be very welcome. Andrew adds: "We have been indebted to our vice-presidents for their exceptional support over many years and without their backing we would find it difficult to function. We would very much

appreciate more local people becoming vice-presidents and we look forward to welcoming them to the vice-presidents' evening which always proves to be a most convivial occasion."

The club's annual meeting will be held at Broadham on Monday 31st January at 7.30pm when old and new club members are invited to attend. New players - senior and junior - are encouraged to contact Andrew Wise on 01453 755202 or Ian Hogg on 01452 725457. For any aspect of sponsorship or interest in becoming a vice-president, please contact Andrew, Ian or club chairman Terry Parker (812191).

Important match for Painswick today (Saturday 8th January)

Painswick achieved a fine victory over the Devon side, Cullompton, at Broadham on Saturday 4th December in the fourth round of the Tetley Bitter Vase. They have been drawn, again at home, against Liskeard-Looe in the next round where a win against the Cornishmen would take them into the last sixteen of the national competition. The match takes place today (Saturday 8th January) with a 2pm kick-off and everyone is invited to support the local team at Broadham. Painswick's success in the competition is bringing

back memories of their exceptional achievement in 1997 when they reached the semi-final of the Rugby Football Union Junior Knockout Cup Competition and were unlucky to lose by 17 points to 12 having put their opponents under tremendous pressure in the last quarter of the game.

Painswick gained their victory over Cullompton in spite of losing their prop forward, Mike Reed, who was sent off early in the match. Skipper Gary Lightfoot had an outstanding game, scoring all Painswick's points. His contribution consisted of two tries, a conversion and two penalty goals. Cullompton rallied in the final stages and went over for a converted try. Their effort, however, came too late and the Cherry and Whites were not flattered by the scoreline of 18 points to 7.

In contrast, Painswick's league performances continue to give cause for concern and this was particularly evident in their home defeat by Tetbury.

Results (L denotes league match)

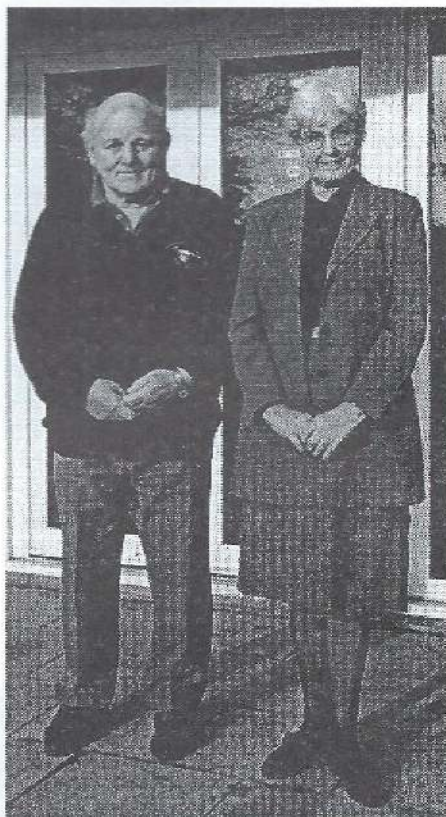
Sat 4 Dec. (Tetley Vase) Painswick 1st XV 18 Cullompton 1st XV 7.

Sun 5 Dec. Painswick Veterans 14 Gloucestershire Police Veterans 29.

Sat 11 Dec. (L) Painswick 1st XV 5 Tetbury 1st XV 12. Painswick Utd 43 Bredon 2nd XV 10.

Sat 18 Dec. Matches cancelled - unfit pitches.

Golf captains



New Painswick Seniors Captain Sam Thurlow with this year's Ladies' Captain Ann Moss. Sam and Ann are both longstanding members of Painswick Golf Club with a combined membership of over thirty years.

Ladies Golf Section

The Ladies' Section at Painswick Golf Club is small but friendly and enthusiastic. Members meet regularly on Tuesday mornings, competitions are held, and friendly matches against other clubs run throughout the summer.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about us please contact the Club, or Ann Moss on 01452 526310.



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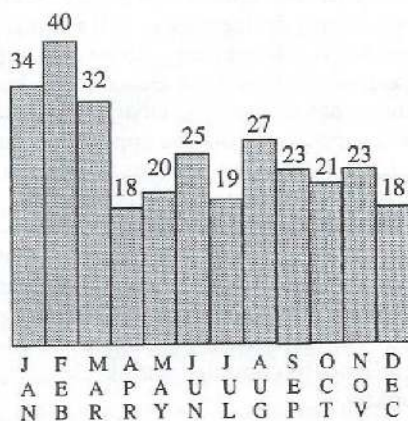
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CAR PARK SURVEY - FINAL RESULTS

Throughout 1999 the Beacon carried out random counts of the number of cars parked in Stamages Lane car park. In all, around 470 counts were made, and the results are shown in the table alongside. As was stated when we published the first few months' results, the figures should be treated with some caution, especially the weekend figures where there are several gaps in the survey (no results for Sundays in February and March, for instance).

It is clear, however, that the introduction of weekday and Saturday charging at the beginning of April had a major effect on the use of the car park, and there is little sign of a return to the pre-April usage, as is shown by the summary chart below.



Average weekday usage between 8am and 6pm

It is worth noting that the real average usage was almost certainly much lower than our chart indicates. This is because the figures on the summary chart are inflated by the greater number of counts taken during the busier hours of the day. To gain a truer (though mathematically unsound) indication, an average of each time period could be taken, and these figures in turn averaged. We leave that as an exercise for keen readers!

It is not for the Beacon to draw conclusions. Many people maintain that it is crazy to have a situation where the car park is almost empty whilst the main road and nearby side streets are dangerously cluttered with parked vehicles. There are also concerns that some residents choose to shop elsewhere if they lose the advantage of free parking in Painswick. Others argue, however, that the charges are modest and that charging frees up space for the visitors on whom local trade so much depends. As indicated in this month's Parish Council News, residents will soon have a further chance to air their views on this subject. A public meeting has been called for 25th January, 7pm in the Town Hall.

STAMAGES LANE CAR PARK USAGE 1999. Figures show the averages of counts taken in the time periods. Figures in brackets are the number of counts. Gaps in the table are where no counts were made.

	8am-9am	9am-10am	10am-11am	11am-12	12-1pm	1pm-2pm	2pm-3pm	3pm-4pm	4pm-5pm	5pm-6pm
Jan										
M-F		30 (1)	41 (3)	42 (3)	37 (3)	24 (3)	39 (2)	36 (5)	23 (4)	
Sat			25 (2)		44 (1)					
Sun					39 (3)	42 (1)				
Feb										
M-F		22 (1)	51 (3)	55 (3)	32 (3)	49 (2)	52 (2)	33 (5)	33 (2)	16 (1)
Sat			33 (1)	49 (5)	47 (1)			46 (2)		13 (1)
Mar										
M-F	18 (1)	44 (1)	36 (2)	55 (1)			41 (1)	31 (2)	19 (1)	14 (1)
Sat				34 (1)		53 (1)		27 (1)		
Apr										
M-F	3 (1)	18 (1)	22 (4)	18 (5)	21 (4)	15 (1)	15 (1)	20 (4)	6 (1)	
Sat				46 (2)						
Sun				18 (1)						
May										
M-F		10 (2)	18 (4)	15 (2)	23 (4)	16 (1)	25 (8)	21 (4)	14 (2)	
Sat			42 (2)		35 (2)		45 (1)	46 (1)		
Sun			46 (1)	41 (2)	41 (1)		59 (1)	30 (1)		
B/hol			22 (1)		55 (1)			53 (1)	57 (1)	
Jun										
M-F	3 (2)	11 (3)	27 (6)	27 (2)	36 (4)	27 (2)	33 (4)	29 (7)	11 (1)	5 (1)
Sat		9 (1)	40 (1)	31 (3)	39 (2)		31 (1)	34 (2)	31 (2)	11 (1)
Sun		24 (1)		30 (1)	45 (2)	43 (1)		26 (1)	34 (2)	
July										
M-F	3 (1)	8 (3)	17 (3)	31 (2)	33 (1)	30 (1)	23 (3)	24 (4)	19 (2)	9 (3)
Sat			53 (1)	31 (1)	59 (1)	40 (1)	60 (1)	31 (1)	22 (1)	15 (1)
Sun		34 (1)	34 (1)		35 (4)			55 (1)	53 (1)	
Aug										
M-F	3 (1)	7 (4)	33 (4)	26 (5)	35 (5)	35 (5)	38 (8)	24 (3)	21 (2)	10 (4)
Sat			30 (1)	47 (4)	39 (2)	30 (1)	59 (1)		45 (1)	23 (1)
Sun		16 (1)	39 (1)	50 (2)	42 (2)	59 (1)	59 (1)	43 (3)	49 (1)	
B/hol					59 (1)			60 (1)		
Sep										
M-F	5 (1)	8 (2)	23 (6)	20 (1)	30 (4)	27 (3)	29 (7)	25 (7)	9 (1)	10 (3)
Sat			22 (2)	39 (2)		30 (1)	60 (1)	38 (2)	13 (1)	
Sun		25 (1)		53 (1)		48 (1)	53 (1)	48 (2)	28 (1)	
Oct										
M-F			23 (8)	34 (2)	18 (3)	18 (1)	25 (4)	23 (1)		10 (4)
Sat			21 (2)	26 (2)	28 (2)			37 (2)		
Sun		29 (1)	37 (1)			42 (1)		31 (1)		15 (1)
Nov										
M-F	7 (1)		32 (6)	18 (1)	34 (1)		22 (2)	20 (3)		8 (2)
Sat	6 (1)	9 (2)		23 (1)	26 (1)	28 (1)		18 (2)		
Sun			38 (1)		36 (3)			42 (1)	21 (1)	9 (1)
Dec										
M-F		12 (1)	28 (4)	14 (1)	20 (5)	22 (3)	15 (5)	11 (2)	10 (3)	
Sat					33 (1)			19 (1)		
Sun		33 (1)	12 (1)		39 (1)			15 (1)	12 (1)	5 (1)

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VIEWS DIFFER OVER STROUD ROAD PLANS

Continued from page 1

come cosy. "We are doing our damndest to destroy this place", he said, and if we don't take steps to rejuvenate the community "it will be asleep in 2011". Others argued, however, that surveys had failed to reveal an actual need for affordable housing and that young people could not be forced to live here. A response to this was that the need existed simply by virtue of the imbalance caused by the preponderance of old people. Another dismissed this talk as simply "pious hope". And so it went on.

Where there was a measure of agreement was in the general dislike of the Local Plan's inclusion of affordable housing at the Stroud Road site. Most people at the meeting felt that the development on that site should be for care purposes only.

The sharpest words were reserved for the actual planning application for the nursing care complex. Several villagers launched into vehement criticisms of the plans. One drew attention to the scale of the proposals, and especially the number of sheltered housing units being associated with the centre, claiming that what had started out five years ago as a Nursing Home proposal had "evolved into a new town". Others made similar points, stating that their support for this project was based on the need for a nursing home, but certainly not a project of this scale. Another resident drew attention to the density and size of the buildings, claiming that the nursing home centre was a five-storey building which was twice the height of the houses in Cotswold Mead. Yet another villager recalled earlier meetings about the housing allocations, when there were "screams of protest" at the District Council's proposals for building in the Painswick Valley and the AONB. "Yet here we are saying come on in, and all

because the desire for a nursing home in Painswick has caused us to become bogged down with our own selfish interests".

Other villagers took the attitude that, whilst the scale of the proposal might not be to everyone's liking, it was a price that had to be paid. Keith Cockell, Managing Director of Richmond Healthcare, the Stroud Road developers, explained that the numbers were "not so black and white" and that they had been reduced since the original plans were drawn up, but the economics of the project were that maintenance income from sheltered housing was a critical component in supporting the whole project. Mr Cockell refuted the claims about the size of the centre, saying that the alleged 5-storey building was in fact a 3-storey building linked to another 3-storey building on another level, and that because of the sloping site it could equally be claimed that it was a thirteen storey building.

A member of the Painswick Development Group, Tony Bradley, reinforced the notion of economics of scale. He said the group had visited lots of sites and had made a detailed study of nursing provision. Their growing impression was that lots of small nursing homes are likely to fail. He was convinced that the Group had achieved the best deal for Painswick, and whilst he sympathised with the views expressed about additional housing, he claimed that "if you want a nursing home, this is the best that you can get".

Parish Council response

Immediately after the public meeting the Parish Council met to decide its response.

The Council agreed unanimously to object to the section of the Local Plan requiring affordable housing at the Stroud Road site, and to advocate instead that ten affordable housing units be reinstated at the Gyde site. With two members abstaining, the Council agreed to make a second objection to the Local Plan, stating that they supported the nursing home on the Stroud Road site together with such ancillary care developments as may be appropriate.

Councillors had more problems with the "care village" application itself. There was general acceptance of the need for a nursing home, but councillors were reluctant to accept and in some cases were totally opposed to the associated housing and the proposed density of the development. David Hudson said he was against sheltered housing on the site and that in view of the importance of the application there should be a meeting on site. Others felt they had enough information to make a decision. A key issue was whether approval of an outline application necessarily implied approval of all the

detail supplied with it. David Harcup was of the view that this was not the case, and that the Council was only approving the "idea". They would have the opportunity to comment on the detail at a later stage. Other councillors, including the chairman, were not so convinced. After a long debate, it was agreed, by a majority of 6 to 3, to support the outline application with the proviso that such support did not imply that they were bound to accept all the details submitted with it. The Chairman said he would check the situation the next day and that if the proviso was not valid (i.e. if the council's vote would be taken as indicating their approval of all the information submitted) then another meeting would be called.

Latest situation

We understand that, following discussions with the District Council, the Parish Council Chairman decided not to call a further meeting in December. However, the Chairman informed the Beacon that his Council has advised the District Council that it supports the outline application for the Care Village but reserves its position on the issues of density and design pending the submission of a detailed application. The Parish Council has been told that it has the opportunity to submit further comments after its meeting on 19th January as the report to the Planning Committee will not be compiled until Friday 21st January.

Opportunities for public comment

The application for a nursing care village will not be considered by the District Council's Planning Committee until February at the earliest, and public comments may be made to the Planning Department at Ebley Mill (quoting reference S99/1807) until noon on 19th January. The plans may be viewed at Painswick Town Hall and at Ebley Mill.

The deadline for public comments on the Local Plan has now passed, and in the next few months the District Council will consider all the points raised and objections made, and will then issue amendments to the Plan.

[Please see letters and further public statements on other pages]

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Cat Fouling

As a 'responsible' dog owner I too have noticed dog faeces at the top of my drive recently and also condemn such irresponsible behaviour. Dog fouling seems to be good press at the moment. However, does anyone ever mention the problem of cat mess?

Earlier this year I returned to my family house after many years' absence only to find it used as a latrine by local cats. Fortunately my canine friend is doing her best to dissuade these cats whose owners I am sure have no idea where they do their toiletries.

Not only now do we have a cat-free garden, but also a wild bird haven where birds can feed free from fear of ambush.

Paul Baxter, Butt Green

Local Plan

Just to keep everyone informed about what we have put forward about the Local Plan regarding the recommendations for Painswick, we have issued this brief statement:

Gyde House: We support the proposal to convert the house to flats.

Land north of Cotswold Mead: We recommend that this site is solely for a nursing home complex, and that no affordable housing should be on this site. We also stated that if there is a local need for affordable housing we would of course support this, but we still oppose them being built along Gyde Road. We recommend that if there is still the need, then they should be built on the strip of land between the new surgery and the barn conversion, which was originally proposed and supported by the Parish Council, and which we understand has much local support.

District Councillors, Joan Nash and Barbara Tait

Nursing Care Village

Many people at the recent public meeting in the Town Hall gasped with amazement when the actual size of the proposed new development around the 5-storey nursing home was exposed. The drawings presented by the developers were clearly for promotional purposes. What we need is a model of the whole scheme of roads, apartment blocks and garages proposed. This model has to be a valid one. It must not only show the large development itself but must also set it honestly within its environment - this means all the adjacent existing properties and natural features faithfully modelled.

Until Painswickians can see such a model they will have no idea of just what is going to hit them and the village!

Carole Ross, Queens Mead

At a public meeting held in the Institute Hall about two years ago, many of you will remember the overwhelming support shown in favour of a nursing home in Painswick. The response was so encouraging that the working party was asked to explore fully the feasibility of the concept. At last, after months of hard work, a point has been reached where planning permission [has been sought] for a nursing home within a "care village". I believe that those in support of this plan ought to write now and say so - either to the Stroud District Council or the Parish Council or both. If we lose this opportunity the chance may never come again.

Margery Leney, Vicarage Street

Once upon time, a nasty giant chanced upon the pretty village of Painswick. He wanted to spoil it by building a hundred houses. The villagers were angry. "Save our Valley" they cried and fought the giant. After a mighty struggle they came to a truce and agreed to thirty houses only.

But the giant hadn't really given up. He sent his wife, disguised as a fairy godmother, to the other side of the village. She promised them their hearts desire. In exchange for a magnificent Nursing Home, as big as a Castle, they must let her build a few houses for the old folk. The villagers were mesmerised by the thought of getting their hearts desire that they didn't even care when the wicked fairy sneaked in extra houses, forty in all.

The evil pair jumped up and down with glee. "Thirty plus forty makes seventy," chortled the giant. "And the Nursing Home block is bigger than forty houses. That makes over a hundred. Even better than our original plan!!! Now, where was that green field in the centre of the village, you were so excited about?"

Maureen Walters, Queens Mead

As a postscript to the discussion about plans for a nursing home in Painswick at the meeting in the Town Hall on 15th December, may I urge all who are in favour to write to the SDC and the Parish Council? It would be tragic if the village were to be denied the chance of this long-awaited facility, available to all, and irrespective of ability to pay.

Joy Shaw, Hale Lane

From its embryonic concept of a nursing home with about thirty beds, it has evolved to a scheme which covers the entire 4-acre site on the A46 above Cotswold Mead, and includes nearly fifty units of assorted accommodation, garages, facilities buildings and a nursing care building which is five storeys high. The sheer magnitude of this elaborate proposal is staggering. Without doubt, had a similar proposal been submitted for the purpose of holiday accommodation or

a trade park it would have been summarily rejected out of hand as totally unsuitable for Painswick, on environmental grounds, as exacerbating the present population age imbalance, causing further traffic problems on the A46, being visually intrusive, and certainly as undesirable. In a community that is generally speaking conservation conscious, it appears that suddenly double standards are being applied in terms of new building and the development of green field sites. It is not so long ago that the imminent sale of Dry Knapps Field caused a major scare in the village, as did the Stroud District Council's edict that 100 new houses were to be built here. This new proposal should be of no less concern to those who care about preserving/conserving Painswick, and emotion and self-interest should not be an issue in the acceptability of this proposed development.

Maggie Drake, Tibbiwell

Parking Charges

Mr and Mrs French of Painswick Woodcrafts have sent the Beacon a copy of their letter to the Parish Council in which they set out a case for retaining charges at Stamages Lane car park. They stress the dependence of local shops on visitors and say that since the introduction of charges it is now easier for visitors to park in Painswick. Mr and Mrs French also draw attention to a government proposal requiring councils to charge organisations for parking space at their premises, and they state that the car park season tickets are modest in comparison.

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.

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More trips to Care Village at Nantwich

From Keith Cockell, Managing Director, Richmond Village Care Centre:

Now that our outline planning application has been submitted, I have arranged for three further 'fact-finding' visits to our Care Village in Nantwich:

- Monday 10th January
- Saturday 15th January
- Wednesday 26th January

These visits give you the opportunity to understand how the Village works and the unique range of care options available for its elderly population.

Having gone walkabout for the first hour, you will be able to view our exhibition of the planning proposal for Painswick. This will be followed by a question and answer session over a buffet lunch.

I feel responsible for ensuring that everyone, and especially those in a representative role, should be well informed, and have a clear understanding of this proposal. I look forward to showing you around the Care Village in Nantwich, and explaining our plans for Painswick.

10am Depart Stamages Lane car park.
12 noon. Arrive Nantwich, Cheshire.
12 - 1pm Walkabout, Care Village.
1pm - 2pm Exhibition of Painswick plans and questions.
2pm Depart Nantwich.
4pm Arrive Painswick.

To book your seat on our mini bus for any of the above dates, please contact Leslie Brotherton (813101) who has agreed to coordinate these trips for me.

Directory corrections

On page 11 of the Painswick Directory produced by the Beacon last month, the phone numbers of parish councillors Martin Slinger and Malcolm Watts are incorrect. They should be 812566 and 813089 respectively. Our apologies. The omission of Painswick Bird Club has also been pointed out. The Club's chairman is Malcolm Watts, Fair Hills, Lower Washwell Lane, GL6 6XW, 813089.

Please make these changes to your copy of the Directory.

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Painswick Residential and Nursing Care

Further statement by Development Group

"A detailed report upon our endeavours was carried in the Beacon in August. As anticipated, a consultative exhibition was held in the Church Rooms in September by Richmond Care, who had been selected by GCC and ourselves to develop the site in Stroud Road. The exhibition outlined two options for consideration and attracted strong support for one: layout 'B'. After considerable work and revision, a further exhibition, this time of an outline planning application which fully reflected inputs from those who visited the earlier exhibition or had been to the care village in Nantwich, was presented on 15th December; this about the same time as it was being submitted to the District Council.

Meanwhile, the District Council had published its Draft Deposit Local Plan and, as could be deduced from the reports in the last issue of the Beacon, this was at variance with the intended comprehensive and integrated scheme proposed by the developer. However, given the SDC deadline of 20th December, the Parish

Cuts in chiropody service

As a part of cost-cutting measures, the Gloucestershire Health Authority has ceased to provide a chiropody and podiatry service in Painswick. The authority states that as well as closing "minor clinics" such as Painswick, they have also ceased making separate arrangements for GP clinics, and have stopped providing basic foot care (such as toenail cutting) which is not required for medical reasons.

Chiropody and podiatry clinics will continue to be held at larger centres in the county such as Stroud Health Centre and the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, and all people who are affected by the changes are being offered appointments at an alternative clinic. For appointments, and further information about the changes, please phone 01452-300190.

A Health Authority leaflet explains the reasons for the changes in more detail.

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Council had already decided to convene a public meeting and then meet themselves on the evening of 15th December to consider the Local Plan's implications for Painswick as well as two planning applications then tabled from those concerned with Gyde House (detailed) and the Stroud Road care village (outline) which had a direct bearing upon the content of the District Plan.

It was our pleasure to be in attendance at these events, and the meeting of the Parish Council.

As will doubtless be reported elsewhere, the decisions made by the Parish Council that evening in addressing these matters were most heartening. That they decided to reaffirm their desire, previously agreed back in 1997, that the Stroud Road site be exclusively for the creation of a care village was of itself encouraging. However, the Council's decision to also support the outline planning application to the District Council underlined their commitment to moving this project forward. Of course, the detail of that application will be the subject of a further application later in the year if the District Council now acknowledge the locally expressed desires of this village.

Our eyes, and those who have so energetically supported this concept, will now firmly focus upon the deliberations of the (our) District Council. All is, for the next few weeks, in their court."

Tony Bradley, Leslie Brotherton,
Philip Oakley and Norman Rampton

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Painswick Post Office says

Thank you Painswick

The response to our article in the December issue of the Beacon has been remarkable and more than 700 people in Painswick have signed the Western Daily Press petition aimed at persuading the government to reconsider their decision to remove the option of having benefits paid in cash at post offices. All petition signatures will be forwarded to Tony Blair in the New Year and the total number will far exceed the previous estimate of 50,000 for the south west region. Our sincere thanks to everybody who has taken the trouble to sign the petition and express support for the cause.

In the last month some disturbing information has come to light indicating that the situation is even more serious than previously thought. The Government's own figures now show that 7875 post offices (approximately 44% of the sub-post office network) across the country are under threat of closure due directly to the plan to pay benefits into bank accounts. The National Federation of Sub Postmasters considers this figure to be optimistic and the true figure could be even higher! However it should be made clear that in most cases it will be the sub-postmaster who will make the decision to close a particular office because the

income has fallen and not Post Office Counters (or the Government). It is the sub-postmaster who has to pay the mortgage and other bills and if the income is insufficient there may be no alternative to closure.

In addition it has also become apparent that the Benefits Agency are continuing to send out letters to the child benefit customers which, wrongly, state that benefits can only be paid monthly and in arrears. This is not true and if anybody has received such a letter they can contact the Benefits Agency and instruct them to revert to weekly payments at the post office. These letters have been issued despite Government assurances that no such action will be taken and point to an error on the part of the Benefits Agency which can be reversed if the customer desires.

We do not want to exaggerate the danger this proposal represents but it is now generally acknowledged that the post office network is facing its greatest threat ever. Once destroyed it will never be rebuilt but your opinion can stop this destruction. Please lobby your MP or Tony Blair and make your views known before it is too late.

Ray and Heather Appleby

Three little maids...



Three little maids from school (otherwise known as Pam Bailey, Ethel James and Betty Barney) entertaining an appreciative gathering at the Day Centre Christmas Lunch at Ashwell on 15th December. Earlier in the day, the Beacon Singers had got everyone in the right mood with some hearty carol singing.

We ain't seen nothin' yet!

Impending road works

John Kennedy, the company responsible for the water mains renovation, has given an update on the works to be carried out this year.

In a letter to the Parish Council (14th December), they state that the "running order" is: New Street from the Post Office to Stamages Lane, Victoria Street, St Mary's Street, Vicarage Street, Bisley Street, Friday Street and Gloucester Street as far as Churchill Way. The work is programmed to commence around 14th January and will take about ten weeks to complete, providing there are no unexpected problems.

The prospect sounds daunting, but a ray of light is that the company says it is now proposed that the mains in these locations will be epoxy lined rather than directly replaced. "This is a very low vibration method of refurbishment, which only involves a small number of excavations to be made in each street. It is also relatively quicker than open cutting a new main. The epoxy resin we use is a very hard coating that is applied to the inside of the existing mains after cleaning. It will not, however, negate the need to apply our road closures in the streets, as the cleaning and lining plant is fairly large."

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Christmas competitions

Three readers submitted a full set of correct answers to the Beacon's 'Prominent Painswickians' quiz, showing an excellent all-round knowledge of the village and its past. Our congratulations to **Pauline Berry**, **Nina Harris** and **Gwen Welch**. We drew for the prize-winner, and Gwen won a £5 gift token.

The correct answers were: 1 Margaret Hampshire, 2 William H Hyett, 3 Cornelius Winter, 4 Francis A Hyett, 5 Denise Ward, 6 Diana Princess of Wales, 7 Julian Slade, 8 Barrie Meadows, 9 Derek Hodges, 10 Mary Roberts, 11 Daniel & Thomas Twining (allowance was made for the badly worded question!), 12 Jenny Oakley, 13 Loveday, 14 John Bryan, 15 Paul Stamp.

Only four children had a go at our word search - **Ben Nicholls** (aged 9), **James Barratt** (aged 7½), **Lucy Moir**

(aged 9) and **Ben Egerton** (aged 7). James and Lucy were spot on and won £4 gift tokens for spending at Painswick Post Office. The two Bens were almost all-correct, and have received £2 tokens. Congratulations to all four.

The places were: Cotswold Mead, Hale Lane, Falcon, New Street, The Stocks, The Croft, Londis, Canton Acre, Edge Lane, Tibbiwell, Lamp House, Hambutts, Churchill Way, Cap Mill and Ashwell. The message was 'Happy New Year'.

Sadly no one had a go at the Fairy Tale quiz for youngest readers. Maybe they were a little too hard. The answers were: 1 Aladdin, 2 Jack, 3 Ali Baba, 4 Cinderella, 5 Hansel and Gretel, 6 Sleeping Beauty, 7 Beauty, 8 Rumpelstiltskin, 9 The third little pig, 10 The elves, 11 Rapunzel, 12 Snow White's Step Mother.

Playgroup enjoys Christmas

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, the children began to learn some Christmas carols and make items related to the festive season: snowman calendars, Christmas cracker cards and decorated Christmas trees. The Playgroup building looked very festive decorated with all these things.

The term concluded with a Christmas puppet show in which the story of Christmas was read out by Beaty and the children and enacted by puppets manipulated by Rachel. The puppet show was followed, on one day, by a visit from Father Christmas, distributing presents to all the

children and by party food for the children (and mulled wine and mince pies for the adults!).

We would like to take this opportunity to offer best wishes to everybody for the new millennium.

If you want information about Playgroup or if you would like to put a child's name down, please contact Beaty Bell on Gloucester 610997 or, when term begins again, between 9am and 12pm on her mobile - 0961 528879.

Mothers and Toddlers

Painswick Mothers and Toddlers will be starting up again in the New Year and would very much like to see any new or familiar faces on Wednesdays from 2.30pm to 4pm in the Playgroup Building. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th January 2000.

Overheard...

"I wonder if, by the next millennium, people will have learnt how to spell it."

Beneath the star



Bradley Towell (Joseph) and Lizzie Chapman (Mary) in the Croft School's Christmas performance of 'Holy Joe'.

'Library 2000 Appeal'

Gloucestershire County Council has launched a new scheme called 'Library 2000 Appeal', which is aimed at attracting 2000 donations of books before the end of the year 2000.

Readers who are interested in "sponsoring a book" can go along to the local library and select a book from a list of sought-after titles. Sponsors can choose the library where the book will first be on loan, and they have first option to borrow the book once it is in stock.

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Forgotten 1999? - here are a few reminders

So here we are, after all the hype, in the third millennium (or at least that seems to be the prevailing, if slightly dubious, point of view!). But before we head off into the new age, it's time to take a look back at last year.

For many 1999 was the year Painswick was besieged, as road signs, traffic lights and diversions heralded the arrival of Severn Trent Water. We got used to months of queues, and it became the norm to allow extra time for journeys. After six months of this, there is still more to come! However, if it eventually gives us a more reliable and efficient water supply we will be grateful.

The Beacon's pages have, once again, been dominated by housing and parking. The former has seen councils, government panels, committees and pressure groups battling it out month after month over the content of the County Structure Plan and Stroud Local Plan. This time last year Painswick had been allocated 100 new homes, Gloucestershire itself some 50,000. Early on last year it was stated, to much relief, that the AONB was largely safe from development, but the argument continued as to where the houses would be built. By the end of last year Painswick had been allocated thirty new dwellings, twenty at the Gyde House development, and ten at the Stroud Road site, but there is still a long way to go before we know the final outcome.

The parking question hit new heights last year as Stroud District Council's Resource Committee decided, despite local concerns, to proceed with parking charges at Stamages Lane, which came into effect in April. Parked cars in previously clear streets became a common sight, and, as borne out by a Beacon survey, car park use was well down on previous months, even over the busy summer period. At their November meeting the Parish Council decided to urge the District Council to remove the charges and put on hold any further parking measures, so expect to hear more on this subject in 2000. The contentious issue of parking on the recreation ground was resolved in July when the Parish Council decided against a permanent parking area on the ground.

The efforts of those working towards the provision of a nursing and residential

home in Painswick started to bear fruit with the announcement in June that Gloucestershire County Council had signed a contract selling the development site at Stroud Road. Richmond Healthcare Developments won the bid to see the project through and have submitted an outline application for a care home, self contained units and support services.

What should have been an exciting year for local elections, with the Chair of the Parish council and four fellow councillors not seeking re-election, ended in disappointment when nominations fell short of forcing an election. As a result, Malcolm Watts became a new Parish Councillor unopposed and Jennifer Crook, David Harcup, Johnny Johnston and John Stephenson-Oliver were co-opted onto the council, with Terry Parker taking over as Chairman. District Council elections did, however, take place and Barbara Tait, ex-Chair of the Parish Council, was elected a District Councillor for the Painswick ward.

The Painswick Institute entered a new era as the Club premises were closed at the end of 1998 and the trustees, having reclaimed the property in February, held a public meeting to discuss its future. A working party was set up, headed by John Stephenson Oliver, and, in acknowledgement of its changing role, the Institute was renamed the Painswick Centre. The working party, largely made up of representatives of clubs and societies who use the facilities, began by drawing up ideas for the future of the centre, and their report was accepted by the trustees. Progress was hampered by lack of funds and the constraints of the charity commission. However, the newly-formed management committee is in the process of applying for grants enabling the centre to become a viable proposition and is promoting a number of new uses for the property.

Businesses in Painswick had their comings and goings. We said goodbye to the Country Elephant and Robert Rees who has set off on new ventures. Mad Hatters, the second-hand children's clothes shop, opened in the spring, only to close some months later following a devastating burglary. It has recently reopened under new ownership. Orient'all closed, as did Bertrams Bistro. Murrays Estate Agents moved into the village and Chancellors has welcomed new owners. In the midst of all these changes it was good to congratulate John and Barbara Hulme on their forty years in their shop at New Street.

The Croft School has enjoyed another successful year with 137 pupils on the register last September and, for the first time, five classes. They welcomed Olympic swimmer and Gladiator Sharron Davies to the school in June to officially open the new school buildings. Clubs and socie-

ties, too, have reported busy years. PaDs were in full swing with some memorable performances over the year, not least their joke machine at the Victorian Market.

Sport in Painswick has continued to flourish in the last year, despite clubs reporting mixed fortunes where results were concerned. At the end of April the tennis club floodlights were officially switched on at Broadham, financed largely by a grant from the English Sports Council Lottery fund. The lights have further enhanced the facilities in the village which allow for so many opportunities; it is small wonder that we have several juniors doing well at a variety of sports both locally and nationally.

Other 1999 landmarks included the opening of the Rococo Garden maze by Johnny Ball in May. Ashwell House celebrated its 25th anniversary and the Painswick Beacon its 21st. The year saw more of a lowlight than a highlight on 11th August. Those who hadn't crawled off down the M5 but instead made it to the top of the Beacon were rewarded by the occasional glimpse of the rare eclipse through broken cloud.

If there were nominations for honorary Painswickian of the Year the title must surely have gone to Stan Newey whose presence has been so familiar over the last year. Stan, together with his wife Mary, filmed, wrote and edited the Painswick 2000 video which was launched in October to much acclaim. It is a wonderful reminder of both the last year and of years gone by of our village. One wonders what technology will be used to record the next milestone in Painswick's history.

Now the parties are over, the fireworks spent and the champagne off the shelves, it remains for us to wish all our readers a very happy 2000 and best wishes for the next century.

Jillie Speed

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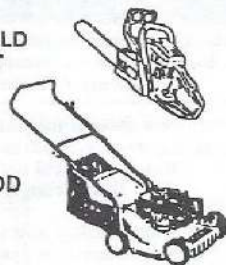
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Austerity Lunches - come and join the happy throng at Christ Church

Calling all PAL supporters! Our three charities, Christian Aid, Oxfam and Save the Children, were each sent a Christmas cheque for £250, a record sum for ten lunches.

Every year these agencies express their thanks to you for supporting their efforts to give practical assistance to deprived communities, both at home and abroad, and to provide emergency relief at times of natural disasters.

Please note, the first lunch in 2000 is on Monday 17th January at 12.15pm in Christ Church Hall, Gloucester Street. See you there!

Joan Truman (Hon Treasurer, PAL)

And a letter of appreciation...

What a pleasure to join friends and villagers at the weekly Austerity Lunch held in Christ Church Hall on Mondays during the autumn and winter. The soup is always delicious and so welcome on a cold winter day. Bread and cheese accompany the soup and the cost is by donation of at least £1.20.

I am writing this after enjoying a lovely lunch, served by kind and friendly ladies in very smart blue sweat shirts - it was the Puffin superstars all looking very trim and fit!

The Austerity Lunch is yet another example of how one can enjoy oneself,

join in the wonderful village community, and yet support the charities, Christian Aid, Oxfam and Save the Children. An innovation this year is the presence of a Traidcraft stall selling food such as muesli, rice, nuts, raisins, honey etc, but also delicious wicked chocolate, to take home and eat in secret!

Traidcraft is a Fair Trade company based in Newcastle, whose mission is to fight world poverty through trade. Its goal is to double its impact by the year 2002:

- * by improving the livelihoods of third world producers
- * by providing effective local support of producers
- * by setting trends in ethical business
- * by leading world opinion in the fair trade movement

What a blessing and a privilege to live in Painswick, and to be able to support the charities which "do good", to foster and aid groups such as Traidcraft, but also to enjoy ourselves immensely. The opportunity to meet different generations and make new friends is a bonus, but it is also often "special" to talk to older villagers about their lives, experiences and to gain wisdom and insight into Life.

My gratitude to all involved and congratulations - the little posies of dainty flowers placed on each table is "the gift on the bread".

Ros Harris

Stroud College classes in Painswick

Classes recommence in Painswick during the week commencing Monday 17th January as follows:

SPANISH: in the library on Wednesday 19th, 10am to 12 noon. Tutor: Eli Henshaw.

SOFT FURNISHING: in the Church Rooms on Monday 17th, from 1.45pm to 3.45pm. Tutor: Edna Powell.

CHINA RESTORATION: in the Church Rooms on Thursday 20th, 10am to 12 noon. Tutor: Jane Winch.

Mavis Mandel, Course Organiser

Line dancing with the Jolly Stompers

Over 5000 people go line dancing every week, though not all at my classes! If you want to see what the fuss is about, come along and support your local club as a new 'Absolute Beginners' Line Dancing Class starts on Sunday 16th January, 7.30pm to 8.30pm in the Painswick Centre.

Line dancing is a fun way to keep both the brain and body active. It is suitable for all ages, all levels of abilities and you don't need a partner. I run a ten week course for absolute beginners, teaching the basic line dance steps and some fun dances to practise them to. When you feel ready to move on, I run other classes that teach you more dances and give you a chance to practise what you've learnt. I hope to start another such class in Painswick if the first one is a success.

The Jolly Stompers have been going since January 1997 and have a vast range of dances to choose from, but don't worry as you're not expected to learn them all in the first week! Regular social dances are held the first Friday of each month at the Trinity Rooms, Stroud, for you to meet up with like-minded people and have a fun night out. A Jolly Stompers newsletter keeps you in touch with the line dance scene in the area and other dancers are only too happy to help those around them survive their first few weeks!

For further help or advice, please ring me on 01453-752480.

Julie Cole

Beacon subscribers - at 21st December

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To date	654	621	608

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** By the way **

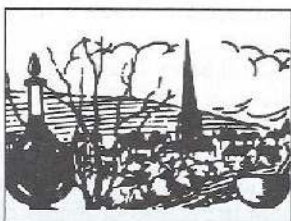
You probably know that you'd get a welcoming embrace in The Butchers Arms in Sheepscombe, but where are (1) The Brewers Arms, (2) The Carpenters Arms, (3) The Drillmans Arms, (4) The Farmers Arms, (5) The Keepers Arms, (6) The Mariners Arms, (7) The Whitesmiths Arms?

You can choose from: Gloucester, Berkeley, Stonehouse, Miserden, Cirencester, Quenington and Apperley. Answers on page 21.

By Rambler

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Retreating into the future in Painswick

It's been there some time and many Painswickians go past it several times a day, but how many know what it is or what goes on inside?

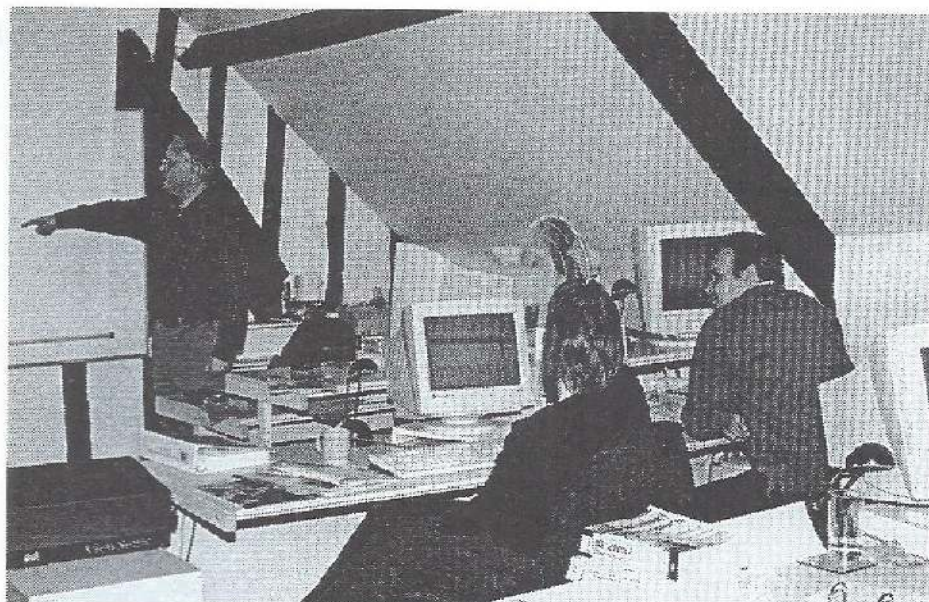
We are referring to the Database Programmers Retreat in Bisley Street, which has long been a bit of a mystery to the Beacon, and no doubt to many of our readers. But it's a mystery no longer, because we were recently invited inside and shown around.

Database Programmers Retreat is a small limited company that runs training courses for computer professionals. Their speciality, as the name suggests, is courses for programmers - the boffins who type in the coded instructions that control the operation of computers. Courses are given in several computer languages, including Visual Basic, Delphi and Java.

DPR has been in Painswick for about eight years and the company is owned and run by Rick and Laurell Spence. The couple have more recently started up a second company in Florida offering the same types of courses as in the UK. Interestingly, their property in the States is also an old one, similar to the premises in Painswick.

Showing us around, Business Manager Liz McLelland pointed out the three training rooms on the first floor, the smallest being used for one-to-one tuition and the largest for more formal class-based training. All of them, naturally enough, are kitted out with the latest technology.

But conservationists will be pleased to learn that the property itself has not been modernised. The traditional cottage



Best of the old and the new... course members learn new skills amidst the exposed timbers of the Database Programmers Retreat

features have been retained, proving that the old and new can happily coexist.

The company advertises its services in the various computer publications and its courses are popular, attracting a wide range of course members, from individuals wishing to improve their skills and marketability, to large organisations such as Power Gen. Clients come from all over the world.

When the Beacon ran its parking survey in 1998, some responses criticised the use of on-street parking spaces by the employees of local companies, and one respondent went so far as to claim that "the computer firms bring nothing in the way of trade to the village". Well, it seems this could hardly be further from the truth. Liz McLelland told us that course members are given lists of accom-

modation in Painswick and that most of them stay here for the duration of their courses, which are usually three to five days in length and occur frequently. Moreover the course fees include lunch, which is arranged on a rotational basis at the Royal Oak, the Falcon and Chancellors.

It is also a common sight to see the employees and course members of both DPR and the nearby Robinson Associates popping out to the local stores for provisions of various sorts, or using the services of Lloyds Bank.

As to the future, Database Programmers Retreat expects to be around for a long time. They are now looking to enhance their range of courses to meet the ever-changing developments in Information Technology.

Poppy Appeal, 1999

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank all those helpers who sold poppies last year, whether they were house-to-house, or street collectors, shops, pubs, restaurants and hotels.

Our total came to £1,903.37, made up as follows: house-to-house £1013.09, street collection £188.67, static points £378.54, church collections £296.57, wreaths £26.50.

I would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Denys Hill for so kindly letting me use their house again as a collection point, with people coming and going for two days, especially as Olga had only just suffered the bereavement of her twin sister Gwyn's death whom most of us knew well. There were also people like Alice Playle who helped with numerous other jobs connected with the appeal.

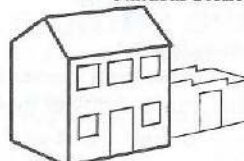
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The Knitted Tennis Suit *by Reigh Sutton*

In 1922 I was born in Old Harlow, then a small Essex village. I was known as 'little Harriet', only daughter of Christine and Andrew, and I was certainly a very little, little girl.

My father in his black pinstripe trousers and black jacket, topped by a rather large bowler hat, and usually carrying a furled black umbrella, travelled daily on the old LNER to London. My mother, who had been born in London, loved living in the village and, looking back, my childhood days seemed full of exciting things like picnics down at 'The Pool' or in the hayfields in the summer, and primrosing and bluebelling in the spring. In the autumn it was blackberrying time which was not quite so carefree because of all the scratches and the bull which was sometimes in our favourite field.

Best of all were the dancing classes in the old Drill Hall in the winter with Mrs Freeman, our teacher, who for some reason called all the girls 'Poppy'. There under her eye we met 'BOYS' who were made to behave themselves with decorum; even those who clumped about with two left feet and sticky hands. No beckoning across the room or lifted eyebrows. It had to be a proper request to dance by a would-be partner, even one with spiky hair and short trousers (if short they could be called!). All had to conform to Mrs Freeman's standard of gentlemanly social behaviour. The terrible panic one felt when the most popular girls got swept away and the awful fear of being a wallflower! Even a sticky-handed swain would be a better fate than that! Somehow though, nobody was left out. Dear Mrs Freeman - she knew our secret fears - and around we went, one-two-three, one-two-three - marvellous! The floor all slippery with French chalk.

There was an innocence about it all, certainly amongst us 'little ones'. We knew that some of the big girls who were

at least thirteen met the college boys after dark by whispered arrangement, but as far as I was concerned that was far too daring. Anyway, my hero was a swimmer and a diver - definitely one for the daylight pursuits. I could not understand why those older girls wanted to talk in the dark. Particularly when we heard that irate fathers and college masters often caught them out and were very cross.

So at the age of ten it was an uncomplicated, joyful existence and I seemed to possess a very unenquiring attitude towards life in general. However, I do remember that my mother, who was always so ready to come swimming or cycling or to give me parties or treats, suddenly became very keen on resting in the afternoon and knitting. I was told she was making a white tennis suit for herself as she had taken up tennis but could not play properly until she had made this special white suit that seemed somehow to go on forever. I accepted this as reasonable; after all, knitted jumpers, knitted bathing costumes, knitted cardigans as well as caps and gloves were all part of life. I did however think that so much white was really rather boring; but, as I said, I was not much of an enquiring nature - obviously!

So it was that one evening, as Mother did not feel very well, for a treat my father took me across the road to stay the night with Mr and Mrs Whybrow, our neighbours. This in itself was rather exciting as they had a grandfather clock, and I was allowed to open its big door and put my head inside with the weights and pendulum. When I went to bed Mrs Whybrow put me in her little room with the flowery curtains and gave me a piece of her special cake.

It was a warm sunny evening and I hoped my mother would soon feel better as I was planning a bluebell expedition and anyway I was getting a bit fed up with

her feeling tired and I didn't like the fact that she was getting rather fat!

So I went to bed on 9th April as little Harriet, only daughter of Christine and Andrew, but was never to be called that again! My sister Hilary was born on 10th April, and that endless tennis suit was finally revealed to me as I slowly unfolded each tiny white garment. Mother wasn't really fat at all - and we did all go bluebelling.

Reproduced, with the writer's permission, from 'More Words in Edgeways'. This book features writings and illustrations by local people and is on sale in the village, price £3.50.

Bucket bountiful



The draw for prizes in the Youth Club's raffle took place at the Club's Christmas Party on 22nd December. Several adults took up the Club's invitation to attend the draw, and they were made welcome with hot punch and mince pies. They also took it in turns to dip into the bucket. Here it is Bob Shea's turn (on the left). Jamie Alcock is holding the bucket.

Club leader Jenny Broadbank announced that the raffle had been a great success, and she expressed the Club's gratitude for the astounding generosity of Painswick residents and organisations who donated some wonderful prizes. She hopes to provide a full list of prize-winners and donors next month.

JANUARY POLICE REPORT

Incidents: 14.11.99 - 10.12.99

House Burglaries: Painswick 2, Slad 1. Business Premises: Nil. Sheds: Cranham 1, Sheepscombe 1. Vehicles: Painswick 5. Other: Painswick 3 (damage 1, theft 2), Pitchcombe 2 (theft), Cranham 1 (theft)..

Items Stolen from vehicles:

Bag and contents, purse and contents, coat, bottle of coins, camera, power tools, chainsaw.

Other Items Stolen:

Cash, silverware, porcelain, pay telephone with cash, cycle, Christmas trees, chainsaw, strimmer, hedge cutter, tents, motor cycle, compressor, wood chipper.

Suspect Incidents:

Thirteen suspect incidents were reported this month and two were of value to the police.

Security Improvement Recommendations:

We are pleased to report that the break-ins to vehicles have reduced dramatically. However, as you can see, property is still being left in vehicles and stolen.

In the case of thefts, thieves have been particularly interested in property left unattended on the roadside.

We hope you enjoyed your millennium celebrations and we can all look forward to a happy prosperous and crime-free New Year.

Police Team & Liaison Group Coordinator

Do you need a jump start?

'Jump Start' is a local project aimed at assisting people in rural areas who have difficulties gaining or taking up employment opportunities because of short-term transport problems. The project is supported by local authorities, colleges and the employment service.

Various forms of help are given such as advice on transport, help in getting vehicles roadworthy, short-term loans of bicycles, and small grants and subsidies. For more information, please call Polly Draper on 07775 855501.

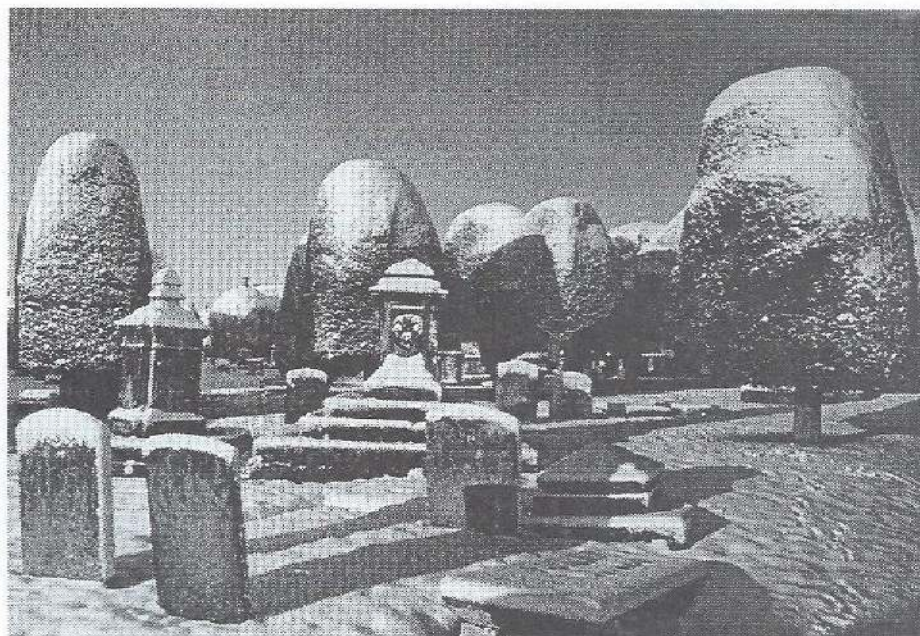
Roll of honour

It is several years since the Beacon published a full list of Painswickians of the Year. As we move into the 2000s we are pleased to give this reminder of some of the Painswick residents who served our village so well towards the end of the previous century.

- 1985 Colleen Haine
- 1986 Hazel Hendry
- 1987 Phyl Crooks & Robert Payne
- 1988 Peggy Perrins & Paddy Wildy
- 1989 Kathleen Wear & June Crane
- 1990 Fred Semark
- 1991 Carol Parker
- 1992 Margie Hamilton
- 1993 Freda Cox
- 1994 Jim Hoyland
- 1995 Pam Musty
- 1996 Christl & Quentin Mathias
- 1997 Patrick Daly
- 1998 Jenny Oakley
- 1999 Margaret & Charles Say

Incidentally, it is a Beacon rule that we do not choose a person a second time, even though residents often put the same names forward for consideration. Also, residents sometimes kindly nominate Beacon committee members. These are also strictly ruled out.

Dull would he be of soul who could pass by...



Surely Painswick can never have looked better than on Sunday 19th December. After the previous night's snowfall, we were treated to a day of glorious sunshine. The sub-zero temperature kept the snow clinging to trees and buildings throughout the day, making for 'picture postcard' scenes. Many took advantage of the superb conditions to indulge in winter sports on Painswick Beacon or simply to get out and admire the lovely views. Of course not everyone would have delighted in these conditions - especially those who attempted to drive on treacherous roads.

What's hot at Painswick Library

Painswick Library Manager Rosalind Davie has made some observations about what Painswickians have been reading over the past few months. She says that biographies are particularly popular in Painswick, and one of the favourites is 'Angela's Ashes', Frank McCourt's biography of a small boy growing up in poverty. Also currently in demand are Extracts from the Diaries of Georgina Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire, and the new biography of Laurie Lee ('Laurie Lee - the Well-loved Stranger') by Valerie Grove. Apart from the obvious local in-

terest in Laurie Lee's life and works, and the mention of several well-known characters and places, this book has attracted interest because of its frank and not wholly favourable appraisal of the Slad writer's career and lifestyle.

Still among the children's favourites is J K Rowling's Harry Potter series.

Voluntary work in the Plantation

A group of British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) will be at Painswick Plantation on Wednesday 26th January, 10am to 4pm, doing copice work. Painswick residents will be most welcome to join the working party. Please meet in the middle road in the Plantation at 10am.



An interestingly worded notice poking out of the snow on Painswick Beacon. We leave it to readers to devise their own witty caption!

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Children's millennium party

The millennium party for children who live in the Painswick parish takes place tomorrow, Sunday 9th January, at Painswick Town Hall from 12.30 to 2pm. It promises to be a great event, with lots of food and entertainment. All children are welcome, but places must be booked in advance by phoning Karen Goddard on 812240. (The deadline was 5th January but Karen will try to squeeze in any children who haven't previously seen the notices around the village). Pre-school children should be accompanied by an adult.

Any assistance that villagers can give Karen in running the event would be most welcome.

As others see us...

The 15th December edition of Stroud News and Journal included a review of the video Painswick 2000.

The reviewer, Sam Bond, praised the balanced picture given of modern Painswick, the wealth of interesting information provided about the village and its past, and the comprehensive coverage given on Painswick's buildings and notable residents, but concluded that "it is difficult to escape the feeling that this is a promotional video for the Queen of the Cotswolds rather than history caught on camera", and that "only local historians and the Painswickians themselves will be crying out for more after a full hour and a half of the tape."

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Christian Unity Week

17th to 23rd January is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and various ecumenical services and events will be held in the area, arranged by Churches Together Around Painswick (CTAP). People from all denominations, and none, are welcome to attend any of the following events:

Monday 17th, 12.15 - 1.15, Austerity Lunch in Christ Church Hall. Hostesses on behalf of CTAP: Kate Davie and Jennifer Watts.

Tuesday 18th, 7pm. Short service of worship in St Mary's Church followed by CTAP committee meeting.

Wednesday 19th, 10.15am. Ecumenical Prayers at Church of Our Lady and St Therese.

Thursday 20th, 6pm. Evening Prayer, Prinknash Abbey

Friday 21st, 7.30pm. Jubilee 2000 meeting at Friends Meeting House: 'Reflections on Poverty'.

Sunday 23rd, 4pm. Unity Evening Service at Christ Church, Gloucester Street, preacher Revd David Calvert.

One of the aims of the committee meeting on 18th January will be to elect a new Chairman of Churches Together. At the AGM on 17th November Jennifer Watts was elected Secretary, taking over from Jane Robinson, and Betty Barney was elected Treasurer, but there were no nominations for Chairman.

All churches in Gloucestershire were recently sent a £10 note from Churches Together Around Gloucestershire. They were asked to "make it grow", in order to raise funds for Pentecost 2000 - a huge Christian celebration of the new millennium which will take place at Cheltenham Racecourse on 10th June. Revd Rowena Francis, the Minister of Christ Church Painswick, is one of the organisers of this event.

Painswick 100 years ago

Painswick parishioners were gratified with the manner in which the surveyor to Stroud DC had effected great improvements both in kerbing and steam-rolling of the roads in the town. There roads were now in a very satisfactory condition.

Mr F A Hyett was elected Chairman of the Parish Council in place of Mr W H Herbert who resigned. Mr Hyett had been Chairman before leaving Painswick to go abroad.

Needy recipients benefited from the Barnard, Gyde and Olney's bread and coal charities. Applications were received and considered by the joint trustees of the Parish Council and the vicar and churchwardens. The beneficiaries received their tickets for bread on the 10th and distribution of coal commenced on the 11th.

There was a narrow escape from a fire at Painswick House, the residence of Mr F A Hyett, on the 11th. Miss Carpenter, who took part in Miss Hyett's concert, was staying at Painswick House. Whilst in her room she observed signs of burning and promptly aroused other inmates, and it was found that other rooms were full of smoke. At length it was discovered that a servant had placed hot coals in a wooden scuttle which had ignited.

On the 24th a special address was given in the Mission Room by Rev W H Seddon at the initial meeting of the Mothers' Union, which had recently been formed.

On the 17th, Mr Haines of 'Shepscombe' received a letter from the War Office informing him that his son Martin, serving with the Ambulance Corps in South Africa, had died of dysentery. The next day's post brought a letter from his

son (written some months before) saying that he was well. Mr Haines had another son at the front.

Sergeant Francis Arthur Swayne married by special licence Miss Dora May Steele, third daughter of Mr and Mrs Steele of the White Horse Inn, Vicarage Street. The couple took this course before Sergeant Swayne left for active service with the militia.

Pte William Hanks of the 1st Gloucesters, wounded at the battle of Reitfontein, arrived at Painswick from Netley Hospital on Friday 26th. Although badly wounded he stated that if the occasion should arise he would again don his armour to fight for his country.

John Bailey

FOOTNOTE: It is interesting to note that John's reports for December and January made no mention of turn-of-the-century celebrations. This seems to confirm impressions that the 20th century was generally regarded as starting on 1st January 1901, or possibly that less fuss was made about these things in those days!

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Congratulations to Bernard Day OBE

Congratulations to Painswick resident Bernard Day who has been awarded the OBE in the New Year honours list. The honour is for services to the insurance industry.

Bernard has lived in Painswick since 1976, the year he became Chief Executive of Ecclesiastical Insurance. He held this post, and subsequently that of Group Managing Director, for the next twenty years.

As well as playing the leading role in



Bernard Day

master-minding the expansion and success of the company during those years, Bernard has made numerous important contributions to the insurance world generally, being at various times chairman or president of many of the leading professional bodies and national organisations such as the Chartered Insurance Institute and General Insurance Council. He was Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers in 1995/96.

Outside the insurance scene, Bernard has been a key figure in helping to run a large number of voluntary organisations. He has been Chairman of the Council for the Employment of People with Disabilities in Gloucestershire, Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission's Area Manpower Board, Chairman of the Diocese in Europe Board of Finance, a director of the Three Choirs Festival Association, a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisory Committee on the structure of the Church of England, and Chairman of the Gloucester Choral Society. In 1997 he was awarded the Cross of St Augustine for outstanding service to the church.

Bernard is a keen singer and is currently a member of both the Three Choirs Festival Chorus and the Gloucester Choral Society. He and his wife Angela live in Gloucester Street.

There is great pleasure, too, in Cranham, where 80 year old Robert Brown has been awarded the MBE for charitable services to the local community.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications

- Land adj to Mantle, Woodborough Close, Knapp Lane. Outline application for erection of one house and double garage.
- Rudge House, Edge Road. Addition of parapet walls, porch, laundry room and conservatory.
- Dozmary Cottage, Vicarage Street. Retrospective application for installation of staircase.
- Wychwood, The Highlands. Extension and alterations to roof.
- Stroud Road. Outline application for 'Care Village'.
- Gyde House. Conversion and refurbishment of existing house to provide 18 one and two bedroomed apartments.
- Stroud Slad Farm. Change of use of the stables to office use for a temporary period.
- The New House, Friday Street. Insertion of new shop fronts.
- Forty Acres, Wick Street. Erection of sectional boarding cattery.
- Painswick House. Internal alterations, restoration of two laylights in roof, reinstatement of driveway and erection of fencing and gates.

Consent

- Land adj. Wongabeena, The Vatch. Erection of stables.
- Larkshill Farm, Bulls Cross. Outline application for erection of agricultural worker's bungalow.
- Lychgate Room, Parish Church. Alterations to form an office for use by Painswick PPC.
- Red Roofs, Beacon Close. Erection of conservatory to side of house.
- Dovecot Cottage, Stepping Stone Lane. Single storey extension to provide boot room/utility. Recladding of recently built extension in natural stone. Alterations to fenestration. Construction of new gate pier. Alteration of access onto Stepping Stone Lane.
- The Churn, Hale Lane. Alterations to windows to dining room, bathroom and landing.
- Churn Cottage, Kemps Lane. Erection of single storey extension and insertion of dormer windows.
- Castle Hale. Pruning of various trees.

Permission granted on appeal

- Land adj. Paul Camp, Edge. Outline application for erection of two dwellings.



Notification of appeal

- Shutway Quarry, Sheepscombe. Unauthorised erection of a new building on the site of an earlier building.

FOOTNOTE: The list of planning applications in last month's Beacon included a 'Plan Withdrawn' (Painswick Park: Tree surgery to various trees in the gardens and woodland). We understand the plan was withdrawn because the work was 'permitted development' which did not require planning approval.

Weighed down by bug

On 1st January a villager was heard to complain that his bathroom scales gave a false reading and that they must have been smitten by the millennium bug. An alternative explanation was pointed out.

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Sue Ryder Home

The sum of £327 was raised at the coffee morning held in the Town Hall on Saturday 11th December.

We would like to thank all the helpers and those who supported it in spite of it being a very wet morning, especially Angela Critchely for once again providing delicious mince pies.

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PaDS: the next thousand years

Reader, you find me in a serious, even contemplative mood. In part, this is explained by the millennial nature of what we're going through. It is also, in truth, partly in response to being introduced the other day as "That fellow with the relentless sense of humour!" But it is also the result of a recent dramatic experience, which left me nonplussed and challenged my usually flippant view of the world.

It all started in the first quarter of the last century - 1923 to be exact - when a Miss Lucy Hyett started the Painswick Players with a production of *As you like it* in the grounds of Painswick House. For the next 38 years, this truly formidable lady produced - single-handedly - some 31 plays either at Painswick House or the Institute. The only real break was for the war years. She died in harness early in 1962, just after staging the 1961 Christmas production, *The Holly and the Ivy*, in the Institute, where there is a commemorative plaque. Since it was felt that no single person could ever replace her, the group re-formed as the Country Players and began a different but equally successful tradition which, with a change of name

to PaDS in the 1980s, continues to this day. At some point along this trail, a legend or myth grew up that the spirit of Lucy Hyett lives on in the Institute and that she appears in the form of a butterfly before productions of which she approves.

I treated it all with total scepticism until the evening before we opened with *Absurd Person Singular*. It was about 11.30pm and we had just finished the final technical rehearsal. Technical rehearsals tend to be nerve-wracking affairs whose only point is to prove conclusively all the things that possibly can go wrong. The mood was, therefore, subdued as I stood on stage and went through a final de-briefing with the cast and the technical crew. Quite suddenly, a red admiral butterfly appeared and fluttered around the stage, alighting on various parts of the set as if to check that everything was in order. It continued to circle for a few minutes and then settled on my head! The hairs on the back of my neck stood on end...

I'm not sure what all this means. Did Lucy bring *Absurd Person Singular* luck? Certainly it seems to have been a success.

However, for me as we enter a new century, it has prompted a deeper response: the fundamental importance of continuity and not losing those links with the past. Perhaps we could start by re-naming the Hall in the Painswick Centre, 'The Lucy Hyett Memorial Theatre'. Perhaps PaDS should become the Lucy Hyett Players. What do you think?

Back to the future. As trailed last month, Gill Cox will be directing the classic JB Priestley mystery *An Inspector Calls* for the PaDS May production. Auditions are set for Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th January at 8.00pm in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre. Rehearsals start on 29th February. We really are keen to attract new members: if you are at all tempted, why not throw caution to winds and come along? Give Gill a call (on 814367) and she'll let you have a copy of the play to mull over. Let's keep the spirit of Lucy Hyett alive in the Third Millennium.

Happy New Century!

Jack Burgess,
Painswick Dramatic Society
<http://freespace.virgin.net/louis.n>

Absurd Person Singular - a review

They have done it again! PADS put on a very polished performance of Alan Ayckbourn's comedy *Absurd Person Singular*. I went on the Thursday night. It was most entertaining, very funny and I am very impressed with the increasingly high standard of the Company. It was a good idea to extend to four performances when such hard work was put in by all, and no first night glitches. Congratulations to Director Jack Burgess for a truly inspiring production and our grateful thanks to his very efficient production coordinator, Jackie Herbert.

This brilliant, sharp comedy is about the singularly absurd personal stresses that can occur at Christmas. It takes place in each of three couples' kitchens, at three consecutive years' Christmas Eve drinks parties. Opening the play, the up-and-coming Hopcrofts are nervously entertaining the Brewster-Wrights, the superior bank manager and his snobbish wife, and the Jacksons, a philandering architect and his neurotic wife. Jane Hopcroft has polished the gadget-filled kitchen but forgotten to buy enough drinks and a very funny scene ensues. The second act takes

us to the now failing architect's tasteful, yet neglected, kitchen when neurosis has taken over Eva Jackson, who spends the whole scene attempting to commit suicide. The others seem quite oblivious to her distress (her head in the oven is thought to be an attempt to clean it!) and they sort out domestic matters that she has failed to attend to, providing highly amusing episodes. As always with Ayckbourn we laugh until we ache at bitter truths about relationships, but there is a darker thread running through the very humorous situations. In the third act the Brewster-Wrights are enjoying less opulent circumstances with Marion now an alcoholic. The Hopcrofts, whose fortunes have superseded the others, arrive and take control.

All parts are demanding as each character undergoes a dramatic change. Andrew Leach played Sidney Hopcroft very convincingly, as a man full of cliché and the pompous manner of one trying to

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



A scene from *Absurd Person Singular*. Left to right are: Maggie Drake, Grant Minnes, Kevin Parker, Andrew Leach, Lesley Wolowiec and Lynne Gibson

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CLEAN WINDOWS AND GUTTERS...

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PaDS review, continued

impress. He changes from old-fashioned and rather grovelling to a strident, confident controller. His ever-polishing wife Jane was played brilliantly by Lesley Wolowiec, who depicted perfectly the ill-at-ease hostess who becomes a confident acolyte to her commanding husband. Kevin Parker portrayed the gradual deterioration of the bank manager's lifestyle excellently. The role of his wife Marion was played beautifully by Maggie Drake, who had to change from a patronising, well groomed woman to an alcoholic mess, drifting unsteadily around in her negligee. Grant Minnes played the architect in a very accomplished manner and in particular his soliloquy, explaining away his philandering to his wife Eva, was superb. Lynne Gibson, who took the part of Eva with great sensitivity and vigour, had to rely on acting alone in the second act as she responded silently with amazing facial expression to her appalling husband. So convincing were her attempts at scribbling suicide notes and taking her life by hanging from the light flex, leaping from the window and swallowing the pills! Well done, Pauline Foreman and Pat Daly, the off stage audibly, jolly partygoers who we did not actually meet.

The technical effects by Jacek Wolowiec were excellent. The rainstorm throughout the first act was very authentic, and the barking dog (thanks Major Herbert) had us all convinced that there really was a ferocious beast guarding the kitchen door. The 'Kitchens R Us' team (Tony Gibson and Russ Herbert), designed and built a terrific set, which involved three very solid, super kitchens - each one separately built - and no wobbling when doors were vigorously slammed! Maggie Drake again artistically painted the set with a band of other members of PaDS.

The costumes and make-up by Lynne Gibson, which took us back to the 80s, were great. Sneaking behind the scenes I noticed the endless props that were required for this production, managed most efficiently by Jean Burgess. Well-presented programmes by Kevin Parker and publicity by Elaine Howell added considerably to the production. If you missed this play you really missed a treat.

Naomi Dunn

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Music appreciation into the millennium

Great Opera Singers of Yesteryear

It is now slightly more than a hundred years that the gramophone record in its disc form has been around. The interest in old records increases and it is good that a record company such as Nimbus has found it commercially viable to produce their Prima Voce series of compact discs. We were delighted at our meeting to hear Norman White from Nimbus talk with such knowledgeable enthusiasm about the way in which these recordings are now made so easily available to us all. He is himself a trained opera singer who sang with Scottish Opera and met many of the modern opera stars. His understanding of the singer's art makes sure that the company's transcriptions of old records show them at their best. We were thrilled to hear records made by Luisa Tetrazzini, Enrico Caruso and Jussi Bjorling. Norman's description of the mechanics of the recording techniques and what went on in the studios was fascinating. Equally fascinating was his description of the method that Nimbus now use to make their transcriptions and

of the acoustic principles involved. He concluded with a magical record of the French folk song 'Ma Lisette' sung with astonishing assurance by Emma Calvé.

Alex Nichols

Christmas Social

On our Christmas Special Social Night on 9th December we had a full house with several new faces. Refreshed with wine expertly served by Voter-of-Thanks-turned-Wine-Waiter-Emeritus Bob Shea, we got our teeth into one of Leslie Brotherton's more sophisticated musical quizzes, with Alex Nichols - who else? - and Calvin Clark capturing first prize. Runners-up were Douglas and Anne Smith, Kathleen Pritchard and Dulcie Brotherton, Helen Dunlop and Dick Purdy and Pat and Mair Daly. A card with warm best wishes to Walter Goodman was signed by all his friends.

Don't forget: 6th January - Sibelius; 20th January - Desert Island Discs; and 3rd February - BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Cheltenham Town Hall.

Ralph Kenber

Christmas fun at the WI

Members entering the Town Hall for their Christmas meeting were welcomed by the sight of an attractively decorated tree. Tea tables were already laid in readiness and conversation was building up. Raffle tickets were bought (one always hopes to be lucky, this time), Christmas cards were exchanged, and the business part of the meeting was conducted in a few minutes by Vice President Audrey Watts. President Barbara Thorley, having been in hospital, was unable to be with us, so everyone signed a Good Wishes card for her.

Before tea was served a dozen or so members, under the direction of Pauline Foreman, read a short play, or, as the book described it, a crazy, mixed-up pantomime. It was called 'Little Red Whittington', and crazy was an apt description. However, the audience were kind enough to give us a good round of applause at the end.

Everyone settled down to a delicious

tea and lots of chat. Thanks were expressed to Anne Leoni and her helpers who had organised the meal and to Barbara Harley and Margaret Richards for producing the floral decorations for the tables.

At our meeting on 20th January the speaker will be Mr Michael Sargeant; his subject, 'James Woods, the Gloucestershire Millionaire'. Members are asked to bring along any old and interesting currency they may have, for display only.

Dorothy Binns

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Looking back with the Senior Circle

*It's good to look and remember
The old folks one would meet,
The old men with their clay pipes
On the corner of the street...*

Violet Hale

After skirmishes with the 21st century culturisation in the market place and third millennium EU politics the Senior Circle took up their 'scallop shell of quiet' and withdrew to their own town and century and to reflect. Who better, then, to lead them than David Archard who has spent much of his life documenting the town's traffic of people, buildings and ceremonies, great and small?

Every record meticulously transferred to slide that all might see, and, with David's commentary underlining the humour or the tragedy the afternoon proved to be unforgettable.

David began with a photograph of dancing round the maypole. It was 1897 and Painswick was celebrating the old queen's jubilee. But the 20th century was not to be long denied. In 1903 arrived the first GWR bus. There it was, parked outside the Falcon with driver, conductor and onlookers looking properly proud, while the bevelled kerb-stones added their own charm.

A kaleidoscope of subjects followed, each accompanied with David's telling comments. Businesses, characters and ceremonies were paraded before us; the opening of the Institute, the old Cross Hands pub (1909), which might have come from the palette of Constable, Barnsley's bath house, Horne's and Goddard's garages, Musgrove's cycle shop, mains drainage in New Street (1907), Phyllis Leach making hay at Broadham (1930s), and looking at herself 60 plus years later, the Friday Street bomb damage, Queen Mary at the Court House girls' school, Ron Watts, the town crier, the Mop Tree, felled in 1980 (the employment exchange of previous times), the rugby club, snowfalls and VE Day, Peggy Perrins as a toddler, gazing up adoringly at Grandfather Ireland and the milk float against a sign which advised 'Beware of

children'. The tragedy of the century was contained in two photographs: the first of the contingent of volunteers to leave for the front in 1914. That heart-rending moment, etched deeply into the mind, as one volunteer held his pet terrier in his arms. (This was photo no.13 on David's list) Seven years later on 21st February the War Memorial was dedicated and the tenor bell tolled forty nine times. The pain lives on.

David concluded by wondering what the next century would bring. As he said, "It could be all sunshine and blue skies, but for the moment That was the Century, that was."

*...The old ladies with their bonnets,
Trimmed with flowers bright and gay,
The old man calling in the street,
Any rags and bones today?
In wintertime an old man,
Always cheerful and bright
Came round to light the gas lamps
And to put them out at night.
Old Gipsy Riley from Cranham woods
Would wander through the streets:
It's good to look back and remember
The old folks one would meet.*

ibid

The Circle's year closed with the Christmas party. Leslie Brotherton provided a lively parlour game of musical consequences to the enjoyment of all while a giant cracker from an anonymous benefactor, containing a gift for everyone, presided over the afternoon until it was pulled after tea.

There wasn't an accompanying and proportional bang, fortunately perhaps, but this, followed by Naomi playing the piano for the community carols, brought this champagne event to an end.

The Annual General Meeting

Held on 12th November, appreciation was expressed to speakers, committee members and all who had kept the circle running smoothly. Joyce Taylor (Hon Sec), Ronnie Hull (Hon Treas) and Anne Hooper (Committee) have been stalwarts over many many years but felt it was time to leave these matters to others. It was with great reluctance that their wishes were met. Welcomed in their places were Daphne Hudson (Hon Sec), Diane Marshall (Hon Treas) and Beryl Gyde (Committee). Outings Organiser Lena Hope also felt it was time for her to step down. Her research into our 'awaydays' was thoroughly professional and much appreciated. John McCabe has volunteered to take over this important facet of the Circle's work.

Would a new name more accurately reflect the Circle's functions? Those present were asked to suggest alternatives. The question is often asked about membership. Anyone over 50 living in Painswick may attend any or all meetings. There is no subscription, merely the payment of 50p to help defray costs of the afternoon, tea, biscuits and hall hire.

Mrs Hilda Williams - a tribute

Hilda Williams died peacefully at her home in central Wales early December. She had suffered from poor health for a time but seemed to have fully recovered when she attended, with Peter her husband, the Ashwell House 25th anniversary celebrations. She had spoken to the Circle on Unknown Wales in 1998 and was to have returned in 2000 to speak about the Legends and Mysteries of Wales.

The Circle was invited to Llangunor, their beautiful home not far from Hay-on-Wye, for afternoon tea. This was a never-to-be-forgotten outing by all who made that journey for the warmth of the reception, the sumptuous tea and the splendour of Wales above the Wye.

Her interests were many and varied: music, the British Red Cross and politics. She will be sorely missed by many but not more so than her friends in Painswick. All our sympathies go to the Peter and family at this low time.

St Mary's Flower Guild

St Mary's Flower Guild would like to thank all those people who helped make our flower demonstrations and lunch such a success. We made £449 towards funds for our flower festival at Ascension Time 2000 - please put that date in your diary, and we would be delighted if anyone would like to come and help us; you do not need to be an expert flower arranger, just to enjoy flowers. Please contact me, Susan Shearer, on 813815.

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VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 5 February 2000

January

9th	Children's Millennium Party (bookings 812240)	Town Hall	12.30 - 2pm
11th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	10 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
12th	Horticultural Society: Gardening for Wildlife - Jane Roberts	Town Hall	2.30pm
	Mothers and Toddlers Group recommences	Playgroup	2.30 - 4pm
14th	WI Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
	Senior Circle: Curtain Up! - Veda Warwick	Town Hall	2.30pm
16th	Line Dancing beginners' classes (more details 01453-752480)	Painswick Centre	7.30 - 8.30pm
17th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Churches Together Around Painswick	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
	Soft Furnishing classes recommence	Church Rooms	1.45 - 3.45pm
	Wives Fellowship: Opening Service at the Catholic Church	Friday Street	8pm
18th	Local History Society: 'Unravelling the Landscape' - Mark Bowden	Croft School	7.30pm
	Short Service for Christian Unity Week, followed by Churches Together Around Painswick Committee Meeting	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
	PaDS Auditions for 'An Inspector Calls'	Painswick Centre Green Room	8pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
19th	Painswick Probus Meeting: Crossing the Sahara - Celia Hargrave	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Spanish classes recommence	Library	10am - noon
	Ecumenical Prayers for Christian Unity Week at the Church of Our Lady and St Therese	Friday Street	10.15am
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
20th	China Restoration classes recommence	Church Rooms	10am - noon
	WI: 'James Woods, the Gloucestershire Millionaire' - Michael Sargeant	Town Hall	2.30pm
	Evening Prayer for Christian Unity Week	Prinknash Abbey	6pm
	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Desert Island Discs	Town Hall	7.30pm
	PaDS Auditions for 'An Inspector Calls'	Painswick Centre Green Room	8pm
21st	Jubilee 2000 Meeting 'Reflections on Poverty'	Friends Meeting House	7.30pm
23rd	COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
	United Service for Christian Unity Week	Christ Church	4pm
24th	Austerity Lunch: Host - Mr Fred Semark	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm



25th	Public Meeting on car parking including Stamages Lane car park charges	Town Hall	7pm
26th	BTCV Volunteers working in Plantation. Meet at middle road.	Plantation	10am - 4pm
27th	DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox, New Street		
28th	Senior Circle: Rails from Russia to China - Trevor Radway	Town Hall	2.30pm
31st	Austerity Lunch: Hostess Mrs Jane Titshall	Christ Church Hall	12.15-1.15pm
February			
1st	PCMS: Humanitarian Work in the Balkans - Hazel Hendry	Church Rooms	10.30am
2nd	Classes Commence: Conversational French (Advanced) - Wednesdays Conversational Italian (Intermediate) (Some places still available for both classes)	Library Rooms " "	9.30 - 11am 11.30am - 1pm
	Painswick Probus Meeting: Gloucestershire A - Z - Norman Adnitt	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Wives' Fellowship: Memories for the Millennium	Christ Church Hall	8pm
3rd	Painswick Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
	Music Appreciation Group visit: BBC National Orchestra of Wales	Cheltenham Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat 5th	FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE PAINSWICK BEACON PUBLISHED		
Sat 19th	Painswick Bird Club Field Visit to Great Witcombe Reservoir		10am

FORTHCOMING PAINSWICK RUGBY FIXTURES

	<u>1st XV</u>	<u>United</u>	<u>Adders</u>
Jan 8th	Liskeard-Looe (h) [Cup] 2pm		
Jan 15th	Westbury (a) [league]	Westbury (h)	
Jan 22nd	Old Centralians (h)		Ledbury (h)
Jan 29th	Southmead (h) [league]	Southmead (a)	
Feb 5th	Brockworth (h)	Brockworth (a)	
Feb 12th	Ashley Down (a) [league]	Ashley Down (h)	Longleven§ (h)
Feb 19th	Gordon League (h)	Gordon League (a)	
Feb 26th	Chosen Hill (h) [league]	Chosen Hill (a)	Chosen Hill (h)

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PROPERTY REPORT

Traditionally January is a time for quietly taking stock and preparing for the New Year, and the Millennium celebrations will, no doubt, create a longer lull over the New Year holiday but the high levels of valuations indicate substantial numbers of properties coming onto the market in the Spring. Nervousness over premium prices and some interest rate sensitivity has caused a slight levelling of the market during December of 1999 but nothing significant in what has been a cracking year.

Many more houses exchanged contracts in December - some also managed to complete simultaneously in order to be in for Christmas. Brierfield House on the Stroud Road was one of those and also Stonecroft in Hambutts Mead. Tocknells Cottage, Cheltenham Road; Windrush, Stroud Road; Michaelmas Cottage in Vicarage Street, Painswick, and Marys Orchard in Sheepscombe have all recently sold with completion dates in January and February. The first exchange of this year is about to take place - Edge View in Gloucester Road with a completion scheduled for the end of the month.

Recent instructions include The Ridings in Court Orchard - a 4 bedroomed detached modern house which has recently undergone considerable improvement, and in Slad we are pleased to offer Holly House - a delightful period detached house of great character which is available to view but in order to fit in with the vendor's personal requirements will not be available to complete until June 2000.

If you are considering selling this year NOW is the time to start planning - please call us for a free market appraisal.



Painswick Bird Club

On 5th December seventeen members visited the W&WT at Slimbridge. On arrival we were met by Dave Paynter, the Reserve's Senior Warden, who for an hour introduced the work of the Reserve and answered our many questions, some submitted in advance, others from the floor.

We heard some fascinating facts regarding the migration of Berwick swans. The Slimbridge birds come mainly from the Pechora River area, part of the Russian maritime tundra. There the young birds are fed a protein-rich diet of mosquito larvae - a warning to travellers! These 'Russian' birds make their migration in relatively short stages but those from Greenland have to clock up one stage of a thousand miles. Over water, they may well fly at wave top height but a Harrier jet has reported overtaking a

swan at 25,000 feet!

After further questions on wading birds we availed ourselves of the impressive new facilities including the cafe and observation tower. In spite of the cold wind there was sunshine for nearly all the day - ideal for observing the huge numbers of resident and overwintering birds. Even so, a visit to the tropical bird house was a welcome break.

Some of the group stayed on until the late afternoon for the feeding of the birds visiting the water in front of the Peng Observatory. There were impressive flights of swans, geese and ducks dropping down for an easy meal. As we left large flocks of starlings wheeled across the reddening evening sky.

Malcolm Cooper



Painswick Local History Society

The first meeting of the Painswick Local History Society in the 21st century will take place on Tuesday 18th January when Mr Mark Bowden, a member of the Society, will give a talk with the intriguing title 'Unravelling the Landscape'. Mr Bowden is Senior Archeological Investigator with English Heritage and he will show how past activity in the landscape can be studied without recourse to excavation. The meeting will start at 7.30pm in the Croft School.

Gwen Welch, 812540

Wives' Fellowship

The spring session of Painswick Wives Fellowship starts with a service at the Catholic Church on Monday 17th January, 8pm.

Thereafter the group meets fortnightly on Wednesdays at Christ Church Hall, 8pm, starting on 2nd February with 'Memories for the Millennium'.

Visiting speakers this session include John Mercer talking about his book 'Changing Scenes', Angela Newing on the design of the Rococo Garden maze, and Liz White of 'Cloud Nine'.

New members will be most welcome.

Sheepscombe Bridge Club

Sheepscombe Bridge Club resumes on Thursday 13th January, meeting for duplicate bridge sessions fortnightly in the village hall. The Club would be delighted to welcome new members, including those who are new to duplicate. If you would like to come but do not have a regular partner, please contact Joy or Barry Edwards on 01452-812588.

Please be there for 7.15 so that bridge starts no later than 7.30pm.

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MP's surgeries

Stroud MP David Drew will be holding the following advice surgeries:

Fri 7 January	Stroud	6.30pm
Sat 15 January	Dursley	10am
Fri 21 January	Stroud	5.30pm
Fri 4 February	Stroud	6pm
Fri 11 February	Cam	6pm
Sat 19 February	Stroud	10am
Fri 25 February	Stroud	6.30pm
Fri 3 March	Cam	6pm
Fri 17 March	Stroud	6.30pm
Sat 25 March	Dursley	10am
Fri 31 March	Stroud	6pm
Sat 8 April	Stroud	10am
Fri 14 April	Cam	6pm
Fri 28 April	Stroud	6.30pm

Appointments may be made by telephoning Sarah Madley on 01453-764355. Sessions are for ten minutes and people are asked to provide beforehand a summary of the issue that they wish to discuss.

Happy New Year

On behalf of the members of Painswick Parish Council, I would like to wish all parishioners a Very Happy New Year.

Terry Parker, Chairman

By the way... (see page 12)

Answers: (1) Brewers - Stonehouse, (2) Carpenters - Miserden, (3) Farm-Drillmans - Cirencester, (4) Farm-ers - Apperley, (5) Keepers - Quenington, (6) Mariners - Berkeley, (7) Whitesmiths - Gloucester.

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The Personal Column

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of HILDA WILLIAMS who died on 27th November (see Senior Circle tribute).

Welcome

We welcome MR and MRS WRIGHT and their two daughters to 18 Gloucester Road;

also the RIGBY family to the Lamp House;

and SUE POYNTER and RICHARD LOVELL to Bell House.

Welcome also to JIM and JACKIE GRAY and their children Chris (12), Dominic (8) and Emily (5). They have moved to the Croft from Cheshire.

Farewell

We are sorry to say goodbye to SARAH WETHERED who has moved to Badgeworth Court from Hyett Orchard;

also NORMAN and DOROTHY ASH who are moving to Curry Rivel, Somerset;

also MARILYN and BRENDAN GIBBS who have moved to Cashes Green;

and JOHN GODDARD who has moved to Badgeworth Court from Queens Mead.

Change of House

PAUL and HELEN STAMP and daughters Cornelia and Demelza have moved to Rosemary Cottage, St Mary's Street.

Babies

Congratulations to CATHERINE and RICHARD JARRETT on the birth of their son, Christopher Ian, on 11th December, a first grandchild for Heather and Ray Appleby;

also to SUE and STEPHEN YOLLAND on the birth of a son, Samuel, on 13th December, a brother for Ben and George and a seventh grandchild for Andy and Arthur Lock.

Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to BETTY BEALE, FLORA SEMARK, BRONWYN JENNINGS and PETER HUDSON.

Thank you

Barbara Thorley thanks the kind people in Painswick who have sent cards, offered help in many ways, and visited her during this period of inactivity. It was all much appreciated.

I would like to thank all my friends who have enquired about me, sent cards and have come to visit while I have been in hospital. I do seem to be making progress now. May I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Peggy Dodd

Congratulations

Congratulations to JANE SCHADENBERG GRIFFITHS, a mother of six children, who was invested with Doctor of Letters, in Dutch and English, at Nijmegen University, Holland, in December. Jane is the eldest daughter of Leslie Griffiths who lives at Hyett Orchard.

Did you see?

Jane Treays' documentary 'One Man, Six Wives and Twenty-nine children', in the Real Lives series on ITV, made fascinating viewing on 9th December

THE PAINSWICK BEACON

Next Issue

Publication Date
SATURDAY 5th FEBRUARY

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

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

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

Diary items to Edwina Buttrey,
14 The Croft, by
THURSDAY 27th JANUARY

* 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).

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