

The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 23 No. 3

June 2000

Centenarian celebrations

Brian de Courcy Ireland no longer lives in Painswick, having moved last year to Badgeworth Court nursing home with his wife Ruth, but the couple will always be regarded as honorary Painswickians by local residents, and there was great pleasure in the village when Brian celebrated his one hundredth birthday on 5th May.

In our picture Brian is shown holding a birthday card signed by friends in Painswick. The significance of the Christian Aid card is that Brian requested that donations be given to Christian Aid in lieu of presents. People were asked to make a donation of 100p when signing the card and a sum of around £150 was raised for the charity.

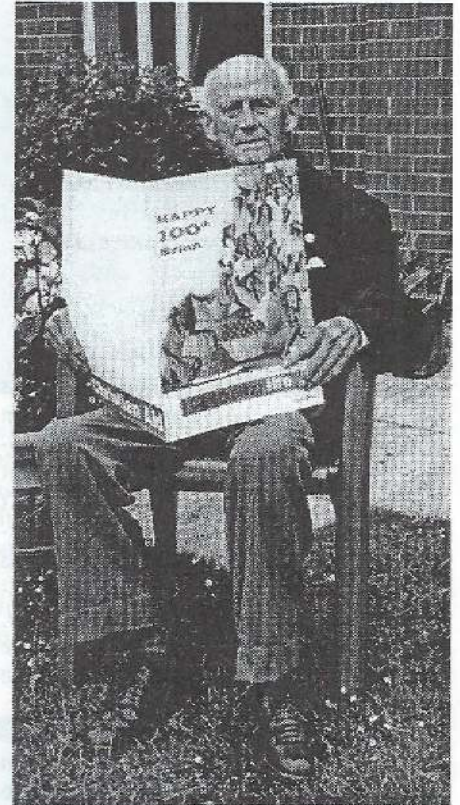
The card was one of a large number of communications that Brian received. Those from further afield included a certificate signed by councillors from Ajax in Ontario where a street is named after him, as a former captain of the Ajax; an album of old photos and memorabilia from the Flinders Naval Depot in Australia,

where Brian served after the First World War; and a birthday card from Her Majesty the Queen.

Brian has had a remarkable life and members of the Painswick Senior Circle have been privileged to hear some details of his naval career in recent talks that he has given to the group. He is one of very few people alive today who experienced active service in the First World War.

Brian celebrated his birthday with a tea party on the day, followed by a family lunch party on the Saturday. Among those present were his three children, including Alison who lives in Painswick, and most of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His grandson came over from America for the celebrations.

Brian is still very active and enjoys gardening and walking. Villagers will recall that he opened last year's Victorian Market, proudly sporting a notice declaring 'I AM A VICTORIAN'. All will hope that he and Ruth are able to put in an appearance at this year's event.



YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION NEEDS YOU!

Fears have often been expressed in the past that Painswick Fire Station might be closed as a result of cuts in the County Council's fire service budget. It seems ironic, therefore, that the latest threat to the future of the station lies in the difficulty of attracting local people to be part-time retained firefighters.

Sub-Officer Mike Powis, who is in charge of the Painswick force, says the station needs a pool of twelve firefighters to ensure that an adequate team can be called upon to deal with any incident, but with people leaving they will be down to six in a week or so's time. The minimum crew size for independently attending to an incident is four. If only three people are on hand, the Painswick appliance has to be supported from another station. This situation obviously calls into question the future viability of the local station, and this is a matter of great concern to Painswick residents because longer time scales could be involved in attending to an incident from further afield.

Mike Powis believes that some people may be under the mistaken impression that retained firefighters have to be available at all times. The times are in fact quite

flexible. He also stresses the fact that people from all walks of life and a wide age range are welcome, as is shown by the varied make-up of the Painswick team.

The following appeal for local firefighters has been received from the County Council's Fire and Rescue Service:

"Painswick Fire Station is currently looking for individuals to join them as Retained Firefighters.

Retained Firefighters are ordinary people from everyday backgrounds, who with good support and training have the potential to do an extraordinary job.

If you are over 18, live or work within five minutes travelling time of Painswick Fire Station and are generally fit - you don't need to be a super hero - we would like to hear from you.

It is our aim that our Firefighting teams should reflect the communities which they serve. Therefore we would be especially pleased to receive applications from women in all walks of life, from mothers and carers to working professionals and from people from a minority ethnic background, as you are currently under represented in these posts.

We can offer you a starting retainer of

£1,755 per annum plus a range of additional fees, to include £11.42 for each weekly drill session. Benefits include a competitive contributory pension scheme, first class training and provision of full uniform.

If you want to join a professional organisation and would like to serve your local community whilst enjoying the camaraderie of working in a team, please call into Painswick Fire Station on a Wednesday evening between 7pm and 9pm for an application form. Alternatively contact the Personnel Team at Service HQ on 01242-512041."

On a different theme, at the Annual Parish Meeting last month firefighter Robert Goddard made a renewed plea to local residents to park their cars in Painswick streets such that an emergency vehicle can always get through. He said that in some places, such as Bisley Street and Kemps Lane, it is hard enough for ordinary cars to get through, let alone a fire appliance which is two feet wider. It's only a matter of time, he said, before someone is killed in Painswick because the emergency vehicles can't get to the incident.

Council Meeting on 17th May

Reported by Alan Bamber

Council posts

Councillors unanimously re-elected Terry Parker and David Hudson as their Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. The composition of the Council's committees and chairmen was also agreed. The chairmen are: Finance and General Purposes - Johnny Johnston; Footpaths - Jennifer Crook; Planning - Keith Hardwidge; Plantation - Ann Daniels; Traffic - David Hudson. Other (non-committee) responsibilities are: Cemetery and Parish Maintenance - Martin Slinger; Town Hall - Keith Hardwidge.

The Council also agreed its representatives on various external bodies such as local trusts and school governorships. On standing down as the Council's representative on the Broadham Field Management Committee Jackie Woof said she hadn't been invited to any meetings, so she assumed none had taken place. It was agreed to check on this when informing the committee of the change of representative. Keith Hardwidge similarly stated that he had not been aware of any meetings of the Painswick Educational Foundation.

It was agreed that future Council meetings should include an agenda item enabling representatives to report back to the Council on any matters of public interest, subject to their respecting any requirements for confidentiality.

Care Village

Terry Parker reported that there had been another batch of letters about the Care Village application. He read out the writers' names and briefly summarised the letters. Once again the majority of letters were against the application. Several letters mentioned the possibility of St Mary's

Home becoming available as a possible site for a nursing home, and in view of this the Council decided to write to the Health Authority seeking a clarification of their future intentions for the property.

Communications Mast

A planning application for a Vodaphone communications mast near Painswick Golf Club generated a lively discussion in view of recent publicity about the possible health risks of such masts. The council decided that until there is clearer evidence one way or the other regarding dangers to health, it is best to treat each application individually, taking into account environmental factors and the number of residents living nearby. Councillors agreed to meet on site to assess the likely impact of the new application.

Gyde House Development

A letter from the District Council drew attention to the planning condition that the Gyde House developer meet the cost of a bus shelter, and asked for the Parish Council's advice on whether it was needed and, if so, where it should be placed. Councillors questioned whether Gloucester Road was a suitable location and wondered if it could be placed elsewhere such as Pullens Road. If not, they would ask whether the developer's obligations to the community could be met in some other way.

Travellers

In a letter to the Council, Amaury Blow (Painswick Manorship) pointed out that travellers were occupying parts of Juniper Hill, Painswick Beacon, Huddinknoll Hill and Rudge Hill, and that as the police had refused to take action he intended to seek a court order to remove the travellers. This could take one to three months. He also intended to make these and other sites inaccessible to vehicles, together with areas used as car parks such as the Catbrain road and the ramblers' car park in the plantation. Such action was regrettable but necessary, he said.

David Hudson responded that the Council should "very strongly resist" the closing of these parking areas, as it would add to the pressures on parking in the village. The Council agreed, and also thought it worthwhile writing to the police making the point that although common land is technically private it has been made over

to the public by statute and should not be treated as normal private property. (This was one of the reasons given by the police for not taking action to remove the travellers) "It's a cop out" was Martin Slinger's observation on police inaction.

Traffic

A letter from Dawn Mallinson of The Patchwork Mouse, New Street, contended that little had been done about traffic speeding through the village and the number of heavy goods lorries, and she criticised the Council for having "failed to make any impact whatsoever" on these problems. Ms Mallinson suggested placing two raised calming zones in New Street as a way of reducing speeds, and also asked for the erection of the promised direction signs to divert heavy lorries away from Painswick.

Terry Parker said he had spoken to the County Traffic Manager John Lindsay and had been told that 80% of the direction signs are in position, including all in Stroud and the A46 approaching A417 from Cheltenham. The exceptions are those actually on the A417 and M5. Mr Lindsay said the missing signs are due to Road Management Services insisting on receiving financial remuneration to replace their existing signs plus a further sum as compensation for the additional traffic on their road. This issue has not yet been resolved.

Councillors were surprised at this stance, and wondered why the County had not held negotiations with Road Management Services at an earlier stage.

Traffic Chairman David Hudson said he intended to table a traffic plan at the next council meeting. It did not currently include traffic calming measures, but he was personally in favour of including them and would discuss this with his committee.

Johnny Johnston thought there was now less heavy traffic coming through the village as a result of the new signs.

Police Station

The Council was told that PC Gary Power was trying to find a suitable place to set up an office in the village when the police house is sold. The surgery and fire station are possibilities. If a suitable place is not found, Painswick will be served entirely from an external police station.

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Care Village latest

The outline application for a 'Care Village' on land north of Cotswold Mead is expected to be considered by Stroud District Council's Planning Committee at their meeting on Tuesday 13th June.

The County Council has now indicated that it is not objecting to the highways scheme put forward, which involves an extension of the 30mph limit along the Stroud Road. The Parish Council has submitted the following observations on this aspect of the application:

"The Parish Council does not have a consensus for objection or support for the highways scheme. There are specific concerns relating to traffic turning right towards Painswick when leaving the nursing home development."

Looking ahead to the Victorian Market

8th July 2000

Victoriana comes to Painswick once again for the seventh fantastic year.

Be sure to keep this date clear in your diary so that you can enjoy this magnificent street market.

In addition to the market stalls, shire horses, steam engine and organ, street entertainer, pig roast, goat carts, band and grand raffle, we have:

cow milking, Punch and Judy Show, fortune telling, wood carvings done with a chain saw!, dancing by the Croft School and a special fancy dress competition with a Victorian theme for the children. Details to follow.

There will be a Grand Opening by Queen Victoria and Mr John Brown.

Helpers for the day are urgently needed. If anyone is able to give a little time please contact Beverley Gorton on 812716.

FOOTNOTE: Victoria Street, St Mary's Street, Friday Street, Bisley Street and Tibbiwell will once again be closed between 8am and 6pm on the day of the market. The streets will be reopened as soon as clearing up has been completed. Legally, access to frontages will be maintained, but it would be appreciated if residents would arrange to remove their vehicles from the centre early on Saturday morning. Free parking will be available on the recreation field, subject to ground conditions, with the gate opened at 7.30am and closed at 7pm. The organisers apologise for any inconvenience. Passage of emergency vehicles will not be affected.

It's all yours...



A pleasant ceremony took place at the recreation field pavilion last month when the Rugby Club officially handed over the keys of the pavilion to the Parish Council, marking the termination of the Rugby Club's lease on the building. Our photo shows the retiring president of the Club, Jim Hoyland, handing the keys to Parish Council Chairman Terry Parker. A number of villagers whose families have had close links with the Club over the years were invited to join in the picture. From the left: Andrew Morgan (Chairman of Painswick RFC and Sports Club), Keith Hardwidge (Parish Council), Jim Hoyland, Terry Parker, Doreen Birt, Jack Smith, Gladys Harding and Joyce Tranter.

Parking charges here to stay

Stroud District Council has confirmed that the parking charges at Stamages Lane car park are to remain in place.

The charges were introduced in April 1999 and the situation was reviewed after several months' operation. Use of the car park diminished significantly after the charges were introduced, with many motorists parking in nearby streets instead. This gave rise to concerns about traffic hazards and led to the possibility that the County Council might come down against the charges on highway safety grounds. However, the County's Traffic Manager has indicated a preference for imposing additional parking restrictions outside the car park rather than rescinding the charging system.

A public meeting held in January confirmed that opinions were divided on the

matter. Broadly, some residents maintain that it does not make sense to have the car park half-empty when the village streets are cluttered with parked cars, and traffic flow is so difficult, whilst others argue that the charging has freed up space in the car park for the visitors on whom trade so much depends. Painswick Parish Council has opposed the charges, but Painswick's County Councillor Terry Parker recently wrote to the Traffic Manager supporting their continuation.

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications

- Painswick View, Back Edge Lane, Edge. Erection of conservatory.
- Falkland House, Gloucester Street. Part-demolition of sun room and alterations to provide kitchen/breakfast room and new swimming pool.
- Spoonbed Farm, Gloucester Road. Refurbishment of dwelling and internal alterations.
- Stroud Road. Outline application for Care Village. Additional plans re access details.
- Dozmary Cottage, Vicarage Street. Removal of existing low level boundary wall and erection of new drystone wall and landscaping to side yard areas.
- Chestnut Cottage, The Park. Erection of conservatory.
- Car Park at Painswick Golf Club, Golf Course Road. Erection of mobile phone mast - 18m high slimline support structure with three antennae 2m in height attached and associated equipment cabin at ground level.
- St Mary's Cottage, Vicarage Street. Erection of conservatory (existing to be replaced).
- 28 Upper Washwell. Erection of 2-storey side extension.

- Catbrain Quarry. Use of land and buildings for various storage of reclaimed historic building materials.
- Tocknells Cottage, Cheltenham Road. Erection of 2-storey extension.
- Weavers Cottage, Longridge. Erection of 2-storey extension.
- St Johns, Orchard Mead. Extension and alterations plus new conservatory.
- Hyett Orchard, Hyett Close. Fell one lime tree and prune one thorn.

Revised Plans

- Painswick Squash Club, Yokehouse Lane. Erection of 5 garages in connection with planning permission 99/1237. Main changes: revised location of garages. Further landscaping detail added.
- Gyde Barn, Cheltenham Road. Retrospective application for erection of entrance gates, fence and dog kennel. Main changes: Deletion of boundary fence from scheme and amendment to courtyard wall to include removal of trellis work and rendering of the wall.

Consent

- Stroud Road Farm, The Vatch. Erection of livestock building with associated feed storage and modification of existing barn.
- Gyde House, Gyde Road. Conversion and refurbishment of existing house to provide 18 one and two bedroom apartments.
- Woodland Cottage, Jack's Green. Erection of replacement extension and alterations to outbuildings.
- Hale Cottage, Hale Lane. Internal alterations and installation of soil and vent pipe.
- Croft House, Gloucester Street. Rebuilding and re-roofing of conservatory. Rebuilding and re-forming workshop.
- Holcombe Folly, Gloucester Road. Erection of tennis court.
- 2 Upper Washwell. Erection of detached garage with new access onto Upper Washwell.

Appeal dismissed

- Shutway Quarry, Sheepscombe. Alleged breach of Planning Control. The unauthorised erection of a new building on the site of an earlier building. Enforcement notice for period of compliance varied from 2 months to 6 months.

District Council election

The election in the Painswick ward on 4th May for one seat on Stroud District Council resulted as follows:

Sally Brighthouse (Natural Law)	38
Terry Parker (Lib Dem)	625
John Rhodes (Lab/Co-op)	113
John Stephenson-Oliver (Con)	960

John Stephenson-Oliver was therefore elected onto the Council.

The Painswick turn-out was 50.85 per cent of the electorate, the second highest in the district. The overall turn-out was only 36 per cent.

John Stephenson-Oliver writes:

"I should like to take this opportunity to thank those from the Painswick Ward who voted for me in the recent District Council election and, in particular, those who helped me, in a variety of ways, during the run up to election day.

I was able to knock on nearly all of the doors in Cranham, Edge, Miserden, Painswick, Pitchcombe, Sheepscombe, Slad and Whiteways where I was met with unfailing politeness; something that tells us a lot about the area we are fortunate enough to live in.

The object of this letter is not to produce a post election address but rather to thank people and to reassure them that I have taken on board the many problems that they have spoken to me about and that I shall do my level best to represent these concerns during my time on the District Council.

Once again, my sincere thanks."

Terry Parker wishes to thank everyone who supported the Liberal Democrat campaign at the recent District Council Election.

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Retiring District Councillor Joan Nash shakes hands with her successor John Stephenson-Oliver who won the seat in last month's local election

Another 'top pub' award!

They've done it again! Hard on the heels of their national triumph in the Publican Magazine's awards (May Beacon), Johnny and Hilary Johnston, proprietors of the Falcon Inn and Butchers Arms, have won another national accolade. They have been voted 'Business Developer of the Year' in the Licencee trade journal's annual awards. The award was presented at the Park Lane Hotel in London last week, and was shown on GM TV.

It is believed that the same business has never before won both the Publican and Licencee's national awards in the same year - a superb achievement.

FLOWER FESTIVAL AT ST MARY'S

Readers are reminded that an event not to be missed this weekend (Friday to Sunday, 2nd to 4th June) is the Flower Festival at St Mary's Church. Entry is free and any voluntary donations will be given to local charities.

As part of this special millennium festival there is a Gala Concert in the Church on Saturday evening at 7.30pm featuring the Capella Singers and Michael Haynes (piano). A varied programme is promised with light pieces as well as classical music and items appropriate to Ascensiontide. Admission to the concert is also free.

By the way...

'Dunroamin' and 'Casa Mia' are all very well, but some past and present Painswickians have clearly preferred to give their property a rather more exotic name. Can you identify in which streets the following house names are to be found: 'Darkest Peru', 'Outside Edge', 'Troy', 'Abacus', 'Hobbs Barton', 'Angel's Roost'?

Answers are on page 9.

By 'Grumbler'

Painswick Show 2000

The 55th Annual Painswick Show will take place as usual on the second weekend in August (12th and 13th) and we are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Rusty Elvidge, the new owners of Painswick House, for the use of the Park this year, as we are to Lord and Lady Dickinson for their continued support.

However, the Park is now the playground of the four small Elvidge children and all visitors to the Show are asked to co-operate in their collection and disposal of litter (in the receptacles provided), especially dog litter.

This year's Show will feature a new attraction in the Horticultural Tent. It is a new competition sponsored by the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies, whose Gala was previously held at Hartpury College and whose competitive classes there were such a success. The class will be open to Clubs and Societies throughout the County as well as locally and it is hoped that several people will pool their expertise within an entry although individuals are very welcome to compete. It is anticipated that this class will be a colourful and interesting class for visitors to enjoy as well as a challenge for competitors. Prizes will be £30, £20, and £10 and the Show Society is grateful to GFGS for their kind sponsorship of the class.

Show enquiries please to 813779, 813006 and entries as per the individual Schedules.

Horticultural Show

The Painswick Show Society Horticultural Show will be taking place on Saturday 12th August 2000, within the grounds of Painswick House. The schedules for the show will shortly be available and it is hoped that all those who have entered before will have a schedule and entry form delivered by hand. For those who have not previously entered or who require more entry forms, please contact either Janet Dent (01452 812974) or Paul Harris (01242 250822).

To give a little more time to those who like to enter the photographic and handi-

craft sections, we can confirm that these will include the following classes:

Photographic Section

1. A cartoon - start with a photograph which must be your own and, below it or on it, add some words calculated to amuse
2. Last Year's Show - a photograph taken at the 1999 Painswick Show
3. Millennium Celebration
4. At the bottom of the garden
5. On the Move'
6. Reflections
7. Great Friends - a photograph taken by someone under the age of 16

Handicraft Section

1. A pair of hand-made earrings in any medium
2. An example of 'Decoupage' - traditional or 3 dimensional
3. An embroidered birthday card
4. A knitted garment using more than one colour of wool
5. A completed piece of canvas work
6. A homemade toy

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Care Village

I now have direct knowledge of the burden of care that falls on one's nearest and dearest. Although it may be too late to help [my wife] Joan, I ask all Joan's friends to write without delay to Mr Gobey, Development Control Manager, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Stroud, GL5 4UB, in support of the Care Village outline planning application. If you have unwisely already written opposing the application ring Mrs B K Tiwana's office (01453 754216) saying you wish to withdraw your letter. Act immediately, it is not too late!

Roy Truman, Hollyhock Lane

Mrs Jean Parry-Williams of Hyett Orchard has sent the Beacon a copy of her letter to

the District Council supporting the planning application. Her view is that the development is greatly needed, enabling people to stay in the village. She believes the developer has made many changes to the original plans and that the scheme will have benefits in providing a safer Stroud Road, and that attractively designed small houses near the nursing home will improve rather than detract from the area.

Property Reports

I noted with great interest Clive Murray's letter in the May edition of the Beacon. I fully support his suggestion of a monthly property editorial with equal priority being given to both agents in the village. I fully appreciate that Hamptons pay for

their advertisement and I read it carefully every month. I believe that such an article would not only be of general interest but would also provide a valuable service to readers of the Beacon as well as giving support to both businesses. Perhaps the scope of such an article could be extended to vendors wishing to sell privately? I would request that the Beacon gives further consideration to his [Mr Murray's] proposal.

Mrs S Moulton, Butt Green

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.

JUNE POLICE REPORT

Incidents: 11.4.00 - 14.5.00

House Burglaries: Painswick 5, Edge 1.
Business Premises: Nil. Sheds: Slad 1.
Vehicles: Painswick 4, Cranham 1, Slad 1.
Other: Painswick 2 (assaults), Cranham 1 (theft).

Items stolen:

Handbag and contents (2), mobile phone (2), sunglasses, cheque book, credit cards, laptop computer, stone troughs (2), lawn mower, cars (2).

Reported Incidents:

Thirteen incidents were reported of which five were of value to the Police. Thank you.

Security Improvement Recommendations:

Last month there were two 'walk in' burglaries during daylight into insecure but occupied homes. We repeat our previous advice to you to lock doors and windows in those parts of your house which you are not using. This is particularly important during fine sunny weather. Of the thirteen burglaries and vehicle crimes, ten occurred during the night which suggests that the pattern of crime has changed in this area. However it is worth noting that five of these offences were attempts which were unsuccessful due to good security or offenders being disturbed.

Please be careful of unexpected callers who may be posing as genuine officials. Please make sure you know the callers before allowing them access to your house and garden.

Yearly Figures:

	1998/99	1999/2000
House Burglaries	45	29
Other Burglaries	44	35
Vehicles	92	90
Theft	31	38
Damage	14	21
Misc	24	23
Total	250	236

It is pleasing to report that burglaries have reduced by 25 during last year. Some good news is that 21 of the 29 house burglaries were detected. This reduction in crime and the detection level could not have been achieved without your cooperation, vigilance and hard work. This has brought about an improvement in the security of your homes. Many thanks and we look forward to your continuing help this year. Together we can crack crime.
Police Team & Liaison Co-ordinator

The impossible journey...

John Kennedy's have confirmed that their mains refurbishment in Painswick is now completed. A repair gang may be around for a while dealing with problems brought to their attention. Work will, however, continue for two weeks on the A46 between Painswick and Stroud as final connections are made.

There's a further reason why journeys to Stroud still need to be planned like a military operation. The Beacon has been informed by Transco that gas mains renewal (replacing metal pipes by plastic ones) will take place on the A46 for about a month starting 12th June. Precise details are not yet known, but the work is likely to be in the Pitchcombe area rather than in Painswick itself.

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RESIDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY

Annual Parish Meeting -
Wednesday 24th May

The reporter from the Stroud News could hardly believe his eyes when he saw the number of residents who turned up for the Annual Parish Meeting in the Town Hall on 24th May. Normally in his experience such parish meetings attract about four people, whereas Painswick's Town Hall was nearly full with upwards of fifty residents and a dozen or so councillors. Such is our community's healthy interest in local affairs.

No doubt many of those present came out of a desire to hear more about, and to express their views on, the Care Village planning application, but for a long period this did not seem the case, and as the meeting drifted towards 9 o'clock it seemed that Chairman Terry Parker was about to wrap up the proceedings without the topic even being raised by residents! Once the floodgates were opened, however, it was clear that many villagers were keen to have their say on the application and discussion continued for the best part of another hour.

Another feature of the meeting was that several important items of news became public knowledge for the first time. Generally when councillors give their reports on the past year most of it has already been covered in these pages. However, on this occasion, hot off the press as it were, came the news that the Painswick Police Station is to close this year, and that PC Gary Power will be relocated to Stroud. However, the search continues for an office base in Painswick that can serve as a point of communication with residents. Other 'new' news was that the County Council are not objecting to the highways scheme put forward with the Care Village application, and that the District Council has stated that parking charges at Stamages Lane car park are to stay in place. (See other pages).

The reports of former District Councillor Joan Nash and County Councillor Terry Parker both touched on potential implications for the Painswick Valley in the light of differences between the County Structure Plan and District Council Local Plan. Terry Parker confirmed that the Structure Plan was approved in November 1999 and that, as things stand, the

proposal in the Stroud Local Plan to build 1500 dwellings at Hunt's Grove, Hardwicke, does not conform to the Structure Plan. Mr Parker said that, rather than amend the Local Plan, the District Council had chosen to allow the matter to go to Government Inspection, but if the inspector found against the District Council they would have to find alternative sites for the houses, which could put the Painswick Valley in the frame once again. Joan Nash similarly warned against this possibility

and urged people to be vigilant. She said that Hardwicke was objecting strongly to the Local Plan and added that, as a "brown field site", Sharpness offered the best prospect for future development in her view. Terry Parker responded that the County Council had looked carefully at Sharpness and decided against it.

Closer to home, residents raised a series of questions about conditions in and near the village - road surfaces, the state of Hollyhock Lane, speeding traffic, parking problems, dead trees at the recreation field, condition of the rec alley, and so on. The Parish Council's Traffic Committee Chairman David Hudson said he'd been told that Gloucester Street will be resurfaced in July, and that Vicarage Street will follow next year. Mutterings among the audience suggested that people were not altogether convinced by this prophecy.

The resident who complained about Hollyhock Lane reckoned it had been the subject of discussion for twenty-five years and it was about time something was done about it. Parish Council Chairman Terry Parker said there were legal difficulties about ownership, with a constant exchange of correspondence with solicitors, but he agreed that it was "probably time to put such considerations aside" and promised that the Council would return to the matter at their next meeting.

Another resident was similarly vociferous about mountain biking near the Royal William, which he said was "creating a quarry" in the AONB for one man's benefit, and causing severe visual and noise damage to the environment. How-

ever, another resident retorted that many feel the biking is giving a lot of pleasure to young people and see nothing wrong with it.

And so to the Care Village. Although many of the arguments put forward by villagers were familiar ones, a new twist was given by the distribution of a leaflet by the 'Painswick AONB Group'. This questioned why the Parish Council was giving support to a scheme that was a major development affecting a conservation area

"... mountain biking... creating a quarry in the AONB for one man's benefit..." and "against national planning guidelines and the County Structure Plan". The proposal could be a

"Trojan horse" to gain development in the AONB. District Councillor Barbara Tait was quick to point out that the 'Painswick AONB Group' is not the same as the 'Painswick Valley Group' - the body that fought vigorously against the District Council's earlier plans to introduce a major housing development in the Painswick Valley. This led to a general free-for-all in which arguments for and against the Care Village application were given another airing - with one side claiming that it would meet a long-standing local need, and the other side objecting to the development on the grounds of scale and harm to the environment. Other aspects of the proposal on which residents showed themselves to be in profound disagreement were the relevance of visiting Nantwich to see the developer's other site, the number of Painswick people waiting to take advantage of the facilities, the degree of support that will be available to those unable to meet full costs, the likelihood of alternative sites becoming available in Painswick including the availability and suitability of St Mary's Home, and even the historical facts that gave rise to the selection of the current developer.

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There's a hive of activity at the Painswick Centre

The Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen has now taken up residence in the Painswick Centre. If you missed the opening on 26th May, do visit the Guild to see the work they have put in to alter their room to suit their specific needs.

If you did attend on 26th May you may have seen the other improvements that have been accomplished at the Centre. The Cotswold Room has been decorated, restored, carpeted and furnished and now provides an excellent venue, for up to forty people, for social events, parties, receptions, training, and so on. It is now available for hire with discounts from commercial rates for people who live in this Parish. If you are interested please contact Rose Smith on Painswick 812369.

Our next project is to complete the refurbishment of The Green Room, a smaller room that accommodates up to twenty people and is suitable for meetings and small social events.

However, the main project for the future months is the restoration of the Main Hall and Theatre. The Management Committee is committed to raising enough funds to make this potentially attractive hall a major asset to the village community. Many village halls have recently closed down and we do not wish Painswick to join the list. The Hall itself gives us a resource through which we can raise funds and we are already planning a

number of events. Some of the ideas in hand include choir concerts, brass bands or named celebrities, dances, demonstrations, auctions, displays, competitions and many more. We shall keep you informed.

What we need now is help from you to tell us what YOU want to happen in YOUR village. The new Painswick Centre is for everyone from 8 to 108 so tells us the events you would like to see in the village. Or perhaps you would like to help us and be more involved in development of the Centre? Do you have skills or facilities that you think we could use? Are you a good fundraiser? Or would you simply like to make a donation into the refurbishment fund? On any of the above please write to Jackie Herbert at Sheephouse Cottage, Stepping Stone Lane, Painswick or phone on Painswick 813229.

Our first major event is A FUN NIGHT for ALL of the village - or as many as we can pack into the Hall. Saturday 1st July is to be a WACKY RACES NIGHT at the Centre with Video Horse Races, Table Top Races and "Gerties Milking Marathon"! The ticket price of £6 includes all of this plus a ploughman's supper, and there will also be a bar and a Grand Raffle. All of the proceeds will go towards refurbishing your Centre so don't miss it. Tickets are available NOW from the Painswick Post Office, Londis and The Shetland Shop. Places are limited, so don't delay.

The Management Committee

Also at Painswick Centre...

Are you interested in catering?

An opportunity exists within the Painswick Centre to set up a small café to provide refreshments to both local people and visitors, particularly during the tourist season. The visitors to the Gloucestershire Guild permanent exhibition and the August event, together with other events in the village, will create a demand and this, together with the willingness of the Management Committee to work with caterers to our mutual benefit, creates an unusual opportunity.

If you are interested please call Rose Smith on Painswick 812369.

Do you have...

and are willing to gift to the Painswick Centre, crockery, cutlery and glassware? The Centre desperately needs these items and this may be the ideal opportunity for you to face up to the fact that the crockery, etc, that you have put away to give to your strangely uninterested offspring or have set aside for that special day, is gathering dust and wasting space and could be put to better use. Alternatively, you may be ready for a change, downsizing, upgrading; who knows!

If you can help, please call Pamela Bamber on Painswick 812117.

John Stephenson-Oliver

Thank you

Margaret and Charles and Ashwell House residents would like to convey their sincere thanks to all who supported their coffee morning on Monday 22nd May. The sum of £150 was raised for Cotswold Care Hospice.

Judi Whitton's watercolour exhibition

I am absolutely delighted to be exhibiting my watercolours at Painswick Town Hall during the first two weeks of July. Each year my exhibition gets busier and busier and I love to meet new visitors and to re-new friendships with so many Painswick residents who return each year to see the new collection.

I have travelled extensively since the 1999 exhibition and am shortly to visit the

south of France on a painting trip so there will be plenty of new subjects on display. As always there will be plenty of flower paintings and many Cotswold views. Please contact me (01452 542837) if you would like to come to the preview on Friday evening, 30th June.

Thank you for making me so welcome.

Judi Whitton

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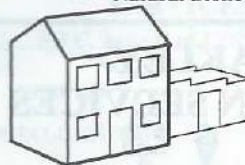
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A welcome guest from Uzbekistan

Anne and Ralph Kenber of Kingsmead, Painswick, have for many years been associated with the 'HOST' ('Hosting for Overseas Students') organisation, which involves the placing of foreign students with British families. They have themselves been hosts to numerous students for weekends, and so far they have had German, French, Mexican, Peruvian, Indian, Thai and Chinese (from Singapore and China) students staying with them. Some have come on their own, some as pairs, and once a whole family.

Commenting on their latest student, from Uzbekistan, Ralph writes:

"Yokubjon Isakov, only 19, was quite exceptional. Coming from Central Asia, his knowledge of English, European history, economics and politics was astonishing. I think he might become one of his country's future leaders. Interestingly, he seemed to bear little grudge about the "russification" imposed on Uzbekistan and other Asian republics of the former USSR but looked forward to his country's success as an independent nation. He also cooked us a fabulous Uzbek vegetarian meal, seen on the enclosed photograph." (See above).

Yokubjon has written the following comments about his country, which we



Yokubjon Isakov (centre) at the home of Ralph and Anne Kenber

think readers will find of interest:

"Uzbekistan (one of the former USSR republics) is located at the heart of Central Asia (south of Russia). Together with its very long history (2500 years) it is famous for its beautiful cities like Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva and Tashkent, major centres of the historical Great Silk Road. Uzbekistan is a country with rich spiritual, historical and architectural heritage, some part of which has been ruined under communistic regime. Although these wonderful pieces of Uzbek heritage were sold to the West or taken away by the communists, the people have kept their

national customs and traditions, including the holy religion of Islam, very well. Now, after its independence declared in 1991, Uzbekistan is one of the most successfully developing CIS countries, keeping the stability and peace among all the nationalities in the multinational country".

Yokubjon is studying Law and Business at the University of Warwick, a course that he started in September 1999.

More lives revealed 'Under the Sun'

A new series of 'Under the Sun' - the documentary series featuring extraordinary lives and events from around the globe - is now running on BBC2, broadcast on Thursday evenings through the summer. The Series Editor is David Pearson of Painswick. The series has previously included films made by David's wife, Jean Treays.

Last Thursday's programme, entitled 'Deafblind', was a sensitive portrayal of some of the 10,000 people in the UK who can neither see nor hear. The film gave an astonishing insight into their lives, thoughts and extraordinary spirit. To come are:

'A Mysterious Deaf' (15th June 9.30pm) - a film about family intrigue and superstition in Ghana;

'Blokes' (June/July - no firm date yet) - an intricate study of love, sex and loyalty involving "two best mates who both fancy Cassie";

'Highway' (possibly 10th July) - an award-winning film about a family of entertainers on the Uzbekistan to Moscow highway;

'Seoul Mates' (possibly 17th July) - a study of the frictions and complications that occur after two attractive South Korean women marry American soldiers based in Seoul.

David has recently joined United Broadcasting & Entertainment, the media group that owns a large chunk of ITV and many newspapers.

'By the way' answers (See questions on page 5)

Answers: Darkest Peru - Kingsmill Lane; Outside Edge - Edge Road (on the corner of Blackwell Mead); Troy - Gloucester Street; Abacus - Kingsmill Lane; 'Hobbs Barton' - Orchard Mead; 'Angel's Roost' - Vicarage Street.

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Nature Quiz

Congratulations to Jessica Stirrups, Sophie Allen, Beth Hancock and Chantelle Blick of the Croft School for winning the Stroud and District Annual Nature Quiz. They now qualify to compete at the county semi-finals.

A mention, too, for Ellie Jackson, Nicki Gamble, Annabel Sidwell and Lisa Kilbourne-Smith for supporting the team. Very well done to you all.

J Sanderson

Our school trip to Holland

Twelve whole hours on the coach! It may sound boring but was pretty fun with all our mates around us. Pokemon battling and sharing sweets. Unluckily the wind screen wipers on the coach broke in a rain storm. We had to be transferred to another coach. We got totally drenched! Then we got to the channel tunnel and missed our train, so we had to wait for another hour. Eventually when we got onto the train we were allowed to get off the coach and talk to our friends. We were on the train for twenty minutes which didn't seem very



Natural experts... Front left to right, the victorious Nature Quiz team: Beth Hancock, Sophie Allen, Chantelle Blick and Jessica Stirrups. At the back, 'reserves' Nicki Gamble, Ellie Jackson, Annabel Sidwell and Lisa Smith. Lucky mascots Barry, Spunky and Bob also put in an appearance.

long. At last we got there and met our families.

Luke Wasylikiw and Harry Black

When the Dutch hosts arrived we went straight to their house. We had tea and we

went to bed. When it was Sunday we went to the zoo and saw all sorts of animals.

Connor and Philip

Sunday came when we got to meet our families and had a chance to unpack. In the morning we played outside until Sina's cousin came to take us swimming. 2 o'clock came when he finally arrived and took us swimming. There were five pools there. There was a jacuzzi, a tap water pool, an outdoor pool, a normal pool which is for younger pupils, and a deep, deep pool. It was excellent.

Daniel Creed

Tuesday

We had a tour around Rotterdam. There were some interesting statues and a lot of hand and foot prints of famous people on the floors. The best part was shopping! We bought lots of presents for our families. At night we had a disco and a playback show. Cindy was Jay from Five. We had a great time dancing but we cringed when Mr Tucker started to dance.

Lizzie and Becky

On Tuesday we visited a museum then we went shopping after lunch. We went shopping in a big precinct. There were loads of shops. One shop had lots of pokemon things in. After we had tea there was a disco. First we played a game, then we danced.

Lisa Smith

The next two days were the best and the most exciting because we saw the best sights, like two famous bridges of Rotterdam and we went to a school museum. On Tuesday night we had a disco which was fun because we made lots of new friends.

Bradley and Antony



Edward Andrew, George Thornton, George Bancroft-Livingston and Ashley Fox enjoying themselves in Rotterdam

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Just beavering away

The Painswick Beaver Colony is going from strength to strength. Beavers are boys and girls aged from 6 to 8. The group meets every Thursday under the leadership of Paul Moir. Paul relies heavily on his two assistants Shirley Ingram and Lesley Reed and also on the Cub Leader, Rob Goddard, to step in when his work commitments intervene.

The colony at present numbers twenty-two and this will be rising in the Autumn with children who have already booked their spaces. Painswick now has easily the largest colony in the Stroud and Tetbury District. The average group is fifteen, with

most colonies restricting their intake to the local school. At present Painswick does not operate this policy.

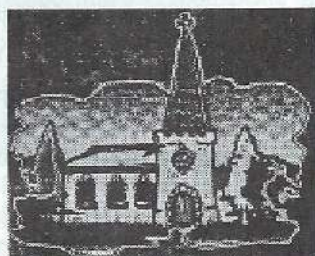
Looking to the future, in order to continue to operate with the larger number, more help on a regular basis will be needed. We are particularly looking for somebody willing to help not just because their child is at Beavers. The commitment is only for one hour a week during term time. So come on grown-ups, let's help to give the children of our village as many opportunities as we can. If you can help please contact Paul on 813204 during the day or 814124 in the evenings.

Millennium medals - don't miss yours!

All children living in the parish who are of primary school age will receive a special medal from Painswick Parish Council as a memento marking the new millennium. At a recent meeting the Council decided to ask the Croft School and Sheepscombe School to assist in the distribution of the medals, but the Council is keen to make sure that children not attending these schools are not left out. If any readers or their children go to other schools please get in touch with the parish clerk, Peter Grant, at Painswick Town Hall, Victoria Square (812722). All children of primary school age (attending primary school or equivalent in the current academic year) are eligible to receive a medal.

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PTA's summer concert

Following the highly successful summer concert last year, the Croft School PTA would like to advise Beacon readers of a similar event to take place on 8th July. The singing group Copious Notes will be again performing. Tickets will be available nearer the date from the school office or by ringing Helen Gardner (814286) or Trudi Pigott (814415)

'The Magic Box'

One dark gloomy night in the depths of a very spooky castle I found a big treasure box. It was made with old and wet wood and had a rusty padlock made with silver on it. Inside the box there were sweets, not any sort, they were magic. A big sign said "DO NOT EAT" but I ignored it and popped one in my mouth. Suddenly I started whirling round and round. I looked at my hand, it was invisible, my whole body was invisible! The sign said "EACH SWEET WILL GRANT YOU THREE WISHES". So first I wished I had a giraffe. I named him spotty, then I wished I was rich and lots of money poured down, and last of all I wished I wasn't invisible. "Great" I said, now I can have loads of adventures. "Come on spotty", and off we went to have a holiday at the seaside and we found a box. "Oh no", I groaned.

Eleanor Hyland, Croft School, Class 2

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Need help with "getting going"?

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Please call Gill Cox on 01452 814367

Get weeding!

The first round of judging for the Bledisloe Cup (Best Kept Village) competition takes place over the next two weeks (3rd to 18th June). As winners of the competition in 1998 Painswick could not enter the main competition last year, so in a sense the village is defending its trophy this summer.

Thanks, Angela

After nearly twenty years' devoted service on the committee of The Painswick Beacon, Angela Hudson decided last month that it was time to call it a day. Angela's first job with us was 'club liaison' but she soon acquired the role of copy editor - the Beacon's main point of contact with residents and groups who submit items for publication. She held this key post for fifteen years, stoically carrying on despite a major operation at one point, and demanding family commitments. In the past few years Angela has been a backup for Rachel Taylor on our Personal Column and has undertaken various other useful committee tasks.

We thank Angela for all the effort that she has put in on our behalf and we wish her a very happy 'retirement'.

Have you a receipt numbered between 1 and 594?

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All pumped up and ready to go

Well this is it then, the last communication before the bike ride begins. Do you know that when I first dreamt up the idea for a 1000-mile ride to celebrate the millennium we had four hundred days to prepare and now there are less than twenty. By now we should all be fit and highly trained because that was the intention, but of course life isn't like that and other things take priority. So we're not as fit as we would like to be but I'm sure we're fit enough to get by; it'll just hurt a bit more than that's all!

How much training do you need to do to be able cycle 1000 miles in a couple of weeks? Of course the answer is as much as you can. Our training rides have taken us to many places. We began by spending a weekend cycling through the Wicklow Gap in Ireland; what a beautiful place and what fun we had that evening in the little village of Hollywood. Next we were off to Caerphilly. On the first day it was so hot we nearly gave up with exhaustion; on the return home it rained for ten hours and was so very cold, but who took the easy way out and caught the train home? Where was it next, oh I remember - Cheddar Gorge and Weston-Super-Mare, riding through the Gorge was quite spectacular; eating scones with cream and jam was much more fun though. In Weston the tide was out but then again it always is. Try as I may I couldn't get "Old Paul" to play bingo on the Pier! After that it was Charlbury (Oxfordshire), the mist didn't lift for the whole weekend and we froze. Stopping every few miles for a warm up in front of a log fire in a friendly pub helped us through. On the return, as it was Remembrance Sunday, we joined in with a service at Bibury Church. I don't know what they thought of us walking into the church in our cycling gear, dripping wet and shivering, but they made us very wel-

come. Since Christmas we've been to Stratford, kissed the oldest tree in Gloucestershire (it's even older than Paul), sped through the Forest of Dean and the Wye Valley and done yet another tour of the Cotswolds. Add into that lot the hundreds of miles just cycling close to home and you get some idea of what it has taken to prepare for this ride.

You might recall that as well as Valerie and myself from the local area, taking part also are Paul Griffiths from Stockend, Edward Marden from Edge, Paul Ratcliffe from Sheepscombe, and Andy Griffiths from Birdlip, so if you know any of them wish them luck, they are going to need it! Oh and don't forget to sponsor them.

After all the effort put in to organise and prepare for the ride, are you going to be there at 6.00pm on 1st July to welcome us home? The Fete will be in full swing and Edge will be partying, so do come

along and be part of it. Don't forget the 16-mile fun ride from Cirencester to Edge; if you want to join in give us a call on 01452 813107. On Sunday 2nd July at 10.00am there will be a service at Edge Church in celebration of the "Bike Ride", followed by coffee and biscuits in the Rectory garden. You are all very welcome to come along.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who has supported us so far, your generosity has kept us going when things got tough. A special thank you to the Beacon for helping us publicise the ride by printing articles over the last few months; no doubt we will see you on Edge Village Green!

You can find out more about Williams Syndrome and the bike ride on our web site www.williams-syndrome.org.uk. Between 18th June and 1st July the site will be updated daily with news of the ride so you will be able to follow our progress as it happens.

Mike Adlam

"Millennium Fete" at Edge

5.00pm Saturday 1st July

For a few hours on Saturday 1st July the "Edge Republic of Spain" will come into being and everything will be Spanish (except the language, which remains broken English!). So instead of jetting off to Barcelona for your holidays you can visit Edge and with all the money you will save you can spend, spend, spend at the Fete.

The place to be then on 1st July is Edge. The Fete will be bigger and better this year as we're celebrating the Millennium and welcoming home the 1000-mile bike riders who plan to arrive back home at 6.00pm.

If you've never been to Edge Fete before you don't know what you're missing. Sitting on the grass as the sun goes down, looking at the view over Painswick, Bulls Cross, Slad and beyond, a glass of wine in hand, watching the yokels at play, what could be better than this, certainly not Spain!

Further details from Mike and Valerie Adlam, 01452-813107.

Music in Sheepscombe

Following the success of two similar events, we are holding another concert at Church Orchard in Sheepscombe on Saturday 17th June at 6.30pm and Sunday 18th June at 3pm. Five students from the Guildhall School of Music in London will play the Mozart and Brahms clarinet quintets. Tickets are £8 for Saturday, including food and wine, and £6 for Sunday, including tea and biscuits. They are available from us at Church Orchard, Sheepscombe, GL6 7RL (01452-813338). Church Orchard is in Far End Lane, just round the corner from the Butchers Arms. All profits will go to the Sheepscombe Village Hall Fund. We hope to welcome some Painswickians there.

Ron and Frances Patterson

Open Garden

On Sundays 11th and 18th June, the garden of Trench Hill, Sheepscombe, will be open in aid of the National Gardens' Scheme charities. Entrance on both days is £1.50 for adults, children free. Tea is available and there will be plants for sale. Thanks to your support at our Easter opening, we raised almost £650 for charity.

Celia and Dave Hargrave

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A MAN OF MANY MAPS

Painswick resident Dave Haslam has been putting himself on the map recently - literally. Dave is a freelance cartographer and he is currently producing a new series of highly attractive maps of tourist centres around the country.

Most residents will already be familiar with Dave's colourful map of Painswick which is displayed on various notice boards around the village. This was his first venture in the new series, and it has been followed by similar-style (though much more detailed) maps of Bath, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bristol, Oxford, Chester and London.

Many tourist maps display the main sights prominently but are short on accuracy and detail. Others are the opposite. Dave's maps are extremely colourful, attractive and easy to follow, but at the same time they show meticulous attention to detail and are full of information. They are very good value at around £1 (London map £1.99) and are selling well. The London map is the most ambitious and

exciting undertaking so far, with City and West End sections shown on separate sides, together with a detailed street index and glossaries of the major attractions, museums, theatres, pubs and restaurants, shops, historic churches and so on. Looking to the future, visitor maps of York and Cambridge are already in the pipeline.

Dave Haslam has been a cartographer for nearly forty years, and has worked for large companies such as Bartholomews and Readers Digest, as well as freelance. One of his projects at Bartholomews was a Greater London street atlas, and he has also produced sets of town plans for Yellow Pages and travel guides for American Express. Interestingly, in this high-tech era when computers play a vital role in nearly every profession, Dave says that walking or cycling around the streets is still an important element of map-making, and he is often to be seen walking up and down the streets of our cities, clipboard in hand, making detailed notes of changes that have recently taken place.

Dave and his wife Jan live in Kingsmill Lane and are well known in the village for their varied sporting interests. When not hard at work in the office or pounding the streets, Dave finds time for a game of golf, tennis or bridge.



Dave Haslam with his Visitors Map of London

The full range of Dave's maps is on sale in the Tourist Centre, National Trust Bookshop and Shetland Shop in Painswick. Dave will be pleased to give more information about the maps; please phone him on 812293 or write to him at Culvert Cottage, Kingsmill Lane, Painswick, GL6 6RT.

Sponsored bike ride

Forgotten or haven't had time? Just to remind you that I am doing a sponsored bike ride in aid of Teckels Animal Shelter on Sunday 25th June.

A sponsor form is in the Painswick Pharmacy if you wish to help this worthwhile cause. Thank you one and all.

George Hodder

Painswick Midsummer Charity Ball

Friday 23rd June

With less than a month to go to one of the higher points of the Painswick Social Calendar (!) plans are progressing well. There has been a great response from local people supporting and sponsoring the event.

We would like to ask if anyone has pink and white flowers, or foliage, they could donate to decorate the marquee to deliver them to Painswick Mill on Wednesday 21st or Thursday 22nd. Any contributions will be gratefully received.

Should there be any disturbance or inconvenience to residents of Painswick not attending the Ball, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere apologies and thank you for your tolerance and understanding.

We hope that this year's Ball will be just as successful in raising thousands of pounds for the chosen charities The Haven and Headway Cotswold Trust.

Helen Froggatt, on behalf of Painswick Midsummer Charity Ball Committee

'The Tempest' at the Rococo Garden

On Wednesday 14th June and Thursday 15th June, The Festival Players Theatre Company will be performing Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' at the Rococo Garden.

There are still a few tickets remaining for this popular outdoor event. These are priced at £9.50 or £7.50 for concessions. The performance starts at 7.30pm with the grounds opening at 6.00pm for those wishing to picnic beforehand. As normal, seating is provided.

Whilst we cannot guarantee that the title is forewarning the weather, we can guarantee an enjoyable evening.

Paul Moir, Painswick Rococo Garden Trust

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Wet start to cricket season

The opening weeks of the new cricket season have followed the pattern of recent years with rain adversely affecting matches and cancellations upsetting the league programme. It has not been all doom and gloom for Painswick as some cricket has been played, not least in the national Village Championship where, in the second round, the local side had a convincing win over Witcombe. However, Painswick were not to emulate their rugby colleagues and reach the regional stages as last Sunday (28th May) they lost to Apperley, a very competent side, whose well publicised performances in the competition a few years ago took them to Lords for the final.

Tennis news

Matches in the Gloucestershire League are under way but it is too early to see how the Club is doing. This year there is no fifth men's team owing to lack of support.

There have been two American Tournaments held so far this year, both well attended and providing a lot of good tennis. In the team players' American the winning man was Robin Hall and the winning lady was Lesley Shucksmith. In the non-team American, Hugh Tarran won the men's and Val Sharpe the ladies.

The junior coaching is extremely well supported and Adrian Aldridge is now assisting Peter Bolton with extra coaching sessions. Juniors have been playing in the Gloucestershire Junior League and our top juniors have also competed in the Senior League.

The next social event is on Saturday 10th June at the Rugby Club with a pig roast and skittles evening. See committee members for tickets.

Painswick were unlucky to lose the toss and be put in to bat. Batting proved difficult on the rain-affected wicket with David Emery being the only Painswick batsman to come to terms with the conditions, scoring an invaluable 31. The home side failed to use all their allotted 40 overs and were dismissed for a total of 88 runs. In response, Painswick's only success was to have the Apperley opening batsman, MacPherson, chop a ball from Simon Base on to his stumps as he attempted a square cut with the score at 15. The other opener, Hugh Leeke, was then joined by his brother, Rowan, and they took the visitors' score past the Painswick total in the seventeenth over of their innings.

Results

(All Saturday matches are league games)

Sat 6 May. Painswick 1st XI 74 Old Richians 1st XI 226-5 (S Golding 3-31). Painswick 2nd XI 128 (R.Roe 63 not out) Shurdington 2nd XI 130-2.

Sat 13 May. Painswick 1st XI 157 Birdlip 1st XI 143-6. Painswick 2nd XI 146 Birdlip 2nd XI 147-5.

Sun 14 May. Village Championship. Painswick 1st XI 159-8 (I Hogg 45, P Jones 30) Witcombe 1st XI 85 (S Golding 4-16, I Hogg 3-25).

Sat 20 May. Cheltenham Extras 187 Painswick 1st XI did not bat - rain stopped play.

Sun 21 May. Painswick 105 (J Cook 46) Kings Stanley 106-4.

Sat 27 May. All matches cancelled - rain.

Sun 28 May. Village Championship. Painswick 1st XI 88 Apperley 1st XI 89-1.

Short Mat Bowls

Painswick Short Mat Bowls Club held their AGM in the Town Hall on the evening of 8th May. The meeting was preceded by the finals of the Millennium Pairs competition which was won by Marguerite Treglown and David Ryland. Runners up were John Goddard and Helen Goldsmith. Helen presented the trophy to the winners.

At the AGM it was reported that the Club had had a good year with bowling sessions in the morning and the evening each Monday, the mat being free for private arrangements in the afternoon. If anyone would like to join the Club or learn how to play please contact Susan Robinson on 813566. All equipment is provided.

Rugby Club's AGM

At last month's Rugby Club AGM Dr Roddy Jaques was elected President of the Painswick RFC and Sports Club, taking over from Dr Jim Hoyland who has retired. Jim's last official task (see page 3) was to present the keys of the Recreation Field Pavilion to the Parish Council. Jim Hoyland has been a stalwart supporter and administrator of the Rugby Club for many years and we are sure that all villagers, whether or not directly connected with the Club, will be grateful for the enthusiasm and support that he has given to the Club.

Andrew Morgan was elected Chairman of Painswick RFC and Sports Club, and Roger Tirley Chairman of the Rugby Club itself.

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Painswick's Under 8 Rugby Team celebrates winning a district junior tournament last month.

Under-16s success

Painswick Under-16s Fifteen travelled to Clifton on Sunday 7th May for the final of the Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union Plate where they met the Lydney Under-16 side. Painswick controlled the match in the early stages and at half-time had established a commanding nineteen points to nil lead. Tries came through John Brooks, Alex McAndrew, and Matt Iles with Rich Coates successful with two of the conversion attempts. On an exceptionally hot afternoon, Painswick tired in the second half but, although Lydney ran in two unconverted tries in the later stages, Painswick's lead was never seriously threatened.

Holy ones and hole in ones

Twenty-six players took part in the annual Painswick churches golf event at Painswick Golf Club on 15th May. This year it was played as a Texas Scramble. The winning team was Anne Kenber, Bob Watkin, Father David Ryan and George Bragg. They won by a very small margin - 1/8th of a shot on handicap - from the second team of Jane Titshall, Anthony Robinson, Jim Hoyland and Julian Reed. The prizes were presented by Reigh Sutton, whose late husband John had organised the first event five years ago.

You do not have to be old to bowl!

Painswick Bowling Club (the one between the Painswick Centre and Recreation Field) meets for social bowling at 6.30pm every Friday evening followed by a drink and a chat. We would be delighted to introduce anyone interested to this very friendly game. Just turn up with a pair of flat-bottomed shoes or trainers and we will supply the rest. Ladies can compete on equal terms with men! What better way could there be for spending a summer afternoon or evening than with a bit of friendly competition and banter while enjoying some of the best views in the area from our Green? It is up to each member how far he/she participates in the sport, and we do have a number of players who play for Gloucestershire County and a couple who turn out for England representative games.

Villagers will be aware that we opened a new pavilion two years ago and that the old Institute bar also had to close down. Bowls is a sociable game and we have taken an initial 12-month lease on the skittle alley in order to use the bar facility for our matches. The alley has been completely redecorated and now provides an excellent environment in which to enjoy a casual drink at very competitive prices. Local man John Luker runs the bar and hopes to attract more skittle teams for next winter season. Enquiries can be made direct to John on 01452-812632. Social

membership of the Bowling Club is available to anyone who wants to join us to enjoy this facility without the commitment to play bowls.

What will your child be doing during the long summer holiday? We intend to introduce youngsters to the game with sessions every Monday or Thursday afternoon during the school/college holidays starting at the beginning of July. We are proud of our Green and a lot of work goes into its preparation. However, as soon as we are satisfied that the youngsters are able to deliver good bowls without damaging the Green, it is hoped that competitive games can quickly be enjoyed. We would like to encourage both boys and girls of any age. Parents may like to join in. Further details will be included in next month's Beacon.

If you are interested at all in the game of outdoor green bowling, please do not hesitate to contact our Club Secretary Anthony Stickland on 01453-750160, Men's Captain John Holmes on 01452-812755 or Ladies Captain Edna Crawford on 01452-525673.

John Holmes

Badminton winners




Painswick Badminton Club Chairman George Bragg (right) presents the 'Yarnold Cup' to the winners of the 1999/2000 American Tournament, Delyth Allen and David Linsell. This brought another successful club season to a close. Badminton will resume in September.

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Christian Aid Week

Provisional estimates of the proceeds from last month's Christian Aid Week in Painswick are that over £2400 was taken at the Shop in Christ Church Hall (including the Garden Shop and refreshments), and that house-to-house collections raised over £2800 in Painswick and £450 in Sheepscombe - a greater amount than in previous years. Some figures are not yet to hand. (Photo on page 18)

'Energy Champions' at your service

Following the launch of the Gloucestershire Energy Champions project, a group of 'Energy Champions' have completed a three day City and Guilds Course in Energy Awareness and are now qualified to offer advice on how to save energy in the home. Advice is available on how to keep warm for less money, do your bit to protect the environment, benefit from grants for insulation and avoid condensation damp. A free energy-saving light bulb is also available.

Anyone in the Stroud District wishing to take advice from the Energy Champions is invited to contact Kay Welfare, Energy Efficiency Coordinator at Stroud District Council, on 01453-754445.

It is also possible to invite an Energy Champion along to a function such as a village fete, church or school event. They can bring along a display of material and leaflets, and give advice on energy saving.

JOHN AND BARBARA HULME THE GROCERS OF PAINSWICK

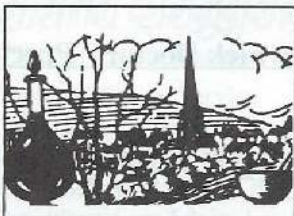
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OPENING TIMES

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SATURDAY
9.00 - 1.00

Guided walk to see orchids and butterflies on the Beacon

An event next week that may be of interest to many people is a guided walk on Painswick Beacon led by Cedric Nielsen. The walk is on the afternoon of Thursday 8th June and is aimed at showing examples of the different types of orchid and butterflies that inhabit this outstanding example of Cotswold limestone grassland. Obviously the weather will be a major factor in how many butterflies are seen, so Cedric will be hoping for a warm and sunny day, but an informative and pleasant afternoon is assured whatever the weather. The walk starts at 2pm at the Walkers' Car Park off Golf Course Road, and will take a route to the top of the Beacon and back, probably about two hours altogether.

The walk has been arranged in asso-

ciation with the Cotswold AONB Partnership and is one of their extensive programme of guided walks taking place from April to October. Full details of the programme is published in the Partnership's free twice-yearly publication, The Cotswold Lion.

Other walks that may be of interest in this area during June are a morning walk in the Sudgrove and Througham area on the 14th, starting from Bisley; another on Haresfield Beacon on the 17th; a walk from the Old Ebworth Centre to Sheepscombe Common and St George's Field to view wild flowers and butterflies on the afternoon of Saturday 24th; and an exploration of the flower-rich grassland and archeology of Crickley Hill on 27th June. More details from 01451-862000.

Pentecost 2000 celebration

On Saturday 10th June Christians from all over the county will be converging on Cheltenham Racecourse for a mammoth day of celebration of two thousand years of Christianity. Organised by Churches Together in Gloucestershire, an umbrella organisation to which most churches in the county are affiliated, the whole day will be given over to the celebration, with activities and entertainment for all ages. At specific times there will be seminars and talks, acts of worship, drama and concerts; and throughout the day there will be continuous activities such as exhibitions,

children's funfair and creche, refreshments, workshops and so on.

Many of Painswick's churchgoers are planning to attend, either as organised parties or as individuals, and residents who are interested in joining in may wish to make contact with them. Alternatively, readers may contact the P2K office on 01242-282200 for more details, or book site passes and tickets for specific events at Cheltenham Town Hall box office - 01242-227979. There is also an informative and colourful website at www.p2k.freeuk.com

Churches Together Around Painswick - the Ecumenical Prayer Cell

Each Wednesday morning throughout the year from 10.15 to 10.30, people from all denominations meet at the Church of Our Lady and Saint Therese for prayer and contemplation.

A member of the group presents and explores the chosen theme. The rest of the time is then spent in silent prayer. Also, one meeting each month is given entirely to silent prayer. We always pray for the

sick by name, when this is requested.

The programme for each month is displayed at St Mary's Church and the Church of our Lady and Saint Therese.

If you would value a time of prayer and quiet in your busy life, do join us when you are able. Everyone is welcome.

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Deputy Lieutenant honour for Painswickian

Congratulations to Painswick resident Lt Col Donald Merrylees who was recently appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Gloucestershire.

The role of Deputy Lieutenants is to support the Lord Lieutenant and deputise for him at various official engagements. These typically involve functions such as opening new buildings or facilities, visiting schools, attending funerals and so on. The Lord Lieutenant himself is the County's representative of the Sovereign. Donald Merrylees told the Beacon that the role of Lord Lieutenant goes back to the time of Henry VIII and that historically it involved gathering a military force and collecting taxes on behalf of the sovereign. In time, however, the role came to be one of supporting and representing the Royal Family.

The process of selecting Deputy Lieutenants is an interesting one. The selection is made by the Lord Lieutenant

but his choice is forwarded to the Sovereign for approval. More precisely, the Sovereign indicates that she "disapproves or does not disapprove"!

Lt Col Merrylees has had a distinguished career in the Army. He graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1953, and served for thirty-five years as an army officer, seeing active service in Egypt, Arabia, Borneo and Northern Ireland, and also having postings to Malta, Nepal, Cyprus and Germany. After retiring from the Army he was a Director and Company Secretary of Bristol and Western Engineering Manufacturers' Association from 1989 to 1996. Voluntary posts include being Commander of St John Ambulance Gloucestershire, an appointment that he still holds.

Donald's leisure activities and interests include rugby, athletics, offshore sailing and gliding.

Beacon facts and figures

Summary of Income and Expenditure 1999-2000

Income

Advertising	6832
Subscriptions	4177
Donations & retail copies	294
Misc.	48
Interest	161
	£ 11512

Expenditure

Printing inc. Directory	7494
Editing materials	430
Postage inc. subscribers	350
Stationery	174
Insurance	572
Village Quiz (net cost)	203
Christmas Draw etc.	93
Telephone/committee	560
Internet services	480
Other	107
	£ 10463

Excess Income over Expenditure

£ 1049

Comments:

Some computing equipment was upgraded in the year. A dedicated Beacon telephone line became fully operational during the year, and the realistic cost of communications was therefore established. A number of contributors are using email and this has helped in the preparation of articles.

Our two main sources of income are advertising and voluntary subscriptions. We take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation to the 656 subscribers last year, an all-time record, whose contributions once again exceeded half (60%) of

the advertising revenue. An average of about sixty meet the cost of mailing monthly copies of the Beacon, including the USA, Hong Kong and Ireland. Where we are aware of Painswick residents now being in residential care we forward complimentary copies.

Any reader who wishes to see a full statement of our accounts, audited by Mr John Weir, should contact the Treasurer, Leslie Brotherton.

Well I'll be bound...

Readers who suffer from insomnia might appreciate a reminder that bound copies of the Beacon are held in the reference section of Painswick Library. These have recently been updated to include all editions up to and including 1999. The binding was carried out by Period Bookbinders of Bath, specialists in this field and also in the restoration of antiquarian books. The cost was met by the Beacon. Some bound copies of past Beacons are also held at Stroud Library. These were paid for by the County Library Service but they have discontinued the service.

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New bench on the recreation field

A bench dedicated to the memory of Jonathan Sutton, late of Portlett Cottage, St Mary's Street, has been installed on the recreation ground. The bench is manufactured from a material known as 'Plaswood' which is a 100 percent recycled product using mainly agricultural polythene which cannot be burned or buried and would otherwise end up on a landfill site. Plaswood does not rot, is impervious to insect attack, does not splinter and needs no protective chemical treatments. It was also recently awarded the status of a "Millennium Product".

Christopher Piper-Short

Key appointment for Country Elephant chef

Robert Rees, former Chef and Proprietor of the Country Elephant Restaurant in Painswick, has been appointed a member of the board of the Food Standards Agency. The FSA was set up as an independent consumer-protection body overseeing national standards in the food industry, and Robert's appointment onto the 14-person board is a prestigious and influential one.

Painswick residents will recall not only the gourmet fare on offer at the Country Elephant but Robert's various initiatives such as his cookery classes and the special events he put on. He is now based in Stroud, and readers may well have been surprised to come across him giving open-air cookery demonstrations at the Farmers Market on Saturday mornings.

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Supporting Christian Aid



Sales force at the ready! 'Manning' the Plants Stall at the Christian Aid shop during last month's Christian Aid Week are, left to right, Fred and Margaret Jones, Frances Light, Valerie and Arthur Westwood.

Painswick 100 years ago

The measles epidemic was still raging in Painswick - there was no sign of abatement. Medical skill was almost powerless in arresting its progress, unless parents themselves exercised all possible care in isolating the infected rooms. The schools, both day and Sunday, were closed, and a correspondent said that, taking into account that both the vicar and his curate were away, it would have been as well to close the church also!

On the cricket scene Painswick were not performing well. Against Hatherley at Cheltenham, the home side amassed 149 and by the close Painswick had managed to hang on for a draw, with the score 19 runs for 5 wickets. On the 2nd against Wycliffe College, Painswick were put out for 37; the college had no difficulty gaining the runs for the loss of four wickets. This was not, however, as bad as Slad. In their match against Amberley at Rodborough, Amberley batted first and scored 97. Then Slad were dismissed for

2 runs, and one of these was an extra! Slad fared a little better a second time when, having been invited to bat again, they were dismissed for 23 runs!

The Vicar and his wife displayed great generosity in making arrangements for some twelve to sixteen people to visit Switzerland. It was to be a ten day trip and all expenses would be defrayed. The principal object was to visit the Passion Play being presented at Oberammergau which took place every ten years. It was said to be highly commendable that those chosen for this mark of kindness should be from the ranks of those whose means absolutely debarred them from indulging in such an unusual expedition. The party hoped to commence their journey about the middle of July. [Let's hope they discovered before then that Oberammergau is in Germany and a long and tortuous journey from Switzerland!]

A two-day bazaar was being arranged to be held in the Park on 12th and 13th July. It was hoped to raise some £300 to have the bells of the Parish Church rehung securely and re-turned to prevent cracking. The church bells were not only a source of great pride locally but throughout the country, having been regarded as "the best peal of twelve out of London". A refreshment marquee would be available and the Gloucestershire Royal Engineers would be playing throughout the event.

John Bailey

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Conservation Society outings

Dyrham Park

An outing to Dyrham Park has been arranged, for members and friends, for Tuesday 11th July. This should be a most interesting experience as there will also be an opportunity for us to tour the property in groups with a qualified guide. For the first time one can see the restored Victorian domestic rooms, including the kitchen, bells passage, bake-house, larders, tenants' hall and Delft-tiled dairy. Add to that the inclusion of a cream tea, and a return coach, and this looks like being a very pleasant afternoon; plus the added attraction of viewing the higher Cotswold landscape along the A46 Bath Road.

The coach leaves Stamages car park at 12.30pm and returns for about 6.00pm and the inclusive cost is only £8.45 for National Trust members (who bring their card along). An additional cost applies to non-members payable on entrance.

Lovedays Mill

The evening visiting this historic mill, taking wine on the lawns and viewing parts of the home of Mr and Mrs Charles Muller on 14th June still has places available.

Tickets and details for both of these events available from Dawn Mallinson at The Patchwork Mouse.

Dawn Mallinson

Wives' Fellowship

The next meeting of Painswick Wives Fellowship will be on Wednesday 7th June when Carol Sankey will give a talk about the Resthaven Nursing Home. All ladies are most welcome to come to the meeting, which is at Christ Church Hall, Gloucester Street, starting at 8pm.

Sheree Carver

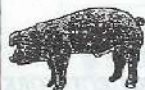
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A mixed bag at the WI

Painswick WI members certainly had to spend a busy, thought-provoking, serious-minded afternoon at their May meeting.

Barbara Harley, our very own Post Office guru, explained the thinking behind one of the resolutions to be put before the WI Triennial General Meeting in June. It urges H M Government to allow people to continue to collect pensions and benefits in cash at post offices beyond 2002. Barbara pointed out that, if the money were paid into a bank, post offices would suffer. A post office is a point of human contact. "Some people come in almost daily", she said, speaking from her experiences. Far fewer rural parishes have a bank than have a post office; travel to a bank can be expensive and time-consuming. Post office opening hours are longer than those at a bank.

On the other hand the Government could save themselves around £400 million a year by implementing their scheme. At present they pay the Post Office for 800

million benefit payments a year at 50p a transaction. Fraud would be reduced; Barbara reminded us that our pension book covers are invariably torn up by the post office staff as soon as the book is finished, because the cover, with its bar code, is invaluable to a criminal.

However, Painswick members were in no doubt that they favoured the resolution; and they instructed Doreen Boon, our delegate to the TGM, to vote accordingly.

Next came a resolution urging HMG to start funding children's hospices along the same principles as those for adults. Pauline Foreman said "There are approximately 20,000 children in the UK with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions". It's up to each children's hospice to negotiate financial help with a local authority. Some receive up to fifteen per cent: some nothing at all. Almost all rely on charitable donations and fund-raising. By contrast, about a quarter of adult hospices are run by the NHS. The remaining, independent, hospices receive on average about thirty per cent of their funding from the NHS.

Naturally no one wants to see funding lost to adult hospices, but our members agreed that this is a worthy resolution.

Jane Otway introduced the third resolution, to urge the Government greatly to improve treatment and therapies available to stroke sufferers, to achieve a far higher

standard of care. "Sixty thousand die with stroke each year. The treatment is available. It's a question of money", said Jane. The standard of care around the country varies greatly. Specialised stroke units reduce death and disability by about twenty five per cent but there are only sufficient places for half of all patients.

Again, members gave our delegate full permission to support this resolution. It was suggested, incidentally, that finding out about specialised stroke care services locally, and promoting them, is a wise move.

Later in the afternoon Mr John Stephenson-Oliver, Chairman of the Management Committee of the Painswick Centre, came to tell us about changes there. "Funds had been running out at the Institute" he said, "due to lack of income, and there has had to be a new look at the way it was structured."

The books are now balanced, we heard, and the newly-named Painswick Centre must look to the future. Part of the building is being leased to the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen. A certain amount of redecorating had already been done, and there's more to follow. The fabric will need to be repaired in time. There will be a fund-raising campaign, with a fund-raising event at least once a month, the committee hopes.

So, all in all, a busy time ahead at the Institute (sorry, Centre!).

Dorothy Binns

Painswick Bird Club



Nightingales and hobbies

During the second week of May, the club had two field trips. The first was at Highnam Woods. There, on a beautiful evening, twenty members and friends achieved their objective in hearing the nightingales. During the 2 km walk we were impressed by the vigour of their song from, I guess, up to ten of the newly arrived male birds seeking and defending their territory prior to the arrival of the females.

Then on the following Sunday, a similar number (and a dog) visited the Cotswold Water Park. There we were very ably guided by the warden Alistair Swainston who took us to the Swillbrook Nature Reserve. On the walk there, two sightings of the hobby were made.

On arrival at the reserve we saw and heard sedge and reed warblers. We walked on to the Swillbrook Water where a group of pochard were feeding. Then our guide pointed out one, then two, then three hobbies flying high over the water hunting their insect prey. Later, one came down close to the surface and we were treated to an excellent display of the powerful flight of this summer visitor.

A very pleasant Sunday afternoon in the sunshine!

Malcolm Cooper

Bellringing news

Those who like listening to the bells and are sorry that they are not rung on Sunday mornings at present would have enjoyed the ring on Sunday 14th May. Visitors from Bisley and nearby places rang a quarterpeal of Grandsire Cinques on twelve bells on that sunny warm summer afternoon.

A fine day is needed for the Open Tower day on 3rd June, and the event will coincide with the Flower Festival in the church. Visitors will be welcomed in the Ringing Chamber and invited to see the bells and the clockroom further up the

tower. The chance for those who are fit and intrepid enough to climb the many and difficult steps to the parapet with its spectacular views is dependent on good weather; this and visits to the tower generally are subject to strict health and safety legislation. Children under 8 cannot be admitted and those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The number of visitors in the tower is limited to twelve at any one time, so for this reason the tours will only take place on the hour from 11am to 4pm on Saturday 3rd June.

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After Inspector Calls, Lewd Goings On For Royal Visit Foreshadow Black Times Ahead For PaDS?

And so An Inspector Called. Despite the bloody-minded efforts of Severn Trent Water to blockade Painswick and (apparently) remove the PaDS publicity boards on the approaches to Painswick, *An Inspector Calls* attracted our best audiences for several years. A highly talented cast of both new and old(ish) PaDdies were admirably directed by first-time director Gill Cox on a dramatically gorgeous set designed by the dramatically gorgeous Lynne Gibson. Mmm... might be in trouble over that if The Most Organised One catches sight of it. Ah well, never mind: as Basil Fawlty would say, 'She'll have to sew them back on again first!'

Since I believe an independent critique of the production appears elsewhere in this fine journal (*It's too late for flattery - Editor*), I shall dwell no further on it here, save to congratulate everyone involved: I can safely do this because, except for propping up the bar on a couple of nights, I was actually 'resting' (as we luvvies like to put it) during this production. (*Keep up the good work: Editor*)

Meanwhile, I can reveal dramatic developments in the proposed Royal Visit to honour Victorian Market Day (8th July). Rumours originating from sources close to the Palace suggest that Her Majesty will be accompanied by her so-called 'ghillie' and close confidante, Mr John Brown. Local dignitaries on the organising committee are reported to be

scandalised, particularly in the light of PaDS plans to exhibit its newly refurbished *What The Butler Saw* machine. The machine is believed to place on view a number of lewdly risqué dramatic scenes with such titles as *The French Lesson* and *Her Ladyship's Undergarments Revealed*. Will Her Majesty be amused? Will we all end up in the Tower? Watch this space.

And finally. Looking through a glass darkly, I can foresee black times ahead for PaDS. For November, plans are a-foot to present either Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy* or a bewitching brew of Yuletide black magic called *Bell, Book and Candle* by John Van Druten. And before that there's the AGM! Dramatic times indeed...

Jack Burgess, PaDS

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

PaDS play - a review

I went along to the first night and was not disappointed. As with so many projects, one of the secrets of ensuring a good production is attention to detail. It started well with Elaine Howell and her front of house team in costume. They provided a warm welcome and appropriate atmosphere, which augured well for a special night out.

I can still recall one of my tutors

explaining that, "a play is not a play until it is realised in performance." Under the tight, imaginative direction of Gill Cox, supported by Jackie Herbert who as producer co-ordinated all the non-acting elements of the production, the team lifted the play off the page very well indeed. They succeeded in creating a powerful, three dimensional, harrowing interpretation of Priestley's intriguing ongoing portent.

When the play opened, I heard several gasps of appreciation together with quite justified applause as the bright red set

made its impact. Lynne Gibson designed the set, together with costumes and makeup. Red is very much an Edwardian colour and the use of bright red, symbolic of blood, death and nightmare, was indicative of the horrors to come. I thought Lynne's clever use of colour in the costumes subtly emphasised each of the character's key traits, such as purple for the authoritarian, imperial father, blue for the icy Mrs Birling, green for the jealous Sheila, yellow for the cowardly Eric and grey for the phantom inspector.

As the complacent, paternalistic head of the Edwardian household, Craig Dunn brought much confidence to this role. He was poised and managed well the changes of Birling's mood throughout the play. Complementing him well as his socially superior, haughty wife, Naomi Dunn consistently projected an icy presence. She gave a very impressive performance indeed and my "Person of the Play" award goes to her. A real trouper, she came to the part just two weeks ago owing to unforeseen circumstances.

The prescient inspector played by Louis Nayegon was ideally cast. He brought to the role a Mephistophelean aura. His stage presence was commanding, and at times menacing, as he became the catalyst for bringing out the individual and collective guilt of the other characters. In Act III, his didactic address to the audience was effective and moving, "... We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other. And I tell you that the time will come when, if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish." I felt a particular irony in these words as the production was staged in Christian Aid Week.

Elaine Leach handled well the complex and shifting emotions of the over-indulged, jealous and petulant but nonetheless intuitive Sheila. Alasdair King played Eric, Sheila's feckless, unassertive brother, conveying well the role of an alcoholic young man, victim of his family upbringing.

In his first acting role, Simon Denman reflected well the aristocratic, self-assured "Sherlock Holmes" character of Gerald Croft. Simon has an assured stage presence. Let's hope his acting debut with PaDS will mean we will see more of him. Jean Burgess as the pert maid was perfect - natural and unobtrusive.

On the technical side, Russell Herbert, Tony Gibson, Maggie Drake and Mike Jackson built the set. Lighting and sound was by Jacek Wolowiec. I liked the use of white spots as each character came under the interrogative scrutiny of the Inspector.

This was a production not to be missed. The cast deserved a longer run for all their hard work.

Roy Welbourn

"... Local dignitaries on the organising committee are reported to be scandalised..."



Curtain call... Left to right: Simon Denman, Elaine Leach, Alasdair King, Louis Nayegon, Naomi Dunn, Craig Dunn, Jean Burgess

The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 1 JULY 2000

June

Sat 3rd/4th	Flower Festival (St James's, Cranham, and St John's, Sheepscombe, will also be decorated)	St Mary's Church	Daily
Sat 3rd	Gala Concert - Capella Singers and Michael Haynes (Piano) Admission Free	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
6th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
	PCMS: Major D W Sparkes on behalf of the Salvation Army	Church Rooms	8pm
7th	Conversational French Classes (Advanced) Conversational Italian Classes (Intermediate)	Library Rooms " "	9.30 - 11am 11.30am - 1pm
	Painswick Probus Club: Up the Mississippi - Sheila Morgan (Followed by informal lunch at Falcon)	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Senior Circle Coffee Morning	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
	Wives' Fellowship: Resthaven - Carol Sankey	Christ Church Hall	8pm
8th	Walk: Butterflies and Orchids - led by Cedric Nielsen Approx. 2 hours	Walkers Car Park Golf Course Road	2pm
9th	W.I. Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
	Senior Circle: Walking to the Eclipse - David Leach	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 10th	Antiques and Collectors Fair	Painswick Centre	10am - 4pm
	Pentecost 2000 - Christian Festival	Cheltenham Race Course	10am - 10.30pm
11th	Open Garden in aid of National Gardens' Scheme	Trench Hill, Sheepscombe	Afternoon
13th	Mothers' Union Outing		2.30pm
14th	Conservation Society: Summer Evening Meeting Short Talk - Tour of Mill, followed by wine & nibbles on the lawn (inside if wet). Tickets £4 from The Patchwork Mouse (813122)	Lovedays Mill	7.30pm
14th & 15th	'The Tempest' performed by The Festival Players Theatre Co. Tickets £9.50 (concessions £7.50)	Rococo Garden	7.30pm (picnic from 6pm)
15th	W.I.: The Work of the MacMillan Nurses - Mrs Taylor	Town Hall	2.30pm
17th	Concert featuring Guildhall School of Music students Tickets £8, including food and wine	Church Orchard, Sheepscombe	6.30pm
18th	COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
	Millennium Service followed by bring-your-own picnic	Edge Church	11am
	Open Garden in aid of National Gardens' Scheme	Trench Hill, Sheepscombe	Afternoon
	Concert featuring Guildhall School of Music students Tickets £6, including tea and biscuits	Church Orchard, Sheepscombe	3pm



20th	Creative Coterie presents an Artist's Exhibition: Free Admission Donations to Registered Charity (Until 26th June)	Library Room	10am - 5.30pm daily
	Local History Society AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
21st	Painswick Probus Club: H.M.Prison Service - I Hartwell	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Senior Circle Outing to Bristol Zoo	The Falcon	1pm
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
22nd	DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
	Wives' Fellowship: Outing to Cotswold Ceramics & supper at Berry's Restaurant		6.15pm
23rd	Senior Circle: A String of Pearls - Maire Locke	Town Hall	2.30pm
	Painswick Midsummer Ball	Painswick Mill	Evening
30th	Preview Evening (by invitation) of Judi Whitton's Annual Exhibition of Watercolours	Town Hall	
July			
Sat 1st	Millennium Fete at Edge	Edge Green	5pm
	Judi Whitton's Annual Exhibition of Watercolours (Until 16th July)	Town Hall	10.30am - 5 daily
	'Wacky Races Night' - a fun-filled event for the whole village Tickets £6 from Post Office, Londis, Shetland Shop	Painswick Centre	Evening
Sat 8th	Victorian Market	Village streets	All day
	PTA Summer Concert, featuring Copious Notes Tickets from School Office or 814286 & 814415	Croft School	Evening

Cricket Fixtures

Sat 3 June.	1st XI v Ruardean Hill (Away).	Sat 24 June.	1st XI v Ryeworth (Home).
Sun 4 June.	Painswick v Cranham (Home).		2nd XI v Westbury on Severn (Away).
Sat 10 June.	1st XI v Oldlands (Home).	Sun 25 June.	Painswick v Ampney Crucis (Home).
	2nd XI v Upton St Leonards (Away).	Sat 1 July.	1st XI v Cheltenham Saracens (Home).
Sun 11 June	2nd XI v Shurdington (League-Away).		2nd XI v Cheltenham Saracens (Away).
Sat 17 June.	1st XI v Hatherley & Reddings (Away).	Sun 2 July.	Painswick v Quedgeley (Home).
	2nd XI v Leonard Stanley (Home).		

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HAMPTONS' PROPERTY REPORT JUNE 2000

During the last month we are delighted to have been instructed on some exciting and interesting properties in the area. A major project for the developer is Bidfield Farm with its five barns - all with planning permission to convert to seven dwellings. The farm is set up in an elevated setting between Sheepscombe and Birdlip. Another farmhouse on the market is Beech Lane House, between Painswick and Sheepscombe which is in a lovely setting and includes a detached stone barn with great potential for a variety of uses. Castle Lodge, Painswick, will be appearing in Country Life this week - a substantial Country House in a rural setting with 8 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms and

very spacious reception rooms. The property has a part constructed indoor swimming pool, currently used as a function room.

For those of us who are not looking for such large projects we are offering an elegant 2 bedroomed flat in the centre of Painswick, 5 Churchill Way is still fully available, and in Cranham, Mallards is a delightful 4 bedroomed modern house.

Completions this month include Edmunds Hill House, Upton Hill, Shetlands in Far End, Sheepscombe, and Bopoto in Slad, with many more due to exchange this month.

We shall soon be offering the Painswick Heights development - a unique and contemporary development of 7 houses within the old Painswick Squash Club. We are expecting the brochures this week and for further information on this or any of our other properties, please telephone this office on Painswick 812354 and we shall be very happy to help.

Senior Circle goes behind the scenes and hears more of the life of Brian

On 28th April, to nautical airs played by our local pianist Robert Burgess, we proudly piped aboard Capt Brian de Courcy Ireland when he gave us the final talk on his Naval career. Still with typical Naval bearing, even at his great age, he can tell a story with humour and humility, true to the traditions of the Royal Navy.

His love for his ship, "a terrific ship, a wonderful ship", came through clearly as he talked of HMS Ajax and the Battle of the River Plate, in which he saw action when it was severely damaged. In 1946 he took over command until his and "her" retirement - and that was quite a story.

At Combined Operations, housed at New Scotland Yard during the war, naval wives were roped in for duty - his wife being fluent in French. One special task, the smuggling of Free French fighters in and out of France, brought praise from him for their great bravery. Even at the end of hostilities the Royal Navy was involved with human tragedy with the flight of many European Jews trying desperately to settle in Palestine.

Malta for a spot of leave sounded very pleasant - and Venice too, where our Captain was delighted to anchor off St Mark's Square - with strict instructions to the crew before they landed!

High rank involved official duties and as a distinguished guest at the Arab Feast following the Enthronement of the King of Transjordan, Naval discipline required him to sit at the top table, watch a lamb stripped and prepared - and then eat it for lunch! Travelling back to the ship in Haifa, late that night, an armed soldier halted his car. A very red faced young subaltern it was who, on seeing the car's Pennant, felt it necessary to apologise profusely - in front of his own men, too!

His final job at the Admiralty was to sell his beloved ship to a foreign power - and that was a story worth hearing. (Naturally it didn't come off.) What a fine ca-

reer and what a wonderful gentleman.

May we in Senior Circle add our congratulations to the many he will have received on the occasion of his 100th Birthday.

On 12th May we went "Behind the Scenes" with Stan Newey for an insight into video film making, miracles of computer technology in editing and to see much of what went into the making of our own Millennium video of Painswick. Aply supported by his wife, his "chief critic", he showed us how twenty hours of filming became a ninety minute video.

It seemed such a pity so much had to be discarded to get the quality and length required but we were privileged to catch some of the abandoned shots. More of Arthur Swain's delightful piano playing and certainly a great deal more of the Puffins. The get together of a group of elderly Painswickians apparently had to be cut - not just because of lack of time, but some of the conversation was better left out!

Shots of one PaDS production, perhaps wisely "CENSORED", caught a certain leading lady changing - just her face recognisable, I hasten to add - but certainly one of the beauties of Cotswold Mead!

The dry stone waller chatting away as he performed his fascinating skill was well worth watching and such a pity much was lost in the final film. I think Stan Newey has a kind heart for at the Painswick Show he preferred a rider's second and successful attempt at clearing a fence rather than showing a first refusal. More of the Croft School Nativity Play was a joy to see but clearly it couldn't all go in.

But the one I remember best was also his favourite - that of a small cottage sleeping peacefully in the afternoon sun, smoke gently spiralling from its chimney, an idyllic scene set in the lovely Gloucestershire countryside around Slad. A delightful film of a delightful place and long may it be allowed to remain so.

Daphne Hudson

MINI ADS

Trainee Teacher available for child care during the summer holidays, 26th June to 2nd September. Excellent references available, non-smoker with full driver's licence. Contact Anne Hardiman on 01453-750145 or 07909-693055

Cottage to let in Painswick. Fully furnished and equipped. 812345

Seven polite, hard-working Polish girls (a three and two pairs) seek work for July; baby/child minding, gardening, etc. Their chief aim is to practise their English. Please contact Anna Daws 813715, or 0048.4686.13550, or annadaws@yahoo.co.uk

Dark Stag chest of drawers, 2 bedside tables and long standing mirror. V.G.C. £160. 813019 (before 7pm).

Judi Whitton's Annual Exhibition of watercolours at Painswick Town Hall 1st to 16th July, 10.30 - 5.00pm daily. For preview invitation on Friday evening 30th June please contact Judi on 01453-542837

Painswick Surgery is looking for holiday relief cleaner; 2 hours per evening. Excellent rates of pay. Contact the Practice Manager on 812545

Peugeot 309 (1365cc). Five door Trio S. Silver. Two owners. MOT to October. £1100. Telephone 813253

To Let in Pitchcombe. Bungalow unit, one bedroom, in quiet location overlooking the Painswick valley. Telephone 812682

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The Personal Column

Babies Galore

Congratulations to PHILIPPA and ANDREW LOYDELL on the birth of their third son, Gus Benjamin, on 14th April, a brother for Oliver and Hugo;

also to MELANIE and BEN REED on the birth of their twin sons, Sam and Archie, on 28th April;

and to CAROLINE and DAVID BASSETT on the birth of identical twin daughters, Laura and Saskia, on 27th April, sisters for Alexandra, Natasha and Charlotte. (They are warmly welcomed into the family of Janet and Peter Jenkins);

also to SUSANNAH and RICHARD VEALE, on the birth of a daughter, Amelia Alice May, on 14th May, a first grandchild for Alison and Michael Godsall and a first great-grandchild for Ruth Heal and the late Canon Heal;

also to CAROLE and SIMON WILKINS on the birth of their daughter, Lucy Anne, on 3rd May - a second grandchild for Kay Smith;

and to JESSICA and SAM TAYLOR on the birth of their son, Alfred Henry, on 6th May. Jessica is the daughter of Martin and Brenda Beech.

Welcome

Welcome to BILL GOTT who has moved into Highgrove Barn;

also we welcome KARIN and DAVID WYN-MORGAN who are moving into Falkland House, Gloucester Street, from Minchinhampton.

Farewell

Our best wishes to JOHN OVENELL who has moved from Pound House, Gloucester Street, to Ross-on-Wye.

Change of House

QUENTIN and CHRISTL MATHIAS are moving into Pound House, Gloucester Street, from Falkland House.

Engagement

Congratulations to HOLLY SHEWARD of Sheepscombe and PHILIPPE BAZIN of London, who announced their engagement recently.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of JOHN ROBB, HILLY VAN STEEDEN (formerly TATHAM) and GLADYS GREGORY who died recently.

Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to PADDY BROOKS, NANCY STEVENS, JOYCE LAMORT, SYLVIA WALKER, GARETH PUGH and BERT VARTY.

Thank You

Ethel James would like to thank all neighbours and friends in Painswick for their caring, support and sympathy during the illness and at the death of her dear friend and partner John Robb. Thank you so much for the lovely messages and cards - I will try to answer all.

Felicity Sharwood-Smith sends greetings to all her friends and thanks them for their kind messages, positive thoughts and prayers during her time in hospital and after. Progress is good.

Stan Miles, Rusty and family would like to thank you all for your kind thoughts and wishes given to Valerie before she died and to us after her death. The 150+ letters and cards received from the village alone reflects her popularity. The packed church and all those flowers made it a truly memorable and emotional occasion. A remarkable memory to a very brave lady, not to be forgotten.

Roy Truman wishes to thank all those well-wishers for their cards, kind enquiries and messages of sympathy in his present affliction, especially those who have made their way to Hollyhock Lane to enable him to continue to feel very much a part of the Painswick community and those who have ferried him so generously to surgery and hospital. (See also Letters to Editor)

Weddings

Congratulations to Allan Bullingham and Alison Holland who were married at Christ Church, Painswick, on 27th May; and to Eric Old and Wendy Webb (Nee Lamort) who were also married at Christ Church on 27th May.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY 1st JULY

Items for publication to Jillie Speed*,
The Old Carriage House, Edge, by
SUNDAY 18th JUNE

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton,
Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by
SUNDAY 18th JUNE

Business adverts: Contact Liz Fisher,
Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by
THURSDAY 15th JUNE

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey,
14 The Croft, by
THURSDAY 22nd JUNE

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Items for publication are welcomed on computer diskette (returned to you after use) or by e-mail to:
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