

The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 23 No. 10

January 2001

'At your service' for over forty years

Forty-one years ago when John and Barbara Hulme first came to Painswick from Newent to set up Central Stores there were four other shops carrying groceries in the village. They were bustling with life as the A46 carried streams of traffic down from the midlands to the south coast before the days of the motorway. At that time there were no traffic lights or yellow lines along New Street so parking outside the shop was easy and ensured good trade. Over the intervening years many of Painswick's shops have disappeared but Central Stores has gone on to become one of Painswick's most valued and enduring institutions.

During the power cut a couple of weeks ago, Painswick was plunged into



Barbara and John Hulme - our 'Painswickians of the Year'

darkness and many of the shops in the village were unable to remain open. The Hulmes were characteristically undeterred by such an event. They promptly lit some candles, got down their manual kitchen

scales and together with a little mental arithmetic went on to open the shop.

This year the Beacon Committee, supported by letters of recommendation from villagers, has chosen John and Barbara Hulme, proprietors of Central Stores, Painswickians of the Year. Their devoted service to the village goes way beyond expected standards of good service. As well as serving in the shop, Barbara can often be found helping the elderly or infirm across the road or delivering parcels to housebound customers. In snowy weather John and Barbara have delivered supplies carried on a sledge and John has several times been called upon in the night to help when elderly neighbours got into difficulties. John even developed a double hernia as a result of lifting invalid neighbours who had fallen from their beds!

Their shop provides an astonishing range of quality goods including many curiosities untraceable in out-of-town supermarkets. Entering the shop and experiencing John and Barbara's old-fashioned charm, kindness and dependability is an everyday reminder of how agreeable it is to live in Painswick.

As well as running the shop John Hulme has also been actively involved in village life. He was a Parish Councillor for nearly twenty years from 1979 to 1998. He is a keen bowls player and was Secretary to the Bowls Club for twelve

VICAR TO LEAVE PAINSWICK

Revd Bob Miles recently announced that he is to leave Painswick after sixteen years as vicar of St Mary's, Painswick, St John's Sheepscombe, and latterly St James's,



Cranham. He will be taking up a retirement post in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire, starting there on 16th March.

Bob and Rachel will live in the rectory in the beautiful village of Wensley and his new post will involve looking after the parishes of both Wensley and neighbouring West Witton, conducting the Sunday services and ministering for two days a week.

They have been in Painswick since July 1984.

Following Bob's departure there will be an interregnum whilst the post is advertised and a new incumbent chosen. One significant change is that the future role is likely to cover a wider area as it is proposed to merge the benefice of Painswick, Sheepscombe and Cranham with that of Edge, Pitchcombe, Harescombe and Brookthorpe. Ian Gobey, who was recently appointed non-stipendary Minister at Edge, will thereafter work with the enlarged benefice.

Left: Bob Miles preaching in the open air at last year's Clipping Service

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Council Meeting on 20th December

Reported by Alan Bamber

Cotswold Stone

The Council decided to write to the District Council drawing attention to inconsistencies in their policy regarding replacement stone tiles on restored properties in conservation areas and to ask whether it was still policy to "replace like with like". In some instances SDC had insisted that expensive Cotswold stone be put on restored properties even though the buildings were out of sight, whereas in other cases people had been allowed to use cheaper materials.

Painswick Heights

Another resident had written to complain about the type of roofing material used at the Painswick Heights (old Squash Club) development. She hoped the Parish Council would take up the issue for the sake of the large number of Painswick residents whose outlook had been "blighted". Planning Chairman Keith Hardwidge said the matter had been raised with the District Council but they had not yet replied.

Golf practice

The Council returned to the question of whether golf practice on the recreation ground was a danger to other users of the field. A letter from the Council's insurers stated that if it is not possible to fence off an area it may be prudent to put up warning notices to ensure that others are aware of the risk. Councillors were divided between those who thought warning notices were a good idea and those who wanted to go further and consider banning the activity. The majority verdict was to go for warning notices, at least for the time being. Malcolm Watts suggested the word-

ing: "People practising golf on this field must give other users priority in safety".

Rural affairs

A letter from MP David Drew summarised the Government's "Rural White Paper" and drew attention to the need for local communities to express their views on a number of ideas such as reviewing the 50% rate discount on second homes. Among the ideas put forward in the White Paper is rate relief for village shops.

Recreation Field play area

Malcolm Watts told the Council that the grant application for additional play equipment had been successful and that the Council therefore had £8,000 to spend (comprising a grant of £4,000 from SDC plus an equivalent sum from their own Damsell's Bequest). He said the work had to be completed by March so it was necessary to move quickly. The council unanimously agreed to buy the proposed play items and to site them near the existing facilities. The items are: a 'Hog's Back' (climbing frame with net), 'Yukon Log Roll' and rope, and a 'Dizzy Spin' (revolving circular plate in the ground). There will also be some safety matting.

BMX track

Malcolm Watts said he had applied for a grant of £2000 on the Council's behalf to fund construction of a BMX track on the recreation field. He needed to get plans drawn quickly including confirmation of the location. Councillors agreed on a circular track along the lines of one at Stonehouse and in the area between the football goal posts and fence in the southern corner of the field (beyond the pavilion when viewed from the end of the rec alley). This was felt to be a reasonable distance from houses, footpaths and play area. It was confirmed that these decisions were merely to support a grant application and did not imply that the Council had given its blessing for the BMX track to go ahead. Councillors again praised the young people who had come up with the plans and had provided such a detailed description of their requirements. It was also again confirmed that the proposed track would not involve any permanent structures and could easily be levelled if it was disbanded.

Bus changes

A letter from the County Council listed changes in the Stagecoach bus services as from 7th January. They include the withdrawal of the Friday and Saturday service 23, Stroud-Miserden-Cranham-Stroud, which passes through Painswick on the return leg. However, the letter states that in view of the short time scale for analysing the changes the County Council has

agreed an additional subsidy with Stagecoach to maintain the current network whilst consultation takes place.

A separate letter from the District Council mentioned the possibility of an evening bus service to Cheltenham. The Cotswold Experience Tours operate from Cheltenham but their bus has to be driven from Stroud in the early evening and then returned to Stroud later, so there is the possibility of their picking up passengers on the way. This might be convenient for people wishing to enjoy an evening out in Cheltenham.

(As the response deadline given by SDC was 1st December we suggest that residents who think this is a good idea immediately contact Ms Emsley at SDC on 01453-754301, ext 4301)

Town Hall repairs

Keith Hardwidge reported that the Town Hall roof was leaking and it could cost about £3,000 to make the whole roof sound. It was agreed to seek quotations for the work.

Message in a bottle

This month sees the launch of the District Council's 'Message in a bottle' scheme, whereby elderly people living alone are encouraged to put useful personal information in a bottle in their fridge as an aid to emergency services and carers. SDC asked the Parish Council to identify a suitable liaison person to work with the Community Safety Officer in identifying people for whom the scheme will be helpful. The Council agreed to speak to the Surgery in the first instance.

Hollyhock Lane

A letter from the County Council stated that instructions have been issued to their legal services people to formally declare Hollyhock Lane a public footpath and the official Order is expected soon.

Parking problem?

Malcolm Watts drew attention to drivers' difficulties in seeing round parked cars when emerging from Lower Washwell Lane into the main road. It was agreed to check whether parking is dangerous there.

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John and Barbara Hulme, continued from page 1

years. He was a trustee of the Painswick Institute and he is also a trustee of the Gyde Alms Houses.

John and Barbara have four children and nine grandchildren, four of whom still live in the village.

Most readers will be aware that John and Barbara recently announced their intention of retiring and that the shop is on the market. It is therefore especially timely to choose them for our annual accolade and also to wish them both every happiness as they embark on a new phase of their lives.

Boxing Day walk

The annual Boxing Day Parish Council footpath walk took place on Tuesday 26th December. Thirty people and three dogs set out from Stamages Lane car park on a gloriously sunny and frosty St Stephen's Day morning to return there approximately two hours later. Although the sunny day was a welcome change from the very wet and overcast weather of recent times, the ground was still very muddy in places and the route had to be altered from the one originally planned. Cattle crossing points can be particularly difficult on footpath routes which are otherwise trouble free: not that anyone is suggesting the cattle shouldn't have priority.

The party which included visitors from the United States made its way down Vicarage Street past Lovedays Mill through Dell Farm, Longridge Wood, Down Wood, Blackstable Wood and Beech Lane before returning along Vicarage Street to the car park. These annual walks started in December 1986, following a suggestion to the Parish Council by Alan Bamber, and have continued each year since that time.

Terry Parker



Boxing Day walkers ready for the off. If you've counted fewer people in the photo than stated to be on the walk, the explanation is that some people arrived rather late and our photographer was reluctant to ask the early-birds to line up again!

The Editor's word is final!

From the Beacon editor, Alan Bamber: "This month's Beacon bears my name as editor for the final time. After nearly fifteen years at the helm (178 issues to be precise) I feel it is high time that I made way for fresher and more agile minds. I am also leaving the Beacon committee.

In departing the scene I must thank all those clubs, societies and individual households that have welcomed me into their midst, whether to report on their activities, take photos or listen to their fascinating stories. These experiences have made me aware of the extraordinary number of interesting people and institutions that make up our community. I am grateful for having had this privilege.

As from the publication of this edition (6th January), my place as editor is being taken by Tony Crook.

Tony may be contacted on the Beacon telephone line (814500) and email address but please allow a few days for the re-installation to be sorted out. Other points of contact remain essentially the same as before (see back page), but the committee may wish to clarify the new structure and specific roles in a future edition.

I wish my former colleagues well. They have been a great team to work with. So long as they remember that an ellipsis only has three dots, they'll do fine. Farewell."

Zero tolerance on vandalism

There has been an increase in acts of vandalism in Painswick over the past few weeks and this has been causing concern to residents, the police and Painswick Parish Council.

Incidents have included damage to fencing, broken road signs, eggs thrown at a front door, and destructive acts inside churches.

A resident wrote to the Parish Council last month complaining of having to spend £200 on fence repairs and not being able to afford to do this again. This gave rise to a lengthy debate at last month's council meeting about how to combat the problem. Councillors agreed that a higher profile response was needed.

Councillor David Hudson said that most people knew who the main culprits were but it was difficult to take action if they weren't actually identified when incidents occurred. People must come forward when they witness any act of vandalism. John Stephenson-Oliver said it was vital to give residents the assurance that the Council would support them in

identifying and taking action against culprits. He said the Council should make it their policy that they were not prepared to tolerate any acts of vandalism at all. Councillors agreed that united action by the council and residents was important and that people should be asked to report every incident that they see, both to the Parish Council and the police. Councillors also stressed the importance of taking immediate action on seeing any incident.

The Council passed a resolution that they should provide a statement for the Beacon, and this reads as follows:

"The Parish Council is very concerned at the number of incidents of vandalism taking place in the village. The Council is anxious to take positive steps to stop such incidents and asks residents if they would please provide not only the police but the Clerk to the Parish Council with details of any incidents which they encounter. In this way the Council hopes to be able to obtain sufficient evidence to take the appropriate action. Details may be provided in writing to the Clerk at the Town Hall or by telephone on 01452-812722.

Terry Parker, Parish Council Chairman"

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Future plans for the Painswick Centre

On behalf of the Painswick Centre Trustees Management Committee I should like to thank all of those individuals and businesses in Painswick that have contributed towards our Millennium appeal. As you know our target is £10,000. So far donations have reached nearly £5000 and this, together with the grant from the Parish Council, leaves us well on the way to achieving our aim. We have been immensely gratified by the level of

support from the people of this village and encouraged by the knowledge that so many people are behind us.

We plan to use some of the money to decorate the Hall and to put in place the plaques on the Supporters Wall. Work should commence in January and will be ongoing for some time. Once funds are available we shall complete the Green Room, thus making it suitable for community services and to support

activities in all areas of the Centre.

However, much more needs to be done and the speed of progress relates directly to the money available and the amount of repairs that will arise from time to time.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their support and the Beacon whose team of dedicated hacks has readily given us space, often at very short notice.

John Stephenson-Oliver

... and coming to the Centre this month - the Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir

Most Beacon readers will already have seen the two earlier items, in previous issues, about the forthcoming concert to be given by the Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir, here in Painswick, which will take place on Friday 26th January at the Painswick Centre, but for those of you not already aware of this event, hopefully the news will be a pleasant surprise, and something to look forward to after all the seasonal festive activities are over.

The choir has become very popular in recent years, and has earned itself a reputation of performing to a very high standard. Their repertoire includes songs to suit all tastes, from folk music to classic, songs from the shows, popular light music, to hits from the charts. We are most fortunate that the choir has been able to arrange a visit to Painswick in its busy schedule, and sincerely hope it will be singing to a full house. It is some years since it sang in Painswick, so it is to be hoped that their return visit will be a successful and memorable occasion.

The concert will start at 7.30pm. Tickets, price £6, are available at The Shetland Shop, the Post Office and the Gloucestershire Guild Gallery. Soft drinks and wine

will be on sale before the concert and during the interval.

Further information can be obtained from Maggie Drake (813841) or Jackie Herbert (813229). We look forward to seeing you on the 26th.

(See also request on page 7)

Piano available

The Painswick Centre has a large solid upright piano that is surplus to needs. The piano is available to anyone who is able to collect it and make a suitable donation to the Centre. Please call Rose Smith on Painswick 812369.

Goats' cheese in filo pastry... and other delights



Pictured above is Robert Rees, formerly of the Country Elephant (and now TV celebrity chef!), who returned to Painswick on 7th December to give a demonstration of 'Quick and Easy Christmas Cookery' at the Painswick Centre. Robert's relaxed style and confident patter went down really well with an enthusiastic and participative audience. The superb dishes that he made went down really well too!

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Everyone is welcome at the following ecumenical events during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

Sunday 21st January, 6.15pm. Unity Evening Service at the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Thérèse.

Monday 22nd January, 12.15 - 1.15pm. Austerity Lunch at Christ Church Hall. Hostess: Kate Davie.

Tuesday 23rd January, 7.30pm. Churches Together short service of worship in St Mary's Church followed by a committee meeting.

Wednesday 24th January, 10.15am. Ecumenical prayers at Church of Our Lady and St Thérèse.

Thursday 25th January, 6pm. Evening Prayer at Prinknash Abbey.

Induction service

Revd Rowena Francis leaves Christ Church this month to take up her appointment as Minister of Warwick Road United Reformed Church, Coventry. Rowena will be inducted as Minister at her new church on Sunday 18th February at 3pm.

Christ Church and Rodborough Tabernacle have booked a coach and this will be leaving Painswick at 12.45pm. Some seats are available for anyone else who would care to join us. The cost will be £6 per person. In view of Rowena's enthusiasm for cooperation between the local churches during her time here, we are sure she would be delighted to see people from Painswick's other churches at her induction service. Please contact Gill Gyde on 812587.

Austerity lunches

Thanks to the generosity of the providers and all those who partake of the Monday 'feast' I have been able to send a Christmas cheque for over £200 to each of our three charities - Christian Aid, Oxfam and Save the Children. The first of our twelve lunches after Christmas is on Monday 15th January, 12.15 - 1.15pm in Christ Church Hall. Bob Shea and his team will be waiting to greet you.

A very happy New Year to you all.
Joan Truman, Hon Treasurer

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Shaping the future! Painswick 2001 VDS Workshop

"Important for the future of our villages, and an enjoyable day", is how we described the event which will take place on Saturday 27th January 2001. The interest is mounting, and we are very pleased that Edge, Sheepscombe and hopefully Slad are all taking part.

We promised further information, and here it is.

9.30 Those interested assemble in each of the four villages. Painswick participants will meet at the Town Hall, Edge and Sheepscombe in their Village Halls. Tea/coffee and biscuits to welcome them. It could be cold, it could be wet, but the programme proceeds anyway.

9.40 Explanation of what is expected. Briefing papers issued and questions answered.

10.00 Divide into chosen teams which set off for their patch, complete with photographer, map and scribe, plus mobile telephone and courier. (Details of Painswick teams below.)

11.15 First film of thirty-six shots taken by each team to be on its way to the Painswick Town Hall.

11.30 latest All first films will be taken off to a print shop waiting for them in Stroud.

12.15 Second film on its way to the Town Hall. All teams make their way to the Town Hall. Soup available, plus beverages. Bring your own sandwiches for a working lunch.

12.30 latest All second films off to print shop in Stroud.

1.00 First films developed are returned to Town Hall and distributed to the teams who took them. Teams commence their work on selecting relevant photographs and notes to accompany them, pasting on sheets to display, etc.

2.15 Second film arrives at Town Hall. Added to work already done.

3.15 Teams begin their five-minute presentations to whole of those assembled. Not only will the photographs, and the notes alongside them, be of enormous value as the Design Team attempts to draw all the ideas together, but we will be recording the presentations as well.

4.30+ Conclusion.

There will be seven teams covering Painswick village, and a coloured map showing the areas each will walk and film will be displayed on the Parish Council notice board about a week beforehand. The core of each team's area will be

P1-Pullens Road/Upper Washwell/Churchill Way;

P2-Gloucester Road and Street;

P3-Stroud Road/Stamages Lane;

P4-Kingsmill Lane/Greenhouse Lane;

P5-Cheltenham Road/The Park/The Highlands;

P6-Vicarage Street/Lower Washwell;

P7- Edge Road/New Street.

Each will include side roads and associated areas such as the recreation field and cemetery.

Are you interested? If so please contact Leslie on 813101 to say which area and whether you have a 35mm camera, a mobile telephone (for emergencies only), and use of a car. We supply tea, coffee, soup, two rolls of 35mm film for each team and materials for the final presentation. We hope very much that you will take this opportunity to shape your village's future.

If you have ideas, but cannot come along on that day, please let us have them before the 27th.

A pre-Workshop gathering for all from Painswick village who are interested has been arranged for 6pm on 16th January in the Town Hall to help ensure all runs smoothly.

Please come along. Please join in.

Anne Smith, for the Design Team

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FREE ESTIMATES

Census 2001 is coming - count me in!

As many Beacon readers will know, the Office for National Statistics conducts a national census every ten years. The aim of the questions is to present as detailed a picture as possible of people, households and housing in England and Wales, in order to help with national and local planning in areas such as education, health and social services provision. All questions have been selected following consultation with central and local government, academia, health authorities, the business community, groups representing ethnic minorities and others with special interests or concerns. To be included, the questions must meet the needs of a substantial number of users, be acceptable to the public and yield good quality data.

The broad topics covered by the

questions include household accommodation, household relationships, health, including long-term illness/provision of care, qualifications, demographic characteristics such as gender, age and marital status, household relationships, ethnicity, migration and questions related to employment.

The majority of the questions will require only four answers. The Enumerator (Census taker) will write in the full postal address of the household and the name of the householder responsible for completing the form. All other sections of the form will be completed by the household. Incidentally, the householder is required by law to complete the form and send it off in a post-paid, pre-addressed envelope provided. The Office for National Statistics will

publish the UK's collective data in the normal way after the Census.

So it isn't just a case of 'Big Brother' keeping his eye on us! Far from it. Did you know that all information given on the Census Form is treated with the utmost confidentiality and is kept secure for over 100 years? No other government department or agency is given access to any of the individual or specific data obtained.

Beacon readers may wish to play an active part in the Census. Census District Managers are currently recruiting Census Team Leaders and Census Enumerators for this area. Team Leaders will start on 19th February 2001 and finish on 1st June 2001. The work will be on a part-time basis for a period roughly equivalent to around four weeks' full-time work for a fee of £1186. Enumerators start on 20th March 2001 and finish on 21st May 2001 for a fee of £318, working on a part-time basis, equivalent to around two weeks' full-time work. Much of the work can be done outside normal working hours and people in employment may apply as well as retired people. Application forms and job descriptions are available from Stroud Job Centre. For more information about the Census, visit the website: www.statistics.gov.uk or telephone 01329 813800.

Roy Welbourn

Pottery demonstration at the Guild



Painswick's Anne James was one of the members of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen who gave talks and demonstrations at the Painswick Centre during December. Above: A visitor watches as Anne prepares the raw material for a new piece. Right: the finished products - some examples of Anne's beautiful lustre ware



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Surgery closures - important notice

On Tuesday 16th January and again on Wednesday 14th February the Surgery at Hoyland House will be closed to routine appointments between 1.30pm and 5pm for staff training. The surgery will re-open between 5pm and 6pm as usual. If you need a doctor in an emergency between these times please telephone 01452 812545.

These staff training sessions are taking place throughout the locality of Stroud and involve every doctor's surgery. Further training sessions have been scheduled for the next few months and prior warning will be given.

Nicola Hayward, Practice Manager

New Year wishes

The Chairman and members of the Parish Council wish all parishioners a very happy and prosperous new year.

Jennifer Crook, Ann Daniels, Keith Hardwidge, David Harcup, David Hudson, Johnny Johnston, Terry Parker, John Stephenson-Oliver, Martin Slinger, Denise Ward, Malcolm Watts, Jacqueline Woof

Snowfall poses familiar questions

Last week's snowfall and subsequent three-day freeze brought familiar problems. In Painswick the crisp conditions and cloudless skies made for delightful scenes and gave a rare opportunity for the energetic to indulge in winter sports, but for others, especially those who could not avoid travelling, the conditions were not so pleasant.

The main road through Painswick was quickly cleared and passable, but some side roads and pavements remained treacherous throughout the period. The Beacon understands that this gave rise to several unfortunate incidents, including an injured person having to be carried all the way up Tibbiwell because an ambulance could not get near her house. Some residents again asked why secondary roads were not gritted and complained of pavements that were more dangerous to walk on than roads.

The Beacon asked Parish Council Chairman and County Councillor Terry Parker if he wished to comment. He told us that he had been in touch with the County Council officer responsible, Nigel Powell, to clarify the situation. Mr Powell confirmed that the Council works to an established set of priorities and they have to give precedence to clearing principal routes. Their ability to treat secondary

roads depends on the severity of the conditions, but they do their best to respond to calls and there is a phone line that doctors and other emergency workers can use. A high priority is also given to pre-salting of roads. The salting may not be as readily discernable as in former years but this is simply because a new type of treatment is being used.

As regards pavements, the problem here is that the County Council could not do such work without assuming responsibility for clearing all pavements in the county; this would be a colossal undertaking.

Terry Parker told the Beacon that he has been considering two ideas that may improve things in the future. One is for the Parish to draw up its own priority list for gritting of secondary roads, to be given to the County Council. The other is to try to implement a better 'self-help' scheme within the community, perhaps in the form of action groups. He will raise these points at the next Parish Council meeting. However, Mr Parker did not think it would be practical to ask the village handyman, or the current snow wardens, to extend their duties. (The snow wardens are responsible for alerting a local farmer to roads blocked by snow so that he can clear them with a snow plough)

A special problem in Painswick is that emergency workers such as doctors, fire-fighters and ambulance drivers have a difficult problem because of the narrow streets, regardless of snow conditions, and this may have been exacerbated last week by the number of holiday visitors who left their cars parked in places that made access more difficult.

Residents are reminded that grit bins are located at various points around the village, and that the authorities should be contacted immediately if any bins need re-filling. Don't wait till the next snowfall!

Can you put the Centre on the map?

We urgently require help to promote the activities that take place in the Painswick Centre. We need someone to look at how we can inform a greater number of people of events that take place in the Centre and thus increase support for these events.

We also require somebody to market the facilities that the Centre can offer to various businesses and other potential users in the area, with a view to increasing the use of these facilities and increase the income to the Centre.

If you have experience in these areas or have an interest in developing these skills and are prepared to give a little time to the Centre please contact us. There is no commitment to Committee work, should this not be of interest to you. All

we need is a little of your time.

Please contact either John Stephenson-Oliver on 812232 or Jackie Herbert on 813229. Many thanks.

Trustees of the Painswick Centre

By the way...

You are probably aware that several of Painswick's streets have had their names changed over the years. Vicarage Lane is an easy one to work out, but do you know what Barnet Street, Towys Well, High Street, Pig Street and Russell Street are now known as? Answers on page 16.

By Grumbler

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications

- Hyett Orchard. Prune lime tree at rear of 8 Hyett Orchard.
- Holly House, Slad. Installation of dormer windows to front and rear to enable attic conversion.
- Church Orchard, Sheepscombe. Retrospective application for erection of pergola and insertion of doorway to replace window.
- Copse Cottage, Jack's Green, Sheepscombe. Single storey extension to form breakfast room and conservatory. Replace existing single garage with new double garage.
- Cleverlys, Vicarage Street. Erection of two-storey and single storey extensions.

Revised Plans

- The Stables, Greenhouse Court, Bulls Cross. Erection of extension to provide dependant person's annexe. Main changes: corrected windows. (SDC ref 00/1707)

Consent

- Turnways, Butt Green. 1st floor extension to create new bedroom and shower room.
- Bay Tree House, Far End, Sheepscombe. Erection of balcony and alterations to dwelling.
- Ladymead, Kemps Lane. Erection of conservatory.
- Stonewyck, Cheltenham Road. Erection of shed.
- Pill Farm. Erection of agricultural implement shed (full planning permission required because of Article 4 Direction on land).
- Down House, Bulls Cross. Erection of conservatory to south elevation and insertion of 2 velux rooflights.
- Yokehouse Lane, near Painswick. Change of use from agricultural to equine.
- Melrose Cottage, Cheltenham Road. Single storey extensions to cottage.

Plan Withdrawn

- Red Stables, Yokehouse Lane, Bulls Cross. Erection of 2 storey extension (SDC refs 00/1193, 00/1201).

PAINSWICK SPORT

Back to normal for Painswick

Painswick's first fifteen had a good December and the team is once more strongly placed at the top of the second division of the Gloucestershire league after losing their first league match of the season against Southmead in November. Scheduled to play Bristol Telephones at Broadham Fields on 9th December, the visitors were unable to field a full team and Painswick were awarded the points.

The following Saturday Painswick met promotion rivals Dursley and the game was expected to provide the cherry and whites with a tough test of their abilities and so it proved. The surprise was the seemingly convincing score line in

Painswick's favour at the final whistle which did not reflect the balance of the game. Painswick's forwards had to be at their best to give their backs the opportunity to move the ball and, given the very heavy conditions, they rose to the occasion in every sense. Painswick took the lead through a try from full-back Alastair Bressington which he also converted. Just before half-time he added a further three points with a penalty goal. In the second half Painswick's forwards provided their threequarters with more opportunities and Nathan Bressington playing in the centre went over for a well worked try which his brother converted. Alastair kicked two further penalties to give Painswick victory by 23 points to nil.

The heavy snowfall on 28th December meant that both the first and second fifteen matches scheduled to be played on Saturday 30th December had to be cancelled.

Results [(L) league match]

Sat 2 Dec. Painswick 1st XV 24 Wootton Bassett 1st XV 0. Dowty 1st XV 24 Painswick Utd 10.

Sat 9 Dec. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Bristol Telephones 1st XV (see report). Minchinhampton 2nd XV 5 Painswick Utd 56.

Sat 16 Dec. (L) Dursley 1st XV 0 Painswick 1st XV 23. Painswick Utd 0 Dursley 2nd XV 24.

Sat 23 Dec. Cheltenham Saracens 2nd XV 14 Painswick Utd 27.

Oxford Blue

Oxford University student Nick Marsh, whose parents live at The Highlands, was delighted to be at Twickenham playing in the annual Varsity match against Cambridge last month, not least because injury had prevented him from playing in the corresponding game last season. Nick, who plays at full back for the Dark Blues, was very pleased to be on the winning side but agreed that the victory had been hard fought with Cambridge leading by 16 points to 11 midway through the second half. In appalling conditions Oxford fought back strongly to achieve victory by 19 points to 16.



Nick Marsh

Sheepscombe bridge

Sheepscombe Bridge Club rounded off an enjoyable autumn session with a party on 14th December. Time was found for some bridge and also a light-hearted quiz which was won by Barry Edwards.

Bridge evenings are normally fortnightly, the next one being on Thursday 18th January at the Village Hall, 7.15pm. Newcomers will be most welcome. Please phone Barry or Joy Edwards on 812588 if you need more details.

Max Knowles

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All change at Painswick Tennis Club

At this year's well-attended AGM, held in October, two pillars of Painswick Tennis stepped down. President Mike James and Men's Team Captain Peter Funnell were thanked for many years of loyal service. The new President is John Courts of Pitchcombe, and Men's Team Captain is Painswick resident Ron Barney. Joan Griffiths continues as Ladies Team Captain.

Incoming President John (pictured) is eagerly anticipating taking the Club forward, and has already established a 'Development' sub-committee. He commented

"Under the leadership of Mike James, Painswick Tennis Club has established a wide reputation as a well-equipped and well-run Club. I want to ensure that we continue to offer everyone good tennis, in a friendly atmosphere".

The Club is in good shape, with six excellent courts, and new floodlights which have been much appreciated. Club

events this autumn have been very well supported; a particular feature is a Thursday evening mixed tournament organised by John Barrus, with forty-four members taking part. Despite the awful autumn weather, there has been only one postponement.

League tennis has not been so fortunate, some of the winter league fixtures have been hard hit. The forthcoming season looks promising, with some new young players joining us.

The junior section of the Club continues to flourish, under the leadership of Nigel Barnett and Richard Horder. We now have eighty-six registered junior members, and junior development is a priority of the Club. Coaches Peter Boulton and Adrian Aldridge report excellent support for their regular sessions, and the new Club programme allocates extra court time for junior practice and coaching.

Jim Hutton, Publicity Officer



New Tennis Club President, John Courts

Ladies hockey



Painswick Ladies Hockey team, pictured before their recent match against Stroud

Size matters!

A Tennis Club member recently called on a friend in Cheltenham and admired the shelves crammed with golf trophies. Among them he spotted a lone, rather magnificent, tennis trophy and so he asked what tournament it was. "Don't you remember?" said his friend, "you and I won it together in a men's doubles event." The club member replied that he had no recollection of this and was sure he would not have forgotten winning such a marvellous trophy. "Ah", replied his friend, "that wasn't the one we received. I have never won a tennis event in my life so I decided to have a more fitting one made to do justice to the achievement."

ANNEMARIE DUCKWORTH

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CROFT SCHOOL NEWS

Children from the Croft school continue to take an active part in the life of the village and the school is looking forward to yet another year where our involvement continues and even increases. Plans are afoot to construct a weather station on the school grounds in order to keep all Beacon readers informed of changes in the weather. It will also provide the children with invaluable experience of data collecting and interpretation.

The autumn term was once again a busy time for all at the school. Children from the school took part in the Clipping Service, the World Day of Prayer, Harvest Festival, the Advent Service and entertained the residents of Ashwell House. The term was rounded off with three performances of "Christmas Presence", a traditional nativity put to music. All the children in the school were involved and their performances were truly memorable!

Our chosen charity this year is CLIC (Cancer and Leukaemia in Children) and we have already raised £840 thanks to the generosity of all those who came to our Harvest Festival and Christmas production. This is a tremendous achievement and my thanks go to all those who have helped in some way.

Thanks to a wonderful effort from all the parents at the school the Christmas Fair raised over £1000. This is now going towards purchasing an up to date set of PE mats for the teaching of gymnastics. The PTA continues to take an active part in fund raising and helping the school in lots of other ways. The school is always grate-

ful for the help and support that they provide throughout the year.

Gary Tucker

Two contrasting accounts of the Nativity Play

Last Tuesday, Thursday and Friday the children of the Croft School Painswick put on a performance called 'Christmas Presence' in front of around ninety people. Mrs Skinner arranged the music and Mrs Ratcliffe made the costumes and Mr Tucker brought everything together to make a brilliant performance. Every day the school hall was crammed full of people.

Mary was played by Lucy Moir and Joseph was played by Charlie Morgan. Children from Class 1 were all people from around the world. They all had excellent costumes. There were six songs in total and six scenes. The play started off with Angel Gabriel (Chloe Temple) and Mary singing solos. Later on in the performance George Bancroft Livingston, Tom Eggerton and Greg Gwilliam sang a trio. The innkeepers and their wives did a rap about not having room any more. Mary and Joseph sang a duet later on in the per-

formance. Years 5 and 6 went to Ashwell House on Friday to sing the songs from the performance and read some of the narration.

Thomas Williams

Last week I played a part of Joseph and I was really brilliant. When I sang my song Sleep Little Child it wasn't as loud as I thought it was going to be. In the Croft School performance there were around 100 chairs on the long straight floor.

Lots of people came to watch the Christmas play and Richard Goddard and Guy Murray were doing all the lighting. They got every single lighting right and that was brilliant. Mary and me, Joseph, had to sing a solo on the stage together. There were six great songs and ten children and three adults and they came from Playgroup to watch our Christmas play.

Mrs Ratcliffe and Mrs Cowley managed last week to make lots of costumes and they were made out of silk and cotton and they used a sewing machine what you don't plug into anything. Mrs Skinner had to arrange all the music to be played plus all the buttons for Thomas to play and press.

Charlie Morgan

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The cast of the school's nativity production 'Christmas Presence'

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100 years ago - including reactions to the death of Queen Victoria

Applicants for Barnard's and Olney's coal and bread charities were supplied with their usual doles on Wednesday evening 9th January, in the Boys' Schoolroom.

It was announced that the Rev Capel Hamburg, late chaplain of Wiesbaden, had arranged to come and work in the parish, especially to superintend the music of the Parish Church.

In common with other parts of the country, a week of united prayers was observed. The initial meeting was held in the Parish Church Mission Room in Vicarage Street, the second in the Baptist Chapel, then at the Congregational Chapel, and finally at the Primitive Methodists place of Worship.

A very handsome and welcome addition to the Church plate of the Parish had been made by Mrs C J Williams of Garden House, Cornwall Gardens, London, who presented a beautiful and valuable old German chalice of solid silver, with a silver paten, for use at Holy Communion. The rich hangings which adorned the sanctuary of the Parish Church and the new

"carpet of silk" on the Holy Table of St Peter's Chapel were the gifts of Mrs Seddon.

Mr J G Ayers of Prospect House, Bulls Cross, had received further letters from his son John, who was serving with Guards Composite Cavalry Detachment in South Africa. He wrote from the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, on the 4th January: "We arrived on the 4th and regret to tell you that I have been laid-up in bed since 16th December. The doctor on board the boat said that I had enteric fever. Upon arrival at the Albert Docks, I was not well enough to go to barracks, so I was taken straight to this hospital. It was just getting to mid-summer when we left South Africa. I find it rather hard that I should be laid-up just as I arrive home seeing that I spent the whole time in South Africa without a day's illness. I spent Christmas and New Year's Day in bed." On the 9th he wrote "...getting very much better - still find weather here very cold. We had a very good voyage but we were awfully slow. We left Cape Town on the 6th December and arrived at the Albert Docks on the 4th January. Mail boats do the journey in 16 or 17

days. According to papers fighting still continues and reinforcements are being sent out. I think our regiment is very lucky to be sent home out of it."

On 18th January, Her Majesty the Queen attained a similar age as King George III, namely, 81 years 7 months and 25 days, and thus became the eldest Sovereign who had ever ruled the United Kingdom or any part of it.

The Boddington Harriers met at Painswick Park on Monday the 21st. Three hares were set afoot and one was killed near the farm. A very good 'field' was present.

The edition of Stroud News issued Friday 25th January 1901 had all columns lined vertically in black, and carried the following announcement:

"Throughout the civilized world today the Anglo-Saxon race mourns the death of the Queen - Mother of their nations. The cherished figure which for nearly three quarters of a century has been symbolical of British brotherhood, culture and progress has passed from its active and dignified sphere to perpetual rest."

Queen Victoria had died on the 22nd January 1901.

At Stroud Police Court, Mr F A Hyett, Chairman, asked the Court to stand before proceeding to normal business, in view of the momentous and lamentable event which had occurred and which cast a gloom over the whole nation and intense sorrow shared by the whole of the civilized world. Similar gestures were reported throughout the country.

Edward, Prince of Wales, was publicly proclaimed King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India at St James's Palace. The King directed that Saturday 2nd February be observed as a day of general mourning and that banks be closed and business suspended.

John Bailey

Memories of cycling for Sam, 2000

The beauty of the harbour at San Sebastian, the heat and breakers on the beach at Mimizan, the chateaux, Loire Valley, walnut trees and quiet roads of France seem a long way away in this wettest of times of ours.

However, I have finally gathered in all of my sponsorship monies for the Williams Foundation and my heartfelt thanks go to all of you in the area who gave moral and financial support. My/your contribution is £900 towards a total of £40,000 raised.

I must say a large thank you to Mike (father of Sam) for getting me on my bike eight years ago to cycle the 100 miles from Amersham to Gloucester, followed in 1996 by the unknown of cycling day after day the 400 plus miles to Paris, and then runs to or through Brussels, Amsterdam, Dublin and Berlin.

Thanks also for organising superb accommodation (essential after being in the saddle for sometimes fourteen hours) and to our back-up folk for keeping us all superbly fed and watered along the way.

Paul Griffiths

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Christmas competition

Too hard? Too easy? Didn't interest you? Didn't notice it? Too busy? Whatever the reason, only three children had a go at our Christmas competition in last month's issue. They all got the puzzle exactly right and they all illustrated their answers beautifully, so we were pleased to give each of them a prize. Tokens for spending at Painswick Post Office have been given to Joshua Roberts (aged 6) from Slad, and Rosebud and William Moir (aged 8 and 6 respectively) of Holcombe, Painswick.

Congratulations to all three, and our thanks to Jennifer Barnett for devising the competition and drawing the pictures.

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Tentatively into the new millennium – a review

1st January 2000, a crisp, bright and dry – yes, dry – day. The scene in Painswick was one of balloons, music, mulled wine, puppy dog pie and crowds of happy Painswickians celebrating the dawn of the third millennium together. A strangely optimistic atmosphere permeated the gathering and now, one year on, we ask "What has the 21st century done for you?"

Of course, some things don't change. You could be forgiven for thinking that John Kennedy and Severn Trent Water had become a fixture, a part of life for us last year. They continued to dig up our roads and be a feature of our journeys until June and, just as you sighed with relief at their departure, their mattocks and drills were replaced by those of Transco renewing the gas mains. Even now, John Kennedy is still occasionally to be seen burrowing into a new hole on the A46 as you round a bend.

The application by Richmond Healthcare to build a 'care village' continued to be the subject of hot debate and of dozens of animated letters to the Beacon. After months of speculation the District Council voted not to refuse the revised out-

line application, supported by the Parish Council, for a nursing home and associated dwellings, to include ten units of affordable housing, and the retention of the upper part of the field as an open space.

The conversion of Gyde House into nineteen apartments is under way and towards the end of the year came news that St Mary's Home may be demolished to make way for at least six new town houses. Will this provide yet another contentious topic for the coming months?

On the ever-present vexed question of parking the Parish Council finally produced a new traffic policy document which can be examined in the Town Hall. In essence, it proposes parking facilities at both ends of the village and identifies several possible sites. It also proposes increased parking restrictions in the centre, funding the cost of a traffic warden and the introduction of traffic calming measures.

On the sports front there was an abundance of both individual and team success. Painswick sport encompasses all age groups and remains a lively feature of our community. The first fifteen failed to reach the quarter finals of the national Tetley Bitter Vase tournament, but after some nail-biting matches and renewed efforts they managed to secure their first division status for the new season, which has so far been promising. Painswick Bowling Club crooked a friendly finger to entice new bowlers of all ages to discover the joys of bowling in Painswick and the Tennis Club reported encouraging news about junior coaching and successes. Rain stopped quite a lot of play on the cricket

pitch and the golf course. When play resumed eventually, though intermittently, on the cricket pitch Painswick played some fine winning matches. Mention must be made of Alastair Bressington's achievement in being awarded a professional contract with the County Cricket Club.

How gratifying to be able to record some of the many accolades and achievements for the year 2000. Charles and Margaret Say were declared Painswickians of the Year in recognition of many years of devoted care at Ashwell House. Bernard Day was awarded the OBE in the New Year honours list and John Meadley received an MBE in the Queen's honours list. Further afield, the state of Romania bestowed the Order of the Star of Romania on Ian Crook and back in Painswick Cedric Nielsen received an award from English Nature for his work on the management of Painswick Beacon.

Not content with one accolade, Johnny and Hilary Johnston, proprietors of the Falcon Inn in Painswick and the Butchers Arms in Sheepscombe, added two more awards to their existing collection. This time it was the 'Pub Business of the Year' and 'Business Developer of the Year'. And, in similar vein, Cardynham House was selected by Which magazine as one of its Hotels of the Year ("...a peach of a place ...oodles of atmosphere ...impossibly quaint").

As for the personal physical endeavours of seemingly impossible proportions... well Painswick boasted a veritable plethora in 2000. So many locals performed amazing feats of endurance, both nationally and internationally, on bikes, foot, camels, across deserts, mountain ranges, continents, and all to raise funds for worthy causes. Back home in Painswick many many people put in wonderful efforts with the same objective. All in all, Painswick raised a great deal of money for charity in 2000.

What of Painswick's young people? The Croft School is thriving. The children have done their share of fund raising, international travel, cultural, artistic, literary and sporting activities. The Brownie pack is full, the Youth Club is healthy, the Playgroup is busy and the Beaver Colony is the biggest in the Stroud and Tetbury District (boys and girls aged 6 to 8, not the black and white four legged variety, you understand).

A major change at the school was heralded by the retirement of headmaster Bernard Jones after seventeen years. Other significant changes on a sad note included the following: the Antiques and Craft Centre closed, John Saunders' fruit and veg shop closed, St Mary's Home closed, the Police Station closed, the Fire Station was

threatened with possible closure and the Beacon Singers stopped singing. On the other hand... Paraphernalia opened, a new boarding cattery opened in Wick Street, there is a new chiroprapist at the surgery, the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen took up permanent residence at the Painswick Centre, and The Painswick Singers started singing.

Painswickians were encouraged to don their dancing shoes in 2000. Line dancing classes started at the Painswick Centre. In February a glittering, shimmering Valentine Dance was a great success at the Painswick Centre – red hearts and all. And, of course, in June the biennial Painswick Charity Ball raised the stupendous sum of £12,000 for Headway and The Haven Trust, with which Painswick has had long and strong connections.

Ashwell House celebrated fifteen years as a day centre, offering activities, companionship, lunch, entertainment and outings to many who live alone or are housebound. Several couples celebrated diamond and golden wedding anniversaries and Brian de Courcy Ireland celebrated his 100th birthday in May. A new yew tree was planted in St Mary's Churchyard as part of the national Millennium Yew Tree Campaign aimed at encouraging parishes to plant young trees. How many does that make now in our churchyard? Meanwhile, in the ringing room of the church tower champagne was flowing happily on more than one occasion in January...

Notable events punctuated the summer (what summer?) and autumn months. Victorian Market Day graced our streets again in July despite the mixed weather conditions. The Painswick Show, in its 55th year, was also a great success, also despite the mixed weather conditions. The 30s Kids Grand Reunion in September brought together old friends from across the world. It prompted the making of a new replica Bow-Wow banner which was carried at the annual Clipping Service. Earlier in the year the WI won the annual village quiz, toppling the erstwhile champions, St Mary's Church team, from their three-year position of glory. And in general, the reborn Painswick Centre has played host to many events already, including some exciting performances by PaDS or, rather, the Painswick Players as they now prefer to be known. The Painswick Centre Millennium Appeal has elicited a very generous response from Painswickians.

By and large, looking back at 2000, the Beacon pages reflect an impressively dynamic and caring community. Long may this be the case. So, as it is probably safe to assume we are now truly into the 21st century, we wish all our readers a happy and healthy 2001.

Carol Maxwell

Annual Directory - did you get yours?

The 2001 edition of the Beacon's annual Directory was distributed with last month's issue and all households that have the Beacon delivered should have received a copy. If you did not receive yours, please contact our Distribution Coordinator Arthur Lock and he will arrange for one to be delivered to you.

The Directory lists all known business services, shops, B & Bs, clubs, societies, and so on, based in the civil parish. It also contains useful information such as details of local councillors, emergency services, bus and train information, and meetings rooms.

Readers who are aware of any omissions, errors, or changes affecting the Directory are asked to contact the compiler Leslie Brotherton on 813101. Updates of the information on file are made throughout the year in readiness for next year's edition.

Gladys Home - a true Painswickian

Gladys Home was a true Painswickian. She died in her 98th year and, in common with many country people of her generation, lived throughout her entire life in the house in which she was born, except for a short time prior to her marriage. Her husband, Reg, who predeceased her by many years, was the village postman, and subsequently become the milkman, having served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

During her working life, Gladys was 'in service' in several of the larger houses in Painswick, caring for many of the incumbent children, some of whom still live here. Gladys's contribution to the war effort was to work as a gardener at Ashwell, alongside her father. Her interest in gardening never waned, and she continued to grow flowers and vegetables in her own garden, latterly with the help of her brother, until only a couple of years before her death.

Gladys always took an active interest

in village life, as a member of 'The Young Wives' group, the Falcon Bowling Club, and in later years she was a keen member of the 'Bingo ladies'.

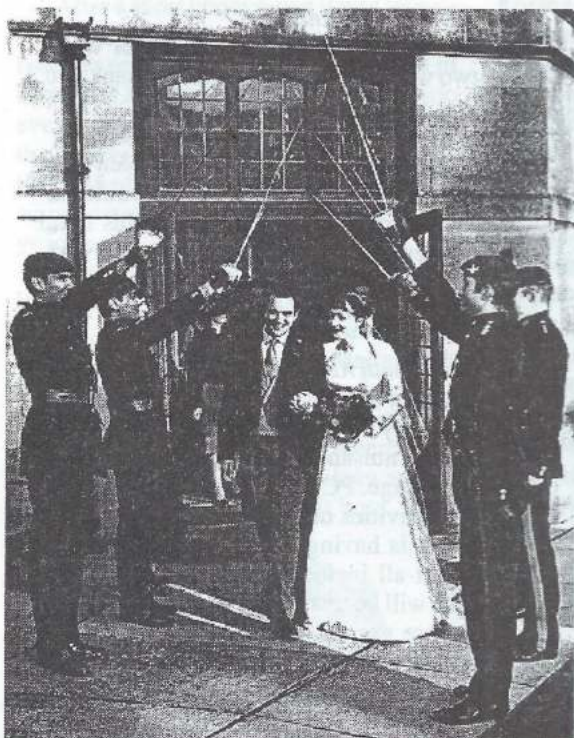
As she grew older, Gladys needed little encouragement to reminisce about Painswick in her younger days, prior to the installation of mains water and electricity, when water had to be carried from the stream at the bottom of Tibbiwell, and candles and paraffin lamps provided lighting.

In later life, one of her greatest pleasures was the daily visit of the many birds who were attracted to her garden by the home-made cake that she cooked almost daily for them. However, this proved little compensation for the frustration and chagrin she felt, that even having attained the age of 90-plus, her slowly deteriorating health prevented her from being as active as she would have liked.

Gladys Home's passing marks the end of yet another link with the past. Perhaps it was on account of her long life, and the wealth of memories and anecdotes she had retained of earlier times, that she sometimes found difficulty in reconciling the changes that have inevitably taken place. Her determination and fiercely independent character were a fine example to us all.

Maggie Drake

December wedding



Tourist Office tea

On Monday 4th December Painswick's Tourist Office volunteers enjoyed tea at Chancellors at the invitation of Mr and Mrs Dennis French of Painswick Woodcrafts. It is thanks to these ladies and gentlemen and to Terry Causon, their organiser, that Painswick still has a tourist office to assist our much needed visitors.

D French

A guard of honour for Captain Fred Grey and Jody Waller as they emerge from St Mary's Church after their marriage service on 9th December.

Fred is the son of Paul Grey at the Shetland Shop

Sue Ryder Care

The sum of £337 was raised at the coffee morning held in the Town Hall on Saturday 9th December.

We would like to thank all the helpers and those who supported it, especially Angela Critchley for once again providing the delicious mince pies.

Joyce Tranter and Naomi Maclaurin-Jones

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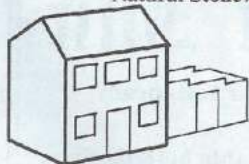
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Well done, Painswick

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank all those helpers who sold poppies this year, whether they were house-to-house, street collectors, shops, pubs, restaurants or hotels. For the first time we achieved over £2,000 and that was with terrible weather during the whole of the house-to-house collecting period and on both days of the street selling.

Our total came to £2,015.34, made up as follows:

House-to-house	1,103.34
Street collection	110.48
Static points	410.11
Church collection	349.16
Wreaths	42.25

I would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Denys Hill for so kindly letting me use their house again as a collection point with people coming and going for two days completely disrupting their household. There were also people like Alice Playle

who helped with numerous other jobs connected with the Appeal.

This year unfortunately I lost a few of my stalwart helpers and I would like to thank them on behalf of the Royal British Legion for all their work in the past. Perhaps some of the newer residents in Painswick might like to help next year, either doing house-to-house (you have two weeks in which to collect in your given area), or do one or two hours street selling. If you are interested please give me a ring on 01452-813640. Remembrance Day in 2001 is Sunday 11th November.

As a rule I do not give special praise to any of my helpers because people have different sizes and shapes of areas, but this year I feel I must mention Mrs Tranter and Mrs Harding who collected over £50 more than last year and raised £175.12. Congratulations.

Mary Muller

Foot bruised by runaway melon (Or, if you prefer, 'Melon bruised by runaway foot')

Emerging from Christ Church Hall in Gloucester Street one afternoon in December, a resident's eye was drawn to the sight of a largish round object hurtling down the middle of the street. As it approached it seemed obvious that the object was a football, and the resident decided to re-live his youth and hoof the ball back up the street to where he imagined some small boys must be playing, just like in the good old days when there weren't cars about.

Except that it wasn't a football, and there weren't any boys.

On impact the object travelled but a couple of yards up hill. Closer inspection showed it be a melon, and a very large one at that. A brief hobble up Gloucester Street on a bruised foot revealed no sign of an open car boot, nor in fact any resident at all, let alone someone frantically searching for a lost melon. So where did it come from? And where would it had finished up if not so intercepted? And what to do with it? The resident decided rather unimaginatively to place it on the wall of a nearby garden, and the next day it was gone. It would be nice to think that it found its way back uphill to its rightful owner.

Sale at Patchwork Mouse

The Patchwork Mouse is to have a grand sale starting on Saturday 6th January 2001 for three weeks before closing in February.

Your New Year's resolution?

The Village Diary for 2001 is in Painswick Woodcrafts shop. Please could all organisers of events, outings and so forth enter their dates as far in advance as possible to avoid double booking.

POLICE REPORT

Incidents: 16.11.00 - 14.12.00

House burglaries: Pitchcombe 1. Business premises: Painswick 2. Sheds: Painswick 1, Slad 1. Vehicles: Painswick 5, Edge 2, Cranham 1, Harescombe 1. Other: Painswick 1 (theft), Harescombe 1 (damage).

Items stolen:

From vehicles: Computer, mobile phones (3), credit cards (3), handbag and contents (3), rucksack and contents, radio/CD player (3), jacket, petrol, sets of wheels, vehicle tools. From other places: TV (2), video, cameras (2), jewellery, Christmas presents, electric drill, fax machine, strimmer, generator, wall stone.

Reported incidents

Seven incidents were reported of which two were of value to the Police, thank you.

Security Improvement Recommendations:

Many items of property were stolen from cars/vehicles this month. We would advise all of you to be aware of this trend and remove all valuables from your vehicles when left unattended, anywhere, including your own driveway.

Local Youth Activities in the Painswick Area

Recently several complaints have been received by the police regarding local youths being a nuisance or harassing residents of the village. PC Power is concerned about the activities of these youths and the effect it is having on these people. Please report all incidents of this nature. Your calls will be treated in strictest confidence but are needed to assess the size of the problem. It would be of great help if the person reporting would identify those involved.

PC Gary Power, 01452-335674

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Distinguished service - for country and village

23rd December 2000 was a special day for Captain David and Isobel Mannering, marking the sixtieth wedding anniversary of this well-known Painswick couple.

A simple calculation confirms that they were married in wartime, and it is no surprise to learn that the Second World War had a major influence on their marriage plans and early life together.

They had become engaged in 1937 but by 1940 David was in the Royal Navy on war service, and their marriage was hastily arranged when he managed to secure a short term leave. Isobel had only five days notice to prepare for the wedding, which took place in Sussex. An amusing memory of the wedding is that white cardboard was used instead of icing on the wedding cake, because icing was unavailable in those grim days. A replica cardboard version was created for their golden wedding fifty years later!

After a short honeymoon it was 'as you were', with David on active service and Isobel working at the Bank of England in London. David was involved in dramatic events, surviving the sinking of his ship, the cruiser HMS Fiji, off Crete. His distinguished naval record also included active service in the Korean War some years later.

Later in his naval career David served in training establishments in the UK and abroad, and he eventually became Headmaster of the RN School in Malta, with over 1000 pupils. On retiring from the Navy in 1965 David joined the staff of Cheltenham Ladies College, where for a while another well-known Painswickian, Margaret Hampshire, was his boss.



Isobel and David Mannering

David and Isobel moved to Painswick from Devon in 1965, living first at the Highlands and then moving to Kingsmill Lane in 1983.

They are both well known for their love of music. It was one of the things that drew them together in the first place and throughout their marriage they have performed at, attended and organised numerous musical events. Isobel was an accomplished violinist and performed with the Malta Choral Society and Royal Marines Orchestra. More recently she played with a Cheltenham Orchestra.

David is a pianist, but is perhaps better known locally for his organising skills and especially his inspiring and unstinting efforts with the Painswick Music Society, of which he was Chairman until about four years ago.

David and Isobel are also both keen churchgoers. David was a church warden at St Mary's for many years, and Isobel has been closely associated with the Mothers' Union, both in her time abroad and in Painswick, where she was Enrolling Mem-

ber for several years. Other interests (though there scarcely seems time for them!) include gardening, Isobel being President of the Horticultural Society in the 1980s. David used to do fund-raising for Missions to Seamen, and he still does valuable work transcribing books into Braille. He also finds time for a spot of cooking and bread making.

Although not spelt the same, Captain Mannering has a famous namesake in a certain television character and he sometimes has to put up with knowing smiles when he gives his name! Isobel tells an extraordinary post script to this, which is that her father's name was none other than Arthur Lowe!

Isobel and David have a son, Peter, and a daughter, Rosemary. A quiet family celebration was enjoyed on 23rd December.



As then... David and Isobel pictured shortly after their marriage

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Courses starting in Painswick - something to suit all tastes!

China Restoration class

A new China Restoration class run by Stroud College commences in the Church Rooms on Thursday 18th January. There are ten weekly sessions, from 10am to 12 noon. The tutor is Jane Winch. Newcomers will be especially welcome. Please phone the course organiser Mavis Mandel on 812666 for more details.

Line Dancing

Julie Cole will be running a new Line Dancing class, suitable for any level including beginners, as from tomorrow, Sunday 7th January, at the Painswick Centre. The class takes place weekly, 7.30 to 8.30pm. Further details and advice can be obtained by ringing Julie on 01453-752480.

WEA courses

Two WEA courses start in Painswick this month:

'Enjoying Poetry' is a ten week course at the Library Room, Wednesdays 2.30 to 4pm, starting 10th January. The tutor is Mary Newman. The course will consider poetry by Thomas Hardy, W B Yeats, Robert Graves, Stevie Smith, Louis MacNeice, Dylan Thomas, Sylvia Plath and Seamus Heaney. The course fee is £33.50.

Jeanne Cowd's course 'Advanced Watercolour' also lasts for ten weeks and starts on 10th January. It is in the Church Rooms, 2 to 4pm. The course fee is £44. For more details please phone Jeanne on 01285-821612.

'By the Way' - answers
(see page 7)

Vicarage Lane is of course Vicarage Street. The others are Barnet Street - now Gloucester Street, Towys Well - Tibbiwell, High Street - Bisley Street, Pig Street - Victoria Street, Russell Street - also Victoria Street.

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Local WEA representative John McCabe will be pleased to help in connection with any WEA courses in the area. His number is 01452-813125.

Language courses

Conversational French and Italian language courses resume in the Library Room on 17th January. French (advanced) is on Wednesdays, 9.30 to 11am, and Italian (intermediate) is Wednesdays, 11.30am to 1pm. Some places are available. Please phone the course tutor Caterina Krucker on 01453-751730 for more details.

Calligraphy course

There will be an Introduction to Calligraphy Day Workshop with James Skinner on Monday 2nd April from 10am to 4pm in St Mary's Church Rooms at a cost of £8 to be paid by the end of January. Details about the workshop and James Skinner will be found on the Library notice board.

There will be further workshops for beginners/improvers on Mondays 23rd and 30th April to be booked at the end of the introductory day at a cost of £16 for the two days.

Most of the equipment required may be borrowed for the three sessions.

For more details please contact Audrey Watts on 813089.

Walking in a winter wonderland

The Cotswolds AONB Partnership programme of guided walks continues throughout the winter. Full details are published in the Cotswold Lion, available free from Tourist Information Centres. Two weekend walks in this area this month are:

Sunday 21st January, 10am. 'Where Foxes Are'. An exploration of hill and vale starting at Eastcombe (village school/green), OS 162: 889043. 2 hours.

Saturday 27th January, 10am: Along the Syde Valley, through Syde, Caudle Green and Poston Wood. Starting Gloucester Beeches layby on Birdlip to Gloucester Road, OS163: 958122, 10am. Approx 3 hours.

Beacon weather reports

The Beacon hopes that regular weather summaries will shortly appear in our pages as a result of an agreement we have made with the Croft School. We have offered to buy the school a weather station, and the school will take regular readings and provide monthly summaries (see also Croft School page).

There could be a need to have some stand-by instrument-readers, especially at weekends and during holidays, so that records are right up-to-date and 100% complete. Can anyone, especially from the Churchill Way, Gloucester Street/Road areas offer any assistance please? No GCSEs required!

Fun at Ashwell House



Last month's Christmas Party at Ashwell House was the usual hilarious affair - and a good excuse for everyone to dress up again!

'Music Man' Charles Say cajoled most people present to 'perform' in one way or another, and here he is helping Rebecca Elliott, Margaret and Charles's grand-daughter, to do a recitation entitled 'My Little Spider'

PaDS Past Dramatically Reviewed! Peep Into The Future?

As I write this, dear reader, you find me welling up with a wonderfully seasonal sense of peace and goodwill. We have reached that climactic point of Christmas harmony: the final relative has been dispatched along with the remains of the turkey, the Most Organised One is busy re-wrapping unwanted presents, ready to return fire next year and the Christmas tree is cascading needles faster than The MOO can vac them up. 'Tis that nostalgic and maudlin time of year. So, come, maudle nostalgically with me over a dramatic 2000 in Painswick...

We start in March, when PaDS once again recklessly entered a team into the Beacon Village Quiz Night and once again failed to beat the WI. Come the night, the problem was not so much the questions as the wrong type of answers: a supernova, for example, was not 'a small Vauxhall with go-faster stripes' but some sort of old, has-been star which is on the way out. Obviously, we couldn't have been expected to know answers like that...

In April, that ever-Spring chicken, Pauline Foreman, presented *Spring is in the air!*, a pot pourri of passion, poetry and prose that got the sap rising and had spring chickens everywhere chirping for more.

May saw the first major production of the year, J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, which 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. And I can still hear the gasp from the first night audience as the curtains parted to reveal that dramatically gorgeous set designed and realised by the dramatically gorgeous Lynne Gibson and Maggie Drake, and the slightly less gorgeous (but no less dramatic when roused) Tony Gibson and Jacek Wolowicz.

In July, Victorian Market Day was graced by a Royal Visit from Queen Victoria accompanied by her ghillie, Mr John Brown, which PaDS was honoured to organise. Unfortunately, Her Majesty was reported 'not amused' by the other PaDS contribution to the day, a newly refurbished *What The Butler Saw* machine, which displayed lewdly risqué dramatic scenes with such titles as *The French Lesson* and *Her Ladyship's Undergarments Revealed*.

Possibly the second most dramatic event of the year occurred in August when amidst a Wagnerian scene of smoke, flame and hellfire, there was the unmistakable whiff of roasted flesh as I sat by mistake on the barbie at the *PaDS Summer Barbecue*. And despite near continuous rain, the show - in the best theatrical tradition - went on regardless. As one awed onlooker put it, "Who would have thought that so much, so wet could be so burnt?"

As ever, the year's most dramatic event was the AGM in September. An astonished throng heard treasurer Andrew Leach report that, for the first time since the re-birth of PaDS in 1997, we had failed to make a loss! There was only one possi-

ble response: we must stop being PaDS, go back to our 1920s roots and become once again... *Painswick Players*. Mind you, I'm still not entirely sure how *Painswick Players* will be abbreviated... PeePees... Peep? I quite like the idea of doing Peep shows...

Meanwhile back at the Institute - sorry Painswick Centre - rehearsals were soon underway for the second major production of the year, *Alphabetical Order* by Michael Frayn, which was staged in November. Once again, we had a first-time director, Alasdair King, who tackled a challenging play of considerable depth with great success. And once again fine performances were enhanced by a superb set and a backstage team, headed by Jackie Herbert, which expertly created carefully crafted chaos for every performance.

Finally, a memorable year was rounded off with a festive candle-lit Christmas Dinner in the Cotswold Room at the Painswick Centre, candle-lit because it co-incided with a power cut. Dramatic fun was had by all groping in the gloom...!

Now, on to 2001. By a strange coincidence, 2001 kicks off with... a dramatic review with the cunningly original title of *At Last! The Millennium Review*. To be staged at the Painswick Centre on 5th, 6th and 7th April, the aim is to involve as many folk as possible, including those with little or no drama experience, in a whimsical, satirical and musical jumble of sketches, monologues, songs, etc, loosely clustered around the theme of the New Millennium. There will be an open meeting on Tuesday 9th January at 7.30pm in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre to plan it all. Get thinking now of ideas for sketches, things you've always wanted to do on stage but have never had the opportunity or haven't dared. Be bold! Leave no dome unturned! Come to think of it, that's not a bad idea for a sketch...

A Happy and Dramatically Successful New Year to you all! Peep on!

Jack Burgess, Painswick Players

Wives Fellowship welcomes you

Painswick Wives Fellowship held a Christmas Social on 9th December. As well as enjoying all the food on offer we were richly entertained by Dorothy Finch and her colleague Joyce - a highly amusing double-act that included a memorable rendering of *The Good Ship Lollipop* by a Shirley Temple look-alike (well, almost).

We followed up with our annual Carol Service at Ashwell House on 20th December. This was led by Margaret Say and included appropriate Bible readings by Jean Bland, Doreen Boon, Muriel Curtis and Gladys Harding, together with many traditional carols, accompanied by Naomi

Maclaurin-Jones at the piano.

We start the new year with a service at St Mary's Church on 17th January, 8pm, led by Revd Bob Miles, and on 31st January there will be a talk by Betty Mills entitled 'It's Never Too Late to Learn'. This will be at Christ Church Hall, Gloucester Street, starting at 8pm, and our spring programme will continue at the same time and place at fortnightly intervals on Wednesday evenings.

All ladies are invited to come to our meetings and we will give a special welcome to any newcomers who would like to join our friendly group.

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Quiz time at the Horticultural Society

The Horticultural Society's Christmas meeting on Wednesday 13th December took the form of a horticultural quiz, as last year's programme on this occasion was such an unqualified success.

This time, fortified as before with delicious home-made mince pies (miraculously produced on the day despite a sixteen-hour power cut!) and a welcome glass of wine, we embarked on a quiz which was demanding but at the same time great fun. There were just enough questions to give confidence to the inexperienced gardener and others requiring depth of knowledge to make the experienced feel they were pitting their wits against the quiz masters. How about: the value of woodlice in your compost? the differences between Egyptian onions and the normal? the explanation of JIPC?

and the name given to the Japanese dwarfing technique on trees?

Lest this should seem to be just another quiz, I must hasten to add that there were twigs to recognise, commercial names to allocate to fruit and vegetables and, most exacting of all, seeds in glass jars to identify, as well as photographs of

plants we thought we knew but didn't!

Our sincere thanks for this evening's entertainment must go to Naomi Dunn and Gus Gaugain who succeeded in concocting a quiz that was both informative and pleasurable.

If this sort of occasion appeals to you, why not join us and have also a wide range of talks and garden visits within your reach?

Pauline Lamont (Secretary)

Singers bring Christmas cheer

A good-sized audience thoroughly enjoyed the Painswick Singers' Christmas Concert at Christ Church on 9th December. These concerts are an annual tradition but there was a significant change this year, with The Painswick Singers taking over the mantle of the recently disbanded Beacon Singers. Many of the faces and voices were familiar from the previous choir, but there was a new conductor in Sybil Cox and such was the warmth and vitality of the performance that she coaxed from the Singers (and the audience) that the change seemed to have done them no harm at all. The solos were especially delightful and Celia McCabe, Enid Walklett, Arthur Westwood and Betty Baker all drew enthusiastic applause from an appreciative audience.

The choice of music was a happy blend of old and new. Among the new (at least for this writer) was a wonderful contrapuntal arrangement of The Holly and the Ivy, by John Gardiner. This tricky piece was superbly sung by the choir and fully deserving of its encore.

Voluntary donations amounting to £160 were divided between the Singers and the Church's new organ fund. This proved to be a timely choice because on the very morning of the concert the organ broke down! The incident put the pedals out of action and prompted a last minute change to the programme chosen by Graham Stephenson for his organ interlude. Graham showed coolness and a high order of musicianship by calmly carrying on as if nothing untoward had happened.

Mince pies and mulled wine were served at the end of the concert and these contributed in no small measure to the happy, relaxed atmosphere. Many Painswickians will now be keenly looking forward to the Singers' next concert in the village, which is likely to be in St Mary's Church around Easter time. The Choir say they would welcome additions to their number. If anyone is interested in joining this merry band of singers, please contact Arthur Westwood on 812400.

A.R.B.

ANDY AYLNER

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Playgroup's Christmas story



Playgroup children dressed up to take part in a nativity story on 18th December. They were watched by an invited audience including pupils from the Croft School.

Senior Circle looks back on a successful year

As I attempt to write this article for the Beacon, it occurs to me that, by the time it is published, all the Christmas and New Year celebrations will be over. Looking back, it has been a very successful year for Senior Circle and it is grateful thanks to Pat Daly, so ably supported by Mair (even when really poorly) that we are in such good shape and looking forward to 2001. Sadly, we have lost some members this past year and especially, at this time, we think of Paddy Brooks, a good friend and a hard working Committee member for many years.

Senior Circle is in a sound financial position with an excellent programme of lectures and outings planned for the coming year. We have had an invitation to Gay Seguro's smallholding in the Forest

and hope to visit the Worcester Factory in April with visits to Westonbirt and the Birmingham Arboretum in the pipeline.

Our final speaker of the year was Stroud's Labour MP, David Drew, about "Life as an MP" and I was very fortunate to be invited to meet him over lunch before the meeting. He was a most interesting guest, with lots to say (as one would expect from an MP) and clearly a man who enjoys the job he is doing. His talk was not intended to be political and so at the meeting which followed he outlined his work as an MP at Westminster, told us how Parliament works as a legislative chamber and described himself as a community advocate. He confessed that being on the back benches was the right place for him, with no ambition to become a

minister. His chief interests lie in agriculture and rural issues and he sits on an Agricultural Select Committee because he knows the subject well. He warned us not to take Question Time too seriously: it is simply theatre, a chance for the main actors to play their parts and, once over, things return to normal, often in a very friendly way.

He clearly has a Christian ethos, likes and wants to help people and feels this is his way of doing it. There's no doubt he gets around and having lived in this area for many years, he is interested in, and is involved with, many local organisations. One thing that really annoys me about MPs on television is how they duck answering questions but in our loaded "Question Time" after the meeting he actually did. A very refreshing view of politics and I hope Mr Blair appreciates him, just one MP amongst his very large majority!

May we in Senior Circle send New Year Greetings to all your readers and a wish for a peaceful and happy New Year!

Daphne Hudson

Meticulous research and pre-Christmas fun at the Music Appreciation Group

Meticulous research was necessary for Leslie Brotherton's "Richard Strauss" evening on 23rd November to be the success it turned out to be. He started by telling us about his four principal sources: "Discovering Classical Music" in paperback; friends' recordings; the Oxford Dictionary of Music; and "jotting down bits of information gathered on the way". We all know about the works on which Strauss's fame rests: his operas on which he spent the greater part of his career, Salome, Elektra, Rosenkavalier (the pinnacle of his success), Ariadne and Arabella among them, his symphonic poems, especially Don Juan, his first great success when only 25, Till Eulenspiegel, Don Quixote and Zarathustra; and his famous concertos, two for the horn and one for the oboe. But in tracing Strauss's life from a 6-year-old child prodigy composer to an Indian summer of creativity at the age of 80, Leslie opened our eyes to much more: his conducting, on a par with his composing, his private life with a stormy but happy marriage and many lasting friendships, his role under the Nazis, and

much more. All illustrated with one and three-quarter hours of glorious music.

Members and friends met by candlelight on 7th December - candlelight because this was our 'Christmas Special' evening, not because of a power cut! After battling against bad weather to reach the Town Hall we fought through Leslie Brotherton's annual musical crossword sustained by good wine and a lavish supper. Happily Leslie managed to arrange it so that each group received a prize at some time during this very enjoyable evening.

Not to be missed: Lawrence Turner on Rossini on 18th January: excerpts from his many orchestral works and 39 operas!

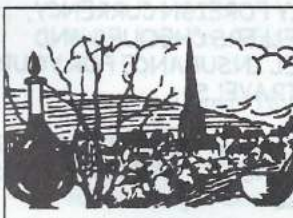
Anne Kenber and Margaret Richards

Still coming in - thank you!

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To date	630	657	621

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Discovering the history of Roman villas

The methods by which archeologists seek to reveal the history of ancient sites was the subject of the fascinating talk given by Mr Neil Holbrook at the last meeting in 2000 of the Painswick Local History Society. Mr Holbrook, the Director of the Cotswold Archeological Trust, described the different techniques he had used to study the remains of the Roman villas at Chedworth, Turkdean and Great Witcombe.

The Cotswolds have an exceptional group of Roman villas. It is not known if they were built at a certain time, during the fourth decade of the first century, or whether they developed throughout the period of the Roman occupation. Cirencester was a focal point during Roman times, being the second largest town in England, and had a dominant effect on the settlement pattern in the Cotswolds. Among the smaller towns in the area were Birdlip and Bourton. Villas were situated between the small towns and along river valleys near Cirencester.

The villa at Chedworth is in the valley of the river Coln. It is owned by the National Trust which is considering long-term plans for the site, especially in relation to the presentation of the villa. The site was first excavated in 1864 when some mosaics were discovered and then covered over; some were uncovered again in the 1980s. Mr. Holbrook's brief was to find the mosaics, assess their condition and then decide which would be suitable for display. Small holes were dug to locate the mosaics and then more extensive

excavations were carried out. These revealed that some of the mosaics had been covered over with tarmac and others with plastic. The tarmac had provided better protection for the mosaics than had the plastic but was more difficult to remove! Careful cleaning of the mosaics brought spectacular results, revealing the intricate patterns and bright colours of the Roman floor covering. The cleaning also showed that stones had been used to patch the mosaics, perhaps indicating that an owner of the villa had not been able to afford a proper repair.

The work at the villa at Chedworth where extensive excavations had been carried out over 100 years was in contrast to the work at Turkdean where Mr Holbrook and the Channel 4 'Time Team' carried out the first excavation of the site. The existence of this villa had been indicated by crop marks which appeared in fields in the very dry summer of 1976. For twenty years only three people knew about these crop marks. Then in 1996 the marks were seen from the air and, as a result, the 'Time Team' and Mr Holbrook spent the August Bank Holiday weekend of 1997 carrying out excavations on the site. Unfortunately the wet weather of that weekend obliterated the crop marks, but with

records of the marks made previously and a geophysical survey it was possible to produce a plan of the villa without doing extensive excavations. It was shown that the villa at Turkdean is similar in layout to that at Chedworth, the rooms built round three courtyards within a perimeter wall. One of the trenches that was dug uncovered a plaster-lined plunge bath; the villa's occupants would have taken a cold-water plunge after a hot bath. The plunge pool was found by the entrance to the villa; no reasonable explanation for this location has yet been found!

The villa at Great Witcombe was first discovered in the early part of the 20th century and some buildings were reconstructed in 1970. Mr Holbrook was asked by English Heritage to report on the state of the site and advise on the best ways of managing it. He did a survey of the site, including a drawing of every stone, and noticed that earthworks are visible in the slope below the existing buildings. It is possible, therefore, that these buildings are only half of the site and that the ruins of more buildings lie under the slope.

By the end of his absorbing and informative talk Mr Holbrook had shown how an archeologist, through a variety of techniques, can find out what lies beneath the Cotswold landscape and, through the interpretation of these findings, can bring an insight into the lives of the Romans who colonised the Cotswolds nearly twenty centuries ago.

The first meeting of the Society in 2001 will be held in the Croft School on Tuesday 16th January at 7.30pm. Mr Malcolm Atkin, the County Archeologist for Worcestershire, will give a talk on 'The Siege of Gloucester'.

Gwen Welch

The Lunch Club in 2001

We wish customers and helpers all a Very Happy New Year and continued enjoyment of the food and fellowship provided each week.

However, is there anyone out there who has made a New Year resolution to become more involved in Painswick activities? If so, we are looking for organisers for the rota of helpers. Naomi and Audrey have been in charge for twenty-five years and would like to hand on this voluntary work to new faces.

Please contact Audrey Timpson on 812296 or Naomi Maclaurin-Jones on 813320 if you are interested.

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The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2001

January

7th	Line Dancing classes commence. All levels. Beginners welcome. Sundays at 7.30pm with Julie Cole.	Painswick Centre	7.30 - 8.30pm
9th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
	Mothers' Union: "Hospital Chaplains - Why?" - Revd Peter Minall	Church Rooms	2.30pm
	Painswick Players: Open Meeting to plan forthcoming Revue (5th, 6th & 7th April). Potential new members especially welcome.	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
10th	Horticultural Society: Clematis - Mrs V Brooks	Town Hall	2.30pm
	WEA Course commences: 'Enjoying Poetry' with Mary Newman 10 weekly sessions.	Library Room	2.30 - 4pm
	WEA Course commences: 'Advanced Watercolour' with Jeanne Cowd 10 weekly sessions	Church Rooms	2 - 4pm
12th	WI Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
15th	Austerity Lunch: Host - Mr Bob Shea	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
16th	VDS 'Pre-Workshop' Gathering (see page 5)	Town Hall	6pm
	Local History Society: The Siege of Gloucester - Malcolm Atkin	Croft School	7.30pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
17th	Conversational French Classes (Advanced) - Wednesdays Conversational Italian Classes (Intermediate) - Wednesdays 10 weekly classes. Phone Caterina Krucker on 01453-751730	Library Room " "	9.30 - 11am 11.30am - 1pm
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Painswick Wives Fellowship: Opening Service for Spring Programme	St Mary's Church	8pm
18th	China Restoration classes recommence. Tutor Jane Winch Ten weekly classes.	Church Rooms	10am - noon
	Painswick WI: "Buttons Old and New" - Mrs Hawkins	Town Hall	2.30pm
	Sheepscombe Bridge Club. Duplicate bridge.	Village Hall	7.15pm
	Music Appreciation Group: Gioacchino Rossini	Town Hall	7.30pm
21st	COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Postbox in New Street		
	Unity Service - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Catholic Church	6.15pm
22nd	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Churches Together Around Painswick	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
23rd	Churches Together around Painswick: Short Service of Worship followed by a Committee Meeting. All welcome at both.	St Mary's Church	7.30pm



24th	Ecumenical Prayers for Christian Unity Week	Catholic Church	10.15am
25th	DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Postbox in New Street		
	Evening Prayer for Christian Unity Week	Prinknash Abbey	6pm
	Music Appreciation Group Concert Visit	Cheltenham Town Hall	7.30pm
26th	Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir Tickets, £6, from Shetland Shop, Painswick Post Office, and the Guild Gallery in the Painswick Centre.	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
27th	VDS Workshop Day. (See page 5 for full details)	Town Hall	9.30am
29th	Austerity Lunch: Hostess - Mrs Jane Titshall	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
31st	Painswick Wives Fellowship: 'It's never too late to Learn': Betty Mills	Christ Church Hall	8pm
February			
1st	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Sat 3rd	February Issue of The Painswick Beacon Published		
	Theatre Club Outing to Bristol	The Falcon	12.15pm
April			
2nd, 23rd & 30th	Calligraphy Day Workshop for beginners/improvers For details see Library notice board. Contact Audrey Watts 813098	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm

Rugby Fixtures

(L) denotes league match. Matches start at 2.30pm.

	<u>First XV</u>	<u>United</u>
Sat 6 Jan.	Longlevens 1st XV (Home)	Old Cryptians 2nd XV (Away)
Sat 13 Jan.	(L)Southmead 1st XV (Home)	(L)Southmead 2nd XV (Away)
Sat 20 Jan.	(L)Bishopston 1st XV (Away)	
Sat 27 Jan.	(L)Kingswood 1st XV (Away)	(L)Kingswood 2nd XV (Home)
Sat 3 Feb.	Hucclecote 1st XV (Home)	Westbury 2nd XV (Away)

Advertisement

Painswick Property Report, January 2001

First of all may we take this opportunity to wish all our customers past and present a very happy New Year and to thank you for your valued custom over the years. It is always a pleasure to work in such a lovely area and we hope we shall be able to assist many more people in their house moves during 2001.

Just before Christmas we were delighted to be instructed on the following: Providence Cottage in Lower Washwell - a delightful versatile house with large garden and lovely views and where we agreed a sale within the first week of marketing, Cleverlys in lower

Vicarage Street - again with a magnificent view yet in need of some refurbishment; Hillview, 3 Butt Green - a delightful 2 bed roomed end of terrace cottage in a popular location which we are sure will create great interest and also 9 Randalls Field - a traditional 4 bed roomed family house in an elevated setting taking full advantage of the spectacular views.

Sales completed before Christmas included 17 Churchill Way, Finchurst, Queens Mead; 4 Prospect Terrace, off Tibbiwell; Red Stables up at Bulls Cross and Mill Cottage in Upton St. Leonards. The Christmas break has hampered other sales, but we are expecting a good exchange month in January.

We are very optimistic about the property market for the coming year and look forward to being of assistance to you all in the New Year. If anyone is thinking about selling we would be delighted to come and give you a free market appraisal - please telephone us on Painswick 01452 812354. All our properties for sale can be viewed on our web site - hamptons.co.uk and this is updated daily.

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Festive fun at the WI

Painswick Town Hall was alive with colour, light and chat as WI members gathered for their meeting. The hard-working committee had spent the morning working skilfully with greenery, berries, coloured candles, gold and silver tinsel to make an exciting picture for the afternoon.

Everyone signed a card to our President, Barbara Thorley, recovering well from surgery, and the meeting was conducted by Vice President Audrey Watts. Business was kept to the minimum. Shirley Purdy spoke of her course at the WI's Denman College, near Oxford, saying what a pleasant, agreeable atmosphere she had found there.

A group of seven members, led by Pauline Foreman, entertained us with re-

markably interesting and varied seasonal readings, while lights flashed and Marg Shea took pictures.

Audrey Watts organised a game that involved deducing well-known authors' names from crafty little pictures. This caused a lot of fun.

Tea, as might be expected, was well up to usual WI standard.

At the next meeting, on 18th January, there is to be a talk by Mrs Hawkins on 'Buttons Old and New'. Members are asked to bring along any interesting ones they may have, for display only. In 2001 we shall not be having monthly competitions, simply a display each time. It is felt members will enjoy this more.

Dorothy Binns

Talk on buzzards at Painswick Bird Club

Robin Prytherch, ornithologist, wildlife illustrator and film producer, gave us a most interesting talk on his twenty year observance of buzzards in a 75 kilometre square area just south of Bristol. This raptor, which is found mainly in the West of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and throughout Scotland, reached its lowest numbers in the early 1900s but has since gradually increased probably due to less persecution. However there was a decrease in the 50s due to myxomatosis and possibly the increased use of agricultural chemicals. Interestingly sparrow hawk numbers also increased along with buzzards. During the last two decades the population has soared to about 50,000.

Buzzards are opportunists in their feeding habits. On the ground they feed on earthworms and crane flies; small mammals are also caught as well as small birds - hence they are mobbed.

In their nest of twigs found in trees or on crags two to three whitish eggs with brown markings are laid. The care of the nestlings by their parents is often aided by the young non-breeding members of the family - yet another example of this

behaviour in the bird world. In their first year the young birds are not territorial but tend to wander off in twos and threes. If they do enter the adult territory they are seen off by the flight behaviour of the adults. In extreme cases the adult swoops down with wings held high and talons showing!

By careful recording the speaker has shown that as numbers increase the size of the territory goes down and this results in less successful breeding.

J & M Cooper



Conservatives' Bridge Drive

Another enjoyable afternoon, efficiently organised by Francis Otway on Saturday 11th November. Ten tables played 'Chicago' with the usual excellent tea halfway through provided this time by Chancellors Cafe. Pauline and Alec Charman, stalwart members of Painswick Bridge Club, romped home into first place with a splendid 3,170 points. Daphne Smith and Jane Otway with 2,110 points just edged out Barbara Tait and Anne Kenber into third place with 2,030.

Ralph Kenber

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MINI ADS

Part-time secretary with WP and office management skills required for three mornings a week (10½ hours) for the Benefice Office, St Mary's Church, Painswick. Further information from Revd Bob Miles 812344

Lexeter ten Yew dining table for sale; 60 inches x 36 inches. Four chairs (two are carvers), with light green seats. Excellent condition. Cost about £900. £350 813169

Oak five-bar gate. 8ft 0 ins. wide £15. 813167

Ground floor one bedroom flat for sale in retirement development at Cainscross. Secure access, resident Manager, laundry room, lounge, parking, near shops. £55,000 813223

'Back Swing'. Good for sport-induced back pain. £40. 813167

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The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to JOANNA and ANDREW COCHRANE on the birth of their son, Thomas, on 26th November, a brother for Isobel and Helena, and a first grandson for Nora and Tom Carroll;

also to PHILLIPPA and ALEX WARNER, on the birth of a twin son and daughter, Thomas and Hannah, on 20th November, a brother and sister for Sam and two more grandchildren for Helga and Philip Warner.

Get Well Soon

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to ADELE LAMBERT, who has been in hospital recently, SYLVIA ROSS, GEOFF INGRAM and DOROTHY COX.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of MERVYN WARD and GLADYS HOME who have died recently.

Also to DIANA and KURT RAVENHILL of Edge whose son Toby died tragically on 19th December aged 14 months;

and to the friends and family of CHRIS LEYLAND-MAWDESLEY who tragically died in a car accident on 22nd December.

Engagement

Congratulations to LAURA SLADER, eldest daughter of Nick and Maggie Slader, of Painswick and JEREMY HEYS of Royston, Hertfordshire, who recently announced their engagement.

Change of House

TONY and MARGARET WRIGHT have moved from 'Olivers' to Cranham;

and Mr and Mrs STEPHENSON have moved from Timbercombe, Sheepscombe, to The Worthings, Sheepscombe.

Comings and Goings

We welcome DANIEL BROWN who is living at Brookhouse Mill;

also the McLEAN family who have moved into Hambutts End from RAF Innsworth;

HANNAH GEORGE who has moved into St Michael's Cottage, Paradise;

BARBARA TAIT who is coming to live at 17 Churchill Way;

and DAVID and JOANNE BROHN and their son who have moved to Timbercombe, Sheepscombe.

We say farewell to Mr and Mrs JOHNSON who have moved to Poole, Dorset;

and to HELEN DUNLOP who has returned to Canada after her recent visit.

Congratulations

Alexander Griffiths, now in his second year at Warwick reading Design Engineering, has been selected to tour South Africa as wicket keeper for the University first eleven. His uncle, Howard Griffiths, formerly of Stockend and educated at Edge and Marling schools, has recently taken up the post of Professor of Plant Ecology at Cambridge University.

Thank you

It is only at times of trial that you appreciate just how many friends you have. During Paddy's recent illness and following her death I have been overwhelmed by offers of help and expressions of kindness and sympathy. The full church at her funeral was indicative of the friendships built up over our time in Painswick. Thank you all.

Wally Brooks

David and Dawn Mills, son-in-law and daughter of the late Mrs Doreen Rodbard of Vicarage Street, would like to thank the staff of Painswick Surgery and all who attended her funeral, and especially John Thynne-Russell, who did neighbourly caring for many years.

They also wish to thank the Vicar, Revd Bob Miles, for a moving funeral service and David Archard for the excellent way in which the funeral arrangements were carried out.

Diamond Wedding

Congratulations to ISOBEL and DAVID MANNERING who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 23rd December.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY

Items for publication to Jillie Speed*,
The Old Carriage House, Edge, by
SUNDAY 21st JANUARY

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton,
Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by
SUNDAY 21st JANUARY

Business adverts: Contact Liz Fisher,
Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by
THURSDAY 18th JANUARY

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey,
14 The Croft, by
THURSDAY 25th JANUARY

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

Items for publication are welcomed on computer diskette or by email to: Painswick.Beacon@dial.pipex.com
In all cases please give your name, address and phone number.

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