

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 24 No. 8

November 2001

## The Oak changes hands, but not the pharmacy

The Royal Oak pub has been bought by Blenheim Inns, the group owned by Johnny Johnston, that has The Falcon and the Butchers Arms among its assets.

Completion and handover is expected some time in the middle of this month. There will be few changes, if any, and the present staff, including the cook, are staying on. "We have always seen the Royal Oak as complementary to The Falcon, There's different

food and a different atmosphere, and I want to keep it that way," Johnny told the Beacon.

There will be an experienced new manager going in, "but the reason we took it on was to change it as little as possible," he added. "We will continue to buy food every day from local firms. And if we're full in one place we can send customers round to the other without a problem."

By an odd twist, one of the Royal Oak's new regulars could be the present owner, Dave Morris, who has bought a house round the corner in Bisley Street.

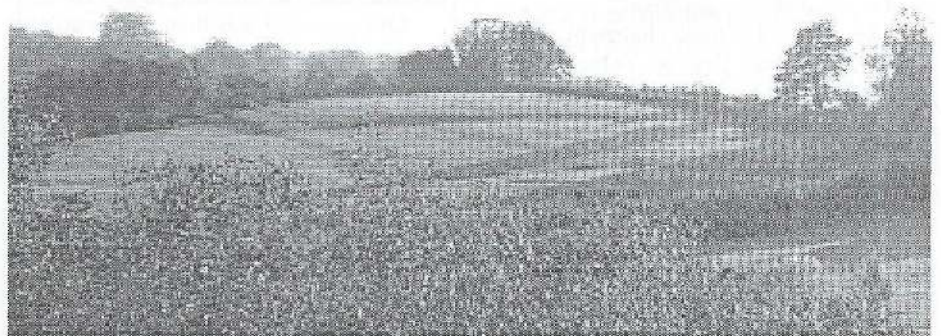
Mike Powis, the village pharmacist, has scotched rumours that the pharmacy was for sale. "Certainly not," he told the Beacon. "But it is possible that at some point I might seek smaller premises because of the cost of this shop."

## Mast approval raises new issue about who decides

There is considerable surprise in the village, particularly among residents of Kingsmill Lane, Stepping Stone Lane and surrounding houses, to the news that the application by Orange for a mobile phone mast and antenna at Skinners Mill farm had been approved, despite a number of objections.

Stroud District Council Development Control committee accepted the recommendations of their officers, although Painswick Parish Council members had written, strongly opposing the plan. Their objection was largely based on the conspicuous intrusion in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty of the mast and its equipment box.

District Council planners and members had seemingly ignored their own Local Plan that says in Part B21: Telecommunications development will only be permitted if ALL the following criteria are met - it does not have an unacceptable impact on the landscape, particularly in areas designated for the importance of their landscape, or on ar-



*The mobile phone mast will go on the brow of the hill above, against the trees and in view of about a quarter of the village. The "least visually intrusive location possible," according to SDC planners' own criteria.*

reas or buildings of historic interest; if the proposal is for a new antenna, it is to share an existing mast, or is in an area where no such mast exists; and if the proposal is for a new mast, it is for the least obtrusive mast possible, and is in the least intrusive location possible. (*The Beacon's underlining*).

Painswick District Councillor Mrs Barbara Tait was invited by the Parish Council to come to its meeting on 17th October to explain how the approval had been reached. She told councillors that only one letter of objection had been received, as far as she could recall, and that approval of the new mast depended on the revoking of a previous approval for Orange to have a mast at Hoyland House.

In the light of that, she had not felt disposed to object. This is what Parish Councillor David Hudson described as decision by "the lesser of two evils." (See Council report on Page 2).

Terry Parker, Parish Council chairman, said he understood that Orange had decided not to proceed with their Hoyland House mast anyway, because of its sensitivity, in favour of trying to erect one at the Severn Trent reservoir off Golf Course Road. However, Severn Trent had subsequently pulled out of that arrangement.

The Beacon is aware that at least three

letters of objection from residents nearby were sent to Stroud District Council, in addition to the Parish Council's objections.

Terry Parker told the Beacon: "There is considerable concern among many parish councils about their role in determining planning applications. At the recent annual meeting of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils a resolution was passed that called for parish councillors to be allowed to speak at District Council planning meetings where applications were of significance to the wider community.

"Parish councils are not responsible for planning decisions. That is a district council responsibility. Under current procedures, if a parish council objects to a planning application, the decision on it must be made by elected members of the planning committee. Painswick Parish Council has written to SDC to express its opposition to a proposal that, in future, some such decisions could be taken by District Council officers."

The approval of the mobile phone mast at Skinners Mill farm coincides with the SDC's development control committee being criticised for its refusal to approve several masts for BT's Airwave communications system that is vital for the county's emergency services, particularly the police.

## Grants for students

Painswick Educational Foundation is able to make small grants to boys and girls in the civil parish of Painswick to assist with their educational expenses.

The next meeting of the trustees will be held early this month. Application forms for grants are available from The Clerk, Painswick Educational Foundation, 2 Rowcroft, Stroud, Glos GL5 3BB (01453 763433), to whom they should be returned completed as soon as possible.

Michael Little

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### **Council meeting on 17th October. Reported by Iris McCormick**

#### **Phone Mast in Stepping Stone Lane**

District Councillor Barbara Tait attended the planning meeting in order to clear up any misunderstanding there might be about a recent planning consent for a mobile phone mast at Skinners Mill Farm in Stepping Stone Lane. She had supported the application despite the Parish Council's objections, and objections from a number of villagers, though only one had written in, she said.

Mrs Tait said she had supported the proposal for a mast after consulting the planning officers. She said that as there was an outstanding permission for Orange Telecom to erect a mast at Hoyland House; she had supported the Skinners Mill Farm site, subject to rev-ocation of the Hoyland House approval.

The Parish Council chairman, Terry Parker, said that Orange Telecom had already agreed not to erect the mast at Hoyland House, as it was clearly such a sensitive issue with the village. He went on to say that the District Council had received an application from Orange to site a mast at the Severn Trent reservoir near Gyde House. Severn Trent had later withdrawn their agreement to this use of the land.

Mrs Tait said she had been unaware of the Severn Trent proposal and would take up the matter with the District Council's Planning Department.

Cllr David Hudson said that "choosing the lesser of two evils was not the way to make good decisions, especially in

significant matters of planning." He believed that professional advice given to District Councillors must give due weight to aesthetic considerations.

Terry Parker said that the Council's Parish Plan included a recommendation that a Parish Council representative should be allowed to address the District Council's Development Control Sub-Committee where an application was of significant importance to the local community. Location of communications masts would be in this category.

Cllr Tait said that she always tried to take into account the views of residents and the Parish Council before reaching a decision. She could understand that the Parish Council might feel that their decisions carried little weight when it came to planning issues. Mrs Tait went on to say that the District Council was looking at ways of speeding up the determination of planning applications.

One proposal was that, unless at least three or four objections were received, the application would be not go before the Sub-Committee but be decided by officers. Asked whether parish council objections would continue to mean that applications automatically went to the Sub-Committee, Mrs Tait said that the matter was still under consideration.

#### **Affordable Housing**

The Council heard that Terry Parker and the Clerk had had a very constructive meeting regarding an affordable housing scheme. Colin Wadsworth had stated that his company had self-build schemes and that he was working in consultation with Gloucestershire Rural Housing Partnerships.

He explained how participants in the scheme learn and then share building skills in order to build their own homes. He said that a scheme at Wotton-under-Edge had progressed well. Terry Parker said he hoped this proposal would be taken forward.

#### **The Warden Scheme**

The future of the proposed warden scheme was discussed. If the scheme goes ahead, wardens will patrol the parish to deter vandalism and other anti-social behaviour.

David Hudson told the Council that he had been disappointed to learn that wardens would not have official powers to act as traffic wardens, and could only advise motorists about traffic offences.

The wardens would work in pairs to check hot spots, but would only have the power of citizens' arrest if confronted by criminal behaviour. P.C Breakwell, who attended the meeting, said that police support would be available, if called. David Hudson suggested that the relatively low levels of vandalism and

anti-social behaviour in Painswick made wardens seem unnecessary. However it was agreed to await the outcome of the District Council's application for funding before reaching a decision.

#### **Hollyhock Lane**

Terry Parker suggested talking to the residents of Ashwell House for ideas about the resurfacing of the lane. Alan Shearer felt that it would be a good idea to get professional advice from contractors.

Mrs Shirley Burley wrote to point out the surface water drainage problems in Hollyhock lane. She said that rainwater run off caused problems at the junction with the A46.

It was thought that resurfacing work would cost about £2,000. Some councillors believed it might cost more.

The Council gave support to a visit to the site by Mr John Lindsay, the County Southern Division Traffic Manager. He is to be asked for advice. A resident had offered a generous but anonymous donation towards the cost of the repairs. Up to 50 per cent of the cost would be paid by the County Council with the Parish funding the balance.

#### **Remembrance Sunday**



It was announced that as Remembrance Day fell on a Sunday, the civil ceremony would be linked with the church service. The Parish Council chairman had been asked to read a lesson and it was agreed that he would wear the Chain of Office.

#### **Youth Club News**

There has been further discussion on the future of the Youth Club. Terry Parker announced that a meeting had taken place between the acting Area Youth Officer, Debbie Lang, Jenny Broadbank, the Youth Club Leader and himself. A new assistant is being sought.

Clare Nayegon used the building during the week for art and craft workshops. She had been allowed to use the Youth Club rent-free to see if the arrangements worked out and if the courses were successful. She had asked in a letter if it would be possible for her to buy the pavilion.

Continued on Page 3



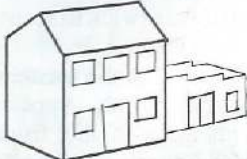
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Continued from Page 2

It was agreed to continue with the present arrangement, until at least the end of the Spring term, when longer term plans for the pavilion should be in place.

#### Golden Jubilee

David Hudson reported that the Golden Jubilee committee would meet again to discuss plans for next year's celebrations.

One suggestion had been to invite the Queen to visit Painswick as part of her rural communities' tour.

#### Parking in Pullens Road

Cllr David Hudson suggested that it was not the role of the Parish Council to decide on parking issues; that was a matter for the Police. Asked for his advice in resolving this matter, PC Breakwell said it was not an offence to park a car partly on the pavement, but it was an offence to cause an obstruction. He said that if people could get by with a wheelchair or pushchair the pavement was not considered obstructed.

He said the Renault truck in question was not classed as a commercial vehicle, as it did not "carry goods for hire or reward," and it should be treated the same as other vehicles in the village that park on pavements. He argued that in many cases it was better to park on the pavement in narrow streets so as to allow emergency vehicles through.

#### Miscellaneous

Mrs Angela Hudson wrote suggesting double yellow lines for Pullens Road.

David Hudson reported on the format of Parish Council meetings. It was decided to defer the discussion, as five members of the Parish Council were unable to attend the meeting.

The Ashwell House lunch club asked for a donation towards the cost of replacing their crockery. A donation is to be sent.

The Senior Circle had written to ask the Council to honour its pledge to contribute £300 towards the cost of audio equipment. The request was passed to the Finance and General Purpose Committee.

## Help us to choose the Painswickian of the Year

It's a Beacon tradition that every year the committee chooses a Painswickian of the Year - a person whose efforts or achievements on behalf of others have been a credit to the village over the previous 12 months. Last year, Barbara and John Hulme of Central Stores were selected.

Although the final choice rests with the committee, we like to be guided by the views of residents, and we are again asking readers to nominate someone or a couple whom they think deserves this accolade.

If you have someone in mind, please drop a line to Jillie Speed (See address on the back page), put a note in the Beacon Box in New Street, or email the Beacon (Email address also on the back page). Please also jot down a few words, no more than 100, in support of your choice.

The result will be announced in January's issue.

## Christmas shopping coach to London

For your West End shopping, Christmas matinee or a seasonal rendezvous with friends, a coach has been arranged for Wednesday, 5th December, leaving Stamages Lane car park at 8.30am, setting down at Harrods, around 11.15am, and the National Gallery at 11.30am. Return from the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, only at 6.30pm. The fare is £9. Bookings (cash or cheque payable to Painswick L & B Outings) should be made with Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, GL6 6XH. Enquiries to Joan Truman (813965) or Pauline Berry (813227).

## POLICE REPORT

### Incidents from 15th September to 14th October

House burglaries: Brookethorpe 1.  
Business premises: Painswick 2.  
Sheds: Painswick 2, Cranham 1, Sheepscombe 1.  
Vehicles: Painswick 10, Cranham 1, Brookethorpe 1.  
Other: Painswick (Theft 5, damage 1), Edge 1, Brookethorpe 1.  
Total 27.

### Items stolen

Handbag and contents, mobile telephone, power tools, garden machinery, Cotswold stone ornaments.

### Reported incidents

Nine incidents were reported this month

### Public Information Point (PIP)

This is to remind everyone that a PIP has been set up in Painswick Library. It consists of displays of current pamphlets on such topics as crime prevention. You can leave messages in the Neighbourhood Watch Diary for PC John Breakwell which is an alternative to reporting by telephone any non-urgent matters.

There is also the opportunity to meet PC Breakwell in person to discuss Police matters. He attends for one hour a week, and the next date and time is logged in the Neighbourhood Watch Diary.

PC John Breakwell  
and NW Coordinators

### ANDY AYLMER

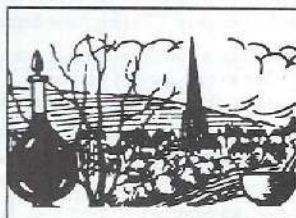
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## SCHOOL NEWS

### Class 6 have been writing letters from Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella

Dear Queen Isabella,  
Please can you help me. My name is Christopher Columbus and I want to be the first one to reach the spice islands. I just need a fair amount of money to do so and if you do then you have a great surprise in store for you.

You can have a bath full of diamonds and galleons of gold. You can have 1000 wax candles and your palace will be full of light. You can give me a list of materials you need and I will give some to you. Anything you want I will promise for you to have.

From Christopher Columbus

Dear Christopher,  
Sorry you had to wait so long but we were really busy. Of course you can go but I hardly know your character and your promises may be fake. How do we know if you will give us what you promised? Please give me your address and then it will make me sure that you will give me anything I want.

From The Queen and King Ferdinand  
*Hannah Gornall*

Dear Queen Isabella,  
My name is Christopher Columbus. I am trying to find a new route to the spice islands, but I have no ships or men. So I write this to ask for funds. What's more I will bring back many gifts for you, including spices, wax, rhubarb and countless mountains of precious stones. Also, if you want, I will take priests to tell about God.

Yours sincerely,  
Christopher Columbus  
*Cieran Douglass*

Dear King Ferdinand,  
My name is Christopher Columbus and I'm an explorer.

I am getting a ship together and I would like you to join. I want to sail west to the Molucca Islands (I have got one of the biggest ships so I can fit loads of people on board). You will be rich, you will have: gold and jewels in plenty... emeralds...mountains of gold... rhubarb...lapis lazuli... precious stones...gold, silver, wax in plenty too, that's loads of spices too. So please give me some money.

From C.Columbus  
*Matthew Whittaker*

### Meanwhile, Class 2 have been retelling the story of the three Billy Goats Gruff

One day there were three Billy Goats Gruff. They decided to cross the bridge but there was one problem - there lived a troll. But they were so hungry they

decided to cross the bridge. The first and next Billy Goats Gruff got over the bridge safely. The third Billy Goat Gruff crossed the bridge. The troll jumped up "Who's that crossing over my bridge?" Then the goat butted the troll. He went down, down, down into the river.

*Gemma Ford*

One day the littlest Billy Goat Gruff went on the bridge but there was a troll and next the middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff went on the bridge and then the big Billy Goat Gruff came and he butted the troll off the bridge, one time, two times and three times. and the big Billy Goat Gruff went hopping over the bridge happy and he got the grass and they lived happy again.

*Amelia Stone*

One day there were three Billy Goats Gruff. They wanted to eat the tasty green grass. The first Billy Goat Gruff went to cross the bridge. Up jumped the troll "WHO IS CROSSING MY BRIDGE?" roared the troll. "It is only I" said the first Billy Goat Gruff. "I AM COMING TO EAT YOU".

"No, not I, please let me cross"  
"OK" said the troll.

The third Goat Gruff wanted to eat the tasty grass. So he crossed the bridge. "WHO IS THAT CROSSING MY BRIDGE?" called the troll. "It is only I, Big Billy Goat" shouted the Big Billy Goat. He pushed the troll into the river and that was the end of the troll.

*Amy Cox*

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## New lease of life for bell-ringing

At long last there is hope that the bells will again be rung regularly for morning services at St. Mary's Church. There are now three villagers keen to learn and, to the band's delight, a bell-ringer has moved from Surrey to Sheepscombe.

Alan Hodges and Jacqui Pillinger have generously agreed again to give their time and effort to teach the learners, and an encouraging start on tied bells was made on Tuesday, 2nd October. It has been decided to change the practice night from Monday to Tuesday, this being a more suitable day for most of the band, and for

the time being the learners will meet at 7.15 pm., the full practice starting at 8pm. On Tuesday, 9th October, there were 12 ringers in the tower on practice night and ten bells were enthusiastically rung.

Plans were made to ring 13 bells yesterday for the for the new Vicar's induction ceremony, when the Painswick band were joined by ringers from neighbouring towers and by bell-ringing friends of the Rev. John Longuet-Higgins.

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Time has taken its toll on St Mary's clock, but it will be back



It has been somewhat eerie over the last three weeks or so, listening to the chimes and strikes of St Mary's Church clock, without the clock face itself being there on the tower.

It was on 9th October that the scaffolding went up on the north side of the tower and then, some six hours later, the wooden clock face was freed and gently lowered within the framework, as can be seen in the Beacon photographs. It was a lot larger

on the ground than it appears when looking at it normally; it measures some 8ft along each side, and the riggers and horological experts handling it estimated the weight at about three hundredweight.

Last painted in 1986 when it was not removed, this time the face has gone to Joyces of Whitchurch for repairs to some wet rot patches, preservation treatment and then a workshop repaint. The gold colouring

will be double gold leaf, both on the face and the hands because gold never tarnishes, and all other colours will be highest quality outdoor gloss paint which has been precisely specified by the diocesan surveyor, Dr Edward Peters.

When the face returns on Tuesday, 13th November, the design will be virtually unchanged, but it will show the year of painting - 2001 - and a yew tree will replace the letter G at the bottom corner. The three bells at the top will remain, marking the bell-ringers' tercentenary in 1986, coincidentally the time of the last repaint.

Douglas Robinson



Top, the face is moved and attached to the sling, then lowered diagonally through the scaffolding. Once down, Dr Peters, the diocesan surveyor, examines the gold leaf and the wet rot damage to woodwork

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# Sorry about the noisy party, it was a wedding

In reply to the letter in last month's Beacon from Mr John Holmes of Longridge: we are the family responsible for the party he referred to on 1st September, and we do apologise for not making it more widely known that it was going to happen.

That evening, and the party we held on 30th June, were both in fact weddings, and very special evenings for my step-daughters. People came from far and wide, and while some, I'm sure, did suffer from the noise, the custom brought to the local bed and breakfasts and hotels I know was

## In recognition of the Cotswold Way walkers

A small group of the village Monday morning walkers completed the hundred-odd miles of the Cotswold Way today (1st October). This little rhyme was inspired by this activity:

Late summer flowers their heads did sway  
Beside the paths of the Cotswold Way.  
Disturbed pheasants did warning cry  
Answered by buzzards in the sky.  
Spotted wood butterflies in jerky flight  
Allowed us but a fleeting sight.  
Ancient beeches towered overhead  
Made sunken lanes dark with their leafy spread.  
After noon the call for food was heard  
So a cosy inn was host to our herd.  
Steadfastly our band covered the  
hundred miles  
Accompanied by laughter, banter and  
smiles.

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## LETTERS

very welcome during this difficult summer.

By the time this is published, my daughter, Hannah, will have married Ben Zinkin. They must be unique in that they both live and work in the Painswick Valley.

After three weddings in five months, I can assure Mr Holmes that we feel neither young nor rich!

**Harriet Houghton, Dell Farm**

By the end of each day our muscles  
were tested  
We knew by then that should be rested.  
After all this walking we felt much  
stronger  
And wished perhaps the way was longer.

**Harold Wood**

## Newspapers for the blind

The Talking Newspaper, Five Valley Sounds, that provides tapes of the Stroud News and Journal each week, is looking for new listeners.

This is a free service for all visually impaired people (the politically correct term for the registered blind and those who can no longer read print); the tapes are posted each Thursday to an audience of nearly 200 in Stroud and district, and are easily returned free of charge by reversing a label on the envelope packing.

If any Beacon reader knows of a blind person in the Painswick area who would enjoy hearing the News and Journal every week, please contact Maggie Annis, Edgehill, Pinfarthings, Stroud, GL5 5LL (01453 832106) or me, 813594.

**Jo Brazier, 20 Gloucester Road,  
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## It's time for Old Time

Wednesday afternoon tea dances have started at the Painswick Centre, with dancing from 2pm to 4pm. For sequence dancers who might be put off by the title, Old Time, perhaps a short explanation of definitions would help.

The original sequence dances go back to around the year 1900, with the Veleta being one of the first and possibly the best remembered from that time. Saunters, Gavottes, Tangos, One, Two, Three and Four Steps, Foxtrots, Swings and Blues, both fast and slow, were soon very popular as, of course, were the many lovely waltzes at that time.

The advent of ballroom dancing encouraged teachers to introduce sequences using ballroom techniques, and latin too.

Old Time style dances are still being devised, but they are now danced in competitions under the name of Classical Sequence. Many modern sequence dancers dance Old Time dances regularly, since those mentioned above, with the exception of Tangos, Foxtrots and Quicksteps, are not found in ballroom dancing, the Old Time Waltz being based on ballet steps.

This means that popular dances, such as Saunter Together, Square Tango, Tango Serida, Melody Foxtrot, Sindy Swing, Balmoral Blues, Bambi Blues, Edwardian Gavotte and many more are all Old Time dances and included in the programmes on Wednesday afternoons.

Why not come along and dispel those winter blues (not a dance, but could be), have tea and biscuits in the interval, learn some new dances and have some gentle exercise into the bargain. For more information, call Geoff or Joy on 01453 833150.

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# Colin MacLaurin-Jones

By the peaceful death of Colin MacLaurin-Jones on 22nd September, Painswick lost one of its most valued citizens. He was born a Quaker and this background formed the mainspring of his life. His family lived between the mills and the moors of Sheffield, and he would tell of the rather high-powered Quakers there who influenced his early life.

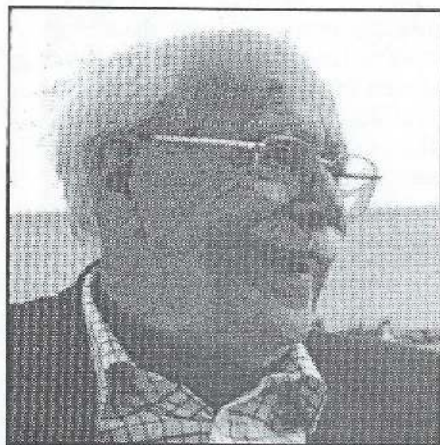
He qualified at Sheffield University as a quantity surveyor and entered the building and construction industry. A personal contact brought him to the distinguished building firm of Nicholls in Gloucester in 1937, and by 1942 he and Naomi Nicholls, another life-long Quaker, had married.

Living first in Pitchcombe, he developed an extraordinary range of interests. He played hockey for Gloucestershire, was keen on rambling and cycling, and progressed to a powerful motor bike, attended art classes and achieved great ability at calligraphy. Soon after the War, he became secretary of the Painswick Show.

Finding the 17th-century Quaker meeting house in Painswick not used, together with some other Quakers who had come to live near here, he and Naomi shared in restarting the worshipping community in 1953. His building skills, his knowledge of correct materials and awareness of local craftsmen of many kinds resulted in half a century of devoted care to that building. Colin and Naomi moved to Painswick in 1971. As a member of a 'DIY Church,' Colin knew that every activity required support behind the scenes. Thus, while helping to restart the Country Players, he was seldom in the spotlight but did scenery and other chores.

For the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen, he gave support and encouraged many craftsmen in the county. Joining the Cotteswold Field Club, he and Naomi reconnoitred and planned no fewer than 12 of their excursions, including major events to Edinburgh and to York. He was an active President of our Country Studio art club, contributing many paintings.

For several old people's homes at



Eastington and elsewhere, he helped with the administration and accounts. He made sure that the documentary records of all the Quaker meetings in Gloucestershire were safely archived at the County Records Office. By his faithful presence, he supported the Wednesday Prayer Circle in the Catholic church, and the Men's Coffee Hour at the Royal Oak, where his delightful sense of humour was much appreciated.

Above all, Colin helped to guide the local worshipping group of Quakers. He frequently prompted on the correct Quaker way to do things and gave wise counsel. He rounded off our last conversation by saying "Quakerism is a way of living". Colin truly lived and died as a Quaker.

Hugh McGregor Ross

## Art Studio remembers its President

Over 20 years ago, the Country Studio was founded in Painswick. Painters and sculptors worked in the disused kitchens of Painswick House with great motivation and enthusiasm. Three years later, the artists moved to the Church Rooms, where they still meet.

Colin MacLaurin-Jones was a founder-member of the Studio. He was a calligrapher, sculptor and painter of merit, and was always willing to use his many practical skills to assist other members.

He could speak on almost any subject, such as the breadth of his reading and his ability to recall. His advice was apposite, his wit incisive and his anecdotes entertaining and informative. All were delivered with good humour and twinkling eyes.

On his 90th birthday, we recalled that his arrival into the world coincided with that of the T Ford car. Since that time, both

### Thank you all

Naomi MacLaurin-Jones, Alistair, Sarah and family would like to thank their many kind neighbours and friends for the flowers, cards and letters sent after the death of Colin. Their support and that of our doctor, district nurses and the staff of Ward 14, GRH, are beyond praise.

## Friends of Stroud Choral Society formed

The Stroud Choral Society, founded in about 1834, is one of the oldest in the country. Two or three performances are given annually of classical and new choral works, currently under the direction of Eddie Garrard, most of them in Stroud Subscription Rooms and others in local churches. The next one will be Handel's Solomon on Saturday, 8th December, in St. Lawrence's Church, Stroud.

In order to create a wider audience and underpin the Society's financial position, a Friends of the Stroud Choral Society has been formed. The annual subscription of £17.50 for one and £30 for two gives members free entry into the two main concerts, a newsletter, priority booking for musical and social events and, last but not least, first chance to acquire the Society's new History Book, a strictly limited first edition due out about Christmas for which there have already been considerable expressions of interest outside the Society.

Until the official constitution at a first AGM, our Steering Committee will be Helen Briggs, Secretary 812312, Pam Hickman, Treasurer 01453 882246, Stewart Price, Liaison Officer 814241, Hilary Penney, the Choral Society's Chairman, ex officio (01453 750972) and myself 813259. Each of us will be happy to receive membership enquiries.

Ralph Kenber

transport and communications have developed at a tremendous pace; innumerable old models have rusted away and been forgotten. But Colin's qualities withstood the test of time. Our memories of him will live on for many more years.

Shirley Elliott,

Secretary, Country Studio

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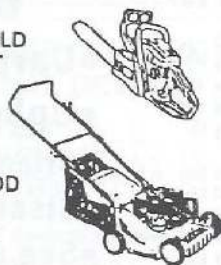
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## You want it in Chinese?

Imagine the Beacon editor's surprise, when opening an email, to be asked by the computer to download Chinese if the email was wanted on the screen.

It's not an everyday occurrence, you understand. Ignoring this, and asking for it in English anyway, there was a message from Taiwan, from Hsien-Ju Chen and her husband who had been to Painswick as part of a UK tour, fell in love with the village, and picked up a copy of the Beacon to read and take home.

Hsien-Ju is doing some research and had been intrigued by the Beacon's column on Planning Applications. She thought that permission was needed to build and alter buildings etc solely because Painswick was a special place.

The subject of planning is com-

plex, but in a short reply the editor explained that planning approval was needed throughout the country for most developments, but that Painswick, and other places, were special because of the AONB and Conservation Area status.

It was when he mentioned that, as a journalist, he had worked in Taipei in the mid-seventies that Hsien-Ju's reply was a surprise. She too was a journalist, and had worked in Taipei - "though I was a little girl going to school when you were here," she wrote in perfect English.

"I am hoping that one day we can have a special place like Painswick over here," she added. "Thank all the people we met who were so charming to us."

## Getting fit for the piste

SkiFit classes, with Libby Graesser, start on 12th November at Painswick Rugby Club from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

They run for six weeks until 17th December, then restart on 7th January until 25th February, with no class on 21st January. The cost is £4 per session, or £20 for six. Libby recommends that to benefit properly, you need to go at least six times.

The objective is to build stamina and strength in the muscles used while skiing, thus preventing injury, and increasing enjoyment, so that, hopefully, you will not be crawling into bed at night aching from head to toe, and popping Ibuprofen to get you through.

To book a place, or ask questions about dodgy knees or whatever, please call Libby at Five Valleys Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic, on 01453 755948. Or just turn up on the night, of course.

## Landscape and lettering

Valerie Dugan and Ian Shearman will be exhibiting their work at Painswick Town Hall on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November, 10am to 4.30pm.

Valerie, from the Shetland Shop, is a highly experienced calligraphic artist who specialises in working in a variety of media and lettering styles. Mainly for commissions, her recent works have included embossing and alternative materials. She has now added fine botanical paintings to her shows.

Ian lives and works from his home in Hyde, near Chalford. His work varies from atmospheric acrylic paintings of the Cotswolds and Cornwall to pottery and sculpture. The Jung potters and rich celadon and chung glazes have influenced his recent ceramic works.

## Latest news from Mencap

Stroud Mencap Homes Foundation would like to thank all those who braved a wet Saturday to come to the coffee morning at the Town Hall on 20th October. We raised £370. Many thanks to all who helped in any way.

The Mencap Service will be held on Sunday 18th November at Christ Church at 6.15pm. This will be the 28th year that Christ Church has hosted the service and all will be welcome to the short informal worship and, of course, to the refreshments afterwards in the hall.

News update: We have been working hard for a considerable time to get our fourth home off the ground and we're nearly there. We approached the National Lottery for funding towards this, but were unsuccessful and so have had to raise all the money ourselves.

The building should be completed within the month and then it has to be furnished. We hope to have the first residents in soon after the New Year. Painswick residents have contributed to

all our fundraising functions over many years and we are most grateful. Without the generosity of our friends the above would not have been possible. Thank you.

Marion Sadler

## Christian address

Hugh McGregor Ross, the author of two books on The Gospel of Thomas, available in the Post Office, will address Painswick Christian Men's Society on 'Opening the Gospel of Thomas' on Tuesday, 6th November at 8pm in the Church Rooms.

This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome.

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## Austerity lunches are back

The new season of Austerity Lunches in Christ Church Hall opened last month when a team from St Mary's Church hosted the first event, next were Mr and Mrs Arthur Lock, then Mrs Anne Leoni, and last Monday, when this photograph was taken, Mrs Jennifer Price and Mrs Mary Stuart were hosts. The lunches are held every Monday from 12.15pm to 1.15pm, when homemade soup, bread and cheese are available for a minimum contribution. The money raised goes to charities.

## Bring-and-Buy for Brooke Hospital

Jill Alder and Michele Phillips are holding a coffee morning and bring-and-buy sale for Brooke Hospital on Sunday, 25th Novem-

ber in the Town Hall, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. There will be lots of good books and well-stocked bric-a-brac stalls. However, Jill and Michele would welcome more donations.

## Pitchcombe concert

Nicki Kennedy, a local girl and world-class soprano soloist, is presenting a miscellany of songs, arias and seasonal pieces for soprano, tenor and piano on Thursday 6th December in Pitchcombe Church at 8pm. Tickets are available from Nicki's mum, Dr Rosemary Jones, Hales Mead, Pitchcombe, Tel 813103 or Elizabeth Ward, The Gatehouse, Edge, Tel 812188, and the Shetland Shop.

Tickets are £10 (students £5), including wine and refreshments. Proceeds go to Pitchcombe Church and the Village Hall fund. Nicki sang at the Three Choirs Festival in August.

The generosity of villagers in Painswick and Edge has enabled the pair to raise more than £1,300 this year so far, and provided for a regular stall at the Shambles market in Stroud.

The Brooke Hospital gives free veterinary treatment to working animals, mainly horses and donkeys, in some of the world's poorest countries.

The average income of those who bring their animals to the Brooke is 75p per family a day, so even the most basic treatment is beyond their means.

If you have any items for the sale that you would like to have picked up, or you have another enquiry, please call Jill on 813329 or Michele on 812340.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Received

- \*Yew Tree House, Edge. Creation of a pond.
- \*Hawthorns, Longridge, Sheepscombe. Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of replacement.
- \*25 Upper Washwell. Erection of two-storey and single storey extensions.
- \*The Gables, Friday Steet. Installation of a free-standing retractable radio mast for amateur radio (Resubmission).
- \*The Stables, Painswick House, Gloucester Road. Insertion of new roof window.
- \*Sunnyside, Cheltenham Road. Replacement dwelling.
- \*Painswick View, Back Edge Lane, Edge. Prune ash and walnut trees, fell sycamore tree.

### Consents

- \*Back Edge Hall, Back Edge Lane, Edge. Erection of three-car garage with attic space over (existing garage to be demolished).
- \*Highgrove Barn, Lower Washwell Lane. Erection of new extension.
- \*Rifleman's, The Vatch, Slad. Demolish out-building/WC, erection of new conservatory. Internal alterations, alter vehicle access and new windows to rear.
- \*The Stables, Painswick House, Gloucester Road. Erection of tool/storage shed.
- \*Chapel Cottage, Edge. Replace new door into an old door opening.
- \*Hyett Orchard, Hyett Close. Prune two lime trees.

### Permitted development

- Halebourne, Knapp Lane. Fell Wellingtonia tree.

### Notification of appeal

- Land at Jack's Green, Sheepscombe. Erection of one dwelling with associated business use.

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October has seen Painswick's first XV continuing their excellent run, with convincing victories in league and cup competitions. As predicted by coach Wayne Lee, Painswick soon put their disappointing result against Old Cryptians behind them, and the following Saturday produced a solid if somewhat uninspiring performance to beat Tewkesbury at Broadham. Painswick's scorers were: Alastair Bressington with a try, two penalty goals and a conversion, with Simon Stewart Painswick's other scorer with a try.

Playing away at Frampton Cotterell a week later, Painswick repeated their earlier season's league victory against the South Gloucestershire club in the second round of the Tetley Bitter Vase national competition. Leading by 18 points to 5 at half-time, Alastair Bressington put the visitors in a commanding position at the start of the second half with an excellent try that he then converted.

Painswick maintained their advantage until close to the end when Frampton scored a converted try but their effort came too late to affect the result. Painswick now meet the Bristol club, Southmead, in the third round at Bristol today (Saturday 3rd November).

Southmead play in Division Two of the Gloucestershire League, where they too are having a very good season so far. However, Painswick, who play in Division

# First XV's good run continues apace

One, will start marginal favourites in what promises to be a close fought game.

Against another Bristol team, Ashley Down Old Boys, Painswick showed considerable character to come back from a 17 points to nil deficit to record an away league victory by 36 points to 28. For Painswick, Alastair Bressington had another outstanding game, scoring 31 of his side's points. Flanker Marc Pratt was adjudged Man of the Match.

Painswick played Brockworth in another league match at Broadham last Saturday when they produced a good performance. Leading by 28 points to 7 midway through the second half, the home side sustained a period of considerable pressure during which time the visitors scored two unconverted tries.

This proved only a temporary setback, with Painswick coming back strongly; Alastair Bressington converted a superbly struck penalty from just inside the Brockworth half, followed by a well-constructed try after a good period of handling by the Cherry and Whites' backs.

Painswick's scorers were Simon Stewart and Chris Hall, each with a try;

Alastair Bressington's total of 26 points comprised two tries, two conversions and four penalty goals.

Results [(L) indicates league match]  
Sat 6 Oct. (L) Painswick 1st XV 18  
Tewkesbury 1st XV 3. Tewkesbury 2nd  
XV 7 Painswick United 18.  
Sat 13 Oct. Tetley Vase. Frampton  
Cotterell 1st XV 12 Painswick 1st XV 25.  
Sat 20 Oct. (L) Ashley Down OB 1st XV  
28 Painswick 1st XV 36. Painswick  
United 31 Cheltenham Civil Service 2nd  
XV 5.  
Sat 24 Oct (L) Painswick 1st XV 36  
Brockworth 1st XV 17. Brockworth 2nd  
XV 10 Painswick Utd 3.

## One-point defeat in Mixed Open, but Juniors do well with six teams

The Open Mixed Doubles Tournament, played for the Painswick Cup, was won by the Minchinhampton A team. They beat Painswick A by one point. The tournament will start again in January 2002, with matches being played on Wednesday evenings. Further details are available from Joan Griffiths on 812804.

This year, Painswick Juniors entered six teams in the Gloucestershire Junior League; their results were: Boys Under 11 Div 1 - 3rd. Under 11 Div 2 - 1st. Under 13 Div 2 - 1st. Under 15 - 4th. Girls Under 15 A team 3rd. Under 15 B team 2nd.

Congratulations to all the players, especially Megan Horder who won the Gloucestershire Closed Tournament, Girls Under 8.

There is junior coaching at Broadham three afternoons a week and on Saturday mornings.

## News from Painswick Golf Club

As the season draws to a close, the outstanding summer knockouts have been resolved and the penultimate trophy competition decided, as also has the Order of Merit.

The winner of the Alan Poyser Trophy,

played on 7th October in difficult weather conditions, was Steve Powell who held off the challenge of Phil Payne and Brendan Nunan.

Brendan also proved the dark horse as he came through to win the Order of Merit salver. The form horses for most of the season only appeared among the also rans in the Alan Poyser Trophy, leaving the field clear for Brendan to claim the prize following his third place.

Paul Thomas again claimed the Herbert Cup trophy, following his defeat of Robin Anthony in the final of this event that is played over the season.

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# This village of vicarages

The first known vicarage was the house called The Verlands in Vicarage Street and it served as our vicarage in the 19th century. Although we have scant knowledge of its early use, we do know that the last vicar to live there was the Rev. W.H. Seddon from 1885 to 1890. He wished to stay at The Verlands after resigning through ill-health, and the new vicar, the Rev. W.S. Guest Williams, 1890-1897, made Castle Hale his vicarage.

In 1897, the Rev. Seddon was instituted a second time, so The Verlands was once again the vicarage.

Over the next few years the moves were like a game of ping-pong. In 1899, Gwynfa, now the Painswick Hotel, was used; in 1900, The Verlands, then in 1901 Gwynfa again.

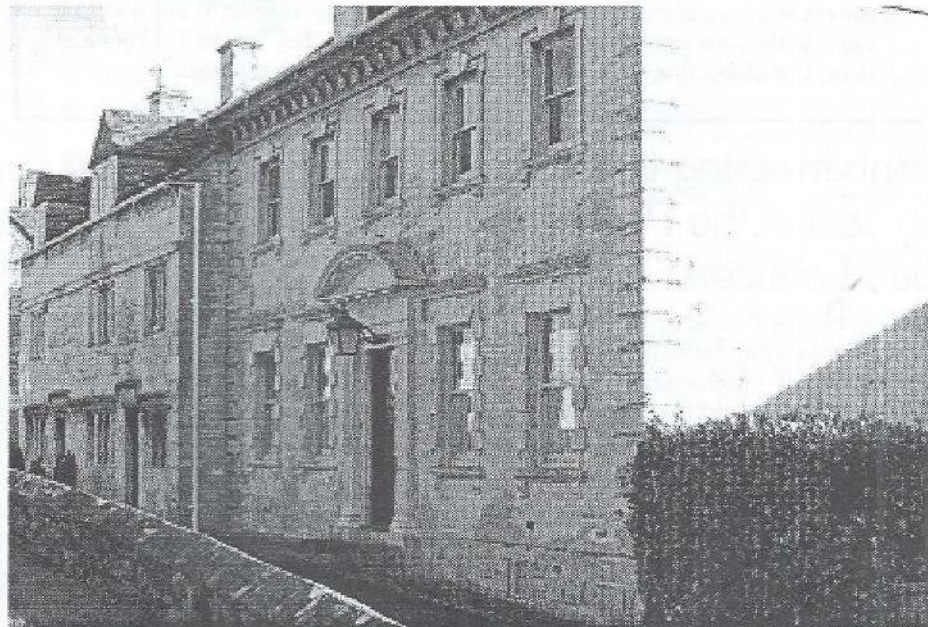
In 1902, Hillworth House in Gloucester Street became the vicarage, and in 1906-7 Plas-y-Ackery, now Green Acres, on the corner of Cheltenham Road and Lower Washwell Lane, significantly once a private drive to The Verlands.

Gwynfa resumed the title of vicarage in 1909 and remained such during the time of the next incumbent, the Rev. C.H. Verey, 1917-1930. He was the father of David Verey, the writer on Cotswold architecture, and father-in-law of Rosemary Verey, the garden designer who died only recently. During this time, Robert Raikes was the curate and lived in Lovedays House, nearer to the church than any other residence before or since.

The Rev. A.M. Coode became vicar in 1930 and moved into the house in Friday Street, then called Belgrave House, formerly the Bell Inn. £700 was spent on work to this vicarage and then in 1941 German bombs fell and destroyed it.

However, in true Painswick fashion,

Painswick is undoubtedly different from most villages in that its vicarages have been numerous, and seldom near the church. As our new vicar settles into the relatively modern house in Orchard Mead, it is perhaps timely to look at previous incumbents and their places of residence.



*Imposing Georgian home of vicars and curates, Lovedays in St Mary's Street*

the vicarage had already moved on, in 1933 to be exact. The Rev. Hiram Craven, afterwards Canon Craven, 1933-1945, chose to live at Paradise House. Later he had a new house built, Damsells Cross, in the field called Deers Leap, recorded in 1820 on Charles Baker's map as Dear Lips.

The next vicar, the Rev. Reginald Jackson, 1945-1954, lived in New Street in the house now called Madison House, formerly The Country Elephant restaurant. He was succeeded by the Rev. Harold Heal, afterwards Canon Heal, 1954-1976, who moved into the former curate's house, Lovedays. This was also

the vicarage for the Rev. Henry McKinley, 1977-1984.

And so almost back to the beginning: When the Rev. Robert Miles became vicar in 1984, he decided that a more modern house than Lovedays should be his vicarage, and so the house in Orchard Mead was chosen.

All in all, quite a breath-taking array of vicarages for one village! Watch this space just in case.

*This article was compiled from a variety of sources, including information from John Thynne-Russell and the research of the late Colleen Haine.*

## Sheepscombe's favourite recipes book

Sheepscombe has produced a recipe book that contains favourite recipes contributed by villagers, including several from Painswickians. The book was launched on 13th October at a cookery demonstration in Sheepscombe by well-known local

fishmonger David Felce. More than 100 copies were sold at that event and all proceeds will go to the Village Hall Redevelopment Fund.

It is a lovely book to own and would make an ideal Christmas gift. It contains not only 150 or so recipes, but also snippets of local Sheepscombe history found by Elisabeth Skinner and beautiful drawings by Kate Delhanty. Copies will be available at Painswick Post Office, and also from David Felce's Fish Stall in Painswick on Thursday mornings during November, priced at £8.95.

Alternatively, contact any of the following to obtain your copy: Ann Horner 812128, Sandra Hunkin 814081, Sally Hussain 813645, Marilyn Thomson 812255 or Margaret Todd 812016.

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## Sorry, advertisers! We are full up

The Beacon has a policy of limiting the amount of advertising carried in each issue, because the committee believes that subscribers prefer a strong editorial presence.

There has been a waiting list of advertisers for several months, and we recognise that this can be frustrating, but it is unlikely that an issue with

more than the current 20 pages will be produced for some time. We regret, therefore, that Liz Fisher cannot take orders for any new advertisements before April 2002.

At the same time, the Beacon appreciates the support it enjoys from advertisers; they are the backbone of the publication's finances.

## Embarrassing to have to cancel the Police band concert

Despite the hard work of the Painswick Centre fund-raising committee to organise the concert by Gloucestershire's Police Band, and the support in ticket selling by the Post Office and the Shetland Shop, the concert had to be cancelled late on Saturday, 20th October.

The committee has apologised to the Police Band for this most embarrassing outcome, especially as the booking was made many months ago, after the successful concert by the Police Choir.

Thanks to The Painswick Beacon for the excellent coverage, announcing the concert in the September and October issues, as well as to other supporters for displaying the advertising notices around the village. Unfortunately this was to no avail; only 23 tickets were sold.

Refurbishment of the Centre will continue, as funds allow, for the benefit of Painswick residents. The more the support, the more prestigious your Centre.

Greg Unsworth

## New face on the Square



Murrays have recently increased the sales team, and have appointed Richard Marriage (above) to back up Jenny Murray in the Painswick office as it moves into its third year of operating.

Richard started in agency in 1983, after he graduated from Leicester University, quickly rising to branch manager of the Ipswich office of a multi-branch firm. He has been working in the Cotswolds since 1990, latterly as a branch manager in Stroud; his good knowledge of the area and personable manner "will compliment our personal approach," say Murrays.

## Dates for 2002

The village diary for 2002 is now available in Painswick Woodcrafts.

The shop is open on Monday to Saturday from 9.30am to 5pm, and on Sundays from 1.30pm to 4.30pm for people wishing to book dates.

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## Directory for 2002

A free copy of the Beacon's updated Directory will be enclosed with the December issue.

Work is in hand to update information, but we rely almost entirely upon all concerned to let us know if an existing entry is incorrect. Will officers of clubs and societies, businesses, and so on please let the treasurer, Leslie Brotherton, know by 10th November at the very latest, if changes are to be made.

We are pleased to include email addresses if asked, and because they are so sensitive to accuracy, we must receive the information in writing, or by email itself, of course.

A few days after the above date, the information goes to the printers and 1800 copies could, if we don't hear from you, be carrying errors.

With thanks, in anticipation of a note in the Beacon Box, a post-card to Leslie at Longhope, Blakewell Mead, Painswick GL6 6UR, or email to:

[Leslie.Brotherton@care4free.net](mailto:Leslie.Brotherton@care4free.net)

## Clare's Gold Badge

At the recent Volunteers' Annual Award Ceremony at Gloucester Royal Hospital, Mrs Clare Smith of Gyde Road, received her Gold Badge for ten years' voluntary work in the hospital. Dame Rennie Fritchie presented the awards.

Mrs Smith would like to thank friends and relatives who provided transport over the last five years, and asks anyone wishing to give voluntary help to call Mr Slatter, the co-ordinator, on 528555.

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# Shedding light on the Dark Ages

The time between the end of the Roman governance of Britain in the fifth century and the coming of the Normans in 1066 is known not only as the Anglo-Saxon period of English history but also as the Dark Ages, for comparatively little is known of the people and events of this time.

What is known of the Anglo-Saxons in Gloucestershire was the subject covered by Mrs Carolyn Heighway at the October meeting of Painswick Local History Society. Mrs Heighway explained there is little archeological evidence and few contemporary accounts of the Anglo-Saxon invasions and of life in Anglo-Saxon England.

It is known, however, that by 510 there were some Anglo-Saxon settlements on the Cotswold hills, and that the three Celtic kings who ruled in the Cotswolds and Severn Vale were defeated by the Saxons at the battle of Dyrham in 577. Gloucestershire eventually became part of the kingdom of Hwicce that also included parts of Worcestershire and the Welsh Marches.

The Christian church played an important part in the social and economic life of that time. Religious houses for men and women were founded, each headed

## Painswick Local History Society

by an abbess. They had power and influence and formed the backbone of the state.

Minster churches, built of stone, were established. They were complex in design; the building was divided into small spaces, with tortuous passages, separate entrances to all the side chapels and small windows. Some of these churches still survive; a fine example can be seen at Deerhurst. The church at Berkeley is an Anglo-Saxon foundation; some of the stonework bears a pattern very similar to one drawn in the Lindisfarne Gospels. At Bisley there was a large minster parish. The church, wells, vicarage and big house lie within a large circle, the layout of a typical Anglo-Saxon settlement.

The land was divided into estates, whose boundaries were defined by charters. One such charter exists for Gotherington. These estates were gradually broken up into smaller holdings, which, by the 10th century, were run by squires. The great hall was the most

important building on each estate, as this was where taxes were collected! The church, manor house and farm formed the nucleus of a settlement, with the peasant labourers living in the surrounding countryside. It is possible that church and manor house were adjacent in Painswick. Villages and towns were not established until the latter part of the period by which time Painswick was a thriving centre of agriculture.

Gloucester had fallen into decay after the end of the Roman occupation but this decay was halted with the establishment of a monastery church in the mid seventh century. New streets were built inside the Roman walls and by Norman times Gloucester was a prosperous community.

The next full meeting will be on Tuesday, 20th November in the Croft School at 7.30pm when Mr. Michael Bird, a member of the Hill Paul family, will talk about the history of the Hill Paul building in Stroud.

There will also be a meeting on Tuesday, 13th November, at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms when our Chairman, Mark Bowden, will give details of the Society's Landscape History Project.

Gwen Welch

## PROPERTY REPORT at 25th October from Murrays Painswick agency

Whilst property reports coming out of London since the terrorist attacks make depressing reading, reports from the provinces are much more encouraging. Clearly the tragic disaster in New York was a terrible shock and has rattled markets and businesses all over the world, not to mention the UK property market.

Every agent spoken to has experienced a downturn in business in the past few weeks, but at last we are finding a return to normality, with viewings getting back to expected levels and a marked increase in sales to those hoping to move before Christmas. Whatever happens, property is considered the safest haven and with

interest rates continuing to fall, what better time could one choose to buy?

Activity since our last report in September has been excellent, with completions on The Lamp House, Butt House, Portlett Cottage and Culvert Cottage all in the village, as well as 1 Wordings Mount at Sheepscombe, Field Lodge at Cranham, Upper Green Farm at Haresfield, Smalls Mill at Pitchcombe and Abbeywood House above Slad.

Fewer properties have come to the market however, and, as always, we have many buyers waiting for the right Painswick property to be offered. Latest instructions include two properties at

Edge: The Old Carriage House, a lovely period house with great views, and Packhurst Farm, a beautifully restored period farmhouse with four acres, stunning views, a barn for conversion and a further 16 acres available. There is also The Langet in a country setting with three acres at Cranham, and 27 Upper Washwell, an enlarged four-bedroomed semi.

Painswick remains one of the most favoured Cotswolds villages, and although one might have to pay a little more to live here, property values grow proportionately; the one certainty is that even in difficult times, properties will always be easier to sell here than elsewhere.

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# 100 years of song from Bob Shea's album

100 Years of Song was Alec Nichols's title of a fascinating and instructive talk on 27th September on Singers and Singing, illustrated mainly with records taken from his vast collection of 78s. "Voice, technique and interpretive skills" were the attributes of great singers, he told us.

The first two going back to 1901 did not possess them; by contrast, the following 13 certainly did. Of these, four - 1907 to 1925 - exemplified the "bel canto" style: Pol Plancon (King Philip's aria from Don Carlos, 1907) and Emma Eames (Dopo, 1911), both outstanding.

Giovanni Martinelli (1927) and Aureliano Pertile (1928) both sang the same scene from *Trovatore* in contrasting "classical" and "verismo" styles respectively. We moved on to hear singers with powerful voices:

Lauritz Melchior (*The Prize Song*, *Mastersingers*, 1939); singing actors: Tito Gobbi (*Parisiano*, *Rigoletto*, 1950); soprano power and coloratura virtuosity: Joan Sutherland (*Mad Scene*, *Lucia*, 1959)

## Painswick Music Appreciation Group

and the new star tenor, Giuseppe Morino, back in bel canto (*Salut demeure*, Faust, 1996).

In altogether lighter vein, *Desert Island Discs* on 11th October, found well known Painswick personality Bob Shea revealed as the secret guest, interviewed - and kept in order - in her usual efficient manner by Anne Smith.

Born in Toronto in 1947, Bob illustrated his varied and colourful life - childhood farm, high school, church, McGill University (degrees in economics and law), Europe by bus, marriage, children, workaholic, retirement in Painswick with accent on charities and church - with recordings ranging from *Gracie Fields*, *Land of Hope and Glory*, and *Abide With Me*, via Callas, Ashkenazy and Nelson Mass to *God Save the Queen*. As expected, an ebullient evening.

To come: Frederyk Chopin (25th October), the WNO's new production of Beethoven's *Leonore* in Bristol (8th November) and Richard Burgess-Watson on Giuseppe Verdi (22nd November).

Ralph Kenber

## PAINSWICK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### No more droopy cyclamen, and no more leafless poinsettia...

At the first autumn meeting of Painswick Horticultural Society, Miss Brenda Drake gave a talk with slides on House Plants - their care and cultivation. From her expert advice on whether to neglect them or kill them with kindness, we learned how to handle plants so they would remain a source of pleasure for years.

All our favourites were introduced in beautiful slides, as well as many of the less familiar, such as the hoyo.

It was a delight to listen to Miss Drake, who trained at Waterperry College, an expert who could refer to the requirements of a seemingly infinite variety of plants, from the African Violet to the orchid, in a clear and succinct manner, so that no member went home not knowing why her cherished poinsettia or azalea suddenly shed all its leaves, or a cyclamen was found in the morning, hanging over the side of its pot.

From this moment, our house plants will enjoy a life of bliss.

Pauline Lamont

### Photographs for presents

Framed and mounted photographs, calendars and cards will be on sale at Painswick Library Rooms, on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November, from 10am to 5pm. Admission free.

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## CTAP Christmas Sale

Churches Together Around Painswick invite you to a Christmas Sale and tea on 14th November, at Sheephouse, off Stepping Stone Lane, from 2.30 pm to 5pm.

Books, cards, gifts, fairly traded food and candles will be available, supplied by Centre Christian Bookshop, Stroud.

For more information, telephone Lindsey Gardiner, 814282, or Kate Davie, 812818.

### St Mary's Christmas bazaar

St Mary's Christmas Bazaar will be on Saturday, 24th November in the Church Rooms from 10am to 3pm.

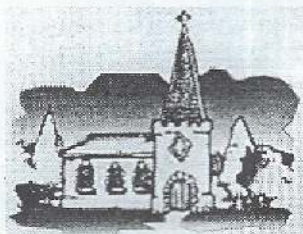
There will be gift and cake stalls, a raffle and tombola. Morning coffee and lunch will be served.

Proceeds will be shared equally between the Church Mission Society and the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

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# Hair-raising stories of work safety

In 1802, Parliament passed the first Factory Act. Another followed in 1833. Both governed the employment of women and children in textile factories. As well as being interesting insights into working practices 200 years ago, the Acts introduced health and safety legislation that is now an integral part of today's business and industrial world.

Gus Gauguin spoke to the Senior Circle about the work of the Health and Safety Executive, in particular his experiences as a factory inspector. He enjoyed the work and only regretted he hadn't joined the service earlier. However, the periods he spent with the 'Met' and in the construction industry, he observed, stood him in good stead.

On appointment in 1964, health and safety in the workplace was not so keenly developed as it is now. Less than scrupulous employers avoided what seemed to them to be costly safety measures while workers were reluctant to wear protective clothing or would short-cut safety procedures. It was easy

## Painswick Senior Circle

to see how Gus was part counsellor, part policeman.

Later in his career he travelled widely. In America, he found health and safety part of the way of life. Hard hats were worn with some pride. In Africa, one delegate spoke proudly of his own executive and described the chain of command but admitted that so far he was the only one.

Gus concluded his talk with some quite startling slides of the-way-it-was: 'Top men' 30 foot up on a nine-inch wall,

knocking bricks out from under them - for which they received an extra 2d an hour; a zigzag of planks and ladders over a gaping void, all resting on a brick; an unshuttered 10-foot deep trench that collapsed as Gus was writing out a restriction notice; and a 70-foot chimney which defied dynamite. All this added up to an incident-full afternoon.

Gus's genial approach and quiet authority would have made him a welcome visitor on any site, and so it was in the Town Hall before the Senior Circle just 200 years after the hours of work for women and children were limited by Statute.

Patrick Daly

## Dursley artist charms the WI

At the start of their October meeting, Painswick WI members were saddened to hear that Phyllis Leach had died the previous day. In her 91st year, Phyllis had been a keen member for very many years. She served two separate periods in office as secretary.

Entering the Town Hall, members had been greeted by a sunny room and an interesting flower arrangement on the President's table. It had been done by Shirley Purdy in shades of yellow, blue, green and red, all of them wild flowers or edible herbs.

Original watercolours of flowers or village scenes, each in a gilded frame, hung along the walls. Dursley artist Mrs Judi Whitton was there to explain some points about her art and in fact to paint a picture as everyone watched.

Taking several large brushes in one hand and a mug of water in the other, Judi began to paint a village scene, speaking as she worked. Clouds came first, then sky, the grey church tower, trees, grey cottage roofs and white walls, and finally two figures walking along. "Get them to lean over a bit, as if talking to each other," she advised. Judi quickly applied her brush and we saw what she meant. She

explained perspective, adding, "Don't worry about it!"

On a side table was a book illustrated with Judi's lovely watercolours and some greetings cards showing her work, some of it our familiar cottages in Painswick. "If you want to be a painter, don't let family or anyone put you off," she urged, "and don't be put off if you have a bad day."

During the business meeting, members were reminded that we are hosting an Austerity Lunch on 19th November. Transport arrangements for those attending the WI Christmas concert in Cheltenham Town Hall were discussed. On a more serious note, handy plastic cards were available for members to tuck into their wallets, explaining in detail what to do in the event of a heart attack.

Dorothy Binns

## Wardens work on Juniper Hill

The Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty voluntary wardens will be visiting Juniper Hill, Painswick in November to work on the grassland. Juniper Hill is part of Bull Cross, the Frith and Juniper Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest, a nationally important wildlife site.

It is significant as wildflower-rich limestone grassland, supporting several scarce species, including the Duke of Burgundy fritillary and the musk orchid. The site also contains juniper, a nationally declining species.

The wardens will spend a day fencing the few remaining juniper trees to protect them from deer browsing and other damage. In the absence of grazing, scrub clearance is also needed to prevent encroachment of tree species, such as ash, onto the grassland.

Sue Crutchley, Assistant Conservation Officer, English Nature

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# Bringing Polish to a Spirited Drama

"This show needs polish..." muses Kevin Parker, director of Painswick Players' next production, The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol, during a break in rehearsals.

I quickly point out that there are still five weeks before we open on 29th November at The Painswick Centre for four performances. That should leave plenty of time to get it polished.

"No, not polished. Polish. As in Poland. According to the script, there's a part for a Polish student," he continues. "Where am I supposed to get one of those from? I mean, I can't expect the door to open and a Polish student to walk in, can I?"

At that moment, the door opened and a Polish student walked in. And thus, Eliza, a genuine student from Poland, visiting Painswick to improve her English, found herself in the cast. Such is the magic of the theatrical experience. Just what the

## Painswick Players

experience will do for her English is anyone's guess.

Incidentally, if you're wondering why an adaptation of A Christmas Carol should require a Polish student, it's probably best not to think too hard about such things. Suffice to say that The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol is a decidedly quirky adaptation.

All the production lacks now is the odd ghost and a doorknocker with spiritual aspirations. Apparently, our intrepid technical team is having difficulty getting the spirit level. That joke is on a subsidised outing from an old jokes home.

Anyway, from the gales of laughter drifting from the Painswick Centre, I can only assume that rehearsals are proceeding hilariously well. Or (perhaps) hilariously

badly, because the whole point of the Farnsdale etc Dram Soc is that its productions contain all that is most sidesplittingly awful about these dramatics that we call amateur. A challenge indeed for a polished group like ours.

Just remember the dates and the details: Thursday 29th, Friday 30th November, and Saturday 1st December. Curtain up at 7pm on Thursday (when children accompanied by adults are admitted free) and 7.30pm on Friday and Saturday. Tickets £6, from the Shetland Shop and Painswick Post Office.

Looking further ahead, and just to prove how organised we have become, our May 2002 production (Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th May) will be the very funny Richard Harris comedy, Stepping Out.

Stepping Out follows the progress of a tap dancing class of hopeful hoofers from their first tentative trips to their final triumphant performance. One key requirement is that everyone in the cast needs to be able to tap dance or be willing to learn. Such is the enthusiasm to take part that there is already a dedicated Painswick Players tap class each Saturday morning.

Auditions will be some time in January, so there's still time for one or two others to join in, particularly men. Contact Jean Burgess (812167) or [jean.burgess@dial.pipex.com](mailto:jean.burgess@dial.pipex.com) to find out more. And to be absolutely true to the script, we also need a 'comfortably built' tap dancing lady of Afro-Caribbean extraction and of a certain age.

After the Polish student triumph, that should be a doddle.

Jack Burgess

[www.geocities.com/painswickdramaticsociety](http://www.geocities.com/painswickdramaticsociety)

## Cheltenham's old ironwork

Painswick Conservation Society members and their guests enjoyed a remarkable talk on the ornamental and architectural ironwork of Cheltenham. The speaker was Ms Amina Chatwin, who lives in Cheltenham surrounded by these materials, and who is a prominent researcher on the subject. An author of several books, both on ironwork and on

modern British blacksmiths, she is an authority on the subject.

In his introduction, the Chairman suggested that traditional ironwork was a classic example of what deserves protection from the bulldozers of developers, and that we all have an obligation to conserve such materials. Every item was then illustrated and described, and for an hour we were taken back to the fashionable Regency and then Victorian Cheltenham, where every house of any status had wrought iron or cast iron railings, balconies, gates, lamp holders, porticos and even boot-scrappers. The patterns and designs were beautifully photographed, and in some cases the shadows on walls in bright sunlight produced the effect of a double pattern in perfect symmetry.

Some two hundred years later, an amazing amount of this work still survives on Cheltenham houses, and Ms Chatwin's talk fully justified her belief that this is the richest collection of ornamental ironwork in Britain. We hope Painswickians will feel that Cheltenham will never be quite the same again.

Douglas Robinson

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### CORRECTION

In last month's property report from Hamptons, the sale of No 8 Churchill Way should have read No 9.



# The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER AND FORWARD DATES FOR 2001

## November

Sat 3rd	Charity Bazaar: Refreshments, Stalls etc,	Christ Church Hall	10am - 3pm
5th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Society of Friends	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
6th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
	Painswick Bird Club: Arctic Birds of Prey, Snowy Owls and Gyr Falcon. Robin Coates	Town Hall	7.30pm
	PCMS: Opening the Gospel of Thomas - Hugh McGregor Ross Open meeting - All welcome	Church Rooms	8pm
7th	Painswick Probus	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Old Time Tea Dance (Also 14th, 21st & 28th Nov.)	Painswick Centre	2 - 4pm
	Wives' Fellowship: Inspector David Peake, Police Negotiator	Christ Church Hall	8pm
8th	Music Appreciation Group Concert - Welsh National Opera Beethoven's Leonore	Bristol Hippodrome	
9th	W.I. Market (Fridays)	Town Hall	10am
	Coffee Morning of Age Concern Day Centre	Ashwell House Lounge	10 - 11.30am
Sat 10th	Charity Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy, Cakes, etc	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
12th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Christ Church	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
	Start of SkiFit classes with Libby Graesser	Painswick Rugby Club	7.30pm
13th	Mothers' Union: The Years Between - Mrs Mair Daly	Croft Orchard, Gloucester Street	2.30pm
	History Society & Conservation Group: Landscape History project	Church Rooms	7.30pm
14th	Coffee Morning and Box Opening - Children's Society Christmas Cards etc. available	Church Rooms	10.30am
	Churches Together: Christmas Sale and Teas	Sheephouse	2.30pm - 5pm
15th	W.I. Annual Meeting	Town Hall	2.30pm
16th	Senior Circle AGM: Followed by Talk - Veterinary Nursing and After - Pip Millard	Town Hall	1.45pm 2.30pm
Sat 17th	Knitwear Sale in aid of Bristol Cancer Help Centre	Town Hall	10am - 3pm
	Tennis Club: 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance: Tickets £30.	Broadham Rugby Club	7-7.30pm till 1am
	Valerie Dugan and Ian Shearman Art Exhibition	Town Hall	10am - 4.30pm
18th	<b>COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street</b>		
	MENCAP Service: Followed by refreshments - All Welcome	Christ Church	6.15pm

19th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Women's Institute	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
20th	Local History Society: The Hill Paul Building - Michael Bird	Croft School	7.30pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
21st	Painswick Probus	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Wives' Fellowship: Education - Special Needs, Valerie Phillips	Christ Church Hall	8pm
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
<b>22nd</b>	<b>DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street</b>		
	Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	The Falcon	1pm
	Music Appreciation Group: Richard Burgess-Watson presents music by Giuseppe Verdi	Town Hall	7.30pm
24th	St Mary's Annual Mission Bazaar: Cakes, Stalls etc.	Church Rooms	10am - 3pm
26th	Austerity Lunch: Hostess - Mrs Linda Davis	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
29th and 30th	Painswick Players - "The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol	Painswick Centre	7pm (29th) 7.30pm (30th)
30th	Senior Circle: The Painswick Institute, Past, Present and Future - David Hudson	Town Hall	2.30pm
<b>December</b>			
Sat 1st	<b>DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE PAINSWICK BEACON PUBLISHED</b>		
	Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy Stall; Raffle - in aid of St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem	8 Churchill Way	10am - 12 noon
	Painswick Players - The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
	Painswick Bird Club: Visit to Slimbridge to see the Starling roost	Broad Walk Hide,	4.20pm
5th	Coach to London: Enquiries 813965/813227	Stamages Car Park	8.30am
6th	Christmas Concert: A Box of Delights - Miscellany of Songs, Arias & Seasonal Tit-bits for Soprano, Tenor & Piano. £10 - includes Wine and light refreshments. Tickets - Shetland Shop	Pitchcombe Church	8pm
	Senior Circle coach to Cribbs Causeway - All welcome	Stamages Car Park	10am
7th	Painswick Conservatives Italian Evening. Contact 813815	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Sat 8th	Sue Ryder Care Coffee Morning	Town Hall	9.45am - 12 noon
	A Celebration of 125 Years of the Mothers' Union: Advent Market Service	Tewkesbury Abbey	10.30am 2pm
	Christmas Concert - Painswick Singers	Christ Church	7.30pm
12th	Village Carol Service	Christ Church	7pm





## The intriguing migration habits of birds and butterflies

About 25 people attended the joint meeting of the Beacon Conservation Group and the Bird Club to hear a most interesting illustrated talk on bird migration given by Mr. Charles Martin of the RSPB, who was at one time bird warden on the Farne Islands. He described the migration habits of a range of birds, including the Arctic tern, that can fly up to 20,000 miles a year, gannets, swallows, swifts, dunlin, curlew and many others.

He said it was still not known fully how birds navigate, but it is generally thought to be by the angle of the sun and, in some cases like the Scandinavian robin, by the earth's magnetic field. His talk was illustrated by some excellent colour slides.

Cedric Nielsen followed with a presentation on the migration of butterflies. Because of the difficulties of tracking butterflies, less was known about their migration habits. Generally, migration was south to north and almost entirely dependent on weather conditions; it followed the 15 deg C isotherm as it drifted north in the spring. A good year for butterflies in this country depended on a strong northerly thermal drift. A few years ago we had a large number of Painted Ladies that arrived on a strong thermal drift from Africa to as far north as Scandinavia.

The exception to this south/north drift was that of the large Cabbage White that migrated south from Scandinavia to the cabbage fields of East Anglia and Northern France. During a particularly good year the Camberwell Beauty appeared in the south of England as did the Clouded Yellow from Central Europe and the south of France.

No butterfly migration could match that of the Monarch that migrated from

Canada to hibernate in a certain part of Mexico and then returned to Canada to breed, although by the time it arrived there several generations may have been bred during the journey. In a good year, the Monarch could sometimes reach southern England from Spain where a colony had been established. Some excellent colour slides enhanced the talk. Gwen Welch thanked the speakers.

### AGM told of clearing upset

After the Bird Club and other non-members had left, the Beacon Conservation Group held its brief AGM.

The secretary, Gwen Welch, reported that five days of scrub clearance had been completed before the foot and mouth crisis stopped all activities. During one session the group had been roundly abused by a member of the public who strongly objected to the activities.

It was worth emphasising yet again that this work is essential to maintain the integrity of the Beacon and not allow scrub and rank growth to smother the habitat that gives the Beacon its unique flora and fauna.

On this subject, Cedric Nielsen congratulated the Golf Club on its selective mowing that had encouraged a bumper growth of bee orchids and ladies tresses. English Heritage had drawn up a long-term management plan for restoring the eroded parts of the Beacon.

Cedric reported that Cirencester College had developed a special chainsaw to remove the remains of the stump after felling a tree. Field tests showed that more development was required. The finances remain quite healthy although there was a small drop in subscriptions. The treasurer thanked the Blow Estate for its annual £100 donation.

All current committee members were re-elected, and the chairman emphasised the need for more people to join the group and, if possible, the Committee. Mr. Mike Thornton of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers attended and expressed interest in joining the Committee. Gwen Welch said there would be a meeting of Painswick History Society on Tuesday 13th November in the Church Rooms to discuss a joint project with the Conservation Group.

Duncan McKenzie

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# The Personal Column

## Babies

Congratulations to: SOPHIE and BEN POLLARD on the birth of their son, Oakley William James, on 20th September (a second grandson for Linden Holland, and a fourth grandchild for Jane Hugo);

SUSIE (Oakley) and BOB BRADLEY on the birth of their second daughter, Emilia Anne, on 9th October (a sister for Alice, a third granddaughter for Jenny and Philip Oakley, and a fourth great granddaughter for Nora Jones);

MORRIS and KATIE MAY on the birth of a daughter, Cressida Angeles, on 9th July (a first grandchild for Stephanie and Robin Grayson);

SARAH and PAUL SLINGER on the birth of a daughter, Laura Jennifer, on 5th September (a sister for James, and a second grandchild for Mary and Martin Slinger);

SAMMY (Lock) and ADRIAN HUTCHINS on the birth of their son, Oscar Marley Hutchins, on 12th October (an eighth grandchild for Andy and Arthur Lock);

SU and HUW BROOKER on the birth of their son, Kieran Tom (a brother for Tristan).

## 90th Birthday

Our congratulations to MARGARET VIZOR who celebrated her 90th birthday on 27th October.

## Weddings

Best wishes to: SUE PEACOCK and ROLAND BOGGON who married in Stroud on 6th October; and LUCY HUBBARD and MICHAEL HAIR, who married at St John the Baptist Church, Edge, on 15th September.

## Comings and Goings

Welcome to: CAROLE and MARTYN SMITH and their daughters, Georgina and Victoria, who have moved into Butt House, Gloucester Street;

VANESSA MEYER and her children to The Lamp House;

Mr and Mrs CAWTHORNE who have bought 1 Wordings Mount, Sheepscombe;

Mr and Mrs WALKER who have

moved into Field Lodge, Cranham;

the Rev JOHN and DIANE LONGUET-HIGGINS, and their children, Philip, Joanna and Matthew, who have moved into Orchard Mead.

Farewell to: the Horsall family who are leaving The Laurels, Slad for Lincolnshire, and to GAIL and JIM FOX, moving from Lavender Down to Dorset.

## Changes of House

MELINA and GRAHAME FLORY-KISH have moved to 1 Upper Green Farm, Haresfield from Sheepscombe, and SHIRLEY RIGBY has moved to Portlett Cottage from The Lamp House.

## Engagements

Congratulations to CHARLES MORRISON of Painswick and SOPHIE NELIGAN of Northiam, East Sussex, and to SIMON COLLINS of Painswick and LISA MACBRIDE of Manchester, both of whose engagements were announced recently.

## Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to JOAN BROUGHTON, BILL LAMDELL and JOHN TIMPSON.

## Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the families and friends of PHYLLIS LEACH, and of COLIN MacLAURIN-JONES, both of whom died recently.

## Thank You

JOAN TRUMAN would like to thank all who sent Get Well messages, flowers and other gifts, and to those who visited her during her stay in hospital. The kindness and support are much appreciated;

FRANK ADLAM expresses many thanks to all good friends and neighbours for cards, gifts and messages of goodwill he received during his hospital spell;

PEGGY and TED COWBURN would like to thank all their friends and neighbours for the love, kindness and care given to them while Peggy was in hospital and now at home, and for the flowers, gifts and cards.

## NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date  
SATURDAY, 1st DECEMBER

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

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton, Long-  
hope, Blakewell Mead, by  
SUNDAY, 18th NOVEMBER

Business advert amendments to Liz  
Fisher, Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead,  
by THURSDAY, 15th NOVEMBER

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

Letters and articles for publication  
are welcomed on computer diskette  
(returned after use) or by email to:  
[painswickbeacon@supanet.com](mailto:painswickbeacon@supanet.com)  
Items to be published, and other  
mail for the Beacon Committee, can  
also be placed in the **Beacon Post  
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phone kiosk). Please provide your  
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number.

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