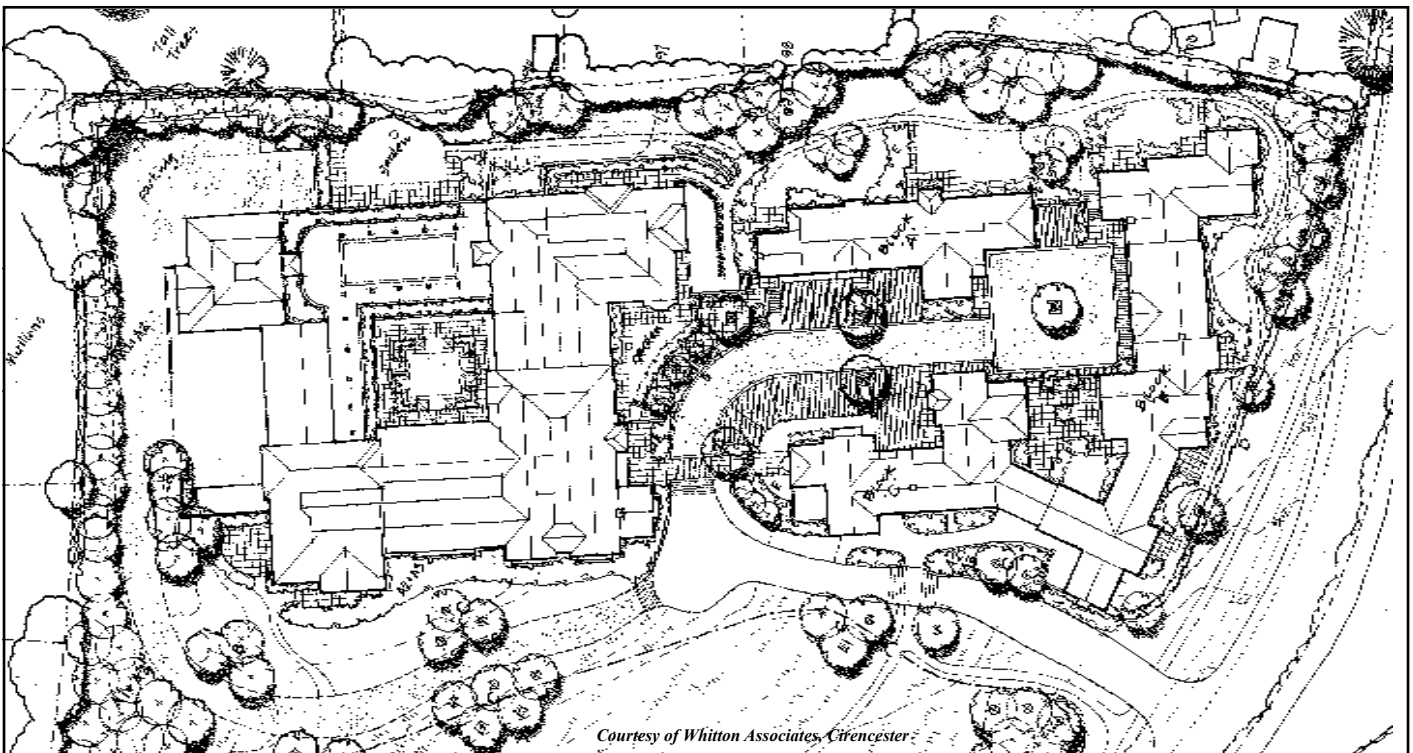


The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 25 No.1

April 2002



Courtesy of Whitton Associates, Cirencester

Plan of the proposed development; Right is the A46 with revised access. Top is the boundary with Cotswold Mead, and left, the boundary with Queen's Mead. The plan seeks more land than previously agreed, partly for the internal road, partly for building

Care centre details arrive

Following outline planning consent for a nursing home and up to 20 associated dwellings on land north of Cotswold Mead, the developer has now submitted a detailed proposal as two separate applications.

Richmond Healthcare's first application asks for a variation to the outline consent to allow the estate road to be built outside the development area. (This

variation would also allow the buildings to extend beyond the plot originally set by Stroud District planners).

The second seeks (as shown above) two distinct blocks of development, one for the nursing home at the lower end of the field, the other a court-yarded cluster of 18 dwellings bounding the A46.

The nursing home has several suites and numerous rooms - for about 48 people, but the number is not defined - with facilities such as a hydrotherapy pool, court-yard garden and roof garden.

The refuse area and services, such as laundry, deliveries and plant, are at the southern boundary with Queen's Mead and the corner of Cotswold Mead, where there is also a staff car park. Trees and shrubs are shown throughout the plan, and the top of the field will be left as a meadow, with a gazebo in the corner next to the A46.

Plans have been available for public viewing for three days, as publicised on the noticeboard at Painswick Town Hall, and there are four more opportunities to study them, mornings only: on Wednesday 10th April, Friday 12th, Wednesday 17th and Friday 19th. Anyone wishing to object or support the plans must send their written responses to Stroud District Council

offices at Ebley Mill no later than noon on 17th April. It is important that copies of these written comments are given or sent to Painswick's Parish Clerk who will circulate them to councillors prior to their routine meeting on 17th April. Comments from viewings on the 19th April should go only to the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council planning chairman, Malcolm Watts, secured an extension to the deadline for Parish Council comments, and planning members will meet on 24th April at 7.30pm to agree their recommendations to the District Council.

It is possible, but unlikely, that the SDC decision on this application could be delegated - that is, made by officers not by elected members - but it is expected to go to the June meeting of the SDC development control committee because there is no meeting in May due to the elections.

Membership of this committee, which has the final say on the application, might change as a result of the elections.

Villagers wishing to send their written comments to SDC should make their observations on **both** applications: on the increase in land needed for the estate road; and secondly on the overall development itself.

SDC elections

District Council elections are being held across the district on Thursday, 2nd May but, because nominations did not close until yesterday (5th April), the Beacon is unable to confirm that there will be an election for the two Painswick Ward seats.

If, as has been the case for many years, the number of candidates necessitates an election, each elector will be entitled to two votes, one for each of the two seats. There is, however, no requirement to use both votes, and two votes cannot be given to one candidate.

Details of candidates will be published on local noticeboards shortly after 5th April, and the result shown on the Town Hall noticeboard on Friday 3rd May.

Report of the meeting on 20th March by Iris McCormick

Jubilee Village Ball

The Victorian Street Market committee requested funds for the Jubilee Village Ball due to take place on Saturday 8th June. After some discussion, it was agreed to give the committee £1,000 on the proviso that a breakdown of how the money is to be spent would be supplied to the Parish Council.

Model Code of Conduct

The Parish Council has received details of the new draft Code of Conduct. The Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions have drawn up this Code of Conduct. Terry Parker reported that both the District Council and the Gloucestershire Association of Parish Councils recommend that Parish Council members sign up to the code. It was agreed that a final decision would be made in April after all members of the Parish Council have had a chance to read the code thoroughly.

Stroud District Council have also written asking for nominations for membership of the Code of Conduct Standards Committee, which will regulate the new Code of Conduct.

Training Scheme for Clerks and Councillors

Terry Parker reported that Gloucestershire was one of only 15 pilot counties to be involved in the new training strategy for Parish Clerks and Parish Councillors, which has been set up by The Department

of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, together with the Countryside Agency.

Road Closures at Pitchcombe

There have been complaints from residents in Wick Street about the number and speed of cars using the road due to the road closure at Pitchcombe. Ann Daniels and other members of the Parish Council reported problems with skidding and slippage due to mud from the verges, and also the building works at the bottom of Kemps Lane. It was reported that road cleaning was in progress.

Parking in Painswick

Gloucestershire County Council have written to the Parish Council regarding their plans for double yellow lines in Tibbiwell Lane and Kemps Lane. Terry Parker explained this is due to problems with access for emergency services.

It was reported that there is currently no traffic warden in Painswick since the retirement of the previous warden. Council agreed to ask PC Breakwell to enforce the parking restrictions around Painswick when he visited the village.

There was a letter from Stroud District Council responding positively to the Parish Council's request to change the charging period in Stamages Lane Car Park.

Youth Club News

It was reported that an assistant Youth Club Leader had been recruited to help with the Youth Club. The future of the club remains uncertain but at present there is an average attendance of between ten and 20 young people regularly using the club, which was encouraging.

The long-term future of the former Rugby Club Pavilion was discussed at some length. Malcom Watts reported that parts of the interior of the building were in very poor shape. It was agreed that despite the problems with the building it was an ideal place for the Youth Club and every effort should be made to ensure its future in the present location.

Claire Nayegon, who also uses the building for Art classes, is to be asked about her plans for continuing to use the Pavilion and her financial arrangements for doing so.

Books for Students

Ann Daniels reported from the Painswick Education Foundation that there were funds available for students to buy books. People attending courses and colleges who are finding it hard to afford the necessary books or other equipment for their course should apply to Micheal Little, Clerk to the Painswick Education Foundation, Pitchcombe House, Painswick. Tel 812318.

Village Link bus for Painswick

Terry Parker reported he was finalising an application to the Countryside Agency to provide a feeder bus service that would link Bisley, Cranham and Sheepscombe to the regular bus services that run to Cheltenham, Stroud and Gloucester from the A46 in Painswick.

Miscellaneous

There was a letter from the Council for the Protection of Rural England inviting the Council to enter the Bledisloe Cup Competition 2002. It was agreed to discuss this at the April meeting.

Johnny Johnson informed the Parish Council that work would start on Holyhock Lane within the next two weeks ie early April.

Malcolm Watts informed the Parish Council that the children's roundabout at the Recreation field had been successfully installed.

PC Breakwell has written to say he is happy with the provision of a community mobile phone. It has been agreed to supply him with a Vodaphone and to publish the telephone number (See Page 11).



Residents in Butt Green are to be asked for their views on changing the position of the road sign after David Hudson received a letter from Mr R Wellbourn, asking that the road sign be repositioned to make it easier for motorists to read when driving up Gloucester Street.

Ann Daniels reported that hoof prints had been found in The Plantation. She stressed that The Plantation was strictly for walkers only.

Ann Daniels also reported that many people had been taking advantage of the Recreation field by allowing their dogs off the lead and failing to clear up after them.

*Have you an orange receipt?
Four hundred and seventy eight already have one,
and you can too.*

Beacon subscribers - at 25th March			
	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
New (or returned)	47	80	91
Renewed	431	552	542
to date	478	632	633

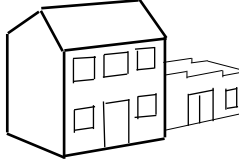
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Painswick Four need your support

The four intrepid cyclists have reached the half-way stage. No, not on the road to John O' Groats but in fund-raising. Their optimistic co-ordinator got them to agree a £10,000 target for the four worthy charities - Cot Death, Cheltenham Cobalt Unit, James Hopkins Trust and the Fire Service Benevolent Fund.

The total to date is nearly £5,000 in donations and £650 towards the expenses of doing the 10 to 12-day trip of 1,000 miles. With four weeks to the off, on 2nd May, the target is still some way away.

Response from businesses, clubs, colleagues, friends near and far, and not least the kind people of Painswick has been truly overwhelming. But, just as the bikers will not be able to stop when they reach halfway, at the Scottish border, so we are redoubling our efforts to reach those who may not yet have contributed.

Heather at the Post Office, Mike Powis at the pharmacy and Rob Goddard at the garage are ready to receive donations, large or small, in cash or by cheque. There are gift aid forms to recover an additional 28p per £ for those who pay tax, but anonymous cash gifts are equally valuable.

Some, aware that it will cost around £2,500 for the riders just to do the journey, have given towards expenses, recognising that none of the charitable donations will be used for that purpose.

The Croft School pupils are running a tuck shop with proceeds going to the charities. The wives and friends remaining behind are holding a Coffee Morning on Tuesday, 7th May in the Town Hall from 10 to 12 noon, with a cake stall and raffle. And PADS have agreed to a prize draw being held during their production of *Stepping Out* on the 8th to 11th May.

If you have missed out on all our efforts, please do seek an opportunity to encourage the cyclists with your support. Direct donations can, of course, be made by cheque, payable to the Painswick Four, c/o Rococo Garden, Painswick, Glos GL6 6TH.
Jim Hodge

Daisy and Craig win gold



Daisy wears her medals as she sits alert with her handler and owner, Craig

Crufts 2002 – and for the third year running Daisy has brought a gold medal back to Painswick.

Daisy is a blue merle border collie, owned by 17-year-old Craig Gamble of Canton Acre. This year, for the second time, they were members of the Young Kennel Club Midlands Obedience Team and walked away with the Gold Medal on the first day of Crufts Dog show.

Returning on the third day, they competed in the Triathlon which entails breed showing, obedience and agility. When they started the final agility discipline, Craig and Daisy were neck and neck with

a competitor from the South East. Daisy pulled out the stops with a lovely clear round and won the Gold Medal.

Well done, both of you! All those hours of training in the cold and rain were worth it.

Craig has recently passed the exam to become a recognised Kennel Club judge, and will be judging for the first time at Stroud Open Show at the Leisure Centre on 14th April.

Linda Evans

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From the Spring Newsletter:

Merit certificates were awarded to the following at the end of term -

Caitlin Workman for improved writing and attitude to work; Molly Lockett for a huge improvement in effort; Tony Lusmore for trying "really hard"; Henry Jackson for imaginative story writing; Freddie Unwin for improved maths skills; and Michael Goddard for an improved attitude to work.

The new computer facilities have been ordered and should be running by the end of April. There will be 10 personal computers, a host of new software and various peripherals. Thanks to Mrs Greening and Mrs Johnson for all their prep work for this exciting development.

The Gyde Trust has awarded the school a grant of £12,400 to provide a building for SEN teaching, an area dedicated to serving those children needing extra academic and social nurturing. This new resource will be fully operational by September.

The county education committee has finally approved the financing of one new classroom to replace the terrapin accommodation, reports the headteacher. The new facility will be ready for Easter 2003, or possibly earlier.

The art and music initiatives in the Woolpack Cluster have produced some

Croft won the football tournament on 4th March, without conceding a single goal and scoring a total of 11 against the opposition from Miserden, Sheepscombe, Birdlip and Cranham.

excellent results, and an open-air concert and exhibition is being organised at the Rococo Gardens on 28th June. The concert will comprise traditional Cotswold songs, plus some that the children have composed themselves, with Norma Mills. The art exhibition will be in the Orangery. There will be refreshments and you can bring your own picnic. Years 4 to 6 will be dressed in traditional Cotswold costumes, made in school with the help of Katie Ordonez, the artist-in-residence.

The Woolpack children have also produced their own audio CD on which eight songs were recorded. Further songs will be added next term and 500 copies will be produced for sale at the concert.

The international Comenius project continues to thrive, and the head and staff from partner schools in Ireland and Sweden have visited the Croft, a highlight of this visit being the special assembly with singing and dancing contributions from the children.

By September, a new school from Italy will become a partner, as well as Cranham school joining. It is expected that by Christmas, all children at the Croft will be fully involved in the project.

Class 4 have been imagining opening a treasure chest...

In my treasure box I found a sparkling moon shining on me with pride,
I found a fluffy cloud which was dancing in the sky,
I found a glistening star shining on me,
I found a colourful rainbow which twinkled in the sky.

Emily Gray

In my treasure chest I found a piece of beautiful life glancing at me.
In my treasure chest I found an ancient piece of glory staring at me.
In my treasure chest I found a beautiful future making everybody happy.

Ben Pigott

...and making up their own myths
The Moon
Long, long ago when the world was still young there was no moon in the world, only little bright stars twinkled in the sky. The people were very miserable and wanted a moon.

One day the people went to see the gods and the gods told them to tell Biara. Biara thought for a minute then had an idea. Biara told them to go away and come back tomorrow.

The next day when the people came Biara told them to get some lava so the people did and when they came back Biara told them to leave so off they walked.

The next day Biara came out holding an enormous ball. They asked him what it was and he replied "the moon". The people watched him stop and throw it up in the sky. And that is how the moon is in the sky.

William Moir

No Food

Once when the world was still young and beautiful, there was a village and it was called Greenwood. The people were very kind.

But there was one problem, they didn't have any food. You're probably thinking "what did they eat", well, they didn't eat, they survived on water.

So the people decided to ask the gods. So one day when the sun was blazing they went to see the gods. It was five miles to get there. When they got there they asked the gods if they could have some food. The gods agreed they could have some food

So when the people came back they got a shock. There was a flash of light and suddenly it grew a tree. There were lots of different kinds of fruit and vegetables. The people were astonished and they ate and ate and that's why we have fruit and vegetables.

Lucy Richardson

...and Anna Black has been doing some pirate characterisation:

The pirate's nickname is Wood Leg. Her real name is Katie Skriffon. She was born in 1366. She lived in America. When she was nineteen she started as a cabin girl on Black Beard's ship. Black Beard got bombed and he died. Pirate Wood Leg became captain. Pirate Wood Leg fell into the deep sea and died. She fought with Jack Tricker.

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Farewell ... but staying on a while

It was an emotional event for John and Barbara Hulme - and for all their friends and relatives - at the get-together on 2nd March when the whole village seemed to descend on the Town Hall to mark the Hulmes' retirement. Terry Parker, the Parish Council chairman, presented the couple with some lead crystal glasses in recognition of their services to the village over more than 40 years.

And to resounding applause, John announced in a speech not devoid of dampness around the eyes, that he and Barbara would be staying in the village after all.

A number of long-time residents had



(secretly from John and Barbara) organised the impromptu, yet splendid, buffet. The Beacon photograph shows John

speaking to the throng, with Barbara and grand-daughter Lucy.

Exceptional recital by Caroline

As Bill Bryson observed, the charm of our small island lies in its small, unassuming pleasures, those little impromptu gems that add so much to the sum of human happiness. If that's true of Britain in general, it must be doubly true of Painswick. As an example, a few Sundays ago, I took a post-lunch stroll along Hambutts Mead to be warmly welcomed into the comfortable home of Robert and Diana Feilden,

where - along with a couple of dozen others - I enjoyed a quite exceptional piano recital on a quite exceptional piano by a quite exceptional young pianist, Caroline MacBrayne.

Caroline has been playing the piano since her early childhood and at school a musical career seemed to beckon. However, she was then led astray by the heady attractions of double entry bookkeeping and became a Chartered Accountant. Fortunately, she is now returning seriously to the piano with a view to becoming a professional performer and (maybe) giving up the day job. This recital was the first step.

She presented a varied and challenging programme - Scarlatti Sonatas, Brahms Intermezzi, the Schubert Impromptu in G flat major and Ravel's Sonatine - all beautifully and sensitively played. For me, the Schubert, in particular, stood out for the richness and subtlety of its interpretation. An encore was demanded and duly delivered in the form of Debussy's *Jardins dans la pluie*, a dramatically meteorological piece which left everyone suitably drenched in music!

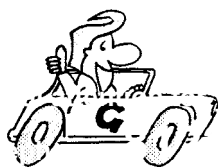
Jack Burgess

Littledean visit

Come and see Gay Segura's little animals from Shetland at Littledean, followed by a drive through the Forest of Dean to Dymock and a WI tea. This will take place on 16th April, leaving the Falcon Hotel at 1.30pm and home about 5.30pm. Seats are available on a 36-seater coach, £7.50 from J McCabe, 9 Berry Close. 813125.

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POLICE REPORT

Reported incidents, 15th February to 14th March

House burglaries: Painswick 2.

Business premises: Nil.

Sheds: Painswick 2.

Vehicles: Painswick 1, Edge 1.

Theft of vehicles: Painswick 2.

Other: Painswick (Theft 1, damage 1).

Total: 10.

Items stolen: Handbag and contents, waterproof jacket, new cooker, boiler and radiators.

Six incidents were reported to the Police this month, all of which were useful.

Police Information Point (PIP)

PC Breakwell will be in Painswick Library on Tuesday, 16th April between 10.30am and 11am.

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The Beacon: It's surely matter of consideration

I was heartened by the tone of the letters by both David Walker and Carolyn Luke in the March issue of the Beacon, since both were advocating consideration for others in the way we all use the area of outstanding beauty on the Beacon.

Unfortunately there are a number of horse-riders who are clearly not so considerate. The damage to the mown areas by horses is now as bad as anything I have seen in my 30 years of enjoying the Beacon with my children and grandchildren, with the Gyde House youngsters, with visitors and as a golfer. Certain riders are showing a complete lack of consideration for the flora and the hill fort by riding in areas not previously used by horses.

Whatever the rights to do this are, this lack of consideration is surely not the way to protect this beautiful area for all to enjoy. A set of tracks across the hill fort down the centre of several fairways and across several golf tees, since Carolyn Luke's letter was published, would seem to signal a provocative approach by some horse-riders. These same 'ladies' - yes, they have been observed - expect motorists like myself to show consideration when we encounter them on the roads. I must have slowed down, stopped or given a wide berth to horse-riders on hundreds of occasions in my 40 years of motoring. Is it too much to expect some *quid pro quo*? The actions of a few are giving others a bad reputation and can only give rise to ill feeling.

If Sara Vernon (another correspondent)

for others

LETTERS

were to see the damage caused by very large and deep imprints in the grass from galloping horses on wet fairways, I doubt she could sustain her comparison with golfers' divots. These are replaced immediately by the majority of golfers, unlike horses imprints. Rabbits, crows and magpies often turn them over again. Unlike other golf courses, we are not permitted to fill these and rabbit scrapes with seeded soil but we do endeavour to maintain the grass in the best possible natural condition, working closely with English Nature and the Beacon Conservation Society.

The picture of idyllic uncut grass presented by her letter is misleading. In areas where the grass is left uncut, scrub quickly develops and it is impossible to walk except in well-trodden paths that need continual maintenance to keep brambles at bay. I would rather trust Cedric Nielsen's advice about the best ways to preserve the flower and butterfly populations on the Beacon.

Jim Hodge
Gloucester Road

An impressive £700 from coffee morning

The Coffee Morning at the Town Hall on 23rd of March raised the superb total of £700.48. There was a very happy atmosphere and our thanks to all who contributed and helped to prepare the hall, cleared up afterwards and worked very hard on the day. Special thanks to the back-room team in the kitchen and indeed to all those who came on the day to support us without whom there would be no result. Mencap is delighted to be the main beneficiary and Our Lady & St Therese and Father Franco will also benefit. What a target we have set ourselves for the next time!

Helen Baker and Anne Leoni

Heartfelt thanks for care and compassion

One continually reads accounts of how the NHS is failing its patients. I wish to state categorically that, in Painswick, nothing could be further from the truth.

During my wife's recent illness, the level of professional expertise and compassionate care afforded by the NHS district nurses, led by Tina Hunt and Sally Clark, in collaboration with Dr Rhys Evans, was breathtakingly wonderful. They were able to get all the nursing aids they needed through a contract arranged by the NHS, and the Painswick pharmacy fulfilled a whole range of prescriptions with the minimum of delay.

Then there were the NHS 'twilight nurses'. I never knew of the existence of such people, and the same may be true for many readers. They comprise three teams, led by Alison Harris, Pam Hodges and Liz Kennett, that are on duty between 6.30pm and 11pm. Their visits are invaluable for settling a patient down for the night. They then remain on call for the rest of the night, ready to turn out and give treatment in an emergency.

Finally, the district nurses were able to enlist the help of the Cotswold Care Hospice at Home nurses. They are available to look after a patient during a night shift of 10pm to 7am, or at other times of the day, if required. This service is organised by Teresa Cretan whom many will remember from her time as an NHS district nurse in Painswick. Need I say more?

John Stuart
Cotswold Mead

Singing for seafarers

The Oriel Singers - as seen on TV - will be coming to St Mary's Church on Saturday, 18th May at 7.30pm to give another of their popular concerts. Proceeds are in aid of the Mission to Seafarers.

Come and support the men and women who help to fill your shopping baskets. Tickets available from the Post Office and the Shetland Shop from 20th April, and at the door, of course. Price: £7.50, and £3 for under-17s.

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Can anyone help a lady in distress?

Is there someone who could join my husband, Douglas, when walking our two dogs, please?

We will be moving from New Street by the end of May but, meanwhile, I have a very real difficulty. Douglas, as many will be aware, is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, particularly distressing after a distinguished career in dentistry and music. The disease affects his short-term memory so he forgets what, for the rest of us is so obvious. He has been leaving the house with the dogs and plastic bags with which to collect excrement, and returns home after a simple circuit walk without the bags. I have been under the impression that Douglas has disposed of the excre-

LETTERS

ment using the bags, but am informed that he must have put the bags in a bin, without realising what to do with them.

So there is some fouling of pavements and maybe elsewhere and I am among the first to be concerned that this is so. He has been reported to the Dog Warden, and complaints have (rightly) reached me.

Is it wrong to deny Douglas one of his last private freedoms? I have not always walked with him on the morning trip, but I usually accompany him on the later ones.

There are two ways in which I would deeply appreciate help. If someone could stroll around with Douglas and the two dogs at least once a day and prompt him when he should clean up any mess, their help would be just wonderful. As there may still be times when the dogs are walked without Douglas having a chaperone, if anyone observes a failure to clean up please let me know the location straight away on 812427 and I will clear it up myself as soon as I can get there.

Hoping someone can help for these few weeks.

Anne Smith, Woods Mill

Council accepts the full Parish Plan

The Parish Council is pleased to report that it has adopted the Parish Plan. The Plan consists of two parts. Part One, Design for the Future, is available for purchase at a cost of £2 from the Parish Council office and various retail outlets in the village. Part Two which sets out the 108 actions arising from Part One has been published this week, and is distributed free with Part One.

Part Two is a working document for use by the Parish Council. It reflects the views expressed by residents of the four villages about the future needs of their communities. Many of those views form the basis of suggested actions for the Parish Council's implementation and the Council is committed to supporting appropriate community groups, existing or new, to assist in completing those actions within specified timescales.

However, the Council cannot give an absolute assurance that all the actions will be completed as the responsibility for

their completion in some instances lies with other authorities; in addition, future circumstances could force the Council to re-think its approach to some policies.

Because the plan has been produced in accordance with Countryside Agency guidelines, the Council has accepted the Agency's recommendation that a steering group be selected from the local community to monitor completion of the various actions.

That steering group will therefore initially comprise a member of Painswick and District Conservation Society, a local member of Stroud branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, Anne Smith who chaired the Design Team that prepared the draft plan, together with a member of the Parish Council. It has been suggested that the steering group meet at six monthly intervals when it will issue a report to the Parish Council.

The intention is that Part Two will be reissued from time to time to reflect the Council's response to the steering group's observations on the status of the various actions. These reissued versions will again be provided free to the public.

The plan will be forwarded to Stroud District Council for its endorsement. That endorsement is very important as, once agreed, the District Council will be required to take account of the plan's policies when making decisions affecting the parish. The plan will be particularly

relevant where planning applications are under consideration.

The Countryside Agency has confirmed that Painswick is the first parish in the South West to complete a parish plan and has congratulated the community on its achievement. Although a number of people have been involved in the preparation of the plan, the Parish Council wishes to acknowledge its particular appreciation for the many hours devoted to the plan's production by Leslie Brotherton. We believe that the quality of the publication he has produced reflects considerable credit on the parish and the many people who have provided an input to the plan's contents.

**Terry Parker, Chairman
Painswick Parish Council**

*Cotswold Care Support Group is holding a Coffee Morning at the Town Hall on 27th April, from 10am to 12.30pm. There will be cakes, cuttings and good second-hand clothes. Gifts of cuttings and cakes will be gratefully received beforehand or that morning.
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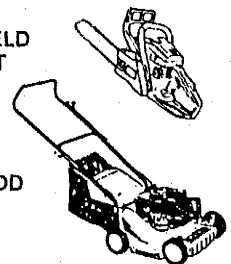
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Garden tough going? Ask for some help

If you are registered disabled or over retirement age, you might be able to get help with your garden with the District Council's gardening assistance scheme that runs from mid-April to November.

The scheme is free to those who get a means-tested State benefit or disability benefit. Others might get help at a small charge. The help is only occasional, and regular maintenance cannot be undertaken, say the Council.

Enquiries to 01453 767154, Monday to Friday between 10am and noon, or you can register by sending a stamped addressed envelope, marked 'Gardening', to Care & Repair (Stroud) Ltd., Unit 9, New Mills Industrial Estate, Libby's Drive, Stroud, GL5 1RN.

Last chance for your Travel Tokens

Please collect your Travel Tokens or renew your bus pass at the Post Office before 15th May, or lose your allocation on a monthly basis.

You can have either £20 of concessionary fare tokens or renew a bus pass. Application forms are available at the Post Office, but if you are applying for a bus pass for the first time, you need to contact the Licensing Officer on 01453 754379.


Churches Together Around Painswick will be holding a Golden Jubilee Praise on Sunday, 2nd June at 6.15pm in St Mary's Churchyard. More details next month.

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Skilled craftsmanship at the King's Mill weir

Painswick residents, walking past the stream at King's Mill, really should look at the weir and the restoration work recently completed there. The project, carried out by Don Juggins of Upper Washwell, involved three separate skills - woodwork, stonemasonry and engineering - and he has applied them all to give a marvellous result.

The stonework that channels the stream is basic to the whole structure and has been completely rebuilt by Don with superb workmanship. This involved lifting and repositioning the overflow steps, filling eroded caverns beneath them and rebuilding the collapsing walls. Not surprisingly, this was the most difficult and expensive part of the project. This new work eliminates the wooden sleepers used to shore up the structure temporarily since 1979.

Above this stonework is a massive wooden structure of solid oak sections (up to 9in. x 9in. across), worked into a frame of four upright posts set into a cross beam 12 feet long. The frame, which holds the winding gear for the three new

sluice gates, is bolted onto the stone piers and walls on each side. Evidence of the skill involved is the precise alignment of the four heavy oak posts and their perfect jointing into the cross beam (See the Beacon photograph below).

This frame was last rebuilt about 100 years ago. The new gates are worked by traditional hand-wound racks and pinions, also about 100 years old but now completely overhauled. Although this is the latest design, the stonework shows clear evidence of earlier mechanisms. The whole project is a text book example of restoration, and Don Juggins deserves our admiration.

Separately, in a Conservation context, great credit must go to Roger and Jonquil McCullagh at Cliffords Orchards in Kings Mill Lane, who own the mill pond, the sluice structure, and the stonework below it. Even with a grant from DEFRA, the outlay for these materials, plus several weeks' work, must have been substantial, and it forms a generous contribution to the Painswick environment. It is well worth a visit.



Water rushes through the new stonework and oak structures that make up the new working sluice.

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Ian plans a new Alpha course

There have been six Alpha courses run over the past four years in Painswick, Cranham and Edge. Each time, we wonder whether there will be any interest in a further course and each time the courses have been full or oversubscribed.

Most people now have some idea what 'Alpha' is. For those who haven't, it is basically an opportunity to consider the most important questions of life (e.g Who am I? What happens when I die? What is life really all about?) and to hear and exchange views on what the Christian faith has to say about such things- all within a relaxed, friendly and non-threatening setting.

We are considering running a small (one group only) course in our home shortly. The course involves one evening a week for about 10 weeks and includes supper. In previous years, we have had a mixture of non-believers, agnostics, church folk (from all denominations), in fact anybody wanting to explore these sorts of issues, and the average age seems to have been reducing each year. So, if you think you might be interested and want to know more, do give us a ring on 812829.

Ian and Frankie Marsh

Dates for skips

Rubbish skips will be placed in Painswick locations as follows: Hyett Close - Tuesday, 30th April and Thursday, 2nd May; Stammers Lane car park - Friday, 11th October and Monday, 14th October.

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Magic moments

The bride shares a private moment with her groom as they leave St Mary's Church after their marriage on Easter Saturday.

Miss Amy Elizabeth Pitt of Painswick married David William Hill of Stroud. The bride was given away by her brother, Daniel, who had travelled from Vancouver with his Canadian wife, Jessica, for the ceremony. Other family members of the bride had journeyed from the North East, while the groom's relatives came from London and the South.

The couple will live in Bisley. The groom's parents run the Sunshine shops in Stroud.



Bring-and-Buy for Brooke Hospital

We will be holding a coffee morning cum Bring-and-Buy sale on Sunday, 14th April, at the Town Hall from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Last November's sale raised over £370 and with other small sales we were able to send over £750. However, the Brooke Hospital still desperately needs money, not only to carry out their usual work of providing veterinary help to working animals in the poorest areas of the world, but also to aid the animals in Afghanistan where the war has left many injured and starving.


We have sent £228.31 this year, but we hope the sale on the 14th will generate a great deal more. If you have any books or bric-a-brac to spare we will be grateful for them as we will be following this sale with car boot sales etc during the year. Please feel free to contact either Jill Alder on 813329 or me on 812340. Thank you for your support.

Michele Phillips

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First Fifteen promoted

Painswick's first fifteen will be promoted for the second successive season as they and Aretians cannot be overtaken by any of the chasing clubs. The local club's expectations of winning the Gloucestershire Division One outright received a setback when they failed to record a victory for the first time since the opening match of the season, being held to a draw by Frampton Cotterell, and the following Saturday unexpectedly beaten by Brockworth.

Painswick travelled to Brockworth for the rearranged match and found the lowly league placed Badgers in determined mood, and although Painswick had a great deal of possession, could not translate their advantage into points. Brockworth were good value for their win in what they will regard as probably their best performance of the season.

The recent results mean that Aretians have a single point lead over Painswick with each club having two matches to play. Painswick will be pinning their hopes on the outcome of Aretians' last game of the season when the Bristol club play at Tewkesbury. If the Cherry and Whites are to take their second successive division title, the North Gloucestershire club will need to record a win against their visi-

tors.

Painswick played their first game in the Cheltenham Combination Cup last Saturday (30th March) and, in a hard fought match, defeated old rivals Cheltenham Civil Service by 8 points to nil. Harry Waller went over for a try with Alastair Bressington kicking a penalty goal. Painswick now play the winners of the match between Tewkesbury and Smiths Industries. Also entered in the Stroud Senior Combination Cup, Painswick were scheduled to play Dursley at Broadham on Wednesday 3rd April.

Results [(L) indicates league match]
 Sat 2 Mar. Dursley 2nd XV 3 Painswick United 29 (1st XV Match cancelled).
 Sat 9 Mar. (L) Painswick 1st XV 37 Old Cryptians 1st XV 6. Painswick United 43 Chosen Hill 2nd XV 11.
 Sat 16 Mar. (L) Frampton Cotterell 1st XV 10 Painswick 1st XV 10.
 Sat 23 Mar. (L) Brockworth 1st XV 27 Painswick 1st XV 18. Painswick United 24 Widden OB 2nd XV 23.
 Sat 30 Mar. Cheltenham Combination Cup: Cheltenham Civil Service 0. Painswick 1st XV 8. Cheltenham Junior Combination Cup: Painswick United 3 Smiths Industries 2nd XV 35.

Ian Dudley Painswick's sporting community was saddened to learn of the death of one of its best-known and respected sportsmen. Ian excelled in a range of sports and at one time played for both Painswick Rugby and Cricket Clubs.

Bowlers look forward to 90th season

The new outdoor season will soon be under way, and this year Painswick Bowling Club will be 90 years old, having been established in 1912. The Club has a varied fixture list of 90 matches between May and September, including friendly and league games for men, ladies, senior citizens and mixed teams. We look forward to entertaining touring teams from Devon, Nottinghamshire and Essex, and to hosting a Ladies' County Match between Gloucestershire and Berkshire.

Many members play indoors during the winter. The Club had a win in its annual mixed match against the Cotswold

Continued on Page 11

Hockey club needs your help

Painswick's Hockey Club season is drawing to a close with the ladies' team league programme completed. Anita Wright, the club's treasurer, writes to remind readers that the club is not solely for ladies; there is also a well established mixed eleven. The club has been in existence since the early 1980s and offers a warm welcome to anyone interested in the game.

Anita says that unfortunately the club is not without its problems. Of major concern for the future is that Painswick is the only team in its league/county that still plays on grass. This means that the club has a much higher than average number of games called off because of bad weather. It also seems inevitable that the Hockey Association will soon not permit league matches to be played on grass, and that could well mean that the club would have to leave Broadham.

Anita says that even now players are forced to train at Stroud Leisure Centre. Ideally the club would wish to have an astro turf pitch at Broadham but there is the question of whether planning permis-

sion would be given as well as the issue of the thousands of pounds needed for such a project; the club's only income is from players' subscriptions and match fees.

The club is always looking for sponsors and even a ball sponsorship of £10 per match gets a mention in the Stroud News & Journal. Anita's plea is to ask whether readers know of any local businesses that would show an interest in supporting the club. It would be extremely grateful for such help. Its own fund-raising efforts have bought new shirts and the hiring of an astro turf pitch on the odd occasion, but finances are such as only to cover payment of bills to ensure the club continues next

season. The club is proud that it remains a friendly and fun-loving group that would welcome any involvement from Painswick residents on or off the pitch. If any reader has an interest in playing hockey would they please contact the club's chairman, Chris Dunster, on 01453 758939 or Anita on 01453 833918. Members will be more than happy to greet them, irrespective of age, sex or fitness level.

Footnote from the Beacon: We would be very pleased to publicise sponsorship in our match reporting

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Continued from Page 10

Indoor Bowling Club, and the Ladies are enjoying their success in reaching the final of the inter-club knockout competition.

We start the outdoor season with a friendly social evening today (6th April) at 7pm and "Open the Green" with social bowling on Saturday, 20th April at 2.30 pm. Anyone interested in finding out about bowling will be more than welcome to turn up at either of these events.

The Club is at the Painswick Centre, and the Green can be seen from the footpath to the recreation field. The main clubroom is above the skittle alley and we share the pavilion with the Tennis Club.

New bowlers are invited to try their hand with the first season being free, except for just a £5 registration fee. Free instruction is provided and borrowed bowls are available. The only requirement is for flat-bottomed shoes or trainers so as not to damage the Green. Pre-season information can be obtained from the Club Secretary, John Holmes, on 812755, or Chairman, Bernard Child, on 813255.

A rare accolade for Painswick

Painswick Rugby Club is featured in the May issue of the "world's best-selling Rugby magazine", Rugby World, published last Saturday. Painswick is the magazine's 'Tetley's team of the month', the accolade being given to the first fifteen after their run of 18 (later 19) consecutive victories. All clubs outside of the top divisions in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales are eligible for nomination for the award.

Pictured above the title 'Cherry topping Painswick', the photograph shows captain Steve Vines with his team-mates in their famous cherry and white hooped shirts. The article reports that Painswick were wearing the colours before their famous neighbours, Gloucester, as the local vicar in 1872 had torn down some red curtains and made sashes for the players to wear around their waists.

The award brings with it 100 cans of Tetley Bitter which no doubt will be well received at the Broadham Clubhouse.

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New police contact numbers

Following a suggestion from a parishioner, the parish council has provided PC John Breakwell with a mobile telephone which will enable residents to contact him direct. The number is 07799624643.

This facility is in addition to PC Breakwell's office number, 01453 882224, which should continue to be used for routine matters. The advantage of the mobile facility is that, when on duty and away from his office, the constable can be alerted to situations that are urgent but do not justify a 999 call. If PC Breakwell is not available to answer his mobile,

the call will be automatically diverted to the 0845 090 1234 Central Call Centre.

The Parish Council has itself been provided with a new communications facility. Gloucestershire Constabulary has given the council an email telephone that enables the police, local councils and neighbourhood watch coordinators to exchange information in text form.

Parishioners can also use this facility to contact the Parish Council on any subject. The email address is: painswickpc@talk21.com

Tennis practices get under way

The Tennis Club summer season began on 1st April. Applications for membership are welcomed. Details may be obtained from the Club Secretary, David Newell, on 812083. Club sessions for all standards are held at the Broadham courts on Monday mornings (10am-1pm), Tuesday evenings (6-10pm), Thursday evenings (7-10pm) and Saturday afternoons (1.30-4pm).

Junior coaching sessions are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Broadham between 4 and 6pm, and on Saturday mornings between 9am and noon. Queries about junior membership/activities should be made to Nigel Barnett on 813941.

The league programme begins at the end of April with Ladies' team practices continuing on Wednesday evenings at 6pm and Men's practices on Friday evenings at 7pm, at Broadham. The Club held a Quiz and Supper event on Saturday, 16th March, in the Painswick Centre, with 14 teams, each of six members, competing. Slad were declared winners at the end of an enjoyable evening. John and Joyce Barus were the question-setters with the Club President, John Courts, the quizmaster. The event was organised by Ruth Smith and Joan Griffiths.

Help with activity groups for older people

In Touch is the name of a new project, based at Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, which aims to encourage and support community-operated social activities for older people.

In Touch will work with both existing groups, and individuals and groups thinking about setting up a new initiative within a community.

Carolyn Mitchell, the In Touch adviser, would like to hear from anyone who needs advice about volunteers, transport, funding, charity registration or activities. Her number is 01452 528491.

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How the monks came to Prinknash Abbey

The large audience at the February meeting of the Society was given a most interesting and entertaining account by Father Aelred Baker of the coming of the monks to Prinknash Abbey. Father Aelred described how a Protestant order of Benedictine monks was founded in east London by Abbot Aelred in 1896.

The community moved to Caldey island, off the Pembrokeshire coast, in 1905 and subsequently converted to Roman Catholicism. During the 1920s the monks' income became insufficient to support the community; the island was taken over by the Cistercian order and the Benedictines had to find another home.

Fortunately, in 1924, Mr. Dyer-Edwards of Prinknash Park, a High Anglican eager to restore the Benedictine way of life to the Anglican church, offered his estate to the Caldey community. After some prevarication and legal difficulties, the Benedictine monks were finally established at Prinknash in December 1928. They decided to call their new home 'New Caldey Abbey' at Painswick near Stroud. There were objections, not only from the Holy See on ecclesiastical grounds, but also from the GPO because the Painswick postmen could not cope with deliveries over that distance; mail was therefore re-routed to Gloucester and remains so today.

The numerous questions put to Father Aelred after his talk showed how much it had been appreciated. There would have been even more but the chairman reminded everyone that Father Aelred had to be up in time for Matins at 5am.

MEMORIES of school days in Painswick were recounted with affection and humour by members at the Society's

Painswick Local History Society

March meeting. Fred Semark attended the boys' school in Stroud Road in the 1920s when Mr. Slack was headmaster. He was a strict disciplinarian whose powerful voice could be heard throughout the school.

He regularly administered corporal punishment and Fred remembers receiving such treatment for having ink blots on his writing book. Fred's abiding memory is of the poverty in the area and of boys attending school in hand-me-down clothes. In the 1930s, girls joined the boys in the infant school and in that decade Helen Briggs was one of the pupils. She described how the children were taught reading and arithmetic and had to learn the poem, The Pied Piper of Hamelin, which Helen can still recite today.

There were groans of recognition from older members of the audience when Helen mentioned the daily bottle of milk the contents of which, lukewarm and very creamy, had to be drunk during the morning break. Mid-morning milk was also a feature of school life in the 1940s, as remembered by David Archard.

His class used to listen to nature programmes on the school radio and then go on nature walks and collect frog spawn and tadpoles from mill ponds. One of his crazes was taking slow-worms into class!

School days from another perspective were described by Derek Hodges who was Headmaster from 1961 to 1982. These were years of great change when education in the county was reorganised and the Painswick school moved to a new site. Each week the children had to learn a poem, arithmetic tables and 20 new words. The school maintained close connections with the Parish Church and prayers were said at the daily morning assembly. When the Stroud Road building began to fall into disrepair, a new infant school was opened on The Croft in 1973. Derek had to divide his time between the two schools until the junior school joined the infants in 1978, and Stroud Road building was sold.

This members' evening was a new venture for the Society, and those present agreed with the chairman's view that it had been great entertainment. The task now is to find subjects for future evenings.

The next meeting is at the Croft School on Tuesday, 16th April at 7.30pm. Three members will talk about their research into the histories of two Painswick houses and a phantom road.

WI members look to what they eat

Dorothy Daniels opened the March meeting by drawing attention to a charming display of Spring flowers collected by Pat Walker. This was particularly appropriate as it marked the first day of Spring. The theme of new beginnings was enhanced by the announcement of various activities for 2002, ranging from a trip to Windsor Castle and a more local one to Gloucester Docks. We then learned that Painswick W.I. had been awarded the Tim Poole Cup for the best account from 17 entries of the many activities available to members of our own W.I.

Our speaker this month was Sally Whitman, a professional nutritionist. Never has the adage 'You are what you eat' been more clearly illustrated. We were warned against junk food which was not only life-shortening but often caused the early onset of disease. To guard against this, we were advised to eat plenty of oily fish, nuts and seeds that would give us adequate minerals and fats. These should be supplemented by a generous amount of fruit and vegetables - preferably organic.

Brown bread, flour and rice contained more nutrients than white. These should be washed down by eight glasses of water a day. Sally was adamant that tea and coffee were not substitutes. The interest shown in her talk was evident by the number of questions asked. We were all anxious to know whether the food we ate was suitable for a particular affliction. This would have continued well beyond tea-time; Sally refused a cup of tea and produced a bottle of water as a substitute - an excellent role model for us all.

Margaret Boucher



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St Mary Redcliffe - 'fairest, goodli-

The 8th March meeting was one of the best I can remember since joining Senior Circle. Bryan Anderson who has been associated with St.Mary Redcliffe, Bristol since 1968 - Choirmaster, Director of Music, Regional Director of the Royal School of Church Music and now retired - gave us a super afternoon, relating the historical background to this lovely parish church that Queen Elizabeth I named as the "fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England."

His talk with slides and accompanying music from the famous organ and its choir was so full of history and very emotive. To listen to much loved choral works coming forth into the Town Hall was really remarkable and much appreciated.

Richard Savage, on 22nd March, told the archaeological tale of the Birdlip Mirror from 2000 years back.

The discovery of similar mirrors in various parts of England (Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Rivenhall and Colchester in Essex, Bedfordshire) and in Holland too, made interesting listening and the accompanying slides showed the skill and remarkable delicacy of these craftsmen from the Roman occupation period.

That from Birdlip was discovered during roadworks at the viewpoint, and could have been made for a lady, probably by a

Painswick Senior Circle

travelling craftsman since there seems to be some geographical pattern to these discoveries. Gloucester Museum now houses our local "find," and it is hard to imagine how they have all stood the test of time. It seems that the tools and compasses used in producing this intricate and delicate work have sadly been lost to us.

5th April and more music - this time provided by Celia and Vanessa, known to many of us for their duets and for their success in winning the Cheltenham Festival Cup. Coming together through the same music teacher originally, they have delighted many with their solos and duets.

On 19th April, we look forward to a very different and yet very topical subject "We don't need any more houses, do we?" This should prove very interesting. Our speaker will be Philip Warner who retired from Bovis/P&O in 1996 after 41 years, having been executive chairman with Bovis Homes, a major housebuilding company (floated by P&O in 1997), for 22 of them.

He tells me he is passionate about good quality homes of all sizes at affordable prices where people want to live. So, here is someone who obviously knows his subject, and it should be worth hearing his views on the matter.

Daphne Hudson

Suffering from grey days?

Why not brighten up your day by coming to one of Cotswold Care Hospice's coffee mornings?

They are held between 10.30am and 12 noon on the last Wednesday of every month in the Hospice's comfortable meeting room at the top of Burleigh Lane, Minchinhampton. There you can enjoy a

cup of coffee or tea with a group of other friendly people, and there is a raffle, cake, bric a brac and plant stalls.

The cost is only 50p, to include a free drink and biscuit, and you will also be helping our work of looking after Gloucestershire people and their families with life threatening illnesses.

PROPERTY REPORT at 30th March from Hamptons Painswick agency

Here in Painswick, the housing market is showing no signs of running out of steam, and with demand outstripping supply there is a shortage of good quality properties for sale on our books, particularly in the £200,000 - £400,000 bracket. Houses are going under offer within a couple of weeks of being instructed and achieving very good prices.

According to the national press, some of you might have noted that Painswick and the Slad Valley is regarded as a 'Hot Spot,' with prices likely to fall this year. But we can see no signs of this happening - quite the contrary in fact.

Recent instructions include: In Painswick, High Warren, The Highlands, a

traditional family home with a separate cottage; Hill House, Gloucester Street, a fine period village house with lovely garden and garaging; 14 Churchill Way, a rare opportunity to buy a four-bedroom detached modern house that is centrally located.

Two charming three-bed cottages, one in Harescombe and the other in Sheepscombe; At Edge, a five-bed, five-bath modern house in a lovely rural situation. Also in Sheepscombe, Lords Wood Cottage with its magnificent, elevated position and versatile accommodation.

Completions include: Hazelbury Cottage in Edge Lane; Tilia, Castle Hale Drive; Mulberry Cottage in Churchill Way,

and Bell Cottage in Friday Street, with many more in our pipeline waiting upon the legal process.

Valuation Day, 11th April: For those of you who have oil paintings, watercolours, drawings and prints hidden away and wish to know their value, Hamptons International are currently accepting entries for their forthcoming auctions of Fine Art and Antiques.

Our specialist, James Pearn, will be available by prior appointment at our office in the Old Chapel, Bisley Street, from 10am - 4pm on 11th April to value your pictures. To book an appointment, please call 01672 516161.

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Still time to join as Society membership sets new record

Painswick Music Society is once again popular, with a new record membership. Our opening concert - reviewed below - filled the church, and we have two further superb concerts to look forward to this month.

Freddy Kempf, one of the most sought-after young pianists in the world, will perform for us today (6th April) with a delightful programme of Bach, Schubert and Ravel. The Lindsays will continue our season on 20th April, when we have long awaited a visit from this highly acclaimed string quartet, who will play works by Haydn, Janacek and Smetena.

If you would like to come to the remaining three concerts of the season, it is still worth buying a membership ticket. Tickets for both these concerts and membership details are obtainable from the Shetland Shop and Hywel James, 812419 and, subject to availability, on the door. All concerts are in St Mary's Church at 3pm, followed by tea in the Church Rooms when there is usually an opportunity to meet the artists.

Naomi Dunn



Painswick Music Society

Above, Freddy Kempf plays Ravel and Schubert. And the acclaimed Lindsays string quartet who perform in two weeks' time



Rollicking good time with vibrant strings and a dynamic

The Orchestra of the Swan, conducted by David Curtis, opened the new season on 23rd March. Remembering its 2000 visit, a large audience came along: they were not disappointed.

We began with Bach's D minor Concerto for Violin and Oboe with David Le Page and Richard Weigall. The oboe has a great time in this: Mr Weigall made the most of it, especially the second movement with its clear opening oboe passage above pizzicato strings, before players and audience all enjoyed themselves together in the finale.

Then Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik: With popular pieces we sometimes think we've heard it all before, but this was a really fresh performance - a cracking pace with detail, dynamics and inward parts clearly articulated - more than enough to make anyone hearing it for the first time want to hear it again.

Then the Vaughan Williams Concerto for Oboe and Strings. Very English, very 20th century, very pastoral and very nice too, even if a bit like a musical revolving door - you keep seeming to return to places you've just visited - but a pleasant walk in the country just the same. Mr Weigall gave a sparkling performance, from the long liquid passages at the beginning to the quirky show-bits in the minuet and the flourishes in the finale.

Finally, Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings, all those tunes you've heard, cannot quite place but wish you could. This was the *piece de resistance*. I thought of the great TB [no, not him, Tommy Beecham] who once said that sometimes you just 'let 'em play!' Mr Curtis indeed let 'em play and we had a rollicking time together. Come back soon ...

John Parfitt

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Splashing out on Stepping Out

"I just don't believe these figures!"

Treasurers in general are a curiously mercurial breed. Take Andrew Leach, the Painswick Players treasurer, for example. For most of the time, he is an affable, thoroughly reasonable, fellow. But just show him an estimate of the essentially modest costs of putting on our next show, *Stepping Out* (9th-11th May, Painswick Centre), and, unaccountably, he seems to lose control.

"This is twice as much as the last production. How can it possibly be costing this much?"

I try to point out that this production is rather special. It is after all our contribution to the Golden Jubilee celebrations. But he seems determined to be pedantic. "Just because it's the Golden Jubilee doesn't mean everything has to be made of solid gold!"

I attempt to put his mind at rest with the assurance that, actually, because *Stepping Out* takes place in 1977, the year of the Silver Jubilee, we are only using silver, not gold. But he is determined to quibble.

"Hollywood makes movies cheaper than this!"

I protest that the Hollywood version of *Stepping Out* with Liza Minelli and Julie Walters was a lot more expensive. Well, a bit more, anyway. "Look how much you reckon the last scene will cost. How can you possibly justify that much on a single scene?"

The finale, I insist, is the whole point of *Stepping Out*. After all their trials and

Painswick Players

tribulations, this class of absolute beginners and no-hopers finally taps to triumph in the last five minutes, with a spectacular Silver Jubilee production number.

"The last five minutes! You're spending all this on just five minutes? Have you any idea how much that works out per minute?" I admit to not being very good at sums, particularly divisions: I was off school at the dentist's the morning they did them. I offer to nip home for my calculator if it will help, but he insists on continuing, picking on what are really minor details.

"What's all this about dancing fountains?"

I try a little levity and explain that we wanted to splash out a bit on the 'Singing in the Rain' routine... But this is clearly a mistake: Andrew suffers from a certain humour bypass when he's in this sort of mood. "Splash out a bit? I'm just surprised you haven't booked a troupe of performing dolphins while you're at it!" I think about pointing out that 'troupe' is wrong:

it should be a *school* of dolphins, but he seems fixated with arithmetic:

"Do you know how many tickets we'll have to sell just to break even?" I'm about to admit to not being all that good at multiplications either, when he answers his own question, and comes up with a patently absurd figure - which seems to be roughly equivalent to the entire population of Gloucestershire - and storms off. I call after him: "We'll put it on for an extra night then, shall we?"

So there you have it. We are now putting on *Stepping Out* at the Painswick Centre for four nights, Wednesday to Saturday, 8th - 11th May, instead of three. Lots of tickets are on sale at Painswick Post Office and The Shetland Shop. Or you can call 812167 for block bookings of 10 or more, on which you'll get 10% discount (but please don't mention this to Andrew).

Incidentally, I wonder whether he was serious about the dolphins. It's not a bad idea...

Jack Burgess

Getting to grips with insects

On 13th March, members of Painswick Horticultural Society eagerly awaited the talk to be given by Mr Michael Leech on something that is paramount in every gardener's mind - Insects! He has spoken to us already several times successfully, and we were not to be disappointed this time.

Mr Leech started by presenting his subject in an academic way, showing on flip-charts the development of some of the many insects that befriend or attack our gardens. This led to a series of carefully selected slides, advising us on how to identify the traces of the 'foes' on various plants, and recommending the appropriate treatment and avoidance of plants prone to such visitations.

At Question Time, the audience took advantage of Mr Leech's expertise to put

Painswick Horticultural Society

forward their own problems. As a result of his valuable advice, it is obvious that we shall wage even more determined war on some species (black-fly, slugs, snails and so forth), whilst encouraging even more persistently the do-gooders of the insect world from now on.

We appreciated the numerous small, sturdy plants that Mr Leech had brought with him for sale.

Pauline Lamont

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A rare vet, ruddy ducks and neck-tied cormorants

A disappointingly small audience heard an enthralling talk by Neil Forbes, senior partner at Lansdown Veterinary Surgeons, Stroud on 15th March.

Neil Forbes is one of a very rare breed of avian vets who travel to all parts of the world, treating, and lecturing to others who wish to develop their skills. He explained that birds from all over the country are brought to his surgery at Stroud. Some are tested, treated (even operated upon) and dispatched home, all on the same day as their arrival. Others may remain at the Veterinary Hospital for longer periods. He emphasised the advanced treatment that vets. can provide these days, including blood samples taken and tested in house, and the results available within the hour. People are aware of the more sophisticated treatments available, but often do not appreciate the resultant costs.

His talk referred to the establishment at Auckland Zoo of a new colony of flamingos originating from Slimbridge. He described the complex system to avoid disease being carried; collecting eggs, keeping them in 'sterile' conditions, hand rearing them and flying the chicks to New Zealand. Hopefully, they might establish a breeding colony after a cost of over \$NZ 300,000. If ever you visit Auckland Zoo, ask to see the flamingo called Neil.

A lot of Neil's work is involved with Middle Eastern potentates, including a falcon-hunting trip to Kazakhstan. He was concerned about the moral position



Painswick Bird Club

of appearing to support such an expedition but peer opinion was that without his aid many birds would die, and then even more would be collected from the wild. With all the problems involved with such work one can appreciate the phrase: 'It shouldn't happen to a vet'.

Malcolm Cooper

SERENDIPITY is arriving at something good by accident. Such was the case at our February meeting, when our speaker for the evening should have been talking on the subject of flamingos. Unfortunately, he was called away, and fortuitously Dr Bas Hughes stepped in to talk about ruddy ducks and cormorants which, in retrospect, was nearer to the heart of British bird lovers.

Use of the adjective, ruddy, was correct in the varying colour of the ducks. In the case of the latter, perhaps tongue-in-cheek to describe how many feel about the activities of cormorants. They are accused, rightly, of being pests on our inland waters, especially in fishing waters where they are the cause of poor catches.

I suppose one should feel some sympathy for the cormorants in China where river fishermen tether them to their boats with rope that is tied to their necks. They are then forced into the water to catch fish which they cannot swallow due to the tightness of the rope, and the fishermen (?) then retrieve their catches.

But I digress somewhat. As usual at our meetings we learn considerably about the life and habits of the subject birds, and this evening followed that pattern. We ended with a long question session which proved that Dr Hughes had been most successful in stimulating our interest.

Harold Wood

Conservationists will hear of £80m local canals project

The Annual General Meeting of Painswick & District Conservation Society will be held on Thursday, 11th April, in St Mary's Church Rooms at 7pm for 7.30pm start. In addition to the agenda business, in distribution to members, our speaker will be Bruce Hall, Chairman of Cotswold Canal Trust, who will talk about the Trust's work, promoting development of the Stroud portion of Britain's network of waterways.

He will detail the very recently announced £500 million programme of canal restoration, of which some £80 million is planned for the 37 miles of Cotswold canals. This is a most exciting and substantial project, and a subject that will delight all conservationists who are aware of the huge benefits of a fully restored canal system linking the Thames and the Severn.

Members are asked to renew their annual subscription at the door, and new members will be welcome to join at the same time. Guests are also welcome. There will be a glass of wine available between the AGM business and the speaker's presentation.

Members should also note the dates of two further Society events: On Friday, 14th June, Bruce Hall has agreed to take a group of interested members along the route of the Cotswold Canal to look at the various locations he will have spoken about at the AGM. A pub lunch in the country looks a certainty.

The second event, on Wednesday, 10th July, is a private view of Chastleton House, near Moreton in Marsh, one of England's finest Jacobean houses. As a result, numbers in any group are very restricted but it is a gem worth booking early for.

Douglas Robinson

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The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 4th MAY and FORWARD DATES FOR 2002

April

Sat 6th	Music Society Concert: Freddy Kempf, Piano. Tel: 812419	St Mary's Church	3pm
8th	Mothers' Union Service for Lady Day	Cirencester Church	10.30am
9th	Mothers' Union: Trip to Highgrove	Stamages Car Park	9.45am
	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
10th	Horticultural Society Outings Booking Morning	Church Rooms	10am - 12 noon
	Traditional Tea Dance (also 17th & 24th April - NO DANCE 1st May)	Painswick Centre	2 - 4pm
	Horticultural Society: Healing Properties of Plants - Mr E Tobin BA	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Wives' Fellowship Service	Friends Meeting House	8pm
11th	Painswick & District Conservation Society AGM Speaker: Mr Bruce Hall, Cotswold Canal Trust	Church Rooms	7.30pm
	Music Appreciation Group: Finale - the Members' Choice	Town Hall	7.30pm
12th	W.I. Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
Sat 13th	Grand Sale in aid of RSPCA (Mid Glos. Branch): Clothes; Bric-a-Brac; Nearly New; Tombola; Cakes. Entry 50p to include Coffee/Tea & biscuits	Town Hall	10.30am - 1pm
	An Evening with John Cole: Buffet Supper Followed by John Cole's talk	Yew Tree House Friends Meeting House	7pm
14th	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing - Meet at the junction of track to Madams Wood/B4073 Gloucester Road		10am
	Coffee Morning & Bring-and-Buy in aid of Brooke Hospital	Town Hall	10.30am - 12.30pm
15th	Calligraphy for Beginners & Improvers - Introducing/Revising Italic with James Skinner, professional teacher and calligrapher. £36 for all 3 workshops (Also Mondays 22nd & 29th). Details/booking from James - Tel: Gloucester 611614	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm
16th	Senior Circle Outing to Gay Seguro's Farm, Littledean. Tea at Dymock W.I	Falcon	1.30pm
	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
	Bird Club: Natural History of the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley - Chris Riddler	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Jazz Evening: Local musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
17th	Probus Meeting (AGM)	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
18th	Theatre Club Outing to the Watermill, Newbury	The Falcon	12 noon
19th	Senior Circle: 'We don't need any more houses do we?' - Philip Warner	Town Hall	2.30pm



Sat 20th	Music Society Concert: The Lindsays String Quartet. Tel: 812419	St Mary's Church	3pm
	Spring Auction at Cranham. Viewing from 10am. Contact Jean Garret on 812077	Village Hall	1pm
21st	COPY DATE: All items to Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
24th	Wives' Fellowship: Calligraphy - Valerie Dugan	Christ Church Hall	8pm
25th	DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
Sat 27th	Cotswold Care Coffee Morning: Cakes; Clothes; Cuttings	Town Hall	10am - 12.30pm
28th	Bird Club: Field trip to Ashleworth Ham, near Hartpury, to view Migrant Birds - with Mike Smart	Ashleworth Ham	10.30am
May			
1st	Blood Donor sessions	Painswick Centre	1.30 - 3.15pm 5 - 7.15pm
2nd	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
3rd	Senior Circle: Flowers of the Cotswolds - Cedric Nielsen	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 4th	MAY ISSUE OF THE PAINSWICK BEACON PUBLISHED		
	Exhibition & Sale of Antique Chinese Country Furniture	Town Hall	2 - 5pm
	Music Society Concert: The Eimer Trio. Tel: 812419	St Mary's Church	3pm
5th & 6th	Exhibition & Sale of Antique Chinese Country Furniture	Town Hall	11am - 5pm
7th	Coffee morning in aid of Painswick Four cyclists	Town Hall	10am - noon
8th	Painswick Players Production: "Stepping Out" by Richard Harris (Also 9th, 10th & 11th)	Painswick Centre	
15th	Annual Parish Council meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
18th	Oriel Singers' concert in aid of Mission to Seafarers	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
19th	Canine Partners for Independence. Talk and charity auction by Philip Taubenheim of BBC Antiques Roadshow	Hatton Court Hotel	7.30pm
22nd	Annual Parish Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat 25th	Wives' Fellowship Coffee Morning in aid of Friends of Stroud Hospital	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
June			
Sat 1st	Paradise House Open Day (off A46 behind old Adam & Eve)	Paradise	2 - 4pm
12th	W.I. Queen's Golden Jubilee Garden Party	The Garth, Chelt. Rd.	
27th - 30th	Paul Gray Exhibition	Town Hall	Daily
July			
Sat 13th	Victorian Market Day	Village	All Day
August			
3rd - 11th	Mary Bingle Art Exhibition	Town Hall	Daily
15th - 18th	Mary Hosler Art Exhibition	Town Hall	Daily
September			
Sat 14th	Horticultural Society Annual Show & Exhibition	Painswick Centre	3 - 5pm



Erosion of ramparts a concern at the hill fort

More than 50 people braved a cold, wintry evening to attend the Town Hall for an illustrated talk about the restoration of Kimsbury Hill Fort. After a short introduction, reminding us of our important local heritage, our chairman, Malcolm Watts, introduced Nick Russell of the Gloucestershire Archaeological Department.

Mr. Russell advises Gloucestershire County Council on country matters, and is responsible for liaising with and working closely with English Nature on a project to repair the ramparts of this National Monument.

The project was initiated by concern for the excessive erosion of the ramparts over the past ten years or so, and there is now evidence of a noticeable acceleration just recently.

Erosion is caused by various factors: rain, wind, horses, people, mountain bikes. In particular, horses are causing severe erosion of the western ramparts, such that the Council propose to visit the various local stables to explain the problems caused by horse riding off the designated bridle paths. The council also hope to repair, where necessary, the bridle paths to take pressure off the Beacon.

The programme of restoration falls into a number of stages: Record current erosion, and carry out a comprehensive survey with a photographic record; prepare the surfaces before laying down, where appropriate, a permeable membrane; build timber structures to support the banks; lay down, again where appropriate, a plastic "geogrid" which consists of heavy plastic

Painswick Beacon Conservation Group

mats approx. 4 ft by 4 ft with 2 1/2 inch diamond-shaped mesh, which is then filled with soil and gravel to form a firm and stable pathway (a Golf Club member commented that this material was very successfully used in the construction of the Club car park); build a series of stone steps where the erosion is at the steepest part of the approach to the trig point; dismantle the trig point to remove this focal point (English Heritage have agreed to allow its removal); from an environmental aspect, remove selected areas of trees to prevent root damage and damage caused when a tree is blown down (one slide showed the considerable damage done when the root area is torn up by a blown down tree); erect information boards set into large boulders at the Catbrain and walkers' car parks.

Mr. Russell estimated that the work would take 12 weeks. The plan has been completed and some funding has been promised by the Blow family. The council is actively pursuing other sources of funding, including the National Lottery, and revenues from the Landfill Tax which, apparently, is available for environmental purposes.

The timing of the work will take into consideration bird nesting periods and the emergence of important local flora such as orchids. Mr Russell was confident that the work could be completed this year.

The following suggestions were made from the floor.

The trees on the north side should be removed to expose the Beacon from that side. English Nature would have to consult residents in the properties immediately below the trees. Mr. Russell, although agreeing to consider this, warned that the extra cost could add another £ 40,000 to the existing cost of £60,000.

Part of the exposed areas of the ramparts could be preserved under cover to show the original Stone Age method of construction. This would be of valuable educational and archaeological significance. The proposed noticeboards would also show a representation of the construction. Mr. Russell said that displays about the restoration work would be set up in the Town Hall and in the Library and, during the actual operation, temporary information boards would be erected on the Beacon to explain to everyone what was happening. Gwen Welch proposed the vote of thanks.

Duncan McKenzie

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The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to Dr CHRISTOPHER and Mrs ALICIA BURROWS on the birth of their son, Jack Fletcher, on 8th February in Seattle, a brother for Richard, Daniel and Catherine, a cousin for Nicholas, Laura and Duncan Jaques, and Sam May, and an eighth grandchild for Patricia Burrows (who says, if she had known grandchildren were such good fun, she would have had them first!);

and congratulations to Dr BILL and Dr AMANDA PORTER on the birth of their son, Samuel James, on 15th February, a second grandson for John and Maggie Hare.

Engagement

Congratulations to CLARE SHEARER of Painswick and PHILIP SMITH of Hampstead, who have announced their engagement.

Weddings

Best wishes for future happiness to STEVEN KERR and SARAH PRICE who married at St Mary's on 16th March;

to ANDREW BUTTREY and BRITT JOYNSON who married at Gretna Green on 9th March;

and to AMY PITT and DAVID HILL who married at St Mary's on 30th March.

Golden Wedding

BETTY and HAROLD WOOD celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary last month with all their relations from Devon, Cheltenham, Hitchin and Welwyn. Congratulations.

Comings and Goings

ISABEL STANYON has moved to Nailsworth from Churchill Way;

ALISON and DOUGLAS ROB-INSON have moved to Hazelbury Cottage, New Street;

CECILY BOREHAM has moved to St Faith's, Cheltenham;

RON and BETTY BARNEY have moved to Mulberry House, Churchill Way;

Dr and Mrs RHYS EVANS and daughters, Lara and Ashleigh, have moved to Lower Washwell;

and MAURICE MAGGS has moved into Tilia, Castle Hale.

Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to AUDREY WATTS and MARY McNAIR who have been ill recently.

Condolences

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of IAN DUDLEY, WALLACE MADDOCKS, SHIRLEY JONES, KATHLEEN PEARCE, MALCOLM BARRETT, EILEEN LAMBERT and ARTHUR SWAIN who have all died recently;

also we have heard from JAMES WILD who moved to Berkshire from Painswick that his wife, VERA, had died (They have remained subscribers to the Beacon since they left).

Thank You

PADDY and EVA WILDY would like to thank the many kind people who sent cards and presents on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding on 21st March.

JANE, CLAIRE, ALISON and family wish to thank everyone for all the cards and messages of sympathy they have received following the very sad loss of Ian (Dudley). Sincere thanks go especially to Candy Jansen, district nurses Tina and Sally, and all involved in Ian's care. Also to Andrew Morgan and Tony Leach for all their help, and finally thank you to everyone for their kind donations to Painswick Surgery Special Equipment Fund.

JOHN STUART and his family would like to thank Mary's many friends for attending her funeral, and sending so many cards and letters of sympathy. They are deeply appreciated.

FRED PEARCE would like to thank the many friends and neighbours for their cards and letters of condolence, following Kathleen's death. Their sympathy and support are much appreciated.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY, 4th MAY

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

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

Business advertsto Liz Fisher, Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead.

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

Letters and articles for publication are welcomed on computer diskette ~~to Painswick Beacon~~ **to Painswick Beacon**. Items to be published, and other mail for the Beacon Committee, can also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in New Street (next to the telephone kiosk). Please provide your name, address and a contact phone number.

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Did You See?

The March issue of Saga magazine had a detailed article on the miniature model of Painswick Post Office;

Galileo, the horse that won the Smurfit Championship at the Cheltenham Festival, was trained locally by Tom George of Slad, and ridden by Jason Maguire;

Stella McCartney has been house-hunting in the Painswick area.

Valerie's calligraphic skills on show

Valerie Dugan, from the Shetland Shop, who had a two-page article about her life as a calligrapher in the November issue of Gloucestershire Life, was also interviewed by BBC Radio Gloucestershire on 25th February, when she spoke about her special commissions, including the wedding stationery for Diana Ross.

She has received many awards for her work; one was engraved on a silver charger, that is part of the National Silver Collection used for State occasions at various British embassies and 10 Downing Street.

Valerie has exhibited her work many times at the Town Hall, and recently received recognition for her fine botanical paintings. She is a member of many calligraphy societies, and now belongs to the Gloucestershire Society for Botanical Illustration.

Her work can be seen at their show at the Corinium Museum in Cirencester from 13th April until the 5th May.

Her next Painswick show, again at the Town Hall with artist and potter Ian Shearman, will be on 29th and 30th June. She is also at the Spring Garden Show at Malvern in May with the Cotswold Craftsmen; she is also giving two talks, one at Cranham Village hall 11th April at 7.30pm, and at Christ Church Hall on the 29th April at 8pm.

Wanted: anecdotes from school kids of the '30s to the '60s

During the past few years, a magazine has been produced, featuring the activities and memories of school days in Painswick during the 1930s. In addition, there have been several reunions centred on the annual Clipping Ceremony at St Mary's Parish Church. These events attracted the local Press and also featured on local TV. Former pupils, many from overseas, returned for the occasion.

Following the last highly successful event in 2000, the committee decided it was now time to end on this high note with a final issue of the magazine in 2001.

Some members, however, were reluctant to see the magazine disappear, and a circular letter to all members revealed an overwhelming desire to continue publication. A new Committee has been formed of former members and some new ones to carry on the excellent work of its predecessor. It is planned to publish again in September 2002.

It has also been decided that the scope of membership should be extended to include everyone who attended Painswick School during the last century, up to the end of the 1960s. This includes associate members who lived in Painswick but attended other schools; their support is highly valued. Without members' contributions, there would be no magazine, and the Editor is anxious to hear from anyone who can relate his or her memories, anecdotes, post-school experiences and any other material of interest. For further details, please contact Eddie Ford, Editor, on Springfield1874@onetel.net.uk or Ron Jones, Press Officer, on either 01453 762013 or Jones.ron@lineone.net.

The lady and the dogs

Linda Evans and her beautiful border collies are well-known around Painswick, but few people will know that horses were, in fact, her first love. Horses, however, don't fit very easily into vicarage life, so she decided to have a dog instead. "I'm very much an outdoor person," she says, "and with dogs you can get lots of exercise and fresh air."

She lost her heart to a blue merle collie puppy in 1976. She called her Jo and together they went to the local dog-handling club...and that's where it all began. In 1980 she started competing in Obedience competitions with a puppy she bred called Sian.

"I really enjoy going to the clubs and always feel I'm among friends when I'm there," she says. She also goes to shows all over the country (thinks nothing of driving up to Edinburgh in a day), and her dogs have so many awards that she has lost count. But, however famous they become, they are always, first and foremost, part of the family. Puppies are born in the kitchen and only go to friends.

When her husband, Eric, was appointed Dean of St. Paul's she was told in no uncertain terms, by one of the canons' wives, that it would be quite impossible to keep dogs in London. This idea didn't suit Linda at all and, to prove her point, a litter was born in their first year at the Deanery.

It must have been a nightmare trying to exercise dogs in the City of London. Their house had no garden, so each morning and evening she would bundle them into the car for a run in St. James's or Battersea Park, and many is the time, after an evening engagement, she could be seen in her ballgown, giving them a late-night trot up Leadenhall Street.

For eight years she was a member of the Brixton dog training club, and is now President and Show Manager. She spends much of her time ferrying Craig, her protegee, to shows, and is very proud of his achievements. She gave Daisy to him and looks after her while he is at College.

Paula Woodcock