

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 24 No.10

January 2002

## Painswickians of the Year

When you meet Bill and Phil Varah you have an overwhelming sense of kindness, warmth and modesty. Since they came to Randall's Field in 1985, shortly after Bill retired from his headship in Beaconsfield, the couple have busied themselves in the community with a spirit, enthusiasm and a quiet determination that impresses everyone who comes into contact with them.

This latter point has been the essence of the many letters to the Beacon Committee nominating the couple. Having considered all nominations, the Committee has chosen Bill and Phil Varah as Painswickians of the Year. Typically, when told that they were to receive our annual accolade, almost in chorus, they said: "Surely not us. There must be more deserving contenders in the village."

Bill, 77, took early retirement from teaching in 1984, while Phil, 74, had retired before that because of a troublesome shoulder injury that occurred many years before. She taught several subjects but was primarily a Physical Education teacher. The couple married in 1950 and have two sons: Mark, who lives in Stroud with his wife and six children, and John, a theatre technician in Brighton.

Bill and Phil have a deep and long-standing commitment to Christianity, and when they lived in Battersea they helped Bill's "famous brother, Chad" with his community work before The Samaritans organisation got fully underway. Here in Painswick, they have engrossed themselves in church and community work too. Bill is a lay reader - "now Emeritus which means I can get away with doing less," he jokes - and heavily involved in LINK at St Mary's, the group that provides a special welcome to newcomers to the village,



*Bill and Phil Varah at home: unstinting in their efforts in the community*

and "keeping a friendly eye open so that we can help anyone in need."

Phil also works with LINK, and is one of the Mothers' Union stalwarts, having been secretary for a number of years and a committee member. We visit people who are not well, bereaved or have some other adversity and just do what's necessary, said Phil. She helps with the MU Austerity lunches and chairs the Ashwell Day Centre committee that organises helpers, drivers and community days every Wednesday for its members. But, as one nomination letter put it, even though they are so busy, they always seem to have time to discuss your problems and to help.

Bill is the youngest of nine children,

five girls and four boys. Although the family lived in what is now South Humberside, he was sent to private school in Durham, his brothers having gone to Worksop. Midway through the Second World War, he left school and joined the Durham Light Infantry. He served in Palestine and Egypt, was commissioned into another corps and wounded in Germany. Bill does not volunteer the fact that he won the Military Cross in the European campaign. He retired from the Army as a major, went to the University of London for his teaching certificate and later an Honours degree in history.

Phil, an only child, was evacuated shortly after the war started to Ontario, where she learned to ski and handle the bobsleigh - and that's where the shoulder injury occurred.

Not that this put her off returning to England, joining the Army too, and becoming a physical training instructor. While serving in Austria, she won a place in the British Army ski team.

The last words must come from the nominating letters: "Their contribution has ranged from inspired leadership to the almost inconspicuous support for the initiatives of so many others," and "We are fortunate indeed in Painswick that Bill and Phil chose to live here."

## Objection lodged over phone mast

Although Stroud District Council has given a conditional approval for Orange to erect a mobile phone mast at Skinners Mill farm, the matter does not rest there.

In a move to encourage Orange to consider putting the mast in a less intrusive location, a number of residents in and around Stepping Stone Lane, have lodged an objection to the condition imposed by SDC - that the present approval for such a mast at Hoyland House be revoked. They

have been invited to meet an independent inspector at the Government Office in Bristol this month. It is only after the inspector's decision has been confirmed that Orange can move ahead or not.

Orange Communications has written to the Beacon, explaining what issues it takes into account when seeking planning permission to meet customer demand. Its letter and others on the same subject are on Page 6.

## Meeting of 18th December, reported by Iris McCormick

### Standards Committee

A letter had been received on the day of the meeting from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at the District Council, giving details of the Standards Committee that the District Council was required to create. Parish and town councils were to be subject to the same code of conduct regulations as district and county councils, but would not have their own Standards Committee; complaints against parish and town councillors would be handled by the District Council.

In the letter, the District Council gave notice of its intention to invite nominations from individual parish and town councillors within Stroud district to serve as a member of the Standards Committee. Members were advised that the District Council had not consulted the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) about representation on the Standards Committee. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Association as it appeared that the District Council intended to appoint a parish or town councillor to its Standards Committee without reference to the GAPTC whose members were themselves elected by local parish and town councils.

### Quality Parish and Town Councils

Chairman Terry Parker circulated details of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)'s consultation

paper which set out the requirements for a council to attract the designation "Quality Council". Such designation would result in benefits for a council, not least a higher level of grant. It was agreed to set up a working party comprising Tony Crook, David Hudson, Terry Parker, Alan Shearer and Malcolm Watts that would consider the implications of the consultation paper and report to the Parish Council's January meeting. The Council's views would then be reported to a meeting of the Stroud Area (North) Parish Councils which was scheduled to meet in Painswick on 31st January.

Alan Shearer asked about the role of the GAPTC. Terry Parker explained that membership of the Association was important because the GAPTC was able to provide a level of professional advice that would otherwise be very costly.

### Mobile phone for PC Breakwell

Following the offer by two residents to donate a mobile phone to PC Breakwell, Terry Parker reported that he had made informal inquiries with the police about the acceptability of this idea. He said the police had been sympathetic but expressed concern that mixed communication systems could cause logistical problems.

Tetra, a new communication system, may come into use that allowed radio and mobile phones to be used together. It was agreed to write to Inspector McGarry with a formal proposal for the mobile phones.

### Roundabout for Recreation Ground

The roundabout planned for the playground will cost £5,394, rather more than expected. This is due to the additional cost of reinforcing the ground around the roundabout for safety reasons.

It was agreed to use money from the Damsells Bequest, together with the District Council's Rural Project grant of £1,000 to fund the new roundabout. The money to be received from the St Mary's Home developer will reimburse the Damsells Bequest when it is available.

### Youth Club News

Some interviews have taken place but it is understood that no assistant has been found to help with the Youth Club. Some work has been done on the electrical system at the pavilion and other work is being planned. Various Parish Councillors expressed concern as to the future of the youth club and the building if no assistant were found.

### Town Hall Car Park

Parking problems have been reported in the Town Hall car park. On numerous occasions, cars block the resident's garages at the rear when parking. Tony Crook reported that he had looked at this

with the Clerk and it was intended to repaint the white line clearly delineating the parking area, with a notice asking drivers to park only inside this line.

### Town Hall Cleaning and Safety

Ann Daniels pointed out that some users of the hall occasionally left it in an unsatisfactory condition. It was agreed to find ways to improve the situation. Several councillors commented on the amount of work done voluntarily by Hilda Musty to keep the yard and Town Hall looking tidy.

Due to the recent theft of some of the antique door furniture at the Town Hall, it was decided to keep the doors of the Town Hall locked at all times when no one was available to supervise.

The Puffins have donated a clock for the upstairs room.

### Parish Plan Update

Terry Parker reported that the Parish Plan would be back from the printers on 11th January. Part One will cost £2 per copy.

Affordable housing was discussed. Alan Shearer expressed concern over the implementation of affordable housing schemes put forward in the Parish Plan, particularly in regard to one-bedroom starter homes. Ann Daniels expressed reservations about the recent proposal for self-build schemes. It was agreed to ask the District Council for an aide memoir on affordable housing.

### Miscellaneous

It has been noted that it is often difficult to get local businesses to quote for Parish work. Only one quote had been received for the work to be done in Hollyhock Lane.

Tony Crook reported that the developer on the Queens Mead site had removed an old hedgerow completely. He had been told by the District Council tree specialist that in order to protect hedges like this in future, comment should be made by the parish council when development applications are made.

Thank you letters had been received by the Parish Council after donations to the Senior Circle, St Mary's Church PCC, Stroud Area Victim Support, Stroud Area WRVS, CPRE, CAB, Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association and Energy 21.



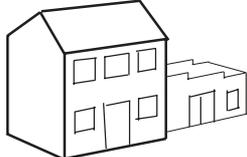
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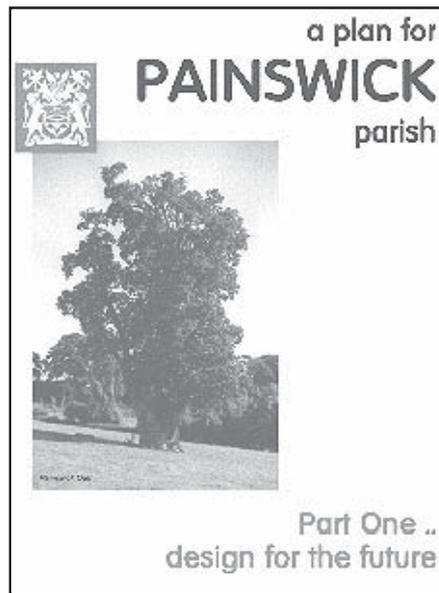
# First part of the Parish Plan published

After two years of planning and consultation with the wider community, the Parish Plan Design Team has completed the first stage of its work and published Part One of the Plan that is entitled "Design for the future".

Copies of the plan are scheduled to be available at the normal outlets from this weekend. The cost of the 52-page publication is £2. Details of the outlets will be found on the official village notice boards within the parish.

The Design Team and the Parish Council are most grateful to the owners/managers of those outlets for agreeing to handle the sale of the publication with no financial benefit to themselves.

Our Parish Plan has generated considerable national interest as we have been informed that it is the first in the country to be published. The Plans, part of the Government's Vital Villages initiative, are intended to set out local



communities' aspirations for the improvement of their parishes over the next ten years. The Design Team consists

of nine residents drawn from the Painswick and District Conservation Society, the Parish Council and the Council's Blueprint Working Party. The production cost of the first 1,000 copies has been met by the Countryside Agency, following the Design Team's successful bid to that organisation for funding.

Already a number of parish councils and their individual members have ordered copies of the Painswick Plan. Although there is a genuine expectation of a high demand from further afield, it has been agreed that priority will be given to parishioners before copies are made available more widely.

Part Two of the Plan, which sets out the timing and responsibility for the implementation of the policies detailed in Part One, will be available in the early Spring.

**Anne Smith**  
Design Team Leader



## Bright and crisp Boxing Day walk

The annual Parish Council Boxing Day walk set off from Stamages Lane car park just after 10am. There were 19 adults in the group, fewer than in previous years which was surprising, given the beautifully crisp, sunny morning.

Also surprising was the absence of children and animals. The circular route, via Stamages Lane, Sheephouse, Pincot Lane, Hammonds Farm, Folly Lane and Juniper Hill, took exactly two hours. Camera man was Wally Walters.

## Have you any old coins or notes?

Readers will be aware that from the beginning of this month the Euro was introduced to 12 countries and the existing currencies in those countries is being withdrawn shortly.

This means that many villagers will be left with coins and low denomination notes that will be of no further use.

Post Office Ltd is collecting these coins and notes in aid of Age Concern and The Prince's Trust, so Ray Appleby is asking you to take them to the Post Office where a collection box is being provided to help these two worthy causes.



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## SCHOOL NEWS

In his December newsletter to parents, headmaster Roger Harding is seeking views about setting up an after-school Kids' Club to help parents trying to balance the responsibilities of work or training with family demands, while providing a stimulating and secure environment for school age youngsters.

Gloucestershire Early Development and Childcare Partnership helps to set up clubs throughout the county with the support of the Department for Education and Employment, because Government realises that the lack of affordable and accessible childcare is a major hurdle in parents taking up employment and training.

Mr Harding has sent a detailed questionnaire to parents about establishing a Kids' Club at The Croft.

The headmaster also thanks the PTA for raising £910 at the Christmas Fayre. The money has gone in part to buy new goal-posts that were erected just before the Christmas holiday, and they will be put to good use this term when the successes of the football team are confidently expected to continue.

Work on improving pedestrian access to the school will start shortly. A new, wider path without steps will be built which will make things easier for parents with pushchairs. Mr Harding asks parents

waiting for children at the end of the day to avoid the grassy areas which are becoming something of a quagmire in winter weather.

With the new currency coming into use on the Continent, lots of parents are likely to have leftover coins that have no further use. Mr Harding has put a bottle in the school entrance hall for collecting these. All proceeds will go to UNICEF, and of course, coin donations are welcomed from other Painswickians as well as parents of Croft schoolchildren. The bottle will stay in reception until half-term on 8th February.

The headmaster reflects on a year of

much change and success at The Croft. The complimentary report from the OFSTED inspectors, the PANDA awards, and successes in sport such as winning the District Athletics Shield and the football team trouncing all-comers.

He looks forward to 2002 with enthusiasm and anticipation, and thanks governors, parents, pupils and residents of the village for the positive support that gives the school its 'fantastic spirit.' Long may it continue, he adds.

Merit certificates were awarded to: Camilla Mawdesley-Thomas, Molly Strachan, Lara Evans, Nick Needham, Joy Standen and Max Royle.

## Nativity at the Playgroup



Altogether, twenty-five children took part in the Painswick Playgroup Nativity play held at the playgroup building on Tuesday, 18th December. This shot was taken on the day.

Committee members would like to thank Beaty Bell and the staff for their hard work throughout the year, with the reminder that the playgroup now has its own telephone installed for term-time use. The number is 813316.

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## Church music

The Vicar of St Mary's Church, the Rev John Longuet-Higgins, and the new Director of Music, Charles Jones, are keen to look at church music in a wider context, and are seeking open consultation with members of the congregation and choir.

Over the next couple of weeks, there will be various discussions and the Beacon expects to be able to publish a fuller picture in February's issue.

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# No more refuse collections on Mondays

Bank Holiday refuse collections are on the way out, Stroud District has told the Beacon. From the beginning of April, Serviceteam Ltd will operate the refuse/recycling collections over a four-day period, Tuesday to Friday.

It is important that residents do not put paint tins or containers of oil in their refuse sacks. The tins and containers get crushed in the vehicle and cause liquid to leak onto the road. Once dried, oil-based liquids cannot be removed from the road surface.

Collection of furniture is a free service. As a general rule this covers anything that you would normally take with you when moving house. Contact 01453 754424.

Other items, such as fixtures and fittings like bathroom suites, doors, windows and kitchen units, are classed as industrial waste. One item only will be accepted at Pyke Quarry, Horsley. If you have more than one item please use Hempsted, in Gloucester. For tip enquiries, call 01452 307381.

A new kerbside recycling collection service is being introduced from 1st April. In addition to papers, magazines, junk mail, telephone directories, mixed cans, foil, bottles and jars, Serviceteam will be collecting mixed plastic bottles ie. Milk, lemonade, shampoo, bleach containers. (No brown plastic please). Recycling sites will be reduced from 72 to 39 from the beginning of April, so it is important that householders use the kerbside collection scheme. Banks for recycling cardboard will still be located at Cheapside car park, Stroud.

Seeking a green bin? These 220 litre ones, with a hatch, are offered at the knockdown price of £13 For your nearest location, phone 01453 754435.

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## POLICE REPORT

### Incidents from 17th November to 16th December 2001.

House burglaries: Painswick 1.  
Business premises: Painswick 1.  
Sheds: Painswick 1, Cranham 1.  
Vehicles: Painswick 3, Cranham 2.  
Other thefts: Sheepscombe 1, Painswick 3.  
Criminal damage: Painswick 1, Slad 1.  
Total 15.

### Items stolen

Cash, two stone garden ornaments, stone troughs, alloy wheels, meat, fire grate, cycle, tools, mobile phone, rucksack, sports gear.

### Criminal damage

Battery charger and toilets in pub.

### Reporting

Five incidents were reported this month.

### Police Information Point (PIP)

Located in Painswick Library. PC Breakwell attends on the following: 22nd January 2002. 10.30am to 11am.

The house burglary this month was committed by a man who engaged the occupier in conversation at the front door while a female accomplice entered through the back door and stole a purse.

There have been a few thefts of garden ornaments. Two people were arrested when stone troughs were found in the back of their car. The troughs were identified as being stolen from our area.

The arresting officers discovered a piece of paper in the offenders' car which was a list giving the descriptions of ornaments and where they could be found. This indicates that there are criminals visiting our houses prior to the thefts, acting as scouts.

It is vitally important that any suspicious people or their vehicle details are reported to the police as soon as possible.

### New phone number

From mid-December there is a new number for ALL non-emergency calls to



*Police constable John Breakwell*

the police, no matter where you are phoning from in the Gloucestershire police area. Local call rate applies, and calls go to a Central Call Centre from where they can be directed to individual officers, departments or police stations. The number is 0845 090 1234.

### For emergency calls you must still use 999.

The Crimestoppers line remains as 0800 555111, and if you want to leave a message for PC Breakwell, dial 01453 882224.

*PC John Breakwell and Neighbour Watch coordinator*

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# Skidders Mill phone mast: replies to Councillor Tait's last letter

I read Councillor Barbara Tait's letter in last month's Beacon on the subject of the proposed Orange Communications mast at Skidders Mill Farm with interest and some surprise.

Commenting on the report in the November Beacon, Mrs Tait says: "To draw comparisons with this mast (Skidders Mill Farm) and the ones refused by the Development Control Committee (of the District Council) is quite alarmingly ill-informed." Councillor Tait goes on to say that the masts refused by the District Council "are TETRA (Emergency Services) masts of which some have been reported as being a health hazard."

Contrary to Mrs Tait's statement, the committee has refused an application for a Personal Communications Company mast. On 10th April 2001 the Development Control Committee refused consent for the erection of a Mercury Personal Communications mast at Minchinhampton. This is not a TETRA mast but a monopole, similar to that proposed by Orange at Skidders Mill, but 7.5 metres higher. The first of the committee's two reasons for the refusal of consent at the Friday Street,

## LETTERS

Minchinhampton site was that, "the level of public concern over the potential risk to health of radiation emitted by the proposed mast is such that the application should not be permitted." The second reason was the adverse impact on the landscape. Mercury lodged a successful appeal against that decision, the Planning Inspector making the comment that a local authority was not competent to give the potential risk to health as a refusal reason.

The committee's refusal of the Mercury application was received with surprise by the Parish Council as the same committee had, in the preceding January, given consent to the Orange mast at

Hoyland House, discounting the health hazard objections submitted to the Planning Department by some Painswick residents.

In conclusion, Councillor Tait says that my comment about the Orange application for a mast at Gyde House Severn Trent reservoir was a red herring. My response to Councillor Tait is, why should Orange, having obtained planning consent to erect a mast at Hoyland House, first approach Severn Trent and then, when Severn Trent later withdrew permission, go to the owners of Skidders Mill Farm if they still intended to go back to Hoyland House? The District Council planning officer has confirmed that Orange has need of only one mast in the area.

**Terry Parker**  
Parish Council Chairman

## The Beacon report WAS accurate

Having re-examined our article, and Mrs Tait's letter of complaint in the December Beacon, the Beacon editorial committee is content with the accuracy of its report.

Our article quoted word-for-word SDC's Local Plan Policy B21 that telecomms masts would be permitted, provided that they are "in the least visually intrusive location possible." Mrs Tait says her planning schedule had the added words "...within the search area." Practically this makes little difference, but if Mrs Tait knew her schedule varied from the policy document, surely it was worth her querying then.

Furthermore, Mrs Tait asserts that the Beacon was "alarmingly ill-informed (drawing a comparison with TETRA masts), alarming readers and putting pressure on hard-working planning officers who were inundated with calls following the Beacon article."

First, the Beacon article drew no comparison between phone masts and the emergency services' TETRA masts; indeed the difference was made clear. Only the timing coincidence was alluded to.

Secondly, there has been a number of calls commending the Beacon, from readers who knew nothing of the plan or its conditional approval before the November article.

Thirdly, if that resulted in numerous inquiries to the planning office, it is surely a tax-payer's right to make such calls, inundating or not.

Mrs Tait quotes her planning schedule that "the proposal (if approved) would remove the requirement to erect a mast (at Hoyland House) in the Conservation Area." Yet it was the Development Control Committee on which Mrs Tait sits that had previously agreed this very application in the Conservation Area.

*Correspondence on this subject is now closed.*



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## MORE LETTERS

### Orange makes its points about the mast and its location

Orange is aware of the public's interest in our plans for a telecommunications installation at Painswick and we have seen previous articles that report the issue.

As the Beacon reported, Orange has been in consultation with Stroud District Council for some months to find a suitable location for our installation in the village.

The geographical position of Painswick has made it difficult for Orange to provide a suitable level of service for customers living, working and visiting the area. The proposed installation would improve this, allowing customers to use mobile phones.

The site we are now hoping to use is on higher ground, in a field adjacent to Stepping Stone Lane. The installation has been designed to be sympathetic to the surroundings and will be eight metres tall and resemble a telegraph pole.

As residents will be aware, Stepping Stone Lane already has a line of telegraph poles along the road and the Orange installation will be a similar pole. The site in the field is next to trees that are of a similar height to the installation.

The installation will operate within the stringent international standards set for radio networks by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection.

In May 2000, Orange welcomed the findings of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (the Stewart Inquiry). This stated: "We conclude that the balance of evidence indicates that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations on the basis that exposures are expected to be small fractions of guidelines."

We select sites that meet our technical needs, our customers' coverage requirements, and that comply with all planning and environmental regulations.

Wherever a new mast is required, we make every effort to minimise the environmental impact by working closely with the local planning authority. A freephone Orange information line is available on 0800 783 5021 for the public who may have questions about the expansion of Orange's network.

**Shaheen Sameja**  
Community Liaison Officer  
Orange Communications

### Vandalism? Wardens will be welcome

With reference to the letter in last month's edition of the Beacon from Paul Moir regarding acts of vandalism, how I agree with him. I have no doubt that the level of anti-social behaviour is increasing to alarming proportions.

Here in the small community of Butt Green, we have experienced a number of cases of children throwing items at house windows and cars, walking in the gardens of unoccupied property, trying car doors and so forth. No doubt a survey would reveal many more cases throughout Painswick.

I am all in favour of zero tolerance. Why should we accept the damage and distress that these acts cause, particularly to our elderly residents? It is obvious that if this behaviour is allowed to continue it will escalate into something far worse, and the possibility of someone being seriously hurt. Zero tolerance from all of us is the most effective way to say to the perpetrators, stop now before you get into real trouble.

PC John Breakwell, through no fault of his own, can only spend a limited time in Painswick. No one is suggesting that wardens can ever be the total answer, but as Paul Moir quite rightly points out, it could break down barriers and send out the correct message.

If you have not yet experienced this menace my advice is: Please do not be complacent. As for the rest of us, wardens would be very welcome.

**Alan Hudson**  
Butt Green

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Received

Down Farm, Slad. Retrospective application for horse-walking machine and horse lunger.

Back Edge Hall, Back Edge Lane, Edge. Erection of natural stone wall to side of property.

Butt House, Butt Green. Kitchen extension, conservatory and roof lantern light. Little Bridge House, Stepping Stone Lane. Erection of single-storey extension.

Mary's Orchard, Sheepscombe. Erection of new lay-by with store below.

Shutway Quarry, Sheepscombe. Retention of buildings 2 and 3.

Wording's Orchard. Extension to side of property, and alterations.

Rifleman's, The Vatch, Slad. Single-storey extension in lieu of conservatory previously granted.

The Old Vicarage, The Green, Edge. Erection of detached garage.

### Revisions

Plot 2, Off Back Edge Lane, Edge. Erection of new dwelling.

25 Upper Washwell. Erection of two-storey and single-storey extensions. Main changes - reduction to single-storey rear extension.

## A New Dawn

The Patchwork Mouse has had to change its plans! The shop sale has fallen through.

So something new and exciting will be happening in March 2002. What will it be? Wait and see!

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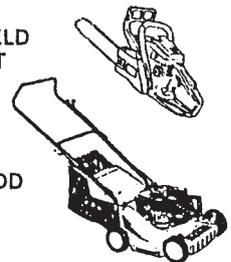
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# That Was The Year

Accolades, argument, activity, achievement, or is it contribution, caring, controversy, concern? It's so easy to conjure up a host of interest words when looking back at Painswick as presented through the Beacon pages during the last twelve months. The picture is one of a community impressively involved in every facet of its own life and evolution and indeed that of the wider world too.

In our review of the year it is perhaps appropriate to start on a high note. John and Barbara Hulme were chosen as Painswickians of the Year. Their devoted service to the village as proprietors of the Central Stores for over 41 years gained this well-deserved recognition. In similar vein, Alan Bamber announced that the January Beacon was his last as editor of the Beacon, much to the dismay of his colleagues. How many readers really appreciate his sheer hard work and immeasurable skills as editor, and all given freely? We have been lucky to find a replacement in Tony Crook with his wealth of experience in the newspaper industry.

Some things, however, do go on and on and on. The A46 continued (and continues) to crumble and disintegrate and to be dug up by various agencies in various places throughout 2001.

Of greater interest has been the ever-developing care village proposal. Rousing strong feelings, this subject exercised many readers' minds and brought forth a bevy of animated letters. It was closely associated with the question of the construction of affordable housing in Painswick – affordable housing was eventually defined – and this subject continues

to be discussed. There is a need for affordable housing and the Parish Council is keen to find sites. But where?

Another major source of controversy was the plan by Severn NHS Trust to develop the St Mary's Home site by erecting up to 20 houses. At a public meeting convened to discuss the situation some very forceful opposition was raised. The final outcome was that Stroud District Council agreed the proposal for 20 houses on the site to include some affordable ones.

Painswick did see some welcome additions: there are 19 new homes at Gyde House; the recreation field acquired a Hog's Back, a Yukon Log Roll a Dizzy Spin and safety matting (new play equipment, if you're confused); St Mary's branch of the Mothers' Union commissioned a new banner and the supporters' wall at the Painswick Centre was proudly unveiled in July with its Millenium Appeal standing impressively at £9822; a Police Information Point (PIP) was set up in the library which itself acquired two new PCs from lottery funding; closed circuit cameras were installed at St Mary's Church to deter vandals – is this really a welcome addition? Into print went Angela Woodward for the first time, Sheepscombe's book of favourite recipes and the Local History Society's Chronicle No. 5.

On the sports front Painswick's First XV took some beating – literally. They maintained their position at the top of the second division of the Gloucestershire League thus starting the new season freshly promoted. Notwithstanding the tougher prospect ahead of them, they have continued their victorious run and their prowess is truly a source of pride. Junior tennis is definitely thriving with more than 90 children enrolled. Cricket, tennis, badminton, golf, hockey, bridge (a sport?) all flourished proving what a fit (or hopeful) lot we are in Painswick.

And what of all those individuals and their achievements last year? Here we have an embarrassment of riches. Paul Griffiths raised £900 for the Williams Foundation by cycling vast distances and Zarah Hible took part in a cycle relay to Romania to

By Carol Maxwell

raise money for a centre there. Thomas Keck celebrated his centenary and David and Isobel Mannering celebrated 60 years of marriage. Painswick Army officer, Penny Shanahan (nee Grayson) was awarded three prizes for being top student on her helicopter flying course.

Rachel Setters climbed 14,000ft in Morocco in aid of Cotswold Care Hospice and three local women were planning to cycle 400 kms to raise funds for CLIC. Terry Parker became an Honorary Alderman; Fiona Buttrey was a member of the British Women's underwater hockey team which won bronze at the European championships; Philip Angier successfully completed the Ironman triathlon in Canada and Nick Marsh played rugby for Oxford against Cambridge at Twickenham. Kevin Parker completed his trek to the lost city of Macchu Picchu and raised almost £4000 for SCOPE.

There are, of course, many others including all our unsung heroes and heroines who through coffee mornings, bring and buy sales, garden parties, bazaars, performances, fetes, fayres, bingo and so forth have raised among them thousands of pounds for many good causes.

2001 was quite a year too for farewells and greetings. The Rev. Rowena Francis left Christ Church, sadly for Painswick. In keeping with her personality, however, the farewell supper was a happy occasion. Bob Miles left Painswick after 16 years as vicar of St Mary's. A service of thanksgiving marked his retirement before he and Rachel moved to the beautiful Yorkshire village of Wensley. As if by exchange, a few months later the Rev. John Longuet-Higgins arrived from Yorkshire to become the new vicar of St Mary's. He also has charge of Sheepscombe, Cranham, Edge, Pitchcombe and Harescombe. Father Tom, The Very Rev. Canon Thomas Curtis Hayward, parish priest 1978 to 1996, sadly died. Dr Roddy Jaques left the surgery to specialise full-time in sports medicine and Roger Harding took up the headship of the Croft School. PC Gary Power was replaced after eight years in Painswick by PC John Breakwell, sporting a traditional helmet and keen to be a walk-about policeman.

Early in the year Painswick, like so much of the country, felt the effects of foot and mouth disease. Our farming community suffered as did many businesses in the village. The footpaths remained closed for several months though there was some annoyance about golf continuing. The re-

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# That Was...

covery came gradually with Prinknash Bird and Deer Park opening, followed later by the footpaths. So, it was good to read that from August onwards the Tourist Information office was often overwhelmed with visitors.

2001 was census year and readers were asked to play an active role in this. A request for information about wells turned up a surprising number of almost forgotten wells and some nice watery stories. And talking of stories, a search by the Tree Council for heritage trees asked if there was a tree with a story in our area.

Two Painswick homes were transformed by Mexican and neo-Gothic influences during the filming of the BBC's Changing Rooms programme and we were encouraged to run a half marathon for Williams Syndrome. Edge Fete and Painswick's Victorian Market Day involved many local people and gave much pleasure despite the uncertain weather. The WI team won the Annual Village Quiz, just pipping Painswick Local History Society at the post. It was their second successive win. Amid all this participating, the Queen declined our invitation to visit Painswick during the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Vandalism was causing concern last year as was the unwelcome Giant Hogweed, doing well by the Wick stream. The future of the Youth Club came into question because of the deteriorating pavilion roof, and there was no Painswick Show because of landscaping work. We had to be reminded that our local services teeter on the edge of closure and that if we wish to retain them we must make full use of them – the Post Office and the library in particular.

On the other hand... the future of St Mary's bells seems assured with new ringers eagerly coming forward. Thirteen bells were rung on 2nd November before the Licensing Service of the Rev. John Longuet-Higgins, and on 11th November five bells were rung for Remembrance Day. The clock face was lovingly restored.

Ashwell House had a new Scheme Manager – Michelle Elliott who took over from her mother, Margaret Say. The Cow shield was rediscovered at the Croft

School, Richard Bolton, an antique restorer, set up business in the newly refurbished Old Brewery at Painswick House and the Royal Oak pub was bought by Johnny Johnston. The Village Design Team produced a draft document and invited final comments before this important project reaches its conclusion. Hollyhock Lane was added to the Definitive Map of Rights of Way which means the county council will maintain it. About 90 people turned up from far and wide on a beautiful summer's day to reminisce at the Gyde House reunion. The romantic bedrooms and good food of the Painswick Hotel earned it the 24th Best place for Honey-mooners, and a Cesar for Country House Hotel of the Year by the Good Hotel Guide 2002 – "no stuffy rules".

What of our young people in 2001? The playgroup featured often in the Beacon, always busy, active and happy. The Brownies were on the brink of closure but were saved by the arrival of a new Tawny Owl, Michelle Hurford, as Pam Currier retired after 33 years. The Croft School received an excellent Ofsted report. The children visited York and Wimbledon, carried out a maths project in collaboration with the Rococo Garden and wrote letters to Tony Blair. They wrote timely poems on war and remembrance, an apt reminder that mankind never ceases to demonstrate an infinite capacity for self-destruction.

On the same theme, Painswick firefighters collected over £1700 in three hours in an appeal to aid the New York Firefighters' Fund after the attacks on the World Trade Centre.

Who would have thought this time last year that the coming 12 months would hold events and situations of such magnitude, such ramifications, such literally world-shattering proportions? It is comforting to know that against such a backdrop some things remain constant and good. The unexpected email sent to the editor by a young woman from Taiwan sums it up – "I am hoping that one day we can have a special place like Painswick over here." And on that note we should like to wish all our readers a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

## Christian Unity Week of Prayer services

The following ecumenical occasions welcome everyone from all denominations during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

Monday, 14th January at 12.15pm to 1.15pm. Austerity Lunch at Christ Church Hall. Hostesses: Paula Allison and Jean Newell.

Sunday, 20th January at 6.15pm. Unity Evening Service at St James the Great, Cranham.

Wednesday, 23rd January at 10.15am. Ecumenical prayers at RC Chapel of Our Lady and St Therese.

Thursday, 24th January at 6pm. Evening Prayer at Prinknash Abbey.

Sunday, 27th January at 3.30pm. Evening Prayer at the Chapel of Our Lady and St Therese.

## Stomp off calories!

Stomp away a few Christmas calories! Next Saturday, 19th January, from 8pm to 11pm at the Painswick Centre, the Gloucestershire Dyslexia Association is hosting a fund-raising line dance that will be great fun for everybody, any age and any stage of knowledge, from beginners onwards.

You don't need a partner; just come along and receive a warm welcome. Tickets are £4 for adults, £1 for children.

The GDA run Saturday morning workshops for children with specific learning difficulties, among other services.

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# Painswick's pain overcome by League

There was understandable disappointment for Painswick's first fifteen players when they learned that they had been disqualified from the Tetley Bitter Vase competition because the club had inadvertently fielded an ineligible player in the previous round.

The disappointment was even greater as they had been given a home tie in the fifth round against Old Bristolians, a side they had beaten in a league game away at Bristol in November. The Bristol club went on to beat Cheltenham Civil Service who Painswick had defeated but who were reinstated because of Painswick's disqualification.

Painswick's selection error was even

## successes

more frustrating as the newly signed player had only been on the field for ten minutes before going off with an injury.

It has therefore been to Painswick's great credit that they have put the cup disappointment behind them and produced some fine results in Division One of the Gloucestershire League. On Saturday 22nd December they travelled to Filton in South Gloucestershire to play Aretians. Prior to the match, the Filton club had shared top place in the division with Painswick, their one defeat this season having been at the hands of the

Cherry and Whites in the corresponding fixture at Broadham.

Both clubs went into the game knowing that the result could well decide the Division One championship. Painswick had much the better of the play in the first-half, but could not turn their territorial advantage into points, and at half-time the home side led by an unconverted try to nil.

The second-half brought a try through Alastair Bressington which he later followed with a penalty goal, giving Painswick an 8 points to 5 lead.

That lead was short lived, because some five minutes later Aretians were successful with another unconverted try.

The Filton club mirrored Painswick's scoring pattern when they followed their try with a penalty goal to go ahead by 13 points to 8. Painswick then mounted a fierce attack and were unlucky not to get over for a try, Aretians putting the Painswick players into touch just short of the try line. However, from the resultant line-out Painswick "stole" the ball which was moved out to wing-threequarter Harry Waller, who crossed the line to level the scores. With none of the game's tries converted at that point, it fell to Alastair Bressington to break the sequence. This he duly did with what proved to be the final score in the match and Painswick had won a memorably exciting encounter by 15 points to 13. The result gave Painswick their twelfth consecutive victory.

With no league games being played last Saturday (5th January), Painswick First Fifteen took the opportunity to rest a number of players for their friendly match against Cheltenham Civil Service. The Cherry and Whites soon put themselves in a strong position and, having led by 12 points to nil at half-time, added a further try before the Service scored a breakaway converted try 15 minutes before the end..

James Reed, playing in the back row of the scrum, had an outstanding game, scoring all three Painswick tries. Wayne Lee added a conversion to give the Broadham side a 17 points to 7 victory. The United travelled to the Civil Service ground at Uckington where they lost an entertaining game by 27 points to 7.

### Results [(L) indicates league match]:

- Sat 1 Dec. (L) Painswick 1st XV 36 Westbury 1st XV 10. Painswick Utd 57 Westbury 2nd XV 19.
- Sat 8 Dec. (L) Bream 1st XV 10 Painswick 1st XV 37. Painswick Adders 23 Minch'ampton 3rd XV 17.
- Sat 15 Dec. (L) Painswick 1st 57 Brockworth 1st XV 0.
- Sat 22 Dec. (L) Aretians 1st XV 13 Painswick 1st XV 15.
- Sat 5 Jan. Painswick 1st XV 17 Cheltenham Civ Serv 7. Cheltenham Civ Serv 27 Painswick Utd 7.

## Fortieth anniversary dinner dance



**Dinner line-up: Kay Bragg, Past President George Bragg, Philippa James, Past President Mike James, Past President Nita Kirby, Martin Kirby, Past President Lynn Steer and Sylvia Steer.**

*Photo: Gloucestershire Today*

One hundred members and partners exchanged trainers and rackets for dancing shoes to celebrate the fortieth anniversary in mid-November of the founding of Painswick Tennis Club.

President John Courts, welcoming guests and members, gave an entertaining

resume of the club's history, and Roddy Jacques, the guest speaker, delighted diners with numerous tales, several from his medical past, setting the right mood for dancing to the band, Jubilee.

Painswick Rugby Club House was transformed by the addition of marquee awnings and the candlelit tables provided a wonderful atmosphere for this special occasion. Thanks to the numerous people who organised the evening, with a special thank-you to Ruth Smith for her efforts in making the event such a success.

### *Fine performance by Ladies' hockey team*

Painswick Ladies completely outplayed the East Gloucestershire Ladies third team when on 8th December at Broadham they scored no fewer than 15 goals without reply. Painswick's scorers were: Sophie Hinds (4), Maggie Morse (3), Becky Morse (3), Chris Jones (2), Anita Wright, Leah Foster and Lisa Bircher. This was an exceptional scoreline, of even greater significance because Painswick had lost the corresponding fixture at Cheltenham earlier in the season.



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# New book on Korean glory of the Glosters

"The most ferocious and sustained battle in military history," the heroic stand by The Glosters at the Battle of Imjin River, Korea in April 1951, has recently featured on nationwide television. A new book has just been published, *To Bait The Dragon*, by Andrew Gardiner of Ruardean, the result of years of painstaking research.

This book tells the stories of the local lads from the Forest of Dean and Gloucestershire countryside, many of whom were inexperienced young National Service men. Much has been written about the Gloster Hill battle, the awarding of the Victoria Cross to Col. J.P.Calne of Cranham, the VC to Lieut. Curtis, but the battle of Castle Hill has perhaps not been fully recounted before because most of the men and all of the officers died.

My father, Major Pat Angier, lost his life there and the survivor by his side was David Gardiner, the author's brother. The Gardiner family are remarkable, and David survived terrible privations in captivity.

I feel sure that this book, with its unique photographs, archives and paintings, will become a collector's item. It is a gem, written in a characteristic style - one can hear Andrew's voice as one reads. It is a limited edition of 500, privately printed and available from Andrew Gardiner, Little Meend, Crossways, Ruardean, GL17 9XB. Price is £10, plus £2 p& p.

**Ros Harris**

## Poems at the Library

The WEA Spring programme of Enjoying Poetry has just begun at the Library. It continues for the next nine weeks, on Wednesdays at 2.30pm until 4pm. Come and enjoy some of the 20th century's finest poets, from Dylan Thomas to Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes to Philip Larkin.

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Thank you to all those who got to grips with the Christmas issue competitions. Here are the answers for those who did not send in entries, but who still had a try at them.

In the crossword, we received only one correct entry, and that was from Pauline and Philip Berry who win the game of Rapidough.

- |                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Sounds rather rough                | Corse           |
| 2 Could be freezing                  | Frocester       |
| 3 Harry Potter bird sanctuary        | Owlpen          |
| 4 Well distributed weight            | Evenlode        |
| 5 Successful pugilist                | Boxwell         |
| 6 Military Academy                   | Sandhurst       |
| 7 Murder committed at a higher level | Upper Slaughter |
| 8 No pollution here                  | Clearwell       |
| 9 On the road to Damascus            | Saul            |
| 10 Dropped the letter?               | Postlip         |
| 11 Diminutive cleric                 | Little Dean     |
| 12 Solidified tree                   | Elmstone        |
| 13 A weight of nuts                  | Hazelton        |
| 14 Freshwater inhabitant             | Bream           |
| 15 Birds passing place               | Batsford        |
| 16 Creamy beer name                  | Boddington      |
| 17 Lot's wife's destiny              | Stone           |
| 18 100 to 1 outsider                 | Longhope        |
| 19 Guitarist's home                  | Clapton         |
| 20 A source of energy                | Guiting Power   |

In the Gloucestershire places game, we received no all-correct answers, but the winner with 17 out of 20 is Helen Briggs who wins BOKU. The answers listed by the compiler are shown here, but we did have one or two interesting alternatives!

The Beacon committee would like to thank everyone who entered for their efforts.

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# The two new faces at Chancellors

Sisters Judy and Janet Parkinson finally opened the doors on their new venture at Chancellors this week, and by the time this issue drops on your mat, they should hopefully be fully up-and-running.

They had hoped to be serving morning coffee, light lunches and afternoon teas, with their speciality, Viennese pastries, before the Christmas holidays. But kitchen problems conspired to foil that. A serious water leak and a troublesome oven put paid to their hopes. However, unfazed by that and still full of enthusiasm for the break from their previous routines, Judy and Janet are raring to go.

Both from Enfield, Middlesex, Judy, 47, had been teaching as Head of Modern Languages, while her younger sister, Janet, 39, worked for the Ministry of Defence as a purchasing officer at RAF Northolt. They decided to seek a complete break



*Judy, left, and Janet not at all taken about by their early setbacks*

and a new challenge - after looking at many others, they decided on Chancellors Tea Rooms; they liked the feel of the village when they came and walked around.

Where does the speciality come in? Their father was in the Army, and Judy spent some years in Vienna, learning pas-

try cooking from her Austrian mother. Now Painswickians are going to taste the benefits of that! But in case you're thinking of slipping into Chancellors for a coffee and pastry, and putting your feet up - beware! Judy is also a qualified chiropodist.

## Thanks for all those efforts

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Knitwear Sale in aid of the Bristol Cancer Help Centre. I have sent them a cheque for £150. This will really help with the excellent work that they do there.

Many local people have been, and do go, to them for help and support when they have to face up to the hard fact that they have cancer. I know - I spent a lot of time there as a patient, between chemotherapy treatments, in the mid/late 1980s.

**Barbara Tait**

The coffee morning last month in aid of Sue Ryder Care raised £630.88. Many

thanks to all who supported us on the day, or sent donations, goods and cakes. Thanks also to those of the group who cleaned and prepared the hall, cleared up afterwards and worked so hard on the day.

**Anne Leoni**

The Bingo evening at Christ Church Rooms last month, held in aid of the Cobalt Unit Appeal, raised £304. The sale of Christmas cakes and mince pies raised a further £338.09. Thanks yet again for all your support. Cooking utensils are now being given a well-earned rest.

**June Gardiner, Suzie Archer, Ann Kemmett**

## Where are all those dancing feet?

Where are you people of Painswick? Why aren't you at the Tea Dances in the Painswick Centre on Wednesday afternoons? You really don't know what you're missing!

Geoff and Joy Codd have been running these Traditional Old Time (Classical Sequence) Tea Dances since the autumn and they are such fun.

The music is a delight, consisting of well-known tunes played at just the right volume (not so that it can be heard on the Rec or in the Oak!). Geoff and Joy create a warm and friendly atmosphere. They elegantly demonstrate each dance and gently guide us (literally) in the right direction on the dance floor. The cost is only £1.50, which includes a welcome cup of tea and biscuits.

Unfortunately not many people from Painswick have come to these dances, and it would be wonderful if some more of you joined us for a most enjoyable afternoon.

Geoff and Joy have decided to widen the appeal by including some Modern and Latin American dances when we start again on 16th January. Sessions are from 2 - 4 pm, and we very much hope to see some more Painswick faces there. You would be so welcome.

**Liz Fisher**

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#### No change since last month

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| New (or returned)                 | 79      | 91      |
| Renewed                           | 548     | 542     |
| to date                           | 627     | 633     |

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## Bellringing not quite as it was 150 years ago

St Mary's bells were rung on Sunday, 23rd December for the Blessing Service to celebrate the wedding of Antonia Kingsland to Maurice Evlyn-Buften. On Christmas Day, six Painswick bellringers rang for the morning service at 11am, and the New Year was welcomed at midnight on 31st December.

On 29th December, visitors from Kings Norton, Birmingham came to Painswick and the twelve bells were rung beautifully in the afternoon. The visitors were re-enacting a similar visit, 150 years ago, when the ringers travelled by train to Gloucester, where they were met by the Painswick bell captain, who had walked to Gloucester and walked back with them to Painswick. They had lunch in the Falcon before the ringing. On that occasion, they were disappointed to find that they could only ring ten of the bells, the two trebles having had their ropes removed by the Painswick captain, who considered their sound to be false.

On 29th December 2001, things were different; the Painswick bell captain omitted the walk to Gloucester to meet the visitors, but the twelve bells had been kept in good order by the Steeple Keeper for the visitors' enjoyment.

## Brilliant bit of badinage

Because of the publication date of the last Beacon, Jack Burgess, who usually throws bright lights into the dense dark doings of the Painswick Players, could only cast a glimmer onto their intruders, The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of a parody of A Christmas Carol.

What a joy this was. From the raconteuse in an extravagantly emerald dress announcing that the performers were marooned on the motorway, to the actress who seemed to be suffering from a whiplash accident.

From the stooges planted in the audience (one a young Polish woman learning how mad the English can be) to the solitary man who had as many parts as all the women put together.

From the hidden Christmas lights that suddenly twinkled at the back of the stage to the team at the back of the hall with all their gubbins to control the lights and crashing effects. From the old music hall piano in the pit to the half-trained corps de ballet.

From the stooping, scrounging Scrooge to the snow-woman who could only stumble about. From the talking bed from which Scrooge saw the ghosts to the secret stairs down which the actors seemed to descend below the stage.

We moan and groan that Painswick is losing its life. What nonsense! Painswickians packed the hall, and this brilliant display of nonsensical talent can encourage us that the coming year will be brighter.

**Hugh Ross**

### £200 for Cancer Research

The Christmas Fair in aid of Cancer Research held at the Painswick Centre on 15th December raised just over £200. Thank you for your support and the generous donations of raffle prizes from both individuals and the business community.

**Nora Regan**

### Lost your male tabby?

Long-haired male tabby cat found. Nice temperament. Has been visiting us for some time and has been seen on many occasions wandering on the golf course, and between the A46 and Sheepscombe. If anyone would like to claim him, please phone 813745.

**David Ward**

## PROPERTY REPORT at 3rd January from Murrays Painswick agency

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to You All. A time to reflect, perhaps, on the comings and goings of 2001, and to try to look ahead to the expectations of the coming year. There is no doubt that few of us will forget 2001, with most events dulled into insignificance by the terrorist attacks on 11th September.

But perhaps the turning of the year will give us all the opportunity to make a fresh start and the confidence to continue again planning our futures.

It was a strange year for property that briefly started well, only to be hampered by the foot and mouth outbreak that affected, in particular, the rural areas

where access was discouraged. The stock markets fell even more and the media did their level best to convince us all that the market had peaked and would soon fall, and then came 11th September.

Yet here we are, looking at our best year on record, with a marked increase in sales, and exchanged sales in September and October surpassing all our expectations.

One can only conclude that property is a safe and solid investment; it has weathered all these storms with values across the UK up by about 12% on the year, and with interest rates lower than most of us can remember, prospects seem

very encouraging for the foreseeable future.

Currently we have 23 properties in and around the village with sales and offers on 11 of them.

Latest instructions include Elm Bank, an Edwardian detached house in Pitchcombe; April Cottage, a detached family house on the common in Cranham, The Nurse's House in St Mary's Street that has been superbly converted; Littledean, a detached bungalow with stunning views at Longridge; and Coomb House in Friday Street The Langet in Cranham sold and completed in a month. We have several more for launch in the New Year.

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## Fascinating sights on Slimbridge visit...

Suitably attired for the cold afternoon, Painswick Bird Club members visited Slimbridge last month, to be met by the personable warden, David Painter, who escorted us to the top of the observation tower.

The evening was dry and crystal clear, so from this vantage point the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust site was rather like a contour map.

We were advised by the warden to start our tour at the Holden Hide, which overlooked the River Severn and its bordering marshland and lakes. We could see thousands of geese, ducks, waders and swans.

Returning to the glass-fronted viewing pavilion, we saw the nightly gathering of many birds eagerly awaiting the warden with his wheelbarrow of food pellets that he scattered with his trowel. At the same time, he gave a commentary on the various breeds. Several families of Bewick swans, pink in the setting sun, landed on

the lake, skilfully avoiding other birds.

Bird feeding over, we repaired to a pathway about 200 yards away to watch several thousand starlings wheeling in the sky like a shoal of small fish in ever-changing patterns. Each time they flew over the roosting area, hundreds appeared to fall from the crowd until the last batch disappeared into the reeds below.

This was an amazing and rather emotive sight which alone would have made our visit worthwhile.

Harold Wood

## ...rare falcons in Painswick

At the lower end of Vicarage Street, glancing up, I spied six large birds wheeling in a thermal. It was a clouded and still day, and they had found a column of warmed air rising from the houses of Painswick.

Three were easily identified as buzzards, with their distinctive broad wings and short spread tails. They are great birds, second only to eagles, and neither common nor rare. In the breeding season, several pairs may have territories in our valley, and they may occasionally be seen patrolling in leisured gliding flight to keep out intruders.

The other three were smaller, with long squared-off tails. Malcolm Watts and Cedric Neilsen identified these as peregrine falcons. These are definitely rare. They suffered greatly from farming pesticides, and it has been a naturalists' achievement to have re-established them in the Wye Valley. They occasionally flew off with strong wing-beats, but soon returned to the rising air.

It is very pleasing that all these six splendid birds should have gathered above Painswick to circle higher towards the heavens.

Hugh Ross

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### Painswick Horticultural Society

## Entertaining question time for gardeners

The Christmas meeting was a splendidly relaxing affair. It started with the chairman welcoming members with a glass of wine and a delicious mince pie to spread a feeling of bonhomie among all those present, and make everyone forget the flurry of activities that had marked the preparations for Christmas.

The programme for the evening, competently prepared by Gus Gauguin, was a quiz on gardening matters, ranging from growing plants, dealing with pests and diseases to soil and techniques in both the flower garden and the vegetable patch.

Thanks to the refreshments at the start, we were not too dismayed when even the three possibilities offered provided no helpful answer, but struggled on, trusting to luck on many occasions.

If you have recently come to the village and would like to meet fellow gardeners and extend your practical knowledge, do join us in the Town Hall on the second Wednesday of the month, the meeting taking place at 2.30pm in February.

Pauline Lamont

THE accomplished pianist, Caroline McBrain, will be giving two recitals on Sunday afternoons at the end of February and beginning of March on Diana and Bob Feilden's Steinway. One recital will be in aid of The Haven, the other in aid of GEAR. They will start at 3pm with tea afterwards. More information later.

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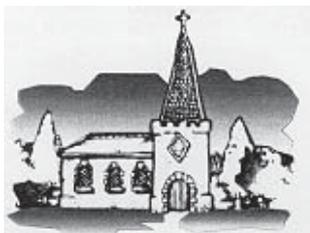
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## WI enjoys Quiz and party successes

The tea party was off to a flying start, with sherry, canapes and sweetmeats for everyone, even before the 'proper' tea began. This was because our own WI team had come second in the Echo quiz and so had won £25. Clever girls!

The tea itself was an enjoyable affair, with ample sandwiches and cakes to suit everyone's taste, and an individual pot of tea for each table. President Barbara Thorley, wearing red suit, pearls and a kindly smile, visited all the tables, offering food.

Afterwards came the entertainment, arranged by Audrey Watts. This was a series of Christmas readings by six enterprising members: Jane Otway, Janet Dent, Margaret Boucher, Dorothy Daniels, Shirley Owen and Pauline Foreman. Some of the pieces were nostalgic, others thought-provoking, some amusing and some just plain funny: in all, a remarkable collection.

Finally there was a presentation to Barbara Thorley, following her hard work during three years as Secretary and then four years as President of our Institute.

**Dorothy Binns**

## Verdi's operas and Italy's struggle for liberation

The successful presentation of Verdi on 22nd November was briefly mentioned last time. In commemoration of the centenary of the composer's death, Richard Burges Watson had skilfully managed to give us wonderful operatic entertainment intertwined with a history of the "Risorgimento" - Italy's struggle for liberation and unification in the 19th century.

We listened to excerpts from some of the youthful composer's early operas, full of Italian appeal, tinged with a spirit of patriotism, outstanding among which was *Nabucco* (Nebuchadnezzar), whose famous "va pensiero" chorus had tremendous popular appeal and became the Risorgimento's anthem, whilst *The Battle of Legnano* was actually Verdi's only opera expressly written to revive Italian nationalism.

As he became less aggressively patriotic and pot-boiling, though still anti-authoritarian, Verdi went on to compose his greatest operas in the second half of the century. We heard extracts from *Rigoletto* and *Trovatore* before the interval, with some sublime singing by Sutherland, Pryce and Carreras in

### Painswick Music Appreciation Group

particular. The second part took a closer look at *Traviata* and *Aida* and closed with a review of his famous *Requiem*.

About our Christmas Social on 6th December, Richard Purdy writes: More than 30 members enjoyed a very congenial candle-lit evening. Their musical knowledge was light-heartedly tested by Messrs. Brotherton and Wood who had devised a devilish musical crossword puzzle, but the competitive atmosphere was relieved by copious quantities of wine throughout and, at half-time, by delicious refreshments organised by Mrs. Betty Wood and her helpers. The music was catholic in taste, ranging from Ella Fitzgerald to Beethoven, and added greatly to the general merriment of the evening. The subdued candle light may have facilitated collusion on some tables and I have no idea who, if anyone, won - it didn't really matter.

Forthcoming attractions: Alan Bamber's From Hildegard to Diana - 1000 Years of Christian Music, will have taken place on 3rd January before publication of this issue; 17th January, Concert Visit to Cheltenham; 31st January, Stewart Price reviewing the genius of Beethoven.

**Ralph Kenber**

## Watchful eye of the CPRE

David Hudson gave the final talk of the year on the work of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Chairman of the Stroud Branch of this very important organisation, he detailed CPRE's achievements since coming into being in 1926, and aspirations for the future.

CPRE exists to help to protect our countryside, to watch closely plans for future developments, to lobby Government where necessary and to promote positive solutions for the long-term future.

Gloucestershire is the largest designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in this country (790 square miles)

### Painswick Senior Circle

and it is good to know that CPRE keeps a watching brief.

Christmas upon us, Senior Circle organised a coach trip to Cribbs Causeway Shopping Mall and a good, if somewhat tiring time for some, was had by all. The Mall in festive mood for Christmas was fortunately not too crowded. It proved a very popular outing (planned by John McCabe - for which many thanks), with several requests for a repeat performance next year.

Our final meeting of 2001 was the Christmas Party. Excellent food, entertainment and a few carols, kindly provided by a local group, brought Senior Circle's year to a close. Once again we are indebted to Pat and Mair Daly for their conscientious and friendly direction in all we do and we look forward to meeting again on 11th January.

Painswick Senior Circle send Season's greetings to all readers, with a wish for a Happy and Peaceful 2002.

**Daphne Hudson**

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# Jumpers fit for penguins

Penguins in a Tasmanian wildlife reserve will be much warmer this winter, thanks in part to the efforts of Painswick and Cranham Brownies. The 28 girls, with a bit of added help from mothers and grandmothers, knitted more than 30 woolly jumpers in response to a BBC Radio Gloucestershire appeal. At the last meeting in December of the Brownies, right, the jumpers were handed over to the BBC's Martin Evans. In all, about 2,000 jumpers were knitted throughout the county, and they are being sent out to Tasmania just in time for their winter. Well done, girls!



# Hildegard to Diana...

... may not resonate when expressed as three random words, but they certainly did when Alan Bamber used them to describe his presentation of church music to the Music Appreciation Group on 3rd January.

There may not have been as many attending as have been known to brave a cold and icy evening so early in the year, but those of us who were there will carry the most satisfying of memories. The raison d'être of this Group is to extend its knowledge of music, whatever the starting point of each of its members, and Alan brought this about in a quite exceptional way.

Reminding us that there is little knowledge of composers in the first of the two Christian millennia, Alan suggested that the starting point could usefully be with Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), a

## Painswick Music Appreciation Group

German composer, abbess, mystic, and writer, noted for her lyrical poetry and devotional songs. Much of her music remains accessible today in two manuscript sources in *Symphonia armonie celestium revelationum* (the symphony of the harmony of celestial revelations). We then heard some early polyphonic music by Guillaume Dufay (1400-1474), a French composer, young priest and chorister.

If this is a revelation of the focus Alan brought to bear, his exhaustive researches were to proceed through numerous illustrations of the music associated with differing strands of the churches and periods right through to the present day.

The Protestant revolution circa 1517 and increasing participation of congregations, usually lustily too, on through the more austere Christianity in which the Geneva Psalter became a powerful symbol of the Calvinist creed in parts of Europe. Fine recordings by choirs with international reputations included music from Thomas Tallis (1510-1585)

who wrote through the reigns of four monarchs, alternating in their religious convictions (!), Purcell, Bach influenced by his Lutheran beliefs, Mozart, Britten, Bruckner and Tippett.

All were moved by the recording of 'Adoramus Te', much sung by mostly young visitors from all parts of the world to the office of the ecumenical community of Taizé in France; repetitive the words may be, but the depth of feeling conveyed was overwhelming. And to Diana; we were to listen to the 'Song for Athene' in John Tavener's composition, as sung at the funeral of Diana Princess of Wales.

A moving evening, presented by a man of conviction and dedication, all greatly appreciated.

Leslie Brotherton

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# The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY AND FORWARD DATES IN 2002

## January

Sat 12th **January issue of the Beacon published**

14th Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Churches Together Around Painswick Christ Church Hall 12.15 - 1.15pm

15th Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Christ Church Hall 9.30 - 10.15am  
Intermediate 10.15 - 11am  
Advanced Dogs 11 - 12 noon

Theatre Club Outing to Stratford The Falcon 10.30am

Local History Society: Georgian Pleasure Gardens in Cranham - Janet Whitton Croft School 7.30pm

Jazz Evening: Local musicians, no entry charge Ostlers Room, Falcon 8.30pm

16th Parish Council Meeting Town Hall 7.30pm

Traditional Tea Dance. Everyone welcome. £1.50 incl. tea Painswick Centre 2 - 4pm

17th W.I. Meeting Town Hall 2.30pm

Music Appreciation Group: Concert Visit to Cheltenham Town Hall

18th W.I. Market (Fridays) Town Hall 10am

Sat 19th Introduction to Western Line Dancing - In aid of Dyslexia Association Painswick Centre 8 - 11pm

**20th COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street**

Christian Unity Service St James' Church, Cranham 6.15pm

21st Austerity Lunch: Hostess - Mrs Helen Briggs Christ Church Hall 12.15 - 1.15pm

23rd Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Ecumenical Prayers Catholic Church 10.15am

**24th DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street**

Christian Unity Week - Evening Prayer Prinknash Abbey 6pm

25th Senior Circle: Silent Flight - Frank & Eve Dent Town Hall 2.30pm

27th Christian Unity Service - Evening Prayer Catholic Church 3.30pm

28th Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Horticultural Society Christ Church Hall 12.15 - 1.15pm

31st Music Appreciation Group: The genius of Beethoven - Stewart Price Town Hall 7.30pm

## February

Sat 2nd **February Issue of The Painswick Beacon Published**

Painswick Players: "The Wedding of the Year" by Norman Robbins - A rehearsed play reading. Tickets £5 to include a cream tea  
Tel: 813379/812167 Painswick Centre 3pm



|              |  |                    |                |
|--------------|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 4th          | Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Wives' Fellowship   | Christ Church Hall | 12.15 - 1.15pm |
| 5th          | PCMS: "Where Religion meets Politics" - John Parfitt   | Church Rooms       | 10.30am        |
| 7th          | Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting  | Ashwell House      | 2.30pm         |
| 8th          | Senior Circle: "Hydro-electricity" - Mike Buttrey  | Town Hall          | 2.30pm         |
| 11th         | Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Catholic Church   | Christ Church Hall | 12.15 - 1.15pm |
| 12th         | Painswick Bird Club: "Flamingos" - Nigel Jarrett, from the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust   | Town Hall          | 7.30pm         |
| 13th         | Horticultural Society: "Fuchsias" - Mr B Nash  | Town Hall          | 2.30pm         |
| 14th         | Music Appreciation Group: Life and music of Handel examined by Peter Jenkins   | Town Hall          | 7.30pm         |
| 18th         | Austerity Lunch: Hosts - W.I. Markets  | Christ Church Hall | 12.15 - 1.15pm |
| 19th         | Local History Society: "The Coming of the Monks to Prinknash 1928" - Aelred Baker OSB  | Croft School       | 7.30pm         |
| 28th         | Music Appreciation Group: How composers express their imaginations. Gordon Collins visiting from Long Crendon, near Thame  | Town Hall          | 7.30pm         |
| <b>March</b> |  |                    |                |
| 14th         | Music Appreciation Group: Possible concert visit to Symphony Hall.   |                    |                |
| 28th         | Music Appreciation Group: Guest speaker - Chris Ashman   | Town Hall          | 7.30pm         |
| <b>April</b> |  |                    |                |
| 11th         | Music Appreciation Group: Finale of the 14th season. Members' recordings   | Town Hall          | 7.30pm         |
| 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     |
| <b>May</b>   |  |                    |                |
| 9th          | Painswick Players: "Stepping Out" by Richard Harris (Also 10th & 11th)   | Painswick Centre   |                |

Should your event be listed here? Please remember we publish all forward dates



# Looking forward to the Wedding of the Year

The seasonal celebrations having subsided and the last festive Alka Seltzer having fizzed, the time has come to sit back comfortably in front of a roaring log fire, mull over past PP triumphs and ponder on a dramatic future. Or, at least, in an ideal world, it would be.

However, The Most Organised One has decided that now is the time for the collateral damage of Christmas to be cleared up, cleaned up and chucked out. Starting with me. I thus beat a hasty retreat to compose the rest of this column on the hoof around Painswick, leaving her busily hoovering up crushed mince pies, crumpled silly hats and the odd left over relative from under the sideboard. (It is an immutable law that all relatives left over Christmas become odd, those under the sideboard doubly so).

As I pound the streets of Painswick and look back over 2001, I see a lot to celebrate. We have had two very successful, major productions - Black Comedy in May and The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol last month- and a strong social calendar to maintain interest in between times. Incidentally, the Farnsdale ladies, apart from providing our longest title ever, also attracted our biggest audiences for several years. Doubtless, there is an incisive and completely objective review of their efforts elsewhere in the Beacon.

But let's not dwell upon past glories. Let's celebrate the future! Passing St Mary's Church reminds me that there is no better way to celebrate than with a wedding. Painswick Players is, therefore,

## Painswick Players

proud to present a wedding. And no ordinary wedding, either. For this will be The Wedding of the Year (an excellent play by Norman Robbins), that is the subject of a rehearsed play reading, directed by Pauline Foreman on Saturday, 2nd February at 3pm in the Painswick Centre.

Not only is everyone invited, but the £5 ticket includes a scrumptious cream tea. Call Pauline Foreman (813379) or Jean Burgess (812167) to be sure of a place. Incidentally, those of you with an historical bent will be interested to note that The Wedding of the Year was last staged in Painswick by our antecedents, The Country Players, in 1979. You will be astonished to learn that two of the original cast, Pauline Foreman and Avril Dorey, will be taking leading roles again this time round.

Back to the future. Still pounding the streets, I catch the unmistakable sound of a herd of stampeding wildebeest from within the Painswick Centre. A herd of wildebeest? In the Painswick Centre? Surely, this cannot be! Wildebeest are neither seen nor heard (nor herd) in Painswick. Well, not before mid-May, anyway. Is this yet more evidence of Global Warming? Readers of the Beacon deserve to be told.

I enter the Centre with some trepidation. There before me is a truly remarkable sight: a class of a dozen or so determinedly dedicated tap-dancers. Of course. It all becomes clear: these happy, hopeful hoofers are all Painswick Players, rehearsing hard for the next major production, the Richard Harris comedy, Stepping Out (9th - 11th May). This is a clear case of life imitating art, since Stepping Out actually traces the progress of just such a tap-dancing class as they prepare desperately for their first big performance. Watch this space for more thrills and spills as the production takes shape.

Finally, a belated Happy New Year to my reader... wherever you are.

**Jack Burgess**

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

**WATCH FOUND.** A Seiko ladies' wrist-watch was found by a Painswick villager outside the Old School House on New Year's Day. Would anyone claiming ownership please call the Beacon editor on 814500 to identify it.

## MINI-ADS

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MINI-ADS - non-commercial, maximum of 30 words - are 10p per word with a minimum payment of £1. Maximum of 14 per month. Beacon subscribers have 25% discount.

Please send money with mini-ad to Leslie Brotherton, Longhope, Blakewell Mead, Painswick GL6 6UR. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to *The Painswick Beacon*. Receipts are not forwarded unless requested.

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