

# The Painswick Beacon

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November 2003

## A Music and Arts Festival in 2004

A small group has begun to plan a Music and Arts Festival in Painswick from Saturday 6th to Saturday 20th November next year.

This is clearly a major development, and one which could involve many groups and incorporate a range of initiatives.

The intention is that it will start with The Cambridge Voices performing Fauré's Requiem together with other choral pieces in St. Mary's church, followed by a recital on the Sunday afternoon.

Over the middle weekend it is hoped to have a music concert featuring young people.

At the end of the second week the Painswick Players will be performing "A Man For All Seasons" in the church, an environment ideally suited to this major drama production. On behalf of Painswick Players, Jack Burgess commented, "This is a really exciting opportunity both for the Players and for the Painswick community as a whole. For the Players, in particular, it enables us to tackle some really significant drama in a magnificent set-

ting. In many ways, it harks back to the founding of Painswick Players 80 years ago and is a living legacy of Lucy Hyett's vision for performing arts in Painswick."

The group would like to extend this to become a full blown Painswick Festival involving and appealing to all, with events such as art or craft exhibitions, other music concerts, and so on taking place somewhere in Painswick for every day of the Festival - maybe more than one on each day.

What is needed now are people with publicity and computer skills, as well as others willing and interested in advancing the idea. Anyone interested can contact David Harley on 813150 who will be pleased to co-ordinate information at this stage. If club and society secretaries would be kind enough to draw this concept to the attention of their committees and members, further ideas might be inspired for a week of events to excite residents and visitors alike.

Ideas for events and activities that could be clustered around the festival are legion. How about some gastronomic extravaganzas from the two hotels? Or jazz/folk evenings at the pubs? Or a celebrity blues night at the Centre? Or exhibitions of local paintings, e.g. portraits of well known local people? Perhaps it could all kick off with a fireworks display?

The possibilities are endless. Who knows? The festival might even develop its own scandalous Fringe of outrageous and scurilous events. Now that could be fireworks!



*More about this young lady on page 17*

## Broadband prospects?

The Beacon has received much feedback from individuals in Painswick who remain deeply concerned about the seeming improbability of Broadband being available to anyone in this part of Gloucestershire for years to come. This is reported as having a serious impact upon the viability of many businesses, the majority of which operate from users' homes, and it does not take much to prompt such residents to consider moving out of the area to where access is assured. In at least one case we know this has happened. Such is the impact of the advancement of Internet technology!

The Parish Council has committed itself to do what it can to advance consideration of Broadband services being made available in this area, and an open meeting to discuss the options and look at ways in which the community itself might advance matters has been arranged by the Council for

**Friday 14th November 8.00pm in the Town Hall.**

For its part, the Beacon has continued its adopted task of setting out the facts about Broadband and has, this month, set out those facts which apply to Broadband access across our centre pages. We hope that these are helpful to those concerned.

If you have a present or prospective interest in the matter, this must be the opportunity to come along and share your views. Who knows, this may be the meeting which appoints two or three residents to move this matter forward?

## We will r e m e m b e r them

A Service of Remembrance, under the auspices of Churches Together Around Painswick, will be held at 10.50am in St. Mary's Church on Sunday 9th November.

On Remembrance Day itself, Tuesday 11th November, everyone will be welcome at the War Memorial for a short period of

Inside, this month: all about **goods vehicles** and New Street, sighting of **strange beastie**, that **mast in Edge**, new **bus service action** required, monitoring **power cuts**, options about **Broadband**, darkest **Peru**, the **weather** is back, **seedy opportunity**, the **tea time** of the year, **silver meets the Pussy Cat**, short **closure of part of the Town Hall**, trip on a **classic yacht**, enjoying **Ferrier v Bamber**, **HM Toast Drinkers** end an era, a '**new**' **bus service** to the City, **Painswick Centre** advancing, **birds at home**, to **London** before Christmas.

*Reports upon meetings of the Parish Council cannot help but be selective, if only because of space constraints. We try to draw attention to those of wider interest, but remind readers that the full minutes of Council meetings are available at the Council office on Wednesday and Friday mornings, as well as Painswick Library.*

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

*Extra meeting 14th October*

**Mobile phone aerial - Jenkins Farm**

This meeting had been convened for the sole purpose of determining the Council's recommendation to the Stroud District Council (SDC) Planning Department in accordance with the decision taken at the last meeting. (See also the Beacon report on page 3 of the last issue.)

After David Hudson had ascertained that no further information or amendment of the planning application had been received from Vodafone, this despite assurances given at the last meeting that they would research a two-shorter-mast alternative, the Chairman, Malcolm Watts, invited each member present (7) in turn to indicate their opinion regarding the application. These included:

- 22.5m height being unacceptable in the AONB (alternatives of more than one 15m high in suitable locations being preferred)
- recognition that the range of transmission is important if full coverage of the valley is to be effected
- the use of mobile phones and next generation communications needs to be accommodated
- there already being 25 objectors and only one supporter registered with SDC
- any health consideration regarding siting not being a planning consideration
- a major consideration being the opinions of residents in Edge
- the existing smaller masts at the Golf Club and in Stepping Stone Lane being acceptable
- the location proposed necessitates such a high mast - not the technology.

Tony Crook particularly noted that apart from consideration of technical detail he regards it as "the Council's duty to represent the views of the silent majority". With no further discussion a vote was taken to support the planning application, those in favour being: Anne Daniels, Tony Crook, Johnny Johnson and Malcolm Watts; against: Alan Shearer, David Hudson and Terry Parker.

*Regular meeting 15th October  
Care Centre*

The Chairman indicated that he had arranged for the planning application for changes within the structure of the care centre building submitted by Richmond Healthcare to be on the agenda so that there could be a general exchange of views at this meeting prior to the usual process of collective views being communicated to SDC. He reminded the meeting that the changes proposed were entirely within the approved footprint and structural envelope; no changes to these were proposed. There was a proposal to increase the number of care suites from 48 to 67, a modification of the vehicle turning area on the drive, roof lights and smaller windows (these windows towards Cotswold Mead).

He invited Tony Crook to lead off the discussion. Mr. Crook indicated that he had met with eight local homeowners at three meetings, two in his own home, and from these he could report concerns regarding an increase of 40% in the capacity of the centre itself, consequent increase in traffic movements, further loss of privacy behind Cotswold Mead houses, increased noise levels and smells and food preparation. If the increase in the number of units is for economic reasons he felt SDC should request an overall reduction in size. Additionally, he felt that if the objective is to serve the village the scale of operation greatly exceeds village needs. Other members of the Council voiced some comparable concerns.

It was agreed that although the Council's comments were due with SDC by 17th, this could be delayed until 24th and that the plans be also circulated to non-Painswick ward councillors. The summary of views expressed would be forwarded to SDC using the usual process.

**PARISH COUNCIL**

*Public Open Session*

**Mobile phone aerial - Jenkins Farm**

As has been reported previously in these columns, all Parish Council meetings commence with a 15 minute (maximum) opportunity for the public to raise a question which has previously been submitted in writing, and speak to the response given verbally at that time. The first such matter was received, to take note of a letter received from Mrs. Carolyn Luke from Edge, written on behalf of many residents, formally questioning seven matters associated with the Planning Committee held on the previous evening. (See our report above.)

The Chairman indicated the intention of the Council to write to Mrs. Luke upon each of the points raised by the following Monday and would meanwhile obtain an input of Council members' views upon the points raised.

A separate communication from Tony Beard was also received regarding the non-representation of Edge residents when their sole councillor was unable to discharge that function because of his/her

having a direct interest in an issue. It was agreed that a reply would be sent and that the issue of such circumstances considered so that the policy of the Council is clarified.

**Broadband**

The Clerk reported the outcome to date of his conversations with BT upon their position concerning provision of Broadband access for Painswick. He indicated that 201 expressions of interest had been received, but there remained further enquiries to be made as to how/why BT had increased its minimum level of interest from 350 to 500. Mr. Balgobin also reported having been advised that the 500 target applied to the whole of the Painswick 81— numbers, but was suspicious that this was not the case.

Upon enquiry of its representative present, it was noted that the Beacon would be running an article summarising the latest position regarding all possible 'providers' of Broadband in its next issue (see elsewhere) and it was agreed to include in that report an invitation for all interested in acquiring Broadband to meet under the auspices of the Parish Council at an early date. It was recognised that the pooling of knowledge on the subject would be helpful, and that offers of initiating subsequent action could then be stimulated and coordinated.

**Local Government Review**

The Council endorsed the views of the County Council that any changes to the Division affecting Painswick should be to include it with Upton St. Leonards and Bisleigh. This is at variance with the suggestions of the Stroud District Council endorsed by the Boundary Committee for England, that the re-formed Division move Upton into one which included Eastington!

**Rural and Community funding scheme**

The Council received a request for endorsement of the application by Painswick Lawn Tennis Club for a £6000 grant from the SDC scheme (outlined on page 4 October Beacon) and a grant from the Parish Council of £1000. There was considerable discussion about the merits of grants v loans, and indeed the justification of precepted funding being used in this way.

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The possibility of any clubs, sporting or otherwise, with or without the majority of members being Painswick residents, seeking grants was raised. It was agreed to support this application, and an interest free loan of £1000 if it is successful; repayment of the loan to be in equal instalments effective from April 2006. Some councillors suggested other schemes which seemed to warrant grants from SDC but the Clerk reminded members of the Council that no others had been received by the due date and time precluded their ad hoc consideration.

**Allowances for Councillors**

The Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils had written to the Parish Council asking whether members supported the introduction of allowances. It was agreed that if such were formally approved through legislation it was open to members to decline to accept them. It was recognised that service as a councillor brought significant out-of-pocket expense and it was the view that such should either be reimbursed pro rata, or be contained within allowances claimed. The Council, mindful that its term of service expired in June 2004, was anxious that potential candidates for election should be aware that out of pocket expenses which might be incurred would be reimbursed.

**Planning matters - Edge Mobile phone mast**

It is the practice of the Council to endorse

- or otherwise - observations communicated to the District Council in its name by the Planning Committee in the preceding month. On this occasion Alan Shearer enquired as to whether the decision reached on the previous evening was included in this process, and was assured by the Chairman that such was the case.

Mr. Shearer recognised there was a need for improved Vodafone transmission in the Painswick Valley area, and that a new mast or masts should be built. On a close vote on the previous evening three councillors had indicated that the current Vodafone proposal was more environmentally obtrusive than they would wish, and there is a strong body of opinion amongst Edge residents that this is the case. He went on to recognise that Vodafone may have chosen the best site for their purpose, but that does not mean that it is the only site, and that a more acceptable alternative could probably be found if they were tasked to find it, even if some degree of compromise might be necessary.

He said he was strongly of the opinion that the Council's recommendation to the District Council was in no way qualified to reflect the views of Edge residents.

Upon his proposition, seconded by David Hudson, it was unanimously agreed to add a rider to the recommendation to SDC as follows: "This recommendation to approve Vodafone's application recognises the need to improve reception levels in

the Valley, and that the selected site is the best so far identified for this purpose. However, substantial concern has been expressed about the environmental impact of the location, and we also recommend that nonetheless Vodafone should be asked by SDC to re-examine their findings to ascertain whether or not an alternative, and less obtrusive, location or locations, could be found."

**Village pavements**

David Hudson indicated his intention of organising a survey of all pavements within the village in order to prepare comments to the County Council upon the need for repairs or upgrading, or indeed the possibility of removal.

This arose from the report of coning off a section of pavement opposite the Town Hall, as it had been classified as unsafe; the Council commended its replacement with paved footway rather than tarmac, as such would be more in keeping with that location.

**Representation - Painswick Centre**

Alan Shearer volunteered to be the Council's representative on the Centre's Trustees consequent upon Tony Crook indicating his wish to relinquish that role.

**Standing Orders**

The Council decided to update its standing orders with members looking through those existing and informing the Clerk of apparent improvements or inconsistencies.

**THE Town Hall floor**

If one floor in this village receives more wear and tear than any other, it must surely be that at the Town Hall. Few hours pass without an event, meeting or social with feet, tables, chairs and so on impacting on the parquet flooring of the lower hall.

The Parish Council has decided that the time has come for sanding and sealing, and some repairs in places, and

**the lower hall will be closed to the public from 27th December until 7th January**

while contractors undertake these tasks.

All regular users have been notified, but prospective users may appreciate

**More Fiery Grannies!**

The Fiery Beacon Gallery announces more from 'Granny's Attic' on Sunday, 9th November, 11.00 am - 3.00 pm. Pam Bentley says it's the same set of Grannies, just more from their attics, "a wonderful mix of jewellery, children's toys, designer clothes, books, pictures and 'things' for house and garden etc etc."

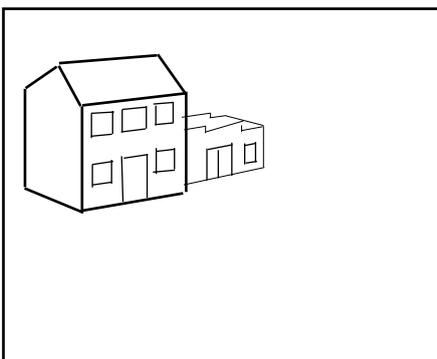
Come along and join the fun at the Gallery in New Street!

**Painswick in Bloom 2003 correction**

In my report last month for Painswick Horticultural Society I put the address of the runner-up as "Half-penny Cottage".

This should have been "Golden Heart Cottage". My apologies to Mr & Mrs David Gunton, and to the Beacon.

*Pauline Berry*



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# HGV - Progress?

Nearly 40 residents attended the public meeting held on 7th October to hear from County Council officers how New Street might be relieved of the heaviest of goods vehicles trundling through on the A46. This was the meeting promised at the Annual Parish Meeting back in May, when many residents had registered their having reached the end of their tether and their disenchantment with those who had given assurances across many years that they were doing all that they could to mitigate matters. No fewer than four Council officers attended, including the Principal Transport Planning Officer, together with Inspector Pickerstell, representing the Chief Constable. The meeting was chaired by Terry Parker. *(The Beacon included the principal concerns of New Street residents in its report on page 4 of the June issue.)*

The meeting took note of the four questions raised in advance with the officers. The first two enquired as to whether the GCC had powers to impose weight restrictions on HGV using this section of the A46 and, if so, what action they might take. The response was detailed but confirmed that while such powers were available for vehicles exceeding 7.5 tons the process was lengthy and tortuous; it would involve such as the number of vehicles involved (if relatively few the case for regulations would be weak), the effect on the condition of the carriageway, the availability of alternative routes, processes for permitting deliveries in the affected area, retention of the right of access to properties including super-stores deliveries, capability of enforcement, the signing of every access point to the designated section - some requiring illumination, the overall cost and consequent placement in a priority listing for allocation. Significant among these, the matter of alternative routes for HGV was highlighted. While it was the desire of Painswick residents that the alternative be via the M5, it was of note that when the motorway is itself obstructed the A46 and the A38 were the only alternatives.

On the matter of possible attribution of structural damage to properties adjoining the A46 within the village, the meeting was informed that legal opinion had been sought and it was unlikely that such could form the basis of a claim.

One resident enquired as to how, during the recent week of lengthy delays in traffic movements caused by resurfacing of the road at Salmon Springs, the incidence of HGV in Painswick had - without any temporary signs anywhere - reduced to zero. She went on to suggest that signs in normal times could have the same effect! No explanation was offered as to how this had occurred. The Chairman reiterated the long-held understanding that, when the Ebley and Brockworth by-passes were completed, weight restrictions would be introduced on the A46; further, the weight of vehicles had actually increased in the 7+ intervening years. Mr Parker pressed for an actual timetable for their introduction.

John Lindsay of GCC was repeatedly challenged, and accused of dragging his feet and indifference towards these local concerns and understanding, when he suggested that the Highways Agency was "showing some interest" in altering the signs at the A46/A417 interchange. County Councillor Joan Nash rounded upon the officers when they suggested that further in-depth studies were required at an indefinite date in the future, asserting that sufficient time had passed and that action was required immediately. John Parfitt, who had been particularly vocal and hard-hitting at the Parish Meeting returned to representing gross inaction by the officers and made clear his intention to refer the matter to the Ombudsman, backed by a legal case, if the matter was not resolved within three months.

The police made clear their willingness to do whatever they could, within limited resources, once new regulations are in place.

The meeting was firmly against further study groups and hence yet further delays and postponement of decisions regarding relief of the village from the passage of HGV through narrow streets with narrow pavements. Pressed by the Chairman and others, the officers undertook to reinstate the traffic survey (postponed during the resurfacing) and report back to an early meeting upon those results and the timing of new signage at Brockworth.

An acrimonious meeting concluded upon receiving those assurances, and the Chairman stating that he would arrange a further public meeting when that information is to hand.

The County Council last week informed the Parish Council that a survey of HGV movements along the A46 had been carried out. The survey had recorded not only the numbers and types of vehicle, but also the registration numbers and vehicle ownerships. The data was being processed and a report would be forwarded to the Parish Council in the near future. The report would include the frequency of vehicle movements by individual companies, with the intention of seeking the owners' agreement to identifying alternative routes. The Parish Council is itself in the process of carrying out its own survey for comparison with the County Council's data. The County Council has also been collecting information relating to HGV movements during the period in late September when the A46 was being resurfaced and vehicles had to seek alternative routes. The Parish Council has been advised that discussions are continuing with the Highways Agency, and the County Council is optimistic that agreement will soon be reached for signs to be erected on the A417 directing HGVs away from the A46.

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## The Painswick Hotel invites you to tea

The new partnership running The Painswick Hotel has decided to celebrate a hectic but very successful first three months by holding an Open House. The invitation is for all residents of Painswick to drop in and meet the three couples that make up the partnership – Max and Jane Sabatini, Bob and Pauline Young and Guus and Patti Thomas-Verweij - on the afternoon of Sunday, 23rd November between 3.00 and 6.00 pm.

Cream teas (and perhaps something a little stronger) will be served - free of charge, of course - in this fine Edwardian setting, with appropriate music provided by the resident pianist, Robert James.

Pauline Young commented: "Painswick is very important to us and we want to become more 'local/friendly'. We hope this will give us the chance to meet more Painswickians and give them the opportunity to see how we are settling in. We are also keen to tell local people about our future plans and take on board their comments and ideas."

Amongst future plans, are a series of gastro-musical events and Pauline hinted enigmatically that there might be a special musical surprise to accompany the cream teas.

JRB

## Painswick Playgroup

The beginning of the Autumn term has seen a good number of new children start at the Playgroup, joining a few familiar faces from last year's group. They have all settled in really well and are enjoying this term's topic of learning about themselves and their families.

The AGM meeting took place on 1st October and a new committee was voted in. This year we are lucky enough to have a husband and wife team as our new chairpersons. A big welcome from the staff goes to Alan and Della Gould and the rest of the new committee members; we look forward to working with them.

The staff are presently working hard on a new initiative set by the Local Education Authority for the Playgroup to gain Quality Assurance status. This involves answering numerous questions about how the playgroup is run, what policies the playgroup has in place and any suggestions we may have on ways to improve the quality of the playgroup as a whole. Once our folder of work has been assessed, we will be notified if we have passed the criteria and will be awarded the Quality Assurance Award. Fingers crossed that our efforts will be rewarded positively!!

This term we have produced a Playgroup Prospectus for prospective parents. The prospectus holds lots of information about the aims and objectives of the playgroup, policies, when the sessions are run and what your child can expect. The prospectus is currently at the printers and we should have them on the premises shortly. We also have a few places left for any children aged 2 years and 9 months wishing to attend the playgroup. Please call in or telephone Beaty Bell, Playgroup Leader, for more details. You and your child are welcome to attend the playgroup for a free session to see how it's run and what goes on. Our telephone number is 813316. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sandra Chandler  
Playgroup Assistant

## At last! Dead Man's Hand Murderous Mysteries Revealed!

'No, no, no! You can't say that about Dead Man's Hand'

'Why not?'

'It'll give the whole plot away!'

'Can't I just say that the body...'

'No.'

'Well, how about the bit where the cyanide..'

'No!'

Our new Hon Sec, Jackie Herbert (who is Most Organised Too) is discussing this month's Beacon column with me. Actually, 'discussing' is the wrong word since it implies some sort of two way process. I try

to explain that all I want to do is to divulge to the Beacon readers some pretty startling revelations about *Dead Man's Hand*, our next production (4th - 6th December), which somehow I forgot to include last month.

Did she know, for example, that someone actually gets murdered? Which is pretty startling in my book. Apparently, she did. I press on regardless:

'Ah! But it's not just that. The really startling thing about *Dead Man's Hand* is that it's a complete mystery as to who has done it! I mean... I'm in it and even I don't know!'

'Why doesn't that surprise me?' she responds enigmatically.

'So you see,' I continue 'it's my duty to explain the plot to the readers or else they're going to be completely confused when they come to see it at the Painswick Centre on the 4th, 5th or even 6th December.'

MO2 looks at me intently: 'You've never quite got the hang of these murder mysteries, have you?'

'Of course I have,' I reply with a haughty sneer - I've been practising haughty sneers in case we ever do costume drama - 'It's when you don't know who's been murdered!'

'I know who I'd like to murder', she mutters darkly, exiting stage left.

Sadly, therefore, I am unable to reveal the startling facts behind the picture above; one revelation I can make is that tickets for *Dead Man's Hand* will shortly be available from Painswick Post Office and the Shetland Shop.



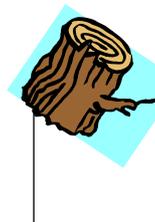
## Our Painswickian of the Year

Each year since 1985 the Beacon has invited residents to nominate a Painswickian of the Year. Those nominated should be people who have given exceptional service to the local community or whose achievements have brought credit to the village during the preceding 12 months. Individual residents, or couples, may be proposed.

Although the final decision lies with the Beacon committee, its members are very much guided by residents' opinions; so if you believe someone is a candidate for the award, please let us know in not more than 100 words why you are proposing them. We will treat all nominations in confidence and publish the result in the January issue.

We are happy to receive the nominations either by letter, email or fax. The details of these are in the Next Issue column on the back page.

The closing date is 24th November, please.



OUR ERROR LAST MONTH so we are repeating this seasonal mini-ad here

Logs - Seasoned and split hardwoods. £70.00 per large trailer load delivered. Other loads available. Contact Mr LF Meader in Edge on 07958 108841

# Society enthralled

The annual meeting of Painswick Music Society, held this year on 4th October in the Church Rooms, mixed business with pleasure. The business was despatched with the seemingly effortless style with which Peter Jenkins has become a noted exemplar, and the appreciation of the very many old and new members who attended on a rainy evening was warmly extended to the committee. A near record membership of 241 had sustained the Society together with sponsors, donors and patrons. The attraction of performers with reputations across the world is undoubtedly the key to the continued success of the annual series of summer concerts in St. Mary's Church, but the professionalism of the committee secures these events as experiences to delight all who attend. Average attendances at concerts exceeded 230 and, as we were reminded, these are open to anyone - not just members.

As is the custom at these events the evening was rounded off with a performance and a finger buffet. Katherine Denton and Joseph Middleton, who returned from a week's competition in Austria just in time, delighted all who packed out the hall with renditions from Prokofiev to Martinu; with Katherine demonstrating her undoubted proficiency with the 1949 'Serenade' by Hans Werner Henze - a distinctly 'modern' piece.

For those who have their 2004 diary handy, the four concerts already booked are  
20th March Ruth Rogers violin and Alvin Moisey piano  
3rd April Angela Hewitt piano  
24th April Emperor Quartet  
8th May Nash Ensemble the wind and string septet.

Plans are already afoot to celebrate the Diamond



## January issue

Contributors to the January issue of the Beacon may wish to note that the date of publication is likely to be Saturday 10th, and not the first Saturday of the month as is our custom. Even our printers, **MAIL BOXES ETC** of Gloucester, take a break about that time of year!

Diary information for early January is, therefore, important to bring to our attention for the December issue.

## Sue Ryder Care

Our annual fund raising Coffee Morning, our only fund raising event in Painswick, is on Saturday 29th November in the town Hall from 9.45am to 12noon. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, home-made mince pies and/or biscuits, entrance £1.

Raffle, bric-a-brac, cake-stall, jams, jellies, marmalades and chutneys, Christmas cards, notelets, and fresh flowers will be on sale. Orders for flowers and cakes can be taken in advance. Everyone will be warmly welcomed.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Doreen Birt, Queenie Grant, Peggy Grevett and Midge Leney who are standing down from helping on the day. They have worked with and supported Sue Ryder since the group started and will be sorely missed.

This year is especially important because of the well publicised cash shortfall at Leckhampton: they are having to turn residential respite patients away and close rooms for lack of funds, so any donation is very welcome. We are also delighted in this Golden Jubilee of Sue Ryder that Her Majesty the Queen has agreed to become patron of the charity.

Please do come and support our small hard working group. Looking forward to see you on the day.

*Anne Leoni & "The Team" 812521*

## A&C at Cranham

This years Arts and Crafts Fair is being held on Sunday 16th November in the Village Hall. The doors will open from 10.00am until 5.00pm.

There is no admission charge, though contributions to help the hall funds would be most welcome. Refreshments will be available.

A wide range of mostly local goods and crafts is to be displayed for sale.

If any further information is wanted please do not hesitate to contact me on 812816

*Gary Mason*

## Please help!

LOST - pen and ink drawing of a teddy bear - in the village on Saturday 11th October.

Part of GCSE Coursework - Reward £50.

Please contact the Sidwells on 812520.

*Mrs M Sidwell*

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# Stroud Community Land Trust

Residents in several parts of the Stroud area have been able to identify small parcels of land that seem to have no owner and which nobody seems to care about. In order to improve such a site for the local community it is necessary to either buy the land or take it into trust.

To address this problem Stroud Community Land Trust (SCLT) has been formed. SCLT is a charity specifically created for the benefit of communities and their wildlife. Its aims are to take into care pieces of land identified as neglected, which the local people would like improved, and then help. When SCLT takes over a piece of land, Stroud Valleys Project (SVP) working in partnership with SCLT, helps and works with the local community to improve the land (now, in effect, a piece of community property).

As a charity, SCLT has trustees whose duties include ensuring that the work is done properly and that improvements are maintained. They do this by receiving reports from SVP of what they have done, are doing, or plan to do.

There is some information about the Trust on the Stroud Valleys Project website - [www.stroudvalleysproject.org](http://www.stroudvalleysproject.org).

If you would like to become a trustee of Stroud Community Land Trust you would be most welcome. Trustees receive progress (including the acquisition of new sites) and have about four business meetings each year to discuss progress, solve any difficulties which might have arisen and plan their way forward. It is interesting work for those who wish to help local communities and wildlife. If this applies to you please contact Caroline Aistrop (01453.755358) who would be pleased to give you further information. If you have a friend who might be interested, please would you let them know?

*Mark Sanders*

Readers are reminded that the  
Dog Warden telephone number is  
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# Age Concern Day Centre

Its that time of year when we start thinking of approaching Christmas time and bazaars and coffee mornings and the like. Ashwell Day Centre are holding their annual Coffee Morning on Wednesday, 12th November 2003 between 10.30am and 12.00 noon, in the lounge of Ashwell House. We are indebted to Michelle Elliott, the Ashwell House Warden, for allowing us to use this lovely venue.



As always there will be our excellent Home Produce stall with delicious cakes and preserves; good quality bric-a-brac; our excellent raffle, and much more! Please make a note of the date in your diary and do come along—the members and helpers of the Day Centre look forward to meeting you again and enjoying a cup of coffee with you.

This will be the 18th Coffee Morning that we have held. The Day Centre started on 2nd October 1985 and the money we raise helps keep the Day Centre going. Over the years many folk have benefited from having a regular day each week away from their normal surroundings, to meet and talk with friends and to have a gentle workout ending with a welcome glass of sherry, and then a pleasant lunch. Afternoons are 'wait-and-see' - we make our own entertainment, a discussion, a game or an entertainer, or a speaker on a topic of interest. There is always an outing to look forward to.

All this would not be possible without our loyal band of helpers at the Centre, and drivers who fetch and carry members to and from their homes to the Ashwell Centre.

Do come along on Wednesday the 12th November and support this worthy cause.

*Pam Bailey*

## Bird Club

"Wildlife in the Garden" was the subject of our October talk by David Cramp of the RSPB. He illustrated his talk with a number of excellent slides.

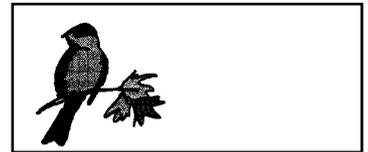
It was gratifying to see our audience numbers swell to a record, partly due to an enthusiastic group of village ladies, but also because the subject matter was close to home.

Anyone with a garden could have found the evening interesting as the speaker was well in command of his subject and talked it through without appearing to lecture his audience. I am sure that our local birds will find that they have an improved standard of life.

The questions following the talk were many and showed that Mr Cramp had our close attention.

Our next talk on 6th November by Helen Williams ARPS is on "Birds, Mammals and Flowers on the Islands of Britain" and we look forward to seeing you there, at 7.30 in the Town Hall.

*Harold Wood*



## Beacon Conservation Group

This Group will be meeting jointly with the Bird Club on 6th November, and will hold its AGM after that meeting is concluded.

## Mission Bazaar

St Mary's Annual Mission Bazaar in aid of the five charities supported by the church (the Children's Society, the Mission to Seafarers, the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Church Army and the Scripture Union) will be held on Saturday 29th November from 11.30am-2.30pm in the Church Rooms.

There will be Ploughman's lunches, a tombola and raffles, preserves and cakes for sale and many other attractions. Come and have fun and help us to support the people who depend on our contributions.

*Alison Robinson*



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## T MIFFLIN

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# The Honourable Guild of Loyal Toast Drinkers 1953 - 2003

As the majority of Painswick folk will not have heard of this Guild, what it was, or for what it stood, the Constitution of the Guild, written by George Brotherton and printed here, explains it fully.

The Guild was founded on Coronation night in 1953, following which, the original members, together with associate members met each year on the anniversary of the Coronation, purposely to drink a loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen. After a decade, for whatever reason, it ceased to function, until 1973 when George asked me if I would assist him in reviving the ceremony. The members have met continually since that date, sadly agreeing at a celebratory dinner held this year to mark the Golden Anniversary of the Coronation, that it would be a logical and timely moment to bring proceedings to a close.

It has been a privilege for me to act in the position of Scribe since George's death in 1984, to have participated in what he describes as "part of the pattern of English history" and to prepare this concluding record.

As George would have said in his own inimitable way, "Well, dear boy, we have had some good evenings, have we not?"

*David Archard  
Scribe to the Honourable Guild*



The Honourable Painswick Guild of Loyal Toast Drinkers

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second was Crowned in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June, 1953.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

In common with other towns and villages in the Kingdom, the coronation of the Queen was celebrated in Painswick with joy and fervour. In the late evening, after a great bonfire had been lighted on the Beacon, a group of people came to the Falcon to recall the events of the day - the Church Service, the broadcast, the children's sports and tea-party, the reading of the Address to Her Majesty by Sir James Sleeman, and of all the other things which had reflected the enthusiasm and devotion which all England felt for their lovely young Queen. The group of people were happy and felt inwardly that they, in their small and modest way, had shared in what would one day be History but which, that evening, was a warm, heartening and moving experience. Songs were sung, and each listened to when he spoke: though these folk had not been to the Abbey each was proud in his heart of the pomp and ceremony and rites of the Coronation, and each had known that day the heritage of great tradition.

So . . . with great sincerity . . . a loyal and fervent Toast was drunk to the new Queen.

The memory of the Queen's crowning, and of the first loyal toast to Elizabeth the Second, was worthy of recollection, and so the group of people subscribed their names to a commemorative panel which mine-host, Mr David Evans, caused to be placed in the principal bar of the inn.

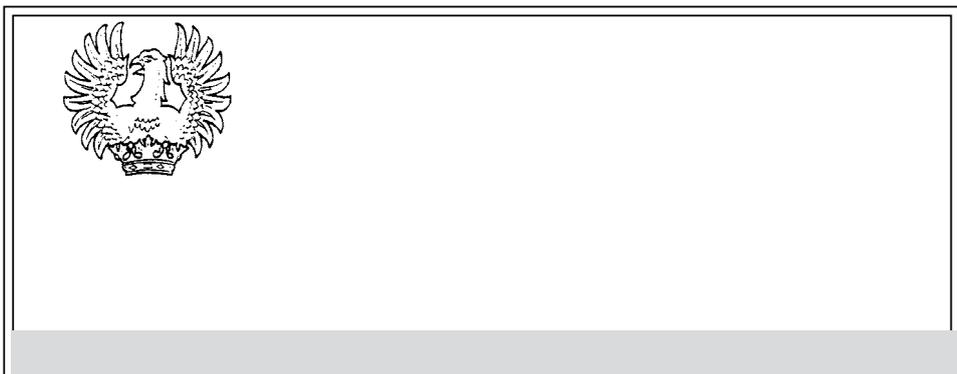
A worthy and enviable tradition was born . . .

Each coronation anniversary these folk have sent to Her Majesty an Address of loyalty and devotion to which the Queen, through her Private Secretary, has been graciously pleased to reply. The Honourable Painswick Guild of Loyal Toast Drinkers have not forgotten the second day of June in 1953 and meet each year at the sign of the 'Falcon' to hear from their Scribe the Queen's message and loyally to drink Her Majesty's health.

This is the Toast Drinker's Register. Guard it well . . . it is part of the pattern of English History.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

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## PHS proseedling

The Seed Secretary of the Horticultural Society, Harold Wood, has asked the Beacon to help in letting members know about the ordering arrangements for seeds to be delivered to the for next year. Sadly, the catalogues arrived the day after the meeting in October!



The Society has, for many years, arranged substantial discounts in the cost of high quality seeds by ordering in bulk. About 40% discount can be achieved in most cases, and sundries such as tools

can attract 10% on already competitive prices. (Growing plants and potatoes are not being ordered this year.)

Mr Wood is currently delivering catalogues to all who placed orders last year, but copies will also be available at the 12th November meeting. If any member is desperate to get hold of the latest copy he can be contacted on 813321, or he will welcome callers to his home at Dormy House in Kings Mill Lane.

He told us that he will "Welcome all orders, regardless of size, as they help us to achieve the discount target; the more we order the greater the discount. It is important that orders are carefully checked and that they reach me no later than 1st December."

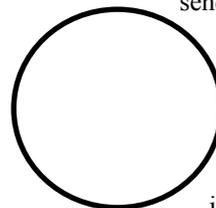
## Word-search

- 25 items likely to be found in the kitchen

B	A	T	S	D	C	N	I	S	A	B	H	S	A	W
G	A	K	E	T	S	A	P	H	T	O	O	T	I	S
P	C	U	R	T	A	I	N	A	G	A	E	N	G	T
F	L	A	N	N	E	L	D	W	P	A	D	U	J	A
R	R	O	W	U	Z	B	A	A	R	O	R	R	I	M
X	E	O	Y	E	V	R	F	T	W	B	A	E	I	P
C	S	T	Z	K	T	U	G	E	N	E	H	W	S	D
R	D	D	A	A	H	S	U	R	B	H	T	O	O	T
S	A	C	P	E	R	H	L	A	N	L	A	H	O	U
P	O	I	N	T	H	D	P	T	O	P	B	S	H	N
M	R	I	L	E	W	O	T	S	C	A	L	E	S	A

## Neil restrained them

Having had the indomitable Pat Daly, presently out of action in hospital but fortunately in good care (to whom we



send our very best get-well-soon good wishes) handle all Circle crises for so many years, it was great to observe our new Chairman Anne Smith sail through two recent speaker disappointments with aplomb. When Val Hurstone-Gardiner's move made it impossible for her to meet her

promised date, Anne rustled up no less a person than Neil Carmichael (prospective Conservative candidate) leaving politics behind to give us an enthralling talk on Gloucester and the Civil War.

He held us captivated for 40 minutes with lucid accounts of all you could ever want to know about the events of the 16th and 17th centuries (never made interesting enough at school for some of us to recall). All the intrigues and factions that were played out amongst the Tudors to the Stuarts flowed from his incredible memory and knowledge of details and dates (oh, those dates) suddenly became immensely interesting and understandable. The retired history mistress in our midst could hardly restrain herself in reacting to compliment him on the masterful way he had encapsulated all the essential historical elements of the civil war in such a short space of time. It was one of the best talks we have had in recent months and we were left wanting more. Truly a tour de force and a pleasure to hear speakers who are able to talk without their official 'hats' on and to glean something of their personalities and interests - to find out what makes them tick.

Then again, John Stephenson-Oliver was unable at the last moment to talk on 'On and off Piste'. This time with echoes of the cry "Once more unto the breach dear friends, once more" charged Anne Smith delivering herself of an excellent impromptu talk and demonstration of flower arranging and decoration very tastefully done. What a relief it is to have such reserves.

Wynn & Helen Roberts will be talking on the subject of 'Strange Customs' on 7th November and Nicola Bailey, intriguingly, on 'Actuary quite interesting' on 21st November.

Maurice Maggs

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Braised Blade of Scotch Beef, Creamed Savoy Cabbage and Bacon, Red Wine Jus

Herb Omelette with Young Vegetables

Organic Salmon Fillet, Crushed New Potatoes, Asparagus and Cherry Tomatoes

\*\*\*\*\*

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Hot Fruit Sorbet

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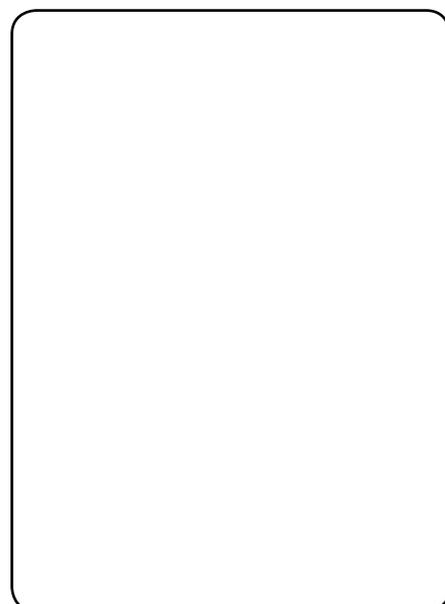
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# LETTERS

## The wall at St. Marys and similar matters.

I refer to that heap of stones atop the remains of a smooth ashlar wall at the lower end of the St.Marys site. I could hardly believe that a wall of such poor standard could be built in a prominent position at the entrance to the village. I went to see the site manager. No comment from him. I telephoned the Company manager- he would "look at it". I then telephoned Malcolm Watts, who is chairman of the Parish Council Planning Committee. He went to see it and telephoned me back with, 'what's your problem?' My problem! His reply seems reflected in the Parish Council's decision to take no action. Just where do they draw the line? Or is there so much shoddy workmanship and architectural design in Painswick, that they have given up?

The final surprise was to see that someone with an angle grinder had cut horizontal lines into the smooth stone below to imitate dry stone walling! Very many people are concerned with the standards which are being accepted, summed in an excellent letter from Donald Juggins in the last Beacon. Continuing down from the wall we now have a row of shoe boxes on top of poles,

which are intended to be suitable street lights. Design? I believe that the back of a cigarette packet was used for the main drawings. Is this the standard that Painswick deserves?

People talk of the beauties of Painswick. Would anyone bother to walk away from the old part of the village to see anything built in the last one hundred years in Painswick? Or even worse built in the centre in recent times, such as the "nurses house". What connection with Cotswold architecture does that have? Or the porch against the East wall of the Church. An early design for a plastic conservatory. An eyesore. Pictures of the Post Office are even on stamps. Does anyone photograph the block of flats opposite? Or that first for the Cotswolds, a lovely Cotswold barn on the A46, complete with a leylandii hedge.

The list could go on and on. Due to resigned indifference, we accept the next architectural insult with a, 'what can we do'. Well, we could make a greater fuss. It was just one or two concerned individuals in Edge, who made a fuss about the proposed telephone mast at Edge, and got the Parish Council to invite a special public meeting to hear objections. Up 'til that time the majority on the Council had accepted the position for the mast, without

many people knowing anything about it. Such was the mood at that meeting that the Council decided to delay their decision until 'further information was available' i.e. lets get out of this one and save face.

Let us have more fuss about the things which demean this lovely village.

*John Gozzard*

## Care Centre

The Beacon has received copy of a letter sent by Hilary and David Simpson to the Planning Department of the District Council and to the Chairman of the Parish Council raising four questions upon the planning application submitted by Richmond Healthcare for modifications to one part of the lowest floor of the care centre itself. They were seeking to know why a roof garden was necessary to the functioning of the centre, who will be using it and for what purpose, and whether the (already approved) pool and associated fitness equipment would increase traffic volumes. The two other questions related to the direction faced by windows and any impact they might have upon the privacy of neighbouring properties, and the viability of the project relative to any increase in traffic which may arise. (See the report on subject on page 2.)

## Coach to London

If you wish to do some Christmas shopping in London, a coach will leave Stamages Lane



Car Park at 8.30am on Wednesday, 3rd December. It should reach Harrods at about 11.15am and then proceed to Northumberland Avenue for Trafalgar Square, arriving at about 11.30am. The return Journey will be from Northumberland Avenue only at 6.30pm. The fare is £10.

Bookings with cash or cheques, payable to 'Painswick L & B Outings' should be made with Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, Painswick GL6 6XH. Enquiries to Joan Truman 813965 or Pauline Berry 813227.

## Have you one of our receipts?

Our Treasurer would be pleased to hear from you, and his address is on the back page.

Beacon subscribers for 2003-04			
at 21st October			
	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02
New or returned	60	75	80
Renewed	569	580	552
Totals	629	655	632

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# Alan Bamber remembers Ferrier

Kathleen Ferrier died 50 years ago, on 8th October 1953, and so it was most appropriate that Alan Bamber should devote the evening of 2nd October at the Music Appreciation Group to recall the life and musical career of this greatly loved artist.

She grew up in modest circumstances in Lancashire, a happy, fun loving, popular girl, but family circumstances made it necessary to leave school at 14. She found employment as a telephonist and was already a music lover and budding pianist. She married at 22, gave piano lessons and worked as an accompanist to augment the household income. She also sang in local choirs. In 1937 she won the piano competition at the Carlisle Music Festival, but was persuaded by a bet to try her hand at singing. Sixteen years later, at her death, with little formal training, she was renowned world-wide as one of the greatest contraltos of the 20th century.

Her singing career took off in 1942 with a move to London and by 1946, when Glyndebourne reopened after the war, she was invited to sing with Nancy Evans in Benjamin Britten's "Rape of Lucretia". From then on until her final illness in February 1953 she was in constant demand singing "Orpheus" at Glyndebourne, and Mahler's "Song of the Earth" with Bruno Walter at the Edinburgh Festival in 1947, followed by tours on the continent and in the USA, in addition to recitals and recording sessions in Britain.

Alan illustrated the talk with recordings

showing the development of Kathleen's voice and repertoire over her short artistic life. A 1944 recording of her singing with Isobel Bailey, accompanied by Gerald Moore was a delightful surprise as was Brahms' "Alto Rhapsody" with male voice choir, made a few years later. We were also treated to selections from Mahler's "Song of the Earth", Handel's "Messiah", British folk songs and Bach and Handel arias before Alan closed an enchanting evening with Kathleen singing "What is life without thee" from Gluck's "Orpheus" - the opera in which she was performing at Covent Garden in February 1953 when she collapsed.

*Dick Purdy*

## ... and Max Waller reflects upon Wagner

Our guest speaker on Thursday, 16th October, Max Waller, introduced members to the work of Richard Wagner (1813 - 1883). He began the evening with music from two composers whose work greatly influenced Wagner, starting with the Overture to Weber's opera 'Der Freischütz', followed by the Choral Finale 'O Freunde, nicht diese Töne' from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Max went on to describe how Wagner's work provides the bridge between romantic opera and the modern idiom, illustrat-

ing his theme by selecting the ethereal Prelude to Wagner's final romantic opera, Lohengrin, followed by extracts from 'The Ring' cycle. In fact, Wagner took a six year break to develop his revolutionary philosophy and technique for opera, which resulted in 'The Ring', an epic tale compiled from German mythology. During this time, he was widely regarded as arrogant and pompous by his contemporaries, who could not understand his new ideas. Wagner's character is still easily recognised in the caricatures drawn by cartoonists of the day.

As PaMAG did not have some 16 hours to spare for the complete drama, Max Waller played a small selection from The Ring, starting with Scene 4 of Das Rheingold, and featuring the god Wotan triumphantly entering Valhalla, with the distant laments of the Rhinemaidens heard from the valley below. Next we listened to the moving final scene from Act III of Die Walküre in which the sorrowing Wotan is forced to say good-bye to his daughter, Brunnhilde.

Wagner broke off from composing The Ring, to produce his masterpiece, Tristan and Isolde. Max Waller chose the opera's final aria sung by Isolde to illustrate the beautiful music. Max concluded his talk with the glorious Quintet at the end of Act III Scene 1 from Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg, Wagner's only work dealing with real people and involving comedy scenes. Judging by the appreciative applause from the audience, PMAG needs to devote another evening to Wagner's music.

*Jane Rowe*



## Strange creature?

Seen recently by Helen Goldsmith close to the Cotswold Way - near Broadham.

It did not move, much.

Any suggestions for naming, or idea about species?

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# Broadband: BT leaves Painswick out in the cold?

In discussions with the Parish Council, BT has virtually conceded that Painswick is likely to remain one of the rural exchange areas that will never be hooked up to the BT Broadband network.

Not that indicated demand in Painswick for Broadband is actually low. Around 200 Painswickians have indicated an interest, which puts Painswick in the top 20 of the 80 rural exchanges in the South West region that remain unconnected.

So, what's the problem? Well, BT looks not at raw demand but at demand as measured against individual 'trigger' levels set according to BT's internal investment return criteria. On this basis, Painswick is rated as having achieved 40% of the required trigger level which relegates us to 57th out of 80 in the league. And this is all because the trigger level has been set at an unrealistic 500 potential users, ie over half the households in Painswick. By way of comparison, Cinderford, with a population roughly three times that of Painswick, has achieved 250 indications of interest but has been set a target of just 300. Thus, Cinderford is 84% of the way there and stands a good chance of a Broadband connection in the foreseeable future.

To emphasize the difficulty facing Painswick, it emerged from the discussions between the Parish Council and BT that BT no longer accepted "expressions of interest" in the numbers game. To be included in the area demand total you had to give a firm commitment to eventual participation.

Nevertheless, Chris Brent-Smith, who has been active in trying to launch a BT Broadband campaign in Painswick, reports that the marketing arm of BT apparently has not given up and that they have produced Painswick-specific promotional leaflets for distribution locally. The material, which is designed to promote Broadband generally rather than BT Broadband specifically, is being made available through a number of local outlets - including the Library and the Post Office - as a starting point for a Painswick Broadband campaign. Chris said that, in conversation,

with BT, he had found them surprisingly upbeat about prospects for Painswick, although he admitted that closing the gap between 200 and 500 was a formidable challenge.

Whatever the truth, it is clear that it would be unwise to rely on BT alone. So, what are the alternatives?

**One option is the wireless network** option proposed by Loop Scorpio and reported in the August Beacon. This would be based on a low power microwave transmitter, fed from a ducted line from Gloucester and transmitted across Painswick through a network of line-of-sight relays nodes. A similar system is now on stream in Ledbury and both Newent and Painswick have been pencilled in as potential next stops. The advantage over BT is that Loop Scorpio are only looking for around 40 subscribers in the first instance. Indicated start-up and running costs are a bit higher than BT and it is not quite as fast.

A possible disadvantage lies in the networked nature of the Loop Scorpio service, ie if one of the relay nodes goes down, it has a knock-on effect to everyone else downstream. Adrian Lane of Painswick-based ARL Internet Solutions Limited has been busy stimulating interest in the Loop Scorpio initiative locally and is setting up an on-line Painswick Broadband campaign site [www.painswickbroadband.co.uk](http://www.painswickbroadband.co.uk) to stimulate debate between villagers on the topic.

**The second option is a satellite option.** For this, you need a satellite dish - a bit bigger than a Sky TV dish - linked directly to your PC, through which the Broadband connection is delivered. The big advantage of the satellite option is that it is available now, to anyone. DSL-SAT Limited of Whitminster, for example, say that they can get you on line within a couple of weeks.

The biggest disadvantage is the cost. The cheapest satellite option costs about £450 to install and £45 per month to run. This is a 'one way' system, which relies on your existing telephone connection for the uplink to the Internet whilst the satellite provides the downlink. In plain English, this means that whilst

## Macmillan

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Coffee Morning on Saturday 27th September in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief.

£245.00 was raised which will be used locally to provide care for people suffering from terminal cancer who wish to remain in their own homes.

*Gill Gyde*

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## House History II Unravelling the history of your home

Enthusiastic local homeowners with an interest in the development of their houses over the years gathered for another session of the house history workshops being run by the Stroudend Tithing Educational Trust on 11th October.

Dr Phil Dixon opened the day with a talk on the great rebuilding which began after the medieval period, encouraged by new found wealth in trade. This swept away many of the earlier buildings or covered them with later additions. Even in an area like the Cotswolds where stone is plentiful, the earliest day to day buildings were of timber. Stone was the preserve of the Church and those in high office.

Slides of local houses illustrated architectural features and changing fashions, giving clues to the age and status of buildings. After the usual coffee and home-made cakes, courtesy of Lydia Savage, everyone got together and compared the photographs they had brought of features of interest in their houses. The information will be pooled to build up a picture of the local vernacular architecture and contribute to the Stroudend Tithing research project.

We hope to see everyone again in the New Year.

*Carolyn Luke*



receiving files is very fast - generally faster than BT Broadband - uploading, ie sending big files, remains painfully slow. DSL-SAT answer this point by arguing that most of the finger drumming frustration with the Internet comes from waiting for things to download: you can always do something else whilst uploading is taking place.

A 'two way' satellite system, giving you high speed connections for both uploading and downloading, costs upwards of £2,000 to install and, with running costs of around £100 per month, is really only a serious option for larger business users. To help tackle the cost problem, DSL-SAT are offering a 10% discount to Painswick residents for the 'two way' package. Help is also available - at least in theory - via a government scheme for small businesses, delivered through the South West Development Agency, called RABBIT (Remote Area Broad Band Inclusion Trial). RABBIT aims to encourage satellite broadband take up by small businesses in rural areas where BT fears to tread and covers most of the installation costs and the first few months subscription. But first you have to catch your RABBIT and it appears that this rabbit has run out of money, at least until the end of the year.

**A possible third option lies in creating a local Broadband user network**, based on a link to the BT exchange. A number of examples exist across the country. One organisation with experience in this area is Coventry based, Independent Networks Ltd, which was recently awarded a contract by Advantage West Midlands (the regional development agency) to provide Broadband to four villages in Worcestershire by locating a cabinet adjacent to the BT exchange and unbundling the copper loop to deliver Broadband to anyone within approximately 4.5km of the exchange. Mark Melluish, Marketing Director of Independent Networks, claims this approach has enabled the service provided to be equivalent in terms of both cost and quality with what BT offers.

However, this option also means a lot of hard work and the only way it can be viable is through a concerted effort by the community, coupled with an initial injection of pump-priming capital. In the Worcestershire project, for example, Advantage West Midlands subsidised basic equipment costs and a local action group worked tirelessly conducting publicity activities and organising a committed band of local users, both business and private. The starting point was an open public meeting chaired by the parish council.

**Finally, there is the question of running cost.** No matter how good Broadband is, is it worth the £30 - £50 a month it costs to run it? If you are an occasional, domestic user of the Internet, essentially using it for sending emails without attachments and mostly outside peak periods, the answer is almost certainly, no. If, on the other hand, you are a small business Internet user or a professional home worker, who spends substantial time on the web, swapping files or downloading images and data, then the savings on the phone bill alone are likely to more than compensate for the cost. In between these two extremes lies a growing band of home users for whom the facility of being able to send and receive pictures - holiday snaps, weddings, the new baby etc - or to download music and videos, or to access educational material for the kids' homework, may well make Broadband one of those non-essential essentials which you wonder how you managed without.

So, how relevant is all this for Painswick? Terry Parker commented that the Parish Council was keen to launch a Broadband campaign in some form and planned a public meeting to stimulate open discussion on Friday, 14th November, 8.00 pm at the Town Hall. Loop Scorpio and possibly other Broadband providers will be invited to make presentations. This is an important moment in time: let's take advantage of it!

JRB

## Ship Ahoy!

Would you like a trip on a Classic Motor Yacht, 1936 vintage, around Cardiff Bay for a party of twelve? Do you have a piece of art that you would like framed by a bespoke London studio? Or perhaps a meal for two at a local hostelry, or a painting of your treasured pet by local artist Ann Horder?

If you would like to win one of these and lots of other fabulous prizes why not spoil yourself by indulging in a FOSS (Friends of Sheepscombe School) Christmas Raffle ticket?! They go on sale the second week of November for a mere 50p each. They are available from Kitty Crossley (814280), Karen Frank (812761) or just pop along to the school office - preferably mornings (813852).

The raffle will be drawn at the school during the Christmas Fair on Sunday 7th December which opens at 2.00pm.

Thank you so much for supporting our village school.

Karen Frank

Friends of Sheepscombe School

## Macular Disease

The Macular Disease Society (MDS) now has a local representative in Jo Brazier, who also is group leader of the MDS Stroud Group.

Macular Disease is the loss of central vision and the commonest cause of sight loss in older people.

The Stroud group, described by Jo as a 'lively and positive band of about 35 seniors' includes three Painswickians and meets once a month in Nailsworth.

Contact Jo on 01452-813594 for details

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# Painswick Centre transition

In no way could the annual general meeting of the Centre's users and the public have been described as a complicated event, but it was undoubtedly a most important one in the history of this exceptional village facility.

The community will hardly need a reminder that just four years ago there was a distinct possibility that the (then) Painswick Institute was on the brink of collapse in terms of range of users, finance, and indeed increasingly urgent need of maintenance and upgrading - a legacy of declining attention in just about every department across the 100 years of its existence. The crisis of 1999, the creation of a Working Party to review how the situation might be remedied, and the stewardship of the new Trustees appointed in the autumn of that year were referred to by John Stephenson-Oliver, who recalled that he had "stood up at the 'wrong' time and been caught up in the change-over process and appointment as Chairman". John paid tribute to those who had shown vision in 1999 and many hours of commitment since then in bringing the Centre into its financially and operationally sounder condition. "Much has happened since then, including greater use, rewiring, magnificent stage electrics, two new sets of kitchen furnishings, treatment of the main hall floor, fund raising, roofing renewals over the kitchen and skittle alley, and above all a distinctly healthier balance sheet" said John.

This was underlined by Andrew Leach when he presented the accounts for the year ending December 2002, and the increase from £8615 income from rental income to £11,321 was the most significant of the figures. Bearing in mind that repairs had cost nearly £18,000 in that year, the turn-round in the accounts could



hardly have been better demonstrated. Andrew did, however, point out that the absence of a sinking fund to assure the Trustees that unforeseen expenditure upon the premises could be met in the future had to remain a very high priority.

John Stephenson-Oliver expressed his indebtedness to the all too small a group of people who had worked alongside him in the past four years and the team work they had brought to bear. He was convinced that new faces, approaches and ideas were required "to drive the project further forward" and was relieved to be standing down as Chairman.

The meeting elected Trustees who, later, appointed Russ Herbert (pictured here with JSO) to be their Chairman; Andrew Leach, Paul Sparks, Tony Gibson, Mike Breeze and Bernard Child together with co-option of Paul Gray and the Parish Council's nominee Alan Shearer.



## Auction of Promises

On Saturday 8th November the Croft School PTA is organising an auction of goods and services. Our goal is to raise funds for important computer equipment for the school.

The event is being held at St. Mary's Church Rooms, at 7.30pm - with entrance by ticket only.

There will be over 80 exciting lots available for auction. Some of the promises to be auctioned include;

- ◆ 50% reduction off the commission rate if you instruct Murray's Estate Agents to sell your property
- ◆ free personal tax return
- ◆ rugby ball signed by Will Carling
- ◆ Lions rugby shirt signed by Jason Robinson
- ◆ two nights bed and breakfast in Painswick
- ◆ half a days' gardening by two professional gardeners.

The auction catalogues will be available from the Painswick post office on Tuesday 4th November (£1.00 each for non-ticket holders).

The catalogues will include proxy bid forms if you are unable to attend the evening. Proxy bid forms need to be returned to the post office by Friday 7th November.

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# Aluminium Foil Sculpture

What a wonderful display greeted our members



on Thursday 16th October, with the sun streaming into the hall, lighting up the wonderful display of figures, animals, a pair of hands, even a fish, each arranged on plaques, on ruffled red velvet, by Mrs Rosemary Stammer, who gave us a demonstration of how to use silver foil to make all these wonderful creations. A few had been made by her daughter, many years ago. To make these clever items, silver foil is crushed in the hands, before being moulded to the required shape and later sprayed in the correct colour. What a clever demonstrator, even naming a tennis player, "Tim Henman", and a mushroom, "not much room inside!"

Our President, Shirley Purdey congratulated Nina Harris for winning second place in the County Craft Show, with her most exquisite piece of tapestry. Also, for winning a Silver Cup at the Horticultural Show for Handicraft.

We were reminded that the Austerity Lunch on Monday 20th October was to be our responsibility.

A coffee morning in aid of the Cobalt Unit in Cheltenham in the Town Hall was held on Saturday 25th October.

A welcome cuppa finished off a happy afternoon.

# Gladys Hobbs



Gladys, who died in September 2003, was a much loved and well known resident of Painswick for over 60 years.

She was born at Frampton on Severn in 1911 and came to live and work in Painswick in late 1935 with family friends, the Cowburns at Byfield guest house. She married Bryan Hobbs in 1939 and the couple lived with Bryan's parents at Highfield in Edge Road.

Lucy Hobbs, Gladys's mother-in-law, was a well known figure in Painswick and was a member of the well respected Berry Family, and she encouraged Gladys to become involved in village life; this she did with a will.

By the end of her active life she had been a member of Painswick WI for over 60 years, twice holding the office of President. She served on the Parochial Church Council and for many years she and her mother-in-law managed the distribution of the church magazine.

With her friend Mrs. Violet Harper, wife of the headmaster of Painswick School she ran a weekly library service in the school rooms on a voluntary basis for Gloucestershire County Library.

Gladys was a member of the Wives Fellowship, and a founder and active member of the Senior Circle.

She was a Life Member of the Painswick Show serving on the Horticultural Committee for many years and was a well known exhibitor and prize winner for over 50 years, giving many talks and demonstrations locally on flower arranging. Gladys was also a Life Member and committee member of the Painswick Horticultural Society.

For many years Gladys was a member of the Painswick Operatic and Dramatic Society acting in many productions; her most exacting role being that of Madam Arcati in Blithe Spirit. Ever the thespian, Gladys loved donning her Victorian costume and walking around the village on Victorian Market Day and many people have said that this was one of their fondest memories of her. (*The Beacon found a photograph in our archives.*)

Gladys loved Painswick and involved herself willingly and with pleasure to maintain and further the traditional way of village life. She was an energetic and active fund raiser for the Sue Ryder Foundation and other charities, holding many jumble sales and coffee mornings.

She had a cheerful disposition and a ready smile and warm welcome for all, but especially for those who were new residents or visitors.

Her family were important to her and she was the proud, loving and much loved mother of Jennifer, grandmother of Sally, great grandmother of Felix and Ruby and mother-in-law to Gus.

Her character was such that she will be missed by all who knew her.



## Family Christmas Treat in the Rococco Gardens



The Crack Cancer Campaign has announced a Christmas tour of the Rococco Gardens by lantern light at 3.30pm on Sunday 7th December. This all round family treat includes carol singing with the Chalford Silver Band and a performance of stories, poems and songs in the 'Owl & the Pussy Cat' by Cotswold Players, all served up with mulled wine and mince pies. And, of course, Father Christmas will be there with a gift for every child. Admission is £2.00 and you are advised to bring a

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## Rugby

### Painswick 1st XV 11 Cheltenham North 1st XV 40

Painswick always knew that their home league match against Cheltenham North last Saturday would be a hard fought affair and so it proved.

Playing with the slope and a deceptively strong wind behind them, the Cheltenham side were soon putting pressure on the home defence and within minutes of the start had taken the lead with a converted try. Shortly afterwards there was a key moment in the game when full back Alastair Bressington was late tackled as he kicked the ball down field. Aussie Smith, the left wing threequarter raced through the opposition and, catching the ball directly from the kick sprinted some fifty yards to go over for a seemingly good try, only to be called back by the referee who had judged him to be in front of the Painswick full back as the ball was kicked. The irony with the decision was that the resultant penalty was awarded where the late tackle occurred. Had the winger let the ball bounce rather than catching it, the penalty would have been given some thirty or so yards nearer the Cheltenham North try line.

Fifteen minutes or so into the game, Painswick reduced the deficit when Bressington was successful with a penalty attempt.

The home side's pack was playing with considerable fire but it was outside the scrum that the Cheltenham team were showing their superiority. This was perhaps not too surprising as the Cherry and Whites were missing several of their regular first choice backs. Midway through the half the visitors' superiority began to be translated into points and the North ran in another four tries before the half-time whistle to lead by 33 points to 6, Painswick's other points coming from another Bressington penalty.

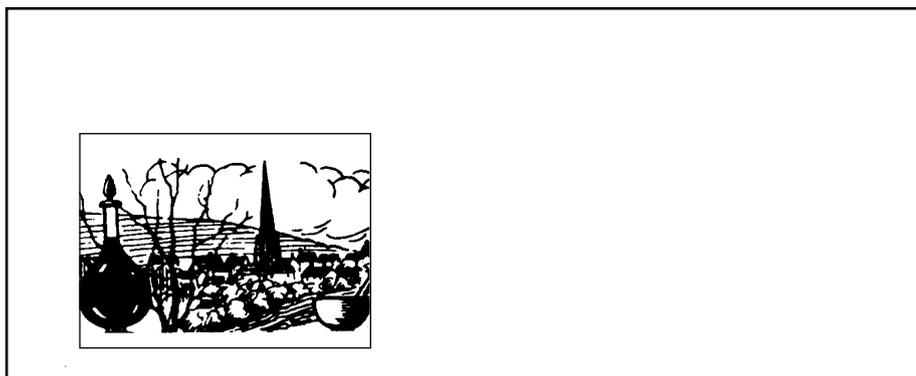
Now playing with the wind at their backs, Painswick immediately threatened the visitors' line and were rewarded with an unconverted try from forward Chris Hall. The North then mounted a number of attacks and eventually went over for a sixth converted try. From this point, Painswick kept up a sustained period of pressure for some twenty plus minutes only to be repeatedly thwarted by the North's solid defence. Although the Cheltenham side had a centre sent off for a high tackle, the home fifteen were unable to make the extra man advantage count and there was no further scoring. Painswick were perhaps a little unfortunate that the visitors who have been lacking form in recent weeks regained it at Broadham.

Earlier in the month Painswick achieved their second league victory of the season when they defeated Chipping Sodbury at Broadham. The following Saturday they travelled to Longlevens where they played exceptionally well to beat the Gloucester side and, by so doing, move into second place in the Gloucestershire League Premier Division.

Results

[(L) indicates league match]

Sat 4 Oct. (L) Painswick 1st XV 15 Chipping Sodbury 1st XV 7.



Sat 11 Oct. (L) Longlevens 1st XV 17 Painswick 1st XV 28.  
Painswick United 18 Longlevens 2nd XV 19.  
Sat 25 Oct. (L) Painswick 1st XV 11 Cheltenham North 1st XV 40.  
Cheltenham North 2nd XV 40 Painswick United 5.

## Tennis

Apologies for our slightly ambiguous statement in last month's issue when we said that "Lucy Moir and Tom Unwin were two of the youngest members ever to win the singles championships". We have been reminded that Richard Hoyland won the men's singles when he was sixteen years old.

Our picture shows men's singles winner Tom (right) with Club



President John Courts (centre) and runner-up, Kirk Plane.

### Don't forget

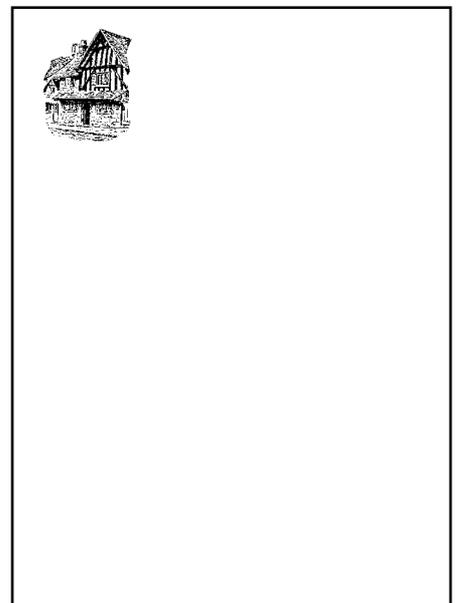
'Bop till you drop' at the Tennis Club's 'Autumn Social' on Saturday 15th November at the Broadham Pavilion. Tickets are £15 with hot supper provided.

Open to all – tickets available from Jill on 01452.720052. Any queries. Please ring Vicki Butler on 814295.

## Ladies Hockey

### Painswick 2 Swindon 2

Painswick were unlucky not to have come away with a victory at Broadham last Saturday when their visitors, Swindon, snatched the equaliser in the final ten minutes. Karen Davis scored both Painswick goals.



# Sarah's Quest picture on page

one

Sarah Keddie is a familiar face in Painswick. She has lived here all her life, attended the Croft School and has part-time jobs in both the hairdressers and The Royal Oak as a waitress. She was a Painswick cub and a brownie and now, as an explorer scout, works with the cubs in Cheltenham. Sarah is 17 and a student at Bournside School studying computing, physics, sociology, business studies and general studies for A2 (formerly A level). In addition, she is currently going for gold in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

With such a full not to say demanding schedule, Sarah's life is certainly busy. So what else can she be contemplating? Well for this determined young woman the next two years promise to be enormously significant.

Earlier this year a representative of the Project Trust, a national charity based in Scotland, gave a talk at Sarah's school about the work of the Trust in less developed countries. Inspired by the talk, Sarah decided that working with the Trust would be a wonderful opportunity to both actively help where there is real need and simultaneously develop her own independence before going into higher education. Hence her application to spend her gap year working with the Trust.

Sarah's preferred choice is Peru where she would hope to work as a teaching assistant helping with English, maths and science. Cuba or Vietnam and Thailand are her standby choices. In addition to this daily employment, she would be expected to either initiate a secondary local project or participate in an existing one. She quotes as an example, helping in an orphanage for blind children. Of course, there will be some time off and for Sarah this will be an opportunity to travel. Apart from the chance to do something worthwhile, she sees this as a real challenge and a time to meet new people and discover new cultures.

However, Sarah needs your help. The Project Trust is a charity and only facilitates the enterprise, i.e. arranges the placement.

Sarah must pay for her own flight and accommodation for the year. This means she must raise about £4000 before she departs next August. This is a huge undertaking for this young lady, still at school and with a heavy course of study during the next few months. Nonetheless, Sarah is a stalwart and not one to blanch at the challenge involved in fund-raising on such a large scale.

Already any tips she receives from her Painswick jobs are being put into the fund (remember this when she next washes your hair or serves your meal!) and she has organised a collection of 1, 2 and 5 pence coins at school. She is hoping to arrange some events at school and would like to do the same in Painswick. She does need all the support she can get, though. For example, if she organised a coffee morning she would need donations of coffee and cakes etc.

Perhaps even more important – is there anything you could do to raise money for her or do you have any good ideas as to how she could do it herself?

At the end of October Sarah will have been through a rather gruelling selection process on the Isle of Coll where, through a range of activities, her suitability will have been tested. She doesn't know what the criteria are but if determination, energy, intelligence, common sense and ability to get on with people are involved, I have no doubts that Sarah will sail through. She will be informed early in November and sent for training next July.

Her task, as you can see, is daunting. She desperately needs your help in her quest. If you feel you can help Sarah she would be delighted to hear from you on 814835. Despite the very full nature of her placement next year, she says she intends to keep everyone who contributes to her funds informed with news of her experiences on a regular basis through emails and post.

There will be regular updates in the Beacon on Sarah's progress over the next few months. When there is so much criticism of young people it is heartwarming to know that right here in Painswick is at least one young woman raring to do something so worthwhile.

Carol Maxwell

## New bus service Wednesday and Saturday only

The Beacon is pleased to do its best to reproduce this timetable on behalf of Jonathan Roberts, who is the Public Transport Officer, Integrated Transport Unit, Gloucestershire County Council.

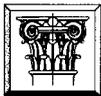
He points out that the timetable is only a proposal and changes can be made. **Feedback about this proposal is important, and will affect the decisions yet to be made!**

If you have any comments please contact him on 01452.426343 or Email at [jonathan.roberts@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.roberts@gloucestershire.gov.uk) with your opinions.

The objective is to take people directly into Gloucester two days a week from Painswick and the surrounding villages,

The Green, Stroud	08:00	Painswick, Cross Keys, Domesday, Stroud	08:30	The Green, Stroud	17:00	Cheltenham, Bus, Stroud	17:30
Museum	08:00	Painswick, Church	08:30	Museum	17:00	Cheltenham, Royal Horse Artillery	17:30
WV Bar	08:00	Cheltenham, The Royal Horse Artillery	08:40	WV Bar	17:00	Walter 21, Levenson, P.O.	17:30
Painswick	08:00	Cheltenham, Painswick	08:40	Painswick	17:00	Painswick, Cross Keys, Domesday, Stroud	17:30
Cheltenham, Stage Hall	08:00	Cheltenham, Stage Hall	08:40	Cheltenham, Stage Hall	17:00	Painswick, Church	17:30
Cheltenham, Church	08:00	Cheltenham, Church	08:40	Cheltenham, Church	17:00	Painswick, Stage Hall	17:30
Cheltenham, Painswick	08:00	Painswick, Church	08:40	Cheltenham, The Royal Horse Artillery	17:00	Painswick, Stage Hall	17:30
Cheltenham, The Royal Horse Artillery	08:00	WV Bar	08:40	Painswick, Church	17:00	Cheltenham, Church	17:30
Painswick, Church	08:00	Museum	08:40	Painswick, Church	17:00	Cheltenham, The Royal Horse Artillery	17:30
Painswick, Stage Hall	08:00	The Green	08:40	Painswick, Stage Hall	17:00	Cheltenham, Church	17:30
Painswick, Cross Keys, Domesday, Stroud	08:00			Painswick, Stage Hall	17:00	Cheltenham, Church	17:30
Walter 21, Levenson, P.O.	08:00			Walter 21, Levenson, P.O.	17:00	Cheltenham, Church	17:30
Cheltenham, Royal Horse Artillery	08:00			Cheltenham, Royal Horse Artillery	17:00	Cheltenham, Church	17:30
Cheltenham, Bus, Stroud	08:00			Cheltenham, Bus, Stroud	17:00	Cheltenham, Church	17:30

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## Joyce retires this month

We are very fortunate in Painswick to be surrounded by so many beautiful buildings. Modestly tucked away in Gyde Road are the almshouses, rather different from some of the more grand styles to be found in the village but little architectural gems nonetheless. Designed by Sidney Barnsley in the style of the Arts and Crafts movement, they are Grade 2 listed and much cherished especially by the residents.

Much cherished too is Joyce Lamort who has been warden at the almshouses for eighteen years. Joyce is to retire officially at the end of November. She will, however, still be very much part of the Gyde community as she and husband, Ron, will remain in their home there. Spend time with the Lamorts in their lovely little home and you are left in no doubt as to how much they love that part of Painswick. 'Everyone knows everyone, it's a lovely community,' says Ron. 'You couldn't live in a better place.'

Ron himself is a Painswick bow-wow. He is rightly proud of the fact that he often helped his father cut the yew trees by hand in the 1950s. He and Joyce met when he was on leave from National Service in Germany and they married in 1955. Joyce grew up in The Camp but moved to Painswick when her father came to work for Colonel Dent.

In 1954 Ron went to work at Gyde House as a gardener/handyman and thus began a lifetime's association with the Gyde. He was very much part of the life there, training the football team in his spare time. For twelve months after they were married Ron and Joyce lived in rooms in Gyde House and then moved into Marling Cottage, built for them by the National Children's Home in the grounds.

In 1966 Ron sustained very serious injuries from a fall whilst tree cutting and never fully recovered. In the 1970s he trained on day-release in child care and thus changed his role at Gyde. Joyce meantime had worked for some years at Cotswold Drapers in New Street until the first of her two children was born. She started domestic work in the Home in 1967, continuing until 1984.

They moved into their almshouse in 1985, having been offered



it because of Ron's medical condition. In the same year Joyce became the warden.

Each morning she visits all the houses to make sure everyone is okay. If anyone is ill she contacts the doctor and the family. She collects the rent on a weekly basis and fetches errands for those who may be housebound or unable to go themselves. All the residents can make instant contact with her by means of a bell system connected to her house.

Joyce's role is to be taken over by Joan Scaysbrook. Joyce sees her own future as one in which she will be free to spend time doing those things she really loves, like gardening, as and when she chooses. She does add, however, that she will still visit all her neighbours. They are, after all, her friends and this is a way of life for her.

Ron and Joyce Lamort are a lovely couple. They have been involved with the Gyde Trusts for a very long time. They have quietly and self-effacingly served the Gyde community for nearly half a century and with true dedication. They have rich memories of life in Painswick and their involvement with Gyde. Joyce has loved her eighteen years as warden. 'And I've loved being her husband' adds Ron.

*Carol Maxwell*

## World Aids Day -1st December

There will be a coffee morning on 1st December at Four Winds, Longridge from 10.00 - 12.00 in support of World Aids Day and all those infected or affected by the virus around the world.

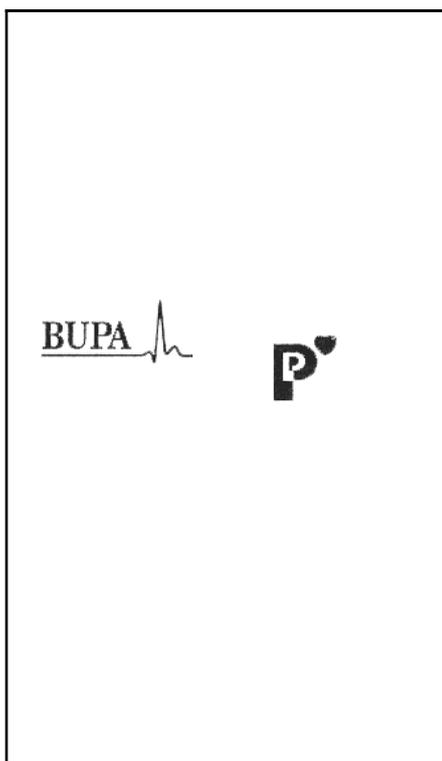
Organiser Pat Chase commented "Five people worldwide die of AIDS every minute of every day. HIV has hit every corner of the globe, infecting more than 42 million men, women and children, 5 million of them last year alone". This statement seems mind blowing but it is true according to UNAIDS.

"Do you have time?" is the World AIDS day 2003 campaign by National Aids Trust and UNAIDS to increase awareness of HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Stigma and discrimination are recognised as major factors in fuelling the global HIV epidemic, creating a climate of fear and ignorance and a reluctance to confront rising infection rates. The rise in known cases in the UK has increased by 25% over the last 12 months. Volunteers working for Gloucestershire AIDS Trust will have a display in the Regent Arcade

in Cheltenham and the Gloucestershire Memorial Quilts will be on display in the Lady Chapel of Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 29th November 2003.

The coffee morning will be accompanied by Bring & Buy Stall and cake stalls as well as plants and bead worked pins and jewellery.

*For further details please contact Pat Chase on 813196.*



BUPA



## Market News



It is now time to think about Christmas 2003. The

WI Christmas Market will be held on Friday, 19th December at 10.00 am. Fresh coffee and mini-mince pies will be served for 75p. The next market will be in January 2004 on a date to be announced next month.

A variety of Christmas Fare will be available again this year: cakes, puddings, mincepies and chocolate logs as well as all the regular produce and craft items: plants, vegetables, preserves, honey, free range eggs, large barn eggs and craft.

We now have a new plant producer with many new and interesting plants ready to refurbish your borders, as well as an attractive variety of crafts and cards. It is wise however to order for many items, so please order early to avoid disappointment.

A parcel of WI Market produce can be arranged through other WI Markets to friends away from Painswick.

Any enquiries please to Doreen Boon 813850 or at any Friday Market.



## The Garden Centre in the 21st Century

Mr T Mason of Highfield Garden Centre was well able to present this topic at the first meeting of the season of Painswick Horticultural Society on 8th October. He has been in the horticultural business for many years at Highfield, founded by Mr Bazeley.

First, Mr Mason dealt with the history of this firm from its inception in 1921 at Harfordwest when it grew willows for basket-making. In 1935 it moved to Whitminster and became the Western Forestry Nursery. Here, the demands on staff were great as elaborate time-sheets had to be filled in, accounting for every hour and all materials. Some were amusing as one that stated: killed 9 butterflies, weeded the carrots and trimmed a horribly prickly shrub.

Things changed when in 1987 the firm was bought by an employee who had worked there for 30 years, and 3 years later Highfield moved to its present site.

The difference between a nursery and a garden centre is that a nursery produces plants for the catalogue, so keeps prices stable, whereas the garden centre uses the nursery but buys in some plants, especially shrubs from Italy, where Mr Mason has already chosen them, tagged them and seen them arrive here in perfect condition in 3 weeks.

A garden centre, of course, offers more choice, not only in selling plants, but in books, cards, sweets, Christmas decorations and tools. Highfield has also an aquatic section and a restaurant which are both very successful.

To achieve its 3 million pound annual income, Highfield must, however, deal with many problems such as irrigation for which a lake had to be created, but as this supplies over-head watering, what of plants such as hebes that must never be watered like this?

Mr Mason gave a fascinating talk, well presented and developed. Certainly, it bodes well for this year's programme if all talks are of this quality.

*P. Lamont -Secretary*



## PROPERTY REPORT for November by Murrays

As I write this report on the 18th October I can see from my home over the yew trees in Painswick churchyard down the Painswick valley towards Stroud. It is a truly perfect Autumn morning with the sun dispersing an early mist revealing the remarkable changing colours as the seasons change after such a glorious summer. We are so lucky to live amidst such lovely surroundings.

Obviously I can't be the only one to appreciate Painswick so much, as demand for our properties continues to grow. New owners have moved into Dean Rise in Stroud Road, Springfield at Cranham, Timbercombe at Sheepscombe, and Lions Cottage at Harescombe with moves pending at Greengate at Pitchcombe, Hill House Farm at Edge, Westholme in Bisley Street, Todsbridge in Bisley and Park Lodge at Butt Green after our successful auction at the Falcon earlier this month. Sales in September and October continued at a pace as did new instructions, many of which are attracting buyers as soon as they come to the market. Buyers have already been found for a cottage at George Court, a detached house in Lower Washwell, a cottage

in Bisley Street, a modern family house and a detached cottage both in Cranham, all sales agreed within weeks, sometimes within days of being on the market. Other new ones include a superbly situated '50s house on the Cheltenham Road, a 3 bedroomed '20s house on Stamages Lane with a building plot, a beautifully situated 4 bedroomed detached house in an acre in Mill Lane, Cranham, a detached regency cottage in Upton, a 3/4 bedroomed period house in Gloucester Street and a fabulous barn conversion with 5 acres at Sheepscombe.

Sales continue to outstrip supply so despite the time of year we still need more property to sell. Please take advantage of our free market appraisal, comprehensive marketing skills and service developed from decades of local experience, not to mention our competitive (not too competitive) rates of commission.

Finally I would like to welcome a new addition to our sales team in Painswick, Kate Franklin, already with sound agency experience.

*Clive Murray*



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# ALPHA Course at a Church near you?

You may have seen the posters or banners recently up in Stroud, Cheltenham or Gloucester and wondered indeed whether it really would be at a church near you. Yes, in fact, your local Alpha course is all set to start in January 2004 for the churches around Painswick. You are invited to discover something more, not about church, but about the Christian faith and how the love of God relates to each one of us personally.

But before committing yourself to anything - as a taster for those who have not done it before and as a reminder for those who have - please come and join us for our Alpha Supper on Thursday 8th January at Castle Godwyn, Cheltenham Road (between Painswick and Cranham). We will enjoy a meal together in comfortable surroundings and a viewing of the introductory

video, 'Christianity: Boring, Untrue, Irrelevant?'

Why bother? Well, with the recent fairly confused press coverage of the sticky issues Christian leaders are addressing at present, it might have prompted you to wonder what indeed is the right way of thinking on these matters! The Alpha course gives an opportunity to discuss these and many other important questions of life and to hear and talk about what the Christian faith has to say about such things in non-threatening, friendly and low key surroundings. Please be assured there will be no obligation to anything you are not comfortable with either during or after the Course: warm welcome, supper together, friendship and thoughtful conversation is the order of the day. The course itself starts on 29th January and continues weekly over 10 weeks. More details, invitations and leaflets will be available over the next couple of months, but please don't hesitate to contact Lindsay Gardiner on 814282 or Frankie Marsh on 812829 in the meantime, if you wish.

Lindsay Gardiner

## PLANNING MATTERS

*A summary of information received from the Parish Council. Painswick locations unless indicated.*

### NEW APPLICATIONS

THE ROADSIDE BARN, STROUD SLAD FARM, THE VATCH, SLAD Alterations to existing barn and extensions to form additional accommodation to Stroud Slad Farm

THE VATCH HOUSE, THE VATCH, SLAD Internal alterations including insertion of 2 french doors and replace existing back staircase

EDGE LANE HOUSE, (formerly Moorlands) EDGE LANE, EDGE Relocation of driveway

LAND AT STROUD ROAD (CARE HOME). Revised scheme for Care Home following reserved matters approval S.02/418 (our ref 38/02) including works to form additional accommodation, increasing bedspaces from 48 to 67 within approved footprint and ridge height and alterations to fenestration

WASHBROOK MILL, EDGE LANE, EDGE Retrospective application for change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage to include retaining walls

WINDRUSH, BEACON CLOSE, PAINSWICK Erection of extension. (Resubmission following refusal 03/138)

THE OLD INN, GEORGE COURT, VICTORIA STREET Repositioning of stone boundary wall & pedestrian access gate to form vehicular parking space

OLD FLEECE, BISLEY STREET Change of use from residential to office

EDGE FARM, EDGE Renovation works to threshing barn & cattle byre

BELL HOUSE, FRIDAY STREET Replace single garage with a double garage and flat over

ASHLEIGH, GLOUCESTER STREET Installation of 2 roof lights into outbuilding (existing roof light to be removed)

### CONSENT

Farmyard adjacent to PAINSWICK LODGE, SHEEPSCOMBE Creation of new boundary wall

THE RED HOUSE, LOWER WASHWELL LANE Erection of one house

HILLFOOT COTTAGE, 22 GLOUCESTER ROAD Erection of new kitchen extension plus internal & external alterations. (Existing 1980's extension & parts of garage outbuilding and summer shed to be demolished)

OUTSIDE EDGE, EDGE ROAD Erection of extensions including garage & loft conversion

THE PAINSWICK HOTEL, KEMPS LANE Erection of stone boundary wall to residential dwelling

FORTUNES WELL, SHEEPSCOME Erection of a Garage

CATSBRAIN QUARRY Retrospective change of Reclamation workshop to Stonemasons

CARRWOOD COTTAGE, CHELTENHAM ROAD Erection of replacement garage/porch with Playroom/store above

LONGRIDGE COURT, BULLS CROSS, SHEEPSCOMBE Removal of condition B of permission S.9743/M to permit use for a residential care facility for adults with learning disabilities

REST BY THE WAY, CUD LANE, EDGE Erection of a replacement dwelling. (Re-submission following permission 02/1669)

ST MICHAEL'S, VICTORIA STREET Change of use of ground floor front room from estate agents to mixed office/residential use

MAPLE COTTAGE, PAINSWICK LODGE, SHEEPSCOMBE Two storey extension

### REFUSAL

Land adj. TALL TREES, COTSWOLD MEAD Erection of detached dwelling.

MOONRAKERS, NEW STREET Change of use from part commercial to residential. (Re-submission following withdrawn application 02/1170)

### PLANS WITHDRAWN

THE OLD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, Below Lullingworth, STROUD ROAD Change of use of Telephone Exchange to holiday accommodation

THE BYRE, Below Lullingworth, STROUD ROAD Change of use of redundant agricultural building to holiday accommodation.

Georgie Brocklehurst  
**PHOTOGRAPHY**

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# The Painswick Beacon

detail until the next issue  
and mostly non-weekly after that

## VILLAGE DIARY

### NOVEMBER

Sun	2	Jolly Stompers Line-Dancing: Improvers - Sundays	Painswick Centre	7.30 to 8.30pm
Mon	3	Calligraphy for Beginners/Improvers: with James Skinner: Tel 01452 611614 (also 17th & 24th) £45 for 3 workshops Austerity Lunch: Hostess - Margaret Hodge Canterbury Tales – Festival Players Theatre Co.	Church Rooms	10.00am to 4.00pm
Tue	4	Dog Training Club: Tuesdays PCMS: Archaeology in Palestine & Egypt - Ted Burge	Christ Church Hall Rococo Visitor Centre	12.15 to 1.15pm tba
Wed	5	Traditional Tea Dances: Wednesdays Bingo Session: all welcome - prizes (Wednesdays) Wives' Fellowship	Christ Church Hall Church Rooms Painswick Centre Painswick Centre	9.30 to 12noon 7.45pm 2.00 to 4.00pm 7.30pm
Thu	6	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting Bird Club: Birds, Mammals and Flowers in the UK Beacon Conservation Group AGM	Ashwell House Town Hall Town Hall	2.30pm 7.30pm after Bird Club
(above)		Jolly Stompers Line-Dancing: Experienced Beginners - Thursdays	Town Hall	12.30 to 1.30pm
Fri	7	W.I. Market: Coffee with "tasters" available, Fridays Orders taken for Christmas produce Senior Circle: Strange customs - Wynn & Helen Roberts. Preceded by AGM at 1.45 pm CTAP (Churches Together around Painswick) AGM All welcome: speaker Fr Barry Coker - The Church In South India	Town Hall Town Hall Church Rooms	10.00am 2.30pm 7.30pm
Sat	8	Charity Bazaar Promises Auction by Croft PTA	Christ Church Hall Church Rooms	10.00am to 4.00pm 7.30pm
Sun	9	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing: Contact Pete Bradshaw (814210) Remembrance Day Service More from Granny's Attic	Painswick Beacon St. Mary's Church Fiery Beacon	10.00am 10.50am 11.00am to 3.00pm
Mon	10	Closing date amendments for 2004 Directory Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Puffins	Christ Church Hall	12.15 to 1.15pm
Tue	11	Mobile Police Station. Remembrance Day - marking the hour	Outside Town Hall War Memorial	10.45am 11.00am
Wed	12	Probus: Genetic Engineering - The Rev Phil Challis Age Concern Day Centre Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy Horticultural Society: Mrs L Callard - "Work of the Woodland Trust"	Ostlers Room, Falcon Ashwell House Lounge Town Hall	10.00am 10.30am to 12noon 7.30pm
Thu	13	Music Appreciation: Gerald Finzi	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	14	Broadband – open meeting	Town Hall	8.00pm
Sat	15	Knitwear Sale in aid of Bristol Cancer Help Centre Tennis Club: Autumn Social - "Bop till you Drop" £15 incl. hot supper	Town Hall Rugby Club, Broadham	10.00am to 1.00pm 7.30pm
Mon	17	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Andy and Arthur Lock	Christ church Hall	12.15 to 1.15pm
Tue	18	Local History Society: Painswick & Minchinhampton Stone Quarry Industry - Arthur Price Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry fee	Croft School Ostlers Room, Falcon	7.30pm 8.30pm
Wed	19	Wives' Fellowship: 'March Hares' - Diana Radway Parish council Meeting	Christ Church Hall Town Hall	7.30pm 7.30pm
Thu	20	W.I.: Annual Meeting	Town Hall	2.30pm
Fri	21	Senior Circle: Actuary quite interesting - Nicola Bailey Talk for Gloucestershire Guild: Mollie Meager & Katherine Coleman, talk & slides, Stained glass & Engraved glass.	Town Hall Painswick Centre	2.30pm 7.00pm
Sat	22	<b>Copy dateline for December to Editorial Team</b> Antique and Collectors Fair: Refreshments available	Town Hall	10.00am to 4.30pm
Sun	23	Open House – invitation to tea	Painswick Hotel	3.00 to 6.00pm
Mon	24	Austerity Lunch: Hostess - June Tuffnell Painswickian of the Year 2004 – nominations close	Christ Church Hall	12.15 to 1.15pm
Tue	25	Music Appreciation Group Concert Outing - Orchestra of the Swan	Pittville Pump Rooms	7.30pm



Wed	26	Probus: Annual Dinner	The Hill, Stroud	
Thu	27	<b>Diary dateline for December to Edwina Buttrey</b>		
Fri	28	Mobile Police Station. Carers and Fellowship Group (Lower Washwell)	Outside Town Hall Wynstowe,	10.45am 2.30pm
Sat	29	Sue Ryder Care Coffee Morning Mission Bazaar: Stalls, Produce, Lunches	Town Hall Church Rooms	9.45 to 12 noon 11.30am to 3.30pm
Sun	30	Churches Together 'Welcome to Advent' service Followed by mince pies & punch in Monastic Library	Prinknash Abbey	6.00pm

## DECEMBER

Mon	1	World Aids Day – coffee morning Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Christ Church Mothers' Union Deanery Advent Carol Service	Four Winds, Longridge Christ Church Hall Church Rooms	10.00 to 12 noon 12.15 to 1.15pm 2.30pm
Wed	3	Coach to London: Enquiries 813965/813227 Wives' Fellowship Christmas Social	Stamages Car Park Christ Church Hall	8.30am 7.00pm
Thu	4	Painswick Players production (until 6th)	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Fri	5	Senior Circle Christmas Party	Town Hall	2.00pm
Sat	6	<b>December Issue of The Painswick Beacon Published</b>		
Sun	7	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing: Contact Pete Bradshaw (814210) Christmas Treat – band, players, and more	Painswick Beacon Rococo Garden	10.00am 3.30pm
Mon	8	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Wives' Fellowship	Christ church Hall	12.15 to 1.15pm
Tue	9	Mothers' Union: 'The coming of God at Advent' - Mrs Elizabeth Ward Theatre Club Outing to Malvern		2.30pm 6.30pm
Wed	10	Probus: Malta through the ages - Miss Barbara Drake Horticultural Society Quiz Nite	The Falcon Ostlers Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Thu	11	Music Appreciation: Christmas Social PCMS/MU Carols, wine & cheese, with a talk by a Member of The Philippine Trust	Town Hall Westmorland House, Kingsmead	7.15 for 7.30pm 7.30pm
Sat	13	Christmas Carols – Painswick Singers	Christ Church	7.30pm
Thu	18	W.I. Christmas Party	Town Hall	2.30pm
Fri	19	W.I. Christmas Market: Coffee & mince pies 75p Carers and Fellowship Group (Lower Washwell) (Christmas Party)	Town Hall Wynstowe,	10.00am 2.30pm
	27	Town Hall lower hall closed until 7th January	Town Hall	

## 2004

### JANUARY

Wed	7	Probus: History of Punch & Judy - Mr Guy Higgins	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	8	Talks: Early Renaissance Italy - by Dr Peter Clarkson 10 weeks until 18 March	Small Church Room	11.00am - 12.30pm
Thu	15	Music Appreciation: Antonin Dvorak	Town Hall	7.30pm
Tue	20	Local History Society: The rebuilding of Prinknash - Jim Wise	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	21	Probus: Pull the other one (Bell-ringing) - Mr M Clifford	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	22	Bird Club: Talk by Derek Jackson, on Raptor Identification	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	29	Music Appreciation: Music in My Life	Town Hall	7.30pm

### FEBRUARY

Thu	12	Music Appreciation: The Mighty Five	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sun	15	Bird Club visit to Ashleworth Ham to see Migrant Birds	Nature Reserve A417 at Hartpury	10.30am

### MARCH

Thu	11	Music Appreciation: Benjamin Britten	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	18	Bird Club: Talk about Keynes Country Park and its Birds - the Head Ranger. (followed by AGM)	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	20	Painswick Music Society Concert: Ruth Rogers, violin	St Mary's Church	3.00pm

### APRIL

Sat	3	Painswick Music Society Concert: Angela Hewitt, piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Thu	8	Music Appreciation: Finale for 16th Season		
Sat	24	Painswick Music Society Concert: Emperor String Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm



## The Weather is back.

We are delighted that 'little local difficulties' have been overcome and, despite numerous other school tasks, Sheepscombe School have provided data for the September-October period.

If any reader in Sheepscombe can offer assistance in helping the school by taking readings when the school is not in session, we know this will be appreciated by them - and our readers.

PAINSWICK WEATHER						
report from Sheepscombe School						
for the period 21st September to 20th October						
date	rain	temperature		pressure	wind	sky
	mm	max °C	min °C	m bar	speed/ direction	description
29		10	21	69	3	very cloudy
30		9	22	80	0	grey clouds
1		9	23	82	0	very cloudy
2		10	28	72	0	very cloudy
3		8	28	75	0	grey
4						
5						
6	1.5	10	15	65		grey
7		9	14	70		grey overcast
8				71		grey
9				69		overcast, very cloudy
10				65		overcast, very cloudy
11						
12						
13	1.25			64		
14				63		
15				65		
16				69		
17				51		
18						
19						
20		2	20	63		blue, sunny
		8.4	23.6	68		AVERAGES

## Power cuts

While the preparation of this newspaper is largely dependent upon the dedicated support of those who report upon events and other 'happenings' in this village of ours, the transmission of their information to us through Emails and the production of their reports (and our own) together with pictures and so on requires that there is an electricity supply. So, we are but one user of electricity, for one purpose. Readers may recall that dreadful period last year when Painswick was among many areas in the country for which there was no supply for more than a day, and in our small way we were almost unable to produce a Beacon for the first time in all the 25 years we have been in business.

In fairness, we couldn't cook meals, view television, heat our homes with central heating, either!

No less than seven supply losses have been experienced at GL6 6UR this autumn already! The fax machine recorded their commencement accurately.

It is all extremely annoying to everyone around Painswick, so we are suggesting that any reader experiencing a power loss drop a postcard into the Beacon box after each event. We, in response, will run a small column and build up the 2003-04 winter list. Just let us know the date, approximate time of the loss, and duration PLUS the postcode, and we will do the rest.

POWER LOSS REPORTS 2003-04				
date	month	time	duration	post code
28	9	29	1hr 1	GL6UR
2	10	206	1hr 1	GL6UR
4	10	154	1hr 1	GL6UR
5	10	749	1hr 1	GL6UR
21	10	125	1hr 1	GL6UR
21	10	116	1hr 1	GL6UR
21	10	11	1hr 1	GL6UR

It could be useful information to convey to the 'powers'-(pun)-that-be next spring - with your help please.

Readers are reminded that the Police non-emergency number is  
**08450 901234**  
 Direct line to Painswick's PC  
**07799 624643**

## MINI-ADS

**Picture Sale:** Beautiful colour pastel - Remote Cotswold Valley by Carolyn White, mounted/framed in Lined Ash. 82cms x 65cms. £300. All proceeds to charity (International peace project in India) Tel 01453.750156

**Dog Walking** - If you find it difficult to give your dog the walks they need/enjoy, a fit semi-retired gentleman would be delighted to do so. Available Mondays - Thursdays inclusive. £5.00 per hour. References supplied. Tel. 01453.757771.

**Logs** - Seasoned and split hardwoods. £70.00 per large trailer load delivered. Other loads available. Contact 07958.108841

**Beacon computer** - consequent upon change from a dedicated computer to a laptop+PC we offer items:- CPU inc. CD/RW, Mitsubishi DiamondPlus92 19" monitor (2001), and HP LaserJet4 printer (1993). Offers within 7 days in excess of £180. 813101

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

*Please send money with mini-ad to Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6 Q N*

*If paying by cheque, please make it payable to The Painswick Beacon. Receipts are*

## Moved

Please note that MS Slinger (under Farmers & Breeders section of the Directory) has recently moved to Jenkins, Lurks Lane, Pitchcombe, Stroud, Glos GL6 6LL Tel: 01453.763105

These details also apply for the Parish Councillor - Edge Ward.

Trading from Jenkins Farm has now ceased. All business from Edgehill Bungalow, The Green, Edge, Stroud, Glos. GL6 6PA (P Slinger) Tel: 812566 / 812787.

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# The Personal Column

## Babies

Congratulations to CHRISTINE and ANDREW RIDPATH on the birth of their baby daughter Anna Margaret Joy on 2nd October. Grandparents Bob and Margaret Shea flew from France to Liverpool to see her, the baby arriving five weeks early weighing 5lbs 10oz by Caesarian section,

and to MARTIN and ESTHER LEAKE in Vancouver on 9th September, a third child and second daughter, Caroline Alison Maria, an eleventh grandchild for Douglas and Alison Robinson and an eighteenth great-grandchild for Ruth de Courcy-Ireland.

## Wedding

Congratulations to LOUISE MIFFLIN and JAMES HAWKINS who were married in Miami, Florida, on 12th September, and will be living there.

## Golden Wedding

JEAN and PETER MINALL celebrated their Golden Wedding on 3rd October.

## Welcome

A warm welcome to KIERAN, ELIZA and JENNIFER HITCHCOCK to Ashwell, and ALICE and JAMES MACPHERSON to Hambutts End with their children Charlotte and Harry; Alice was Alice Chapman when she previously lived in Painswick

and to SUE YATES and BRIAN RATCLIFFE to Lords Wood Cottage, Sheepscombe,

and to PATRICIA MARONEY to 3 Painswick Heights, Bulls Cross, and IZZIE and STEFAN SZCZUREK with their baby daughter Miriam have moved to Lower Flat, The Manse in Gloucester Street

and to Mr and Mrs S BULLOCK to Park Lodge, Butt Green,

and to Mr and Mrs LAWSON to Timbercombe, Sheepscombe

## Farewell

We are sorry to say goodbye to Dr and Mrs DAVID BROWN

## Change of House

KATE MEAD has moved from Lords Wood to Little Meads.

## Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of BARBARA GODDARD who died recently.

## Did you see?

The Merryweather family featured in the 'Airline' programme on Friday 10th October when they were delayed at Luton Airport awaiting a forgotten passport. They were flying to France with Reggie Merryweather's ashes for interment there, and caught their plane in the nick of time.

Later in the year LINDA EVANS border collies will be appearing on the BBC's 'Casualty' programme.

## Apologies

We were in touch with John Birtwell just as soon as copy of the October issue hit our door mats, to apologise to him and his wife Shirley for our most regrettable error. We inadvertently included John's name in our 'Condolences' section when it should have been in the 'Get well soon' listing.

Our mistake must have caused considerable use of such as the telephone and postal services, quite apart from callers, and consequently we were appreciative of their good humoured response to the apologies which we repeat here.

*My own apology to our diligent Personal Column Editor Rachel Taylor who was not involved in obtaining this information or its*

## Thanks

John Griffiths of Vicarage Street would like to thank the many friends and neighbours who sent cards and good wishes whilst he was recently in Standish Hospital, with special thanks to Joyce for all her help and kindness over the past few weeks.

Les Lewis. My family and I would like to express our sincere thanks to all our friends in the village for their wonderful support during his long stay in Stroud Hospital. Your lovely letters and cards have been a great source of comfort in our sad loss. No wonder Les was so happy

## NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date  
**SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER**

Items for publication to Editorial Team using the Beacon Post Box (see below) or c/o Longhope, Blakewell Mead GL6 6UR  
**SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER**

Mini Ads to Philip Oakley c/o The Beacon box in New Street by  
**SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER**

Business adverts to Iris McCormick, St.Anne's, Gloucester Street GL6 6QN  
**THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER**

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, by  
**THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER**

Letters and articles for publication are welcomed on computer diskette (returned after use) or by Email to:

**painswickbeacon@supanet.com**

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.

The **Beacon's telephone number is 814500**, and can accept short recorded messages: our **fax** is on **01452.814500**

Our web site is **www.painswickbeacon.org.uk**

Beacon Committee  
Production Team this month  
Leslie Brotherton 814500  
Jack Burgess  
812167

\*\*\*\*\*

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Diary: Edwina Buttrey  
812565

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Jack Burgess 812167  
Sport: Terry Parker 812191  
Editorial Assistant: Liz Fisher 812130  
\*\*\*\*\*

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