

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 28 No.10

January 2006

## Take pride in Painswick

### Winners again!

Back in August, we reported that Painswick had won the Village of the Year award in the Calor competition for Gloucestershire. As we explained then, the Village of the Year is not judged upon how pretty we seem to be, but upon factors such as ways in which we express care and concern for the elderly, the young and the infirm, the practical ways in which we support or promote business, tourism and so on. Since then, the panels of judges appointed by Calor have assessed all the winning villages at regional and national level and Painswick has won the South West Regional Award for facilities and activities relevant to senior citizens.

At a ceremony in London on 6th December awards were presented by Alan Titchmarsh, and Howard Kerr on behalf of Calor, for each of five categories in the five English regions. Painswick's regional award for the South West (ie Devon, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Avon) was in recognition of our deeply rooted but tangible and distinctive concern for the welfare of our older citizens. Among other qualities put forward to the panel visiting the village, reference was made to the value placed upon the contribution made to village life by the older generation, and the concern for their welfare through such as

- Ashwell and its sheltered housing
- the Luncheon club
- the Day Centre
- the Almshouses



- the Friday Club (Senior Circle)
- Senior fitness (The Puffins)
- Austerity lunches
- Probus
- and the up-coming care complex under construction.

The award, with a cheque for £500 to follow, was received by Councillor Martin Slinger, who led a small group of local people who prepared the submission, and Leslie Brotherton from that group – who drew the 'long straw' to join him in London.



## Painswickians of the Year

It's the people of Painswick that make us a community and it is fitting that we have chosen Jack and Rose Smith as our Painswickians of the Year. It recognises their committed work on behalf of the the Painswick Centre and the various sports activities and facilities at Broadham Fields. In the words of one of their proposers, both Jack and Rose have "... in their own quiet way over many years, done more than anyone for these two main village community organisations..."

On being given the news, Rose's reaction was characteristically self-effacing. "I'm dumbfounded," she said, adding "we don't want a fuss, we do it for pleasure."

*Full story on page 15.*

## Still looking for a New Year Resolution?

**New Year resolutions can take many forms.** There are the usual ones, like losing weight, being extra kind to Aunt Agnes, taking up yoga, oiling the bicycle, paying your Beacon subscription early, stop kicking the .....! But before you put any of these bright and shiny aspirations into priority order, the Beacon suggests there is something we can all resolve to do - in the interest of the whole community.

**Let's see if, collectively, we can ensure that, in our village twelve months from now, we have at least the same range of retailers, restaurants and so on as now, and maybe even have attracted one or two more.** Of course this prospect depends upon many factors - because trading is not a one-sided experience. The

'environment' for enterprises is a tough one, with regulations, fashion, public fussiness, and competition from nearby townships all bearing upon retailers. For their part proprietors have to maintain a cheerful and helpful approach to their customers, and constantly try to provide differing services or products to compensate for changes in taste or expectations. No easy task. We are fortunate here that we have traders who do their utmost to match their services to the public's requirements.

**The most significant way in which we can be assured of there being no fewer traders here next January is the extent to which we, the residents of Painswick, use our local services; the extent to which we trade with them.**

Elsewhere in this issue... **Father Christmas** caught on camera, a dramatic **countdown**, a barnfull of **art**, the curious mystery of **Painswick afloat** with Birdlip, **Kings Mill** pain, **TV spiders** in the churchyard, County Council gets its road **blocked**, District Council's **rubbish**, Parish Council on **speed** and **2005 reviewed**: how was it for you?

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - by Leslie Brotherton

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 ofice on Wednesday and Friday mornings, as well as Painswick Library.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

### Broadham Field - floodlighting

It was reported that the District Council had informed the Rugby Club that the hoods fitted to the floodlights were not satisfying their requirement that light 'spillage' be significantly reduced, and requested that these be modified within two weeks.

It was agreed to ascertain from SDC the outcome early in the New Year.

### SDC - Planning procedure revision

Barry Wyatt of SDC had written to all Parish Councils indicating that the many criticisms of the suggested scheme for changing the procedure (*see report page 2 last month*) had been noted and a modified set of proposals would be formulated early in 2006.

Council Chairman Terry Parker reported upon discussion at a recent consultative meeting between Parish Councils and the District Council where the matter had been raised. He also reported that the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils had strongly endorsed a proposal that where a Parish Council object to a planning application, and such conflicted with the intended recommendation of District Council officers, such should invariably be referred to the SDC Development Control Committee for resolution.

### Wind turbines - Miserden

Committee noted that about 100 people attended a recent public meeting in Miserden (*reported here on page 2 in October*) to express initial concerns regarding possible erection of turbines.

They were informed that a planning application is intended for early 2006.

## PARISH COUNCIL: Public session

### Speed restrictions - Cheltenham Road

In accord with Council procedures Norman Rampton, a resident in The Highlands, addressed the Council prior to commencement of agenda business.

Mr Rampton reported having consulted all Highlands' residents, as well as many in the Cheltenham Road, and on their

behalf expressed their deep concern that the County Council were proposing to the Parish Council an extension of the 30mph speed restriction from its present location by about 150yards northwards, but failing to include the commencement of the built up area immediately north of the junction of roadways to The Highlands and The Park. He suggested that, as with the southern approach to the village, a 40mph limitation was irrelevant if not misleading in that it is currently located without any nearby indication of hazards or features ahead of the motorist justifying reduction of speed.

He went on to reinforce the local support for the 30mph restriction to commence at The Highlands junction, also citing the strongly expressed views of a Planning Inspector who recently ruled against an application for a property within The Highlands, and in that context described the junction with the A46 as extremely hazardous.

Ann Burges Watson and other members intimated their support of the contentions of these local residents and undertook to make representations to the County Council without delay.

### St.Mary's churchyard paths

The Chairman reported having met with churchwarden David Harley and a representative of the consultants responsible for the work's specification, but no details (*reported in December page 2*) had been received for consideration by the Parish Council.

### Tennis courts - Recreation Field

A letter was received from the President of the Tennis Club John Courts affirming that no consideration had been given by the club to relinquish their use of these courts now, or for the foreseeable future. Members noted the seeming intention of the club to add two further courts to the four already at Broadham Field, but that construction of these would not be immediate because of at least two constraining circumstances.

Members also noted that parents of younger players able to use courts at the Recreation Field regarded these as a safer environment for unaccompanied children. Those with concerns about the future of the courts were advised to make representations directly to the Club, not to the Council.

### Stroud North bus Link - use

The Council noted a mounting concern

that the very popular Link service is not attracting as much multi-passenger use as was desirable. (*See separate report.*)

### Gifford Circus

The Council endorsed the view that the Circus be approached with a view to their clarifying whether their requirements for a venue would regard the Recreation Field as a suitable venue in their 2007-08 programme.

### Moped cycling on Painswick Beacon

The hazardous and potentially illegal use of a moped cycle on various parts of the Beacon and elsewhere, sometimes with a pillion passenger, without protective clothing or (seemingly) licence or insurance, was voiced. It was agreed, as an initial step, to ascertain the views of the Manorship to this activity on their land.

### Calor - Village of the Year

The Council expressed its appreciation of the endeavours of all associated with the recent award. (*See separate report.*)

### Edge - 20mph traffic speed limit

The Council received an indication from the County Council that it had undertaken a 'letter drop' to residents of Edge and that of 29 respondents 12 were in favour of introducing a 20mph speed limit while 17 were against. In view of this the GCC was minded not to pursue the matter.

The Council noted that the 'letter drop' had only involved properties on or close to the main road, and that the results did not seem to reflect the wider opinion of the village's residents. Further responses are awaited.

### Traffic matters

The Council received the report of the Traffic Committee meeting of 7th December which had clearly been dominated by a **consultative paper** from its Chairman, Ann Burges Watson.

That paper, now **available for public scrutiny in the library and the Council's offices or through any Councillor**, includes suggestions relating to the A46 through the village. These were the product of her examination of an authoritative publication 'Traffic Calming Techniques - 2005' and personal enquiries made of several local residents with knowledge of traffic management and/or local affairs. Note had also been taken of proposals contained in the Parish Plan. Mrs Burges Watson made clear that she wanted to aid clearer focus upon traffic matters, moving

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away from a 'first aid' approach as particular irritations are expressed.

The paper addresses only the first of what she concludes are "four distinct and yet independent elements of traffic matters" which bear upon the main routes through our village and its centre"

1. Through traffic on the A46
2. Through traffic on the B4073
3. Traffic v pedestrians v parking in the village centre, and
4. Car parks.

Mrs Burges Watson reported that, in order not to waste the time of her committee or the Council, she had consulted officers of the County Council upon her draft paper. She had received expressions of appreciation and a welcome for local community ideas which were, in accord with current 'best practice', also the subject of public consultation.

The Beacon cannot reproduce the whole of the eight page report, but we are carrying the main diagrams here to stimulate that consultation.

The fundamentals of the proposals are clearly targeted to aid safety of both pedestrians and drivers, calming traffic by moderating its speed - especially heavy vehicles, enhancing the visual approach to the heart of the village, and including reduction of signage where possible.

A key proposal is to **reduce the width of the carriageway to 2.75metres** at several points, a very visual signal to HGV drivers to slow down and take extra care. This technique has been used with some success elsewhere.

At the entrances to the village raised islands assist this narrowing, as well as providing pedestrian refuges, and there are proposals for 'gateway' features. At

the southern entrance bus shelters are also commended, and access on foot to Broadham Field made safer.

By reinstating the frontages of three properties in **Stroud Road** opposite the car park and, indeed, restoring verge land the whole vista approaching the village is itself enhanced. The proposals enable removal of the on-highway parking, an existing policy of the Council.

Pedestrians, especially those with push-chairs or walking aids, are not able to pass one another along the pavement **between Hollyhock Lane and the crossroads**. By creating a verge and pedestrian -deterrent upper surface alongside the eastern side of this stretch of New Street protection of the adjacent properties from lorries would be achieved, and the pavement itself could be widened.

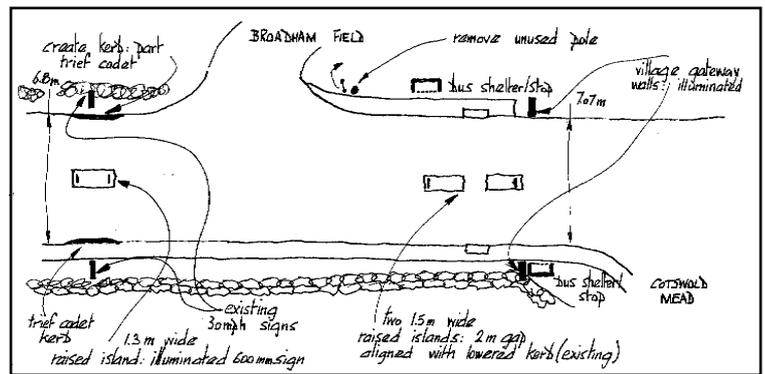
The Parish Council welcomed the first part of the consultative paper and endorsed the recommendation that copies be made widely available and that a **Public Meeting** be arranged to discuss the proposals on **Wednesday 1st February at 7.00pm in the Town Hall.**

The Council recognised that there may be limitations upon the extent of influence it may have upon the proposals contained in

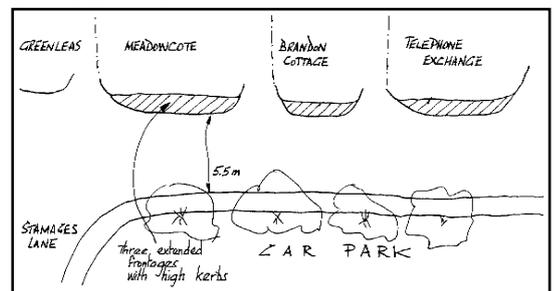
the paper regarding the A46 as, quite co-incidentally, the County Council had just programmed resurfacing to be completed before the end of its financial year. (*New Street to close for resurfacing: see story on page 4*)

However, it is hoped that by arranging the public meeting at the earliest practicable date some of the local ideas may yet be included. Further, it has to be hoped that consultation upon the remaining three parts of the paper, which have yet to be drafted, will influence future GCC maintenance of roadways elsewhere in the village.

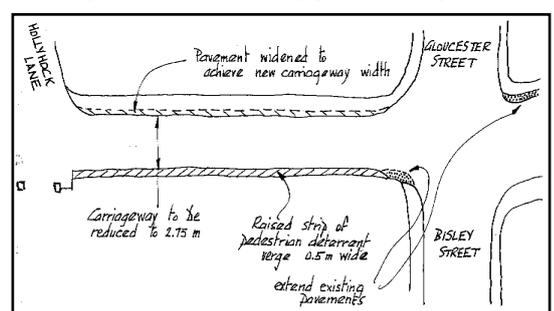
### ENTERING THE VILLAGE FROM THE SOUTH



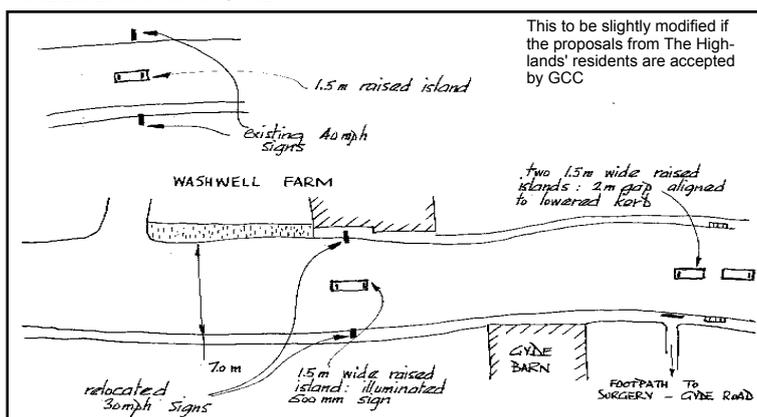
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## WI reflex action

Has the festive season left you feeling tired and jaded? If so (and even if not) why not come and find out about

Reflexology and the Metamorphic Technique. Sam Bloomfield is coming to talk about it at the Yew Trees WI meeting on Tuesday 24th January. New members and visitors (£2.00) most welcome.

The last meeting of 2005 was a social one with members being given mulled wine to drink, tasty food to eat and silly things to do. As all listeners to Radio 4 know 'points mean prizes' which is why Margaret Wallace went home with one having achieved the highest score in the Snowman Drive. For those who are bemused a snowman drive is the seasonally correct version of a beetle drive!

We have a very interesting programme of speakers arranged for the coming year; so, ladies do come and join us in the Town Hall at 7.30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

*Celia Lougher*

## Saturday papers

Andy and Sharon Christmas are considering resuming delivery of Saturday newspapers and magazines, if there is likely to be sufficient interest.

Please telephone them without delay on 814265 if you would like to receive them,

*Rachel Taylor welcomes information for the Personal Column.*

*Space limitations permit only the minimum amount of text, and your assistance in this regard is helpful.*



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## THE Friday CLUB

## Ringling out the year

The Friday Club met for the first time on Friday 2nd December to the sound of bells – quite fitting, really, to celebrate its rebirth from being the Senior Circle. Steve Coleman followed an introductory talk on the history of

Hand Bell Ringing by getting the Club on its feet with bells aloft, ringing for all its worth a varied selection of carols, hymns and popular tunes. After a few trial runs, just to get the 'hang' of things, much to everyone's surprise a selection of melodies emerged, not merely recognisable, but intact, well tuned and well played. Soon it became a rush to get one's hand on a bell to join in the fun. None of those tiresome sharps and flats one can get bemused by, just numbers 1 - 8 to follow whilst the bells took care of the tricky stuff. The biggest laugh was generated by a peal of Westminster Chimes followed by a sonorous striking of 3 o'clock by Big Ben.

Even more surprising was the revelation that a ring of bells exists within the Club in the possession of John McCabe, so thoughts turned to what service these might find themselves doing before next Christmas. Altogether it was a humdingggerr of an afternoon. On Friday 16th December, we had our, now traditional, Christmas lunch beside the canal at Moreton Valance and a good time was had by all.

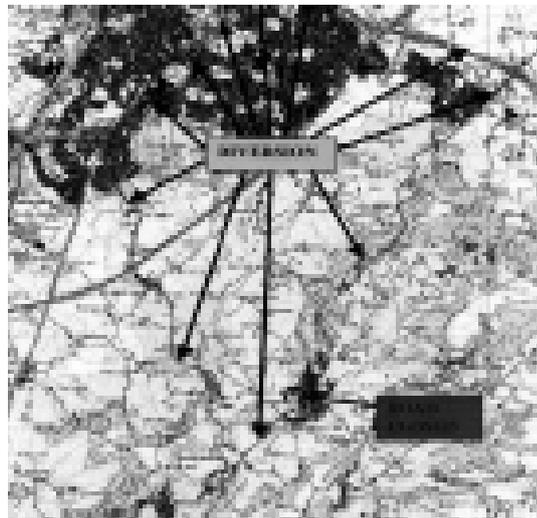
The New Year kicks off "In the style of Joyce Grenfell" – it is rumoured that we are going back to school – no, don't do that George! And then Philip Berry will be taking us along the "Painswick Stream", which he will be bringing with him to the Town Hall.

Finally, from time to time The Friday Club has been approached for the loan of its PA system by other Societies using the Town Hall but has been unable to oblige because of custodian problems. Now, however, the Parish Council have agreed to take over the system, mount it as a permanent, user friendly fixture in the Hall and have added a hand held radio microphone. Societies wishing to use the system should contact the Parish Clerk for access. The Friday Club hopes that all users will enjoy the use of this facility, particularly those seated at the back of the Hall, and that the hand microphone will accommodate and should encourage audience participation.

*Man Friday*

## New Street to close for resurfacing

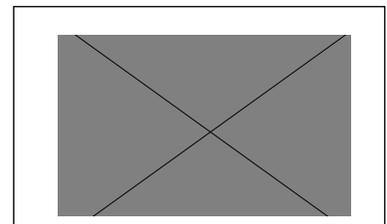
Gloucestershire County Council have announced that they plan to close the A46 (New Street) for a week in February to allow for carriageway repairs to be carried out. The precise stretch of New Street affected is from outside Lullingworth (near junction with Stamages Lane) to Washwell House. A diversion (*see map*) will be signed from the



A46 to A417 (Brockworth), A417 to A38 (Walls Roundabout), A4173 and back to the A46.

For its part, the Parish Council have resolved to support the request of the Rococo Garden that the date for resurfacing be deferred to avoid their peak snowdrop visiting crowds. The latest information is that the work will require seven days and commence on 20th February. Full details will be included in the next issue of the Beacon.

Meanwhile, Adam Thomas, Divisional Design Engineer for GCC, says that access to properties and businesses will be maintained throughout, although he conceded that there may be short delays for



# Architecs

The challenge we gave last month was to locate part of the stone arch. It's above the side entrance to New Hall in Bisley Street, as you can see here (right).

**Our challenge this month is much more difficult.** Do you know which property has the feature pictured far right?



# Christmas conundrum

We invited readers to fathom out how three couples could cross a river in a rowing boat that would hold only two people, with husbands so jealous that no wife was ever to be left in the company of another man unless her own husband was present.

Could they all cross the river, and if so what would have to be the minimum number of trips?

No tricks, like suggesting someone should swim, or that they tie a rope to the boat and pull it across. The problem must be solved fairly, as in the case of two couples which we explained.

**The answer is the following sequence:**

1. Any two wives cross
2. One returns
3. Both available wives cross
4. One wife returns and remains with her husband
5. The other two husbands cross
6. One couple returns
7. Both available husbands cross
8. Third wife returns
9. Any two wives cross
10. Husband of remaining wife returns
11. Final couple crosses

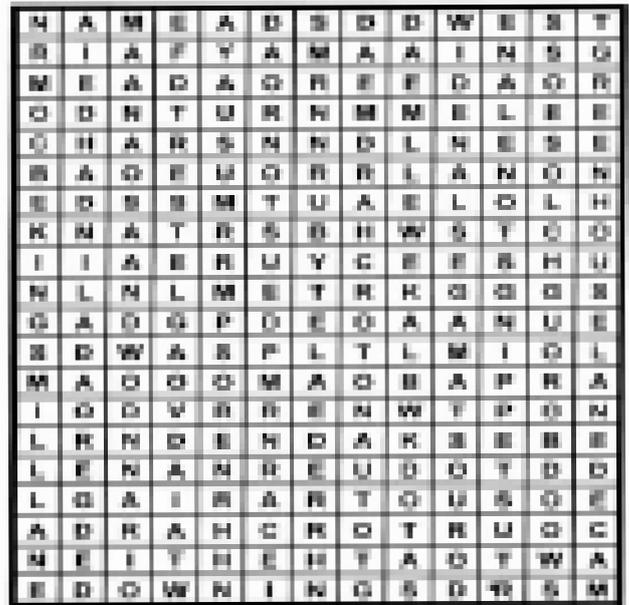
(Steps 10 and 11 could be accomplished by one woman returning to fetch the remaining wife, but in no way can the trips be reduced to less than eleven.)

# Word-

The answers to last month's capital loss in South America were:

- CHILE - SANTIAGO
- ARGENTINA - BUENOS AIRES
- URUGUAY - MONTEVIDEO
- PARAGUAY - ASUNCION
- BOLIVIA - LA PAZ
- PERU - LIMA
- EQUADOR - QUITO
- COLUMBIA - BOGOTA
- BRAZIL - BRASILIA
- VENEZUELA - CARACAS
- GUYANA - GEORGETOWN
- SURINAME - PARAMARIBO
- FRENCH GUIANA - CAYENNE

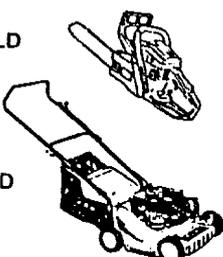
And Brother Leslie starts the New Year much as he finished last year, ie still hopelessly lost! This time, it's fifteen roads,



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## Art at the Barn

A first exhibition of its kind was mounted at the Barn, in Cheltenham Road across three evenings 16-18th last month - and, without doubt, merited the accolade 'superb'.

Carol Keyes prepared much of the ground floor of her home for display of her originals and prints, and her deft touch as a presenter and an artist were immediately apparent. There are, of course, locations and locations, but Carol had contrived to transform what was already a delightful environment into one which comfortably received an exhibition of work. Alongside was the 'artist' David Morris, with his three-dimensional examples of the intricacies of his use of finely prepared wood to construct models ranging from miniature copies of period front doors to vintage vehicles.

Invited to reflect upon their considerable efforts Carol commented "The exhibition turned out to be very successful in all sorts of ways, not least because of the sales of our work and commissions which have been received". Chatting with several of those who came along, many of them artists of repute or art-lovers, there was nothing but admiration for the quality of the display and the work. Carol's love of animals, and ability to capture their character, drew many an admiring comment. David Morris said "I was very pleased that so many came along, and just before Christmas too! I also sold some work and took commissions, and thought the location and association with Carol's wonderful home a real bonus".

Asked if there might be more exhibitions at the Barn, Carol said



"I am already planning something for the spring, hopefully in conjunction with a local charity on that occasion, but meanwhile thank all who so kindly showed their support in December".

To those who visited, and to others who missed this event, looking out for the next 'date' is strongly commended.



## Art Classes in Painswick

Painswick art classes resume on Friday 6th January at 10:00 in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre. This is a friendly on going group where new-comers of all abilities are very welcome.

Please ring Jane Garbett on 812176.

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## Frederick Delius

The Music Appreciation Group met on 1st December for a talk by Lionel Carley on Frederick Delius (1862-1934), on whom he is a great authority.

Delius' father was a prosperous merchant in the wool industry and for three years his son was apprenticed to him. He spent some time in Stroud and exchanged letters with CW Orr in Painswick; he was also a close friend of Grieg, who frequented Cheltenham. In 1884, turning from wool, Delius went to Florida to cultivate oranges but also to pursue his musical interests. In 1886, he returned to Europe for full-time musical education in Leipzig and thereafter, started composing.

His first opera was *Irmelin*, completed in 1892. Lionel played an extract from the closing scene; the score underlines the love Delius had of natural beauty and his strong affinity to Scandinavia, as did other pieces played to us. Another opera, *Koanaga*, showed strong American influences. An operatic masterpiece was *A Village Romeo and Juliet*, first performed in Berlin in 1907. The interlude of Act 3, played to us, shows Delius' attachment to the rural idyll, as did his *Requiem*.

By 1914, he was at the height of his powers, but the War overturned his world, and hit his sources of revenue. By the mid-20s he was going blind and becoming paralysed. In the late 1920s a young musician helped him to start writing music again, and in this late flowering, he produced among other works his *Songs of Farewell*.

This was an interesting and illuminating talk.

Members are asked to note that the up-coming programme is changed by reversing the published presentation for 9th February with that for 9th March.

## Painswick Singers carol concert

The Painswick Singers showed new form as well as accomplished singing under their new conductor, Brian Etheridge, on Saturday 10th December when they presented their annual carol concert in Christ Church. A professional singer of international standing, he brings considerable verve and energy to whatever he undertakes and this was much in evidence at the concert. Not only did the Singers respond to his inspiring singing and conducting, but the audience too found themselves swept into song with the choir. They found themselves singing 'While shepherds watched' to a different tune with a chorus that went with swing, earning themselves a round of applause from the Singers. Later they divided into three sections to sing 'The Holly and the Ivy' as a three part round in which they really let themselves 'go', earning another round of applause from the Singers. The programme included old favourites, some rarities like John Tavener's 'The Lamb', a novelty 'Ragtime Carol' and Malcolm Sargent's rousing 'Praise Ye the Lord'. These were interspersed with solos and readings by members of the choir. It was a lighthearted evening of good music and humour.

Saying how much he had enjoyed meeting the audience and thanking them for making it so enjoyable, Brian said he would be conducting the Requiem by Faure on Good Friday in St. Mary's Church and invited anyone wishing to join the Singers for the occasion to get in touch. Contact 812400.

Maurice Maggs

## Christmas Social

The Christmas Social, held in the Cotswold Room of the Painswick Centre on 15th December, was lively and well attended. As usual, there was a musical quiz, with plenty of teasing questions; initially classical; it is amazing how a well-known tune defies one's efforts to put a name or a composer to it. After a varied and delicious spread, with plenty of well-chosen wine (but no riotous behaviour), participants were emboldened to tackle further questions; well-known singers, dance tunes, light classics - something for everyone.

A good time was had by all and there were appreciative words for the musical organisers and their gastronomic supporters.

Richard Burges Watson

## Music to remember

Painswick friends of Diana Feilden were given a rare treat when Robert Houssart, Assistant Organist at Gloucester Cathedral, gave an evening recital at Hambutts Mead on her superb Stein-



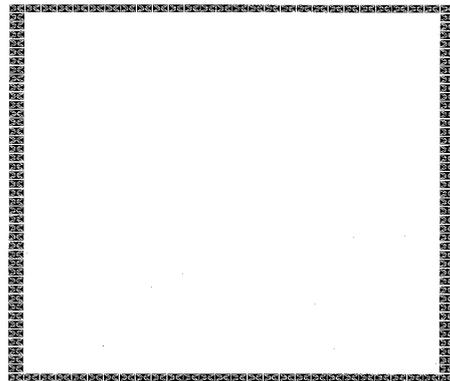
way Grand, pictured below with Diana at the keyboard.

Robert gave a bravura performance that earned much praise from his audience. The programme featured Andante with Variations by Haydn, Brahms Rhapsody in B minor and the Schubert Sonata in A.

The evening continued with wine and refreshments and much conviviality. Thank you to all who made this such a memorable evening. A cheque for £100 was sent to The Family Haven, the Gloucester charity, as a result of the concert.

Thank you, Diana, for your wonderful hospitality.

RMH





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# Ho Ho Ho! It's Father Christmas at the Play-

Painswick Playgroup had a very busy few weeks leading up to the Christmas holiday.

To take a break, some of the children enjoyed a walk to St Mary's Church where they were lucky enough to listen to the organist who kindly performed for them. The children were particularly interested in the stained glass windows and enjoyed trying to find the spider's web on two of them.



The children were kept busy making exciting things for Christmas including busy bee calendars, 3-D Christmas Trees, Christmas cards and lots more.

They also spent many weeks preparing for their nativity performances (more of that next time!).

Father Christmas kindly joined the children at their Christmas Party to give out presents and enjoyed chat-



ting to the children and listening to some of the Christmas songs they had been practising.

The Playgroup is looking forward to welcoming eight new children who join the Playgroup in January and had to say a sad goodbye to Euan who is moving away from the area. The Playgroup is now full on two days but still has a few places on Wednesday (pre-school children only), Thursday and Friday. For more information, please contact Beaty on 813316.

*Susie Oakley*

## ... and a Happy New Year from the Youth Club

It has been many months since we have kept the people of Painswick up-to-date on the club activities, so here is a potted version of our events this year, and some heartfelt thanks to our supporters.

The diners of the Austerity lunches kindly donated £1,000 to us to refurbish the kitchen, which has seen drawers and shelving falling apart over the years. Steve Miles and I chose the new kitchen, and we are just waiting for it to be installed. Probably early next year. We are very grateful to them for their generosity, and extend a warm welcome to anyone to come and join us for a coffee, and to admire it!

The young people took part in some sport and craft activities this term, and two of the older members, Josh Conway and Joe Tarran, have been elected to represent us on the Youth Council in Stroud. This is an excellent way of promoting active and continued interest in the Club, whilst also keeping up with latest national developments and funding for Youth work in general. Well done lads!

Tim Friend from the Church Youth movement came to meet the members, and they were interested in his new sport initiative.

As regards membership numbers, we would like to see younger members in the club. All are welcome from 11yrs old, and we need to increase our membership again, since many of the original members have grown up and moved on! This included Chris Garrett, who worked with us for a long time and was very popular with the members. We wish him and Sandy all the very best for the future.

If anyone out there would be interested in a stint behind the coffee bar, or an hour's cleaning per week, please do get in touch. We meet on Wednesdays from 7.30 - 9.30pm in the Pavilion on the Recreation field.

We wish all our members a very Happy New Year, and also to all of you who have supported us in any way. The club has a great future, and we look forward to welcoming you in at any time.

*Jenny Broadbank, Steve Miles  
Youth Workers*

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# A Tail of Two Kitties ...and the Drama that was

On a wet and windy evening - the 1st of December - the audience blew in out of the cold and found such a



welcoming hall at the Painswick Centre, with festive tables laid out and the promise of mulled wine and mince pies to come - a lovely informal layout for a fun evening. There was a double bill for this evening: Jackie Herbert was making her directorial debut with a one act play by David Tristram - *Last Panto in Painswick* (the author had made it possible to 'localise' name and events) and the



Twelve months of drama, including the launch of the YiPPies, our youth wing, which came alive in 2005. Consisting of some 27 young Painswickians with an average age of...

Eleven years, ranging from seven to sixteen, the first YiPPies' production, *Puss in Slippers* in December was an outstanding success, scoring...

Ten out of ten for both talent and enthusiasm: watch out for their next, *The Magician's Nephew*, part of CS Lewis's Narnia Chronicles, in March...

Yippies were making their debut performance, after the formation of the Young Painswick Players last September, with *Puss in Slippers*.

It must have been pretty tricky for Jackie directing such an illustrious cast as Jack Burgess, Kevin Parker, Lesley Wolowiec and Ann Dorman but successfully direct it she did: the local drama group was on its last legs (so to speak), and with all four remaining actors each pulling in different directions, things did not look promising, and the scenario of trying to find a date when all four of the committee (comprising the entire drama group) could all attend, was side-splitting and all too familiar!!

After the very welcome mulled wine and mince pies, it was time for the Yippies, who threw themselves into *Puss in Slippers* by Richard Tydeman, in great style. It was superb to see the young people enjoying themselves so much and the boys who dressed up as young ladies, aspiring to be the consort to the Prince, showed real talent which one would hope to see exploited in future productions. Well done to Lesley and Jackie for giving so much of their time and energy to such a fantastic resource for Painswick young people.

Gill Cox



Nine and ninety years earlier, the formidable Francis Sarah Williams founded the Painswick Institute. Next December, we celebrate its Centenary with a Dramatic Edwardian Music Hall extravaganza. The Institute (or Painswick Centre as now is) has been our home for...

Eight-ty three years, since the equally formidable Lucy Hyett founded Painswick Players. Just what she would have made of our production of Niel Simon's *The Odd Couple*...

Seven months ago, in May, is anybody's guess but she might have approved of the cast of ...

Six feisty females, which led to the sharpest, funniest comedy we've ever staged ...probably. And six months ago, we learned that we had received no fewer than...

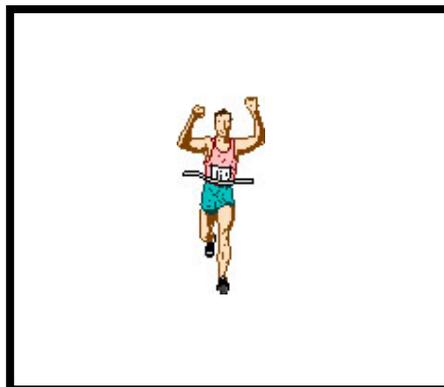
Five nominations for GDA 'Gloscars' for our 2004 Festival production of *A Man For All Seasons*. This included Best Supporting Actor awarded to Tony Pegg, a thespian feat (or feet) equalled only by the...

Four legs of Trigger, the panto horse in last month's *Last Panto in Painswick*, almost hoof-perfect by the last night. Finally for 2005, please spare a thought for the...

Three quivering wrecks bound for rehab, ie the year's three directors: Kevin Parker (*The Odd Couple*) Lesley Wolowiec (*Puss in Slippers*) and Jackie Herbert, whose directorial baptism *Last Panto* was and who swears she'll never work with a panto horse again. Finally, finally looking to the future, it is now a little less than...

Two months before *All things Bright and Beautiful* on February 18th, another of Pauline Foreman's delicious afternoons of readings and cream teas, followed in the Spring by...

A Month of Sundays, our first major production of 2006, now entering rehearsals, to be staged on 4th, 5th, 6th May. Ah, 2006! What a year 'twill be! What drama!



Reflecting



has

upon the past year, as reported in the Beacon, is an interesting exercise in itself. That it was the year in which it entered its 28th of uninterrupted publication is worthy of some note; what readers will not know is that we were nominated for the Queen's Award for voluntary organisations - certainly an honour.

The year started with one of the most dreadful of tragedies the world ever known when the tsunami struck coastlines around the northern parts of the

Indian Ocean; within hours our local retained firefighters had collected thousands of pounds from motorists pausing at the traffic lights, and local organisations were preparing plans to raise money and gifts for those affected.

The 50th anniversary of VE and VJ Day was remembered on 10th July with an exhibition in the Town Hall, before church bells pealed out at 5.00pm here and throughout the land. A nostalgic dinner

to remember those days was held at Painswick Centre on 14th October with 'period' recordings of music and performers, a quiz based upon those years, dancing, and well known marches.

The coming 'on line' of Broadband at the start of the year was an undoubted boost to the local economy, and the retention of both private and public businesses in our rural community. The advent of The Chairman business in New Street at the start of the year was followed by the reopening of The Fiery Beacon gallery in August and, at the year end, the Little Fleece once again becoming a focus of attention. National recognition of the work of local photographer Georgie Brocklehurst and botanical artist Valerie Dugan was well deserved. The pharmacy staff aspired to, and earned the prestigious Investors in People Award. Notice was given, however, that the Shetland Shop is likely to close soon.

Our young people received a boost of attention during the year, not least those affected by the formation of a Beaver colony and a junior section of the Painswick Players, The

YiPPies. The Beavers didn't attract sufficient adult leadership and had to suspend operations after five or so weeks, but are determined to reopen by next Easter. Painswick Guides have consolidated their activities under new leadership. The YiPPies, however, went on to stage their first production as part of the Christmas season of the Players; this to much acclaim. Churches Together across Stroud and Painswick have appointed their own youth worker whose influence is increasingly appreciated.

*John Holmes, Secretary of Painswick Bowling Club comments "The ever worsening congestion of central street parking discourages Cotswold tourists to our village as well new members from joining our Bowling Club. My hope for 2006 is that someone with vision and tenacity will come forward to rescue the village from sinking ever deeper into the car parking quagmire."*

*Russ Herbert, speaking about the Centre, said "The key issue for 2005 was the toilets! After living with the worst loos in the county we now have the best. Over £50,000 has been invested in new facilities and aids for disabled people. The issue for 2006: Refurbishment of the Hall to create a more attractive venue for local activities and for Painswick Blues, now a venue for international artists. A prediction for 2006 - three local people to attend our AGM!"*

Meanwhile our own youth workers have influenced a modernisation programme of the premises on the Recreation Field and involvement of members in its operation. On the first attempt, the Croft School entry of a 'mock trial' team of ten to enact a court case - competing against 15 other teams from Stroud - were judged the best.

In the context of sport young people have not only participated in droves, but have excelled in individual achievements. A new tennis pavilion was opened during the year, greatly appreciated by players of all ages. New floodlights were introduced to one end of the rugby pitch on Broadham Field to assist training on winter evenings, but the 'spillage' of light from them has yet to be brought under widely acceptable control.

*From the Rococo Garden Paul Moir reports "Rococo saw a 10% increase in visitor numbers. Trustees were delighted with these figures as tourism is still generally struggling - part due to the rise in very cheap air travel hitting the short stay market. We are hoping for a continuing rise in numbers, which should not only help us with our restoration plans, but bring increased revenue to local businesses and improve the viability of our beleaguered shops. We are very lucky to live in a village with so much for so many."*

Such continuing concerns have rumbled on about controlling vehicles within the village boundaries, and locally devised suggestions are now under active consideration. These are aimed at heavy goods vehicles, indiscriminate parking, pedestrian safety, and the aesthetic damage of proliferation of signs and abuse of best practice.

The Library has been under extra scrutiny this year, with all in the County being assessed for their viability - whatever that means. Ideas for diversifying services based upon those premises were thoroughly aired at a public session on the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting in May, but no definitive decisions have yet been made by the County Council.

The Parish Council published an annual report for the first time and, in this and other ways, remains determined to achieve the status of Quality Parish Council.

Without doubt, being externally judged as Calor Village of the Year in Gloucestershire was an achievement which gave recognition

*Vicar John Longuet-Higgins said that "The key event of 2005 was the visit over three days of Bishop Michael to our Benefice. With a wonderful group of church leaders he taught us about prayer. An amazing gift of time from a gifted teacher when one realises we are only a collection of 7 rural parishes. With us fired up to pray who knows where the Holy Spirit will take us in 2006! Hot tip - look out for what Tim and Kerstin Friend, our new Youth and Children's workers are up to. Also for church outreach to the 'Richmond Village'."*

to the voluntary labours of so many in our very caring community. Receiving that award, with its attendant publicity, can only be helpful in keeping Painswick on the tourist map. That Painswick then went on to be the village most distinguished for its caring for and by Older People in the whole of the West of England was a true bonus.

Restoration of the chapel at the cemetery on the lower slopes

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of Painswick Beacon was completed this year, a very simple yet peaceful retreat for those tending graves or at interment ceremonies. Churches Together Around Painswick have distinctively kept themselves in the public eye. A festival of Flowers in Gloucester Cathedral drew two teams of enthusiasts from Painswick in July to join no less than 150 parishes transforming this focus of worship through the delicacy of their skills and the blooms themselves.

The uppermost slopes of Painswick Beacon, the original Kimsbury iron age hill fort area, received the attention of the County Council's Archeological Service consequent upon pressures exerted by the local Beacon Conservation Group. In addition to much needed repair work to the remains of the defensive embankments, interpretation boards have been created to capture the interest and attention of visitors to this most eminent of vantage points on the Cotswold Way national trail.

Volunteers had mounted a concerted effort to clean up corners of this beautiful Beacon landscape collecting loads of rubbish on 3rd July.

Meanwhile, Juniper Hill received attention aimed at restoration of its traditional grassland and flora and fauna, but not without some protest by people who had come to assume they had access rights which were revealed not to be the case, much being private land.

The Village Quiz in March attracted a capacity entry of no less than 27 teams and achieved its main objective of providing an annual opportunity for a cross-section of our community to come together. The annual series of concerts by artists of international repute and engaged by the Music Society were held in St. Mary's Church to huge audiences, all part of its 60th Season raising the cultural threshold of life in the village.

The Voskresenije choir from St. Petersburg, and others, have performed for our pleasure. While a Festival of the Arts was not repeated in 2005, various clubs and societies such as the Music Appreciation Group and Painswick Players have attracted audiences, as have the Painswick Blues concerts. A 'new' venue for art exhibition was inaugurated when Carol Keys opened her home to display her own work and that of David Morris in December.

*Peter Jenkins, Chairman, reminds us that "The Painswick Music Society's Diamond Jubilee season broke all audience attendance records with packed houses for Emma Johnson and for Tasmin Little. Where else in the country could you hear such artists for only 31 pounds for all four concerts! This coming year - Sir Thomas Allen! Book early to avoid disappointment."*

pleasure to become aware of the man who once saved Nelson, his ship and crew; Sir Alexander John Ball, who was born at Ebworth Park, came to the rescue of Nelson's flagship Vanguard after it was dismantled in a violent gale. He became a strong friend of Nelson and, in due course, Governor of Malta where his memorial still stands. A new book by local lady Elizabeth Skinner upon a thousand years' history of Sheepscombe was launched on 5th November to much acclaim.

The much heralded 'flexible' Stroud North Bus commenced operations in June providing a link from front-door-to-front-door

*Leslie Brotherton was one of those involved in the 'Calor' submission and suggests that "Painswick being judged as Number One in Gloucestershire for five specific aspects of village life – businesses, environment, younger generation, older people and community life, while also being the most appealing place for the older generation in the West of England, recognises the kind of proud and caring community we really have".*

throughout the area, a boon for those without their own transport or bus route nearby.

In the village centre the 'grey' telephone box in New Street was a disappointment to a visitor from America expecting the traditional vivid red, a circumstance to be corrected very soon. The extent to which pigeons are spoiling buildings and at the same time are a threat to public health drew warnings from the Parish Council, this together with a reminder that they spread disease to other animals and imploring members of the public not to feed them.

The churchyard's numerous tombstones, ancient monuments in their own right, received attention during the year, and the church wardens are planning the renovation of the much used footpaths in the coming year.

The building of the care centre in Stroud Road finally gained full momentum, with the first apartments occupied before Christmas, and the foundations of the nursing home itself well and truly in place. A local liaison group has been created to help towards the integration of this major project into village life and community.

Fireworks exploded weeks before, and after, the expected date of 5th November, many of the louder kind causing distress to pets, livestock and owners too.

County Council elections were held on 5th May, as was a General Election, but neither event has a direct connection to concerns being expressed about the possibility of Gloucestershire's police being merged with other forces, seemingly on grounds of needing to be more effective in fighting crime and terrorism. Just bring back our village 'bobby' is a popular plea!

Although much else may have happened, we hardly dare overlook the significance of the announcement, in December, that the Senior Circle had achieved a metamorphic transposition to become The Friday Club - even more relevant and dynamic than before.

*Painswick Bird Club Chairman Bill Boydell says that "Club members reported sightings of red kites, large predators with deeply forked tails, soaring above Painswick. Flocks of waxwings, rare visitors to western England from northern Europe, have been observed feeding aerobically among branches of berry-bearing trees towards Gloucester".*

This was also the year when the whole country celebrated the achievements of one of its greatest heroes, Admiral Lord Nelson. It was an added

Alongside a review of 'happenings' last year, the Beacon invited a random group to record, in 50 words or fewer, what stood out for them in 2005 - achievements and challenges - and their thoughts regarding the coming year. Neither exhaustive or comprehensive, we believe the few we have managed to include represent an interesting measure of the Painswickian pulse as we enter 2006.



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# Letters

## Spare a thought

*From Christine Luker, Upper Washwell:*  
In May 2002 my family brought home two kittens from the cat protection organization knowing that one was deaf and blind in one eye. Over the past three years they have given us so much pleasure, so to see them in such pain (which at first we were told was from a virus) was upsetting and very painful not only to the animals but to us as responsible pet owners. After many visits and ongoing treatment from the local vets, we were told that it was not a virus that had caused them to be in this life threatening condition but a substance such as acid which they had consumed.

I was asked by the veterinary surgeon if this could have been a malicious act to harm the cats, a thought which I dread to think could be a possibility. Over the last week I have spoken to several neighbours one confirming that two of their cats have died suffering from the same symptoms as our two cats, and our good neighbors Victor and Dee whose cat (Puddles) is very ill suffering badly from the same symptoms. I would hate to even think that this was done purposely to cause harm to defenceless animals and would prefer to think it was caused by human thoughtlessness.

I would like to ask residents of Painswick especially those who live in Upper Washwell and neighboring roads to take a good look around their gardens for anything which could be life threatening to animals, for example a leaking car battery. If you have any information regarding the above please contact me.

I would like to thank you for your cooperation.

## Kings Mill pain

*From Harold Wood:*

Some years ago, I initiated a petition complaining about the condition of the road surface of the assault course known locally as Kings Mill Lane. This resulted in about 70 individually signed forms which were duly submitted to our Council representative and that was the end of that. Now, some years later, the surface has further deteriorated whilst I have seen little used thoroughfares such as Pincott, Wragg Castle and Jenkins Lanes, to name but a few, beautifully resurfaced.

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I am sure that, as we have reached subsoil and base rock in some places, it will not be too long before we have an accident or injury caused by this gross neglect. It is absolutely useless workmen repeatedly dabbing little patches of tarmac, when traffic and the weather soon undo this temporary situation.

It is rumoured that a group of American tourists were so enamoured with Painswick, that on their return to the States, they managed to get Baskin Robins to re-name one of their ice creams 'Rocky Road' in memory of our poor lane.

## Parking

*Traffic Committee Chairman, Ann Burges Watson has requested that we again publish David Hudson's letter to the Beacon (March 2004 issue) as his words are still very relevant.*

"Quite recently several cars in Bisley Street were given tickets by the police for parking in such a way as to obstruct the pavement. The police have made it very clear that while it is not illegal to park on the pavement (subject to double yellow lines) it is illegal to obstruct the pavement in such a way as to prevent access by pedestrians, push chairs and wheelchairs. We understand that the police have asked the Central Ticket Office to waive the charges this time but in future they will prosecute and this applies throughout the village. Residents should therefore ensure that their cars do not obstruct the pavement. There have also been occasions recently when the fire engine was unable to proceed up Vicarage Street, Tibbiwell and Kemps Lane because of cars obstructing the road. It is absolutely essential that emergency vehicles should have free access throughout the village and we have asked the police to take the appropriate action should this occur again. We are very fortunate to have our own public car park which is free of charge from 5.00pm to 9.00am. The charges during the day are modest and season tickets are available from Stroud District Council. The Parish Council urges residents to make use of the car park as doing so would ease the parking problem in the village and might save the embarrassment of parking tickets in the future."

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## Beacon blushes

*From Jim and Margaret Hodge:*

Very sincerely, we want to congratulate all concerned with the Beacon on a superb December edition. You maintain a wonderful standard month upon month with a great delivery service to the bargain. Long may you prosper and please pass on to the team our commendation for a great village journal.

*(This letter is one of several complimentary comments on last month's Beacon: modesty forbids us printing any more. However, hopefully the effect of all this seasonal goodwill will be to stimulate a flood of late subscriptions: we're a couple of dozen short of target. - Editor)*

## Neale family history?

*From Damian Gevaux by email, gevaux70@tesco.net:*

I write regarding a family history enquiry. I am researching my mum's marriage to Alistair Neale who was born in the Painswick village in 1947. I am seeking to find out more data on his family and parents if possible. I have a copy of his birth certificate and the marriage certificate to my mother Margret Harper (nee Gevaux) or now Neale. I have a website which explains my research [www.gevaux.co.uk](http://www.gevaux.co.uk). Is there anyone who still lives in Painswick that knew the Neale family that lived at Dell View cottage back in 1975 and probably ran the local bakery in the area? Can anyone help? Thanks.



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So – please make 2006 the year you join or rejoin your library, there is no charge and Kath, Jess, Anne and Janine would be delighted to help you.

*Kath Pritchard*

## Sheepscombe Common

**The Cricket Club has become increasingly concerned about the danger to players caused by the dark background created by trees and scrub on the Common along the western boundary of the ground.** Over the years, these have become so tall that they block the light from the pitch in the late afternoon, and the ball is lost to the sight of the players. In addition, what used to be a beautiful view down the valley to Painswick is now obscured - a loss to both players and spectators as well as the many walkers who use the footpath across the cricket ground.

We have consulted with English Nature (Tim Dixon) as they manage the Common for the Blow Estate. He feels that it would be beneficial for the restoration of the species-rich limestone grassland of the Common to clear the area which is causing us concern, i.e. on the upper side of the bridleway from the gateway into the Cricket ground to the boundary with Lords and Ladies Wood. He is also keen to work towards opening up the view from the Common again. Five trees in the area have been marked (yellow cross) for retention - 2 prominent oaks, a beech close to the boundary with Lords and Ladies Wood, and 2 unusual smaller species.

Tim will apply to the Forestry Commission for a felling licence. The clearance would be carried out partly by volunteers under E.N. supervision, and partly by professional contractors, hopefully within the next 4 months. The cost would be shared between the Cricket Club and E.N.

We feel that local people should be informed about this plan - we are particularly concerned to know if any of the trees were planted deliberately, perhaps as a memorial, or if there is anything else we should be aware of. We hope this clearance work will be welcomed by most people, but if there are any queries, please contact Tim Dixon at English Nature, 01531 638500.

**When did you last visit the library?** I am sure that for many residents of Painswick it may have been some time ago. Libraries are changing all over the

## Winter rubbish

**The recent spell of wintry weather, caused some refuse collections to go awry.** Responding to a Parish Council enquiry, the Stroud District Council official concerned, Carlos Novoth, issued a statement regarding the agreed protocol adopted by the Environmental Contracts and Serviceteam when adverse weather conditions affect this area. The Beacon reproduces the key points of the protocol below.

- Serviceteam supervisors and, on occasions some ECD staff, scout the area in which collections are due. An immediate risk assessment is made of the conditions and the likely exposure of collection operatives to harm.
- Should conditions not be appropriate to start the days collections, the operatives will be held up at the depot until such time as it is possible to commence collections - this will be decided by Serviceteam's supervisors and higher management.
- When it is considered to be possible to commence collections, the operatives are advised to be careful and to make constant assessments of conditions along the course of their route. Should they at any time consider it unsafe to access particular areas, they will leave the waste uncollected and proceed to the next part of the route until they have either completed the route or are unable to proceed further.
- At the end of each day, Serviceteam will alert ECD of areas that have been missed and this information is then passed onto interested stakeholders either that night via email or the following morning.
- The following days work will commence with the completion of outstanding collections before undertaking that days normal scheduled collections.
- If it is still not possible to access the areas in which there are outstanding collections, these will be left and the areas monitored during the course of the day and access will be made as soon as it possibly can. In this way, householders should be assured that they have not been forgotten.
- During the full course of these situations, the local media are constantly kept up to date.

Mr Carlos went on to say that, unfortunately, it was not always as simple as portrayed in the protocol and so there were occasions when conditions were so severe or ongoing that other more appropriate arrangements were made. These were decided jointly between SDC and Servicieteam as and when the situation arises.

Should anyone wish to raise any queries about the service or have ideas about how to improve the dissemination of information to the public, Mr Carlos can be contacted on 01453 754412.

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## Rugby

Although Painswick have still to win a league match this season there is considerable optimism in the club for the remaining fixtures. That optimism is based on recent performances when the first fifteen have shown considerable commitment and been unlucky to finish on the losing side. The match against third placed Widden Old Boys on 3rd December was a good example of the Cherry and Whites' commitment when, playing away, they scored three tries to the home side's one. Had the tries been converted Painswick would have been victorious. As it was they went down by 20 points to 15, Widden kicking 5 penalty goals.

The following Saturday Painswick were at home to Drybrook in another league encounter which turned out to be a strange game with the referee playing an important role. Painswick may well believe they should have won the match as ill discipline by the visitors led to 2 players being sent off and one sinbinned for ten minutes. The referee awarded 2 penalty tries to the home side, the second coming towards the end of the game. To Drybrook's credit they were able to ride their period of ill discipline and emerge the victors by 22 points to 14.

Painswick put their league record behind them when they played Tetbury away in the Stroud Combination Senior Cup on 17th December. In an excitingly entertaining game the visitors found themselves trailing by 32 points to 17 with 20 minutes remaining. Playing with considerable resolve Painswick put the home side under a sustained period of pressure and were rewarded with tries from winger James Wynn and centre Fred House to make the score 32 points to 27. With just minutes left, fly-half Martin Hayward achieved a crucial break and went over for a try under the posts to level the scores. Skipper Matt Coombs duly converted to give the Cherry and Whites victory. Painswick's other try scorers were winger Aussie Smith, prop forward Ben Pollard and scrum-half Tom Unwin, the latter try converted by Coombs.

Painswick will now play Cirencester in the semi-final.

### Results [(L) indicates league match, (M) Merit Table]

Sat 3 Dec. (L) Widden OB 1st XV 20 Painswick 1st XV 15.  
Sat 10 Dec. (L) Painswick 1st XV 14 Drybrook 1st XV 22.  
(M) Painswick Utd 0 Cinderford 3rd XV 38.  
Sat 17 Dec. Combination Cup. Tetbury 1st XV 32 Painswick 1st XV 34.  
Brockworth 2nd XV 44 Painswick Utd 17.

### Fixtures

Sat 7 Jan. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Old Colstonians 1st XV.  
(M) Painswick Utd v Tewkesbury 2nd XV.  
Sat 14 Jan. Painswick 1st XV v Berry Hill Utd. Painswick Utd

v Gloucester Civil Service 2nd XV.

Sat 21 Jan. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Matson 1st XV. (M) Bream 2nd XV v Painswick Utd.

Sat 28 Jan. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Barton Hill 1st XV. (M) Widden OB 2nd XV v Painswick Utd.

Sat 4 Feb. Stroud Nomads v Painswick 1st XV. Painswick Utd v Berry Hill 3rd XV.

## Youth Rugby

### Under 13s tremendous season

Painswick's Under 13 squad have had a fantastic start to the season, losing the one match to Hereford by a single point immediately before the Christmas break. At home to Dursley on Sunday 4 December they ran out winners by 39 points to 7. Painswick's try scorers were Andrew Godden (2), Dave Marsh (3) Calum Wilkins and Tom Fox. Nathan Roberts was successful with 2 conversions. The second half of the season is given over to the Gloucestershire County Cup where Painswick will meet sides such as Clifton and Cirencester.

## Rugby Club's sadness

Rugby club members were saddened to learn of the death of one of their most ardent supporters, Lady Sophie Joanna Gordon.

## Hockey

Painswick Ladies had an excellent victory in a Severn League match when they beat Lansdown Ladies 3rd XI by 2 goals to nil. Painswick's scorers were Maggie Morse and Emma Watkins. The Cherry and Whites defence played exceptionally well in this, undoubtedly the team's best performance of the season.

## Tennis

There have been no league matches played during the Christmas holiday period but fixtures begin again in early January. The annual Round Robin tournament was held on 27th December when 20 club members turned out in a range of seasonal hats. No prizes were awarded for the best "chapeau" but Sharon and Mike Hall's animal headgear were quite frightening! The tournament winners were, Barbara Wyatt, Alicia Barnett and Rob Ruggles. Mulled wine and mince pies were well received and a vote of thanks given to Joan Griffiths for organising the event.

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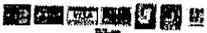
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# Local History Teaser



**This is a truly challenging teaser for the new year because we don't in fact know the answers ourselves!** These two boats, somewhat enigmatically named Painswick

and Birdlip, are moored up we know not where. Nor do we know when the photograph was taken or what the boats were used for. Do you recognise the boats or indeed the location? If anyone can throw some light on this mystery we would love to hear from you.

The answer to last month's teaser: the occasion was the opening of the new Tennis/Bowls Club in the mid 1960s and the landmark, now gone, was the Institute Cottages. The chap in the shorts was Austin Fleming and the man wearing long white trousers was Dr John Brayshaw who worked in partnership with Dr Tincker in Beaconsfield House. The bespectacled man next to him was, of course, Laurie Lee.

Painswick Local History Society's first presentation in 2006 will be given by Mr David Mullin, formerly Curator of the Jenner Museum and now of Stroud Museum. His subject will be Edward Jenner, His Life, Work and Legacy. The meeting, at the Croft School, will start at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 17th January.



## Jack and Rose - Painswickians of the Year

**Jack and Rose Smith are our Painswickians of 2005 and, according to very many of you, they are truly deserving of the title.** So what is it about these two very modest people which touches so many others in the village?

Jack was born in Vicarage Street, one of six boys, and has lived in Painswick all his life – a real Bow-wow. For forty three years he was employed by Burdocks as a plumber. Jack started playing rugby for Painswick in 1948 and over the years has been captain, club chairman, fixture secretary and general committee member. After the war he helped re-form the cricket club in 1950 and is now the President of the club. His loyalty to Broadham and all the sports activity and social events there is unquestionable. Jack walks to Broadham every day in all conditions where he spends up to four hours cleaning, repairing, decorating, doing whatever caretaking duties are necessary to ensure the facilities are ready for those who use them. All of this is done voluntarily and, to quote some of your words, "with great humility, a smile and a sense of humour. Jack asks for nothing... ..he is utterly loyal, reliable and, of course, unassuming."

Rose grew up in Edge, attending Painswick School from the age of eleven. She has lived in Painswick for thirty one years. Despite severe disability Rose is, as far as many people are concerned, at the working heart of the Painswick Centre. She is the booking clerk and the keeper of the keys and she deals with the day-to-day



queries. This requires a commitment on her part spanning from early morning to late at night, seven days a week. Like Jack, she does it all on a voluntary basis and again, in your words, "although constantly in pain, she has been a tireless worker for the Painswick Centre... ..she always greets visitors and customers with warmth, a chat and a smile, is always willing to help and never complains about her problems." Rose also keeps the diary, prepares the invoices and writes the cheques. She says she simply does what she's told and, true to form, explains that she is part of a committee for which she is full of praise. She really appreciates the team spirit of the committee.

Jack supports Rose at the Centre. As she points out, "He will always go round if there's a problem. It's only little things, like fixing the heating." It is, of course, those little things undertaken quietly day in day out which are essential to the growing success of the Centre.

Jack and Rose are the bedrock behind the scenes, largely responsible for the feeling of wellbeing in both of these two village social centres. They have, "...in their own quiet way over many years, done more than anyone for the two main village community organisations..." Many Painswickians feel they deserve recognition and thanks and that they exemplify true community spirit. We are indeed lucky to have Jack and Rose in our midst. They are Painswick treasures.

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# The Great Boxing Day Escape

The Parish Council's Boxing Day walk saw two records broken. First, some 45 parishioners and visitors set out from Stamages Lane car park and, second, there were no dogs in the party. This was a record number as, over the many years the walk has been held, the average number of walkers has not exceeded 35 and always with at least two dogs.

The day was cold with reports of snow in other parts of the country but the morning stayed dry apart from a short spell of drizzle. The walk took a route alongside Skinners Mill, then up Ticklestone Lane to Bulls Cross and into Trillgate Farm. From here the walkers made their way along the escarpment to Down Barn Farm then, crossing the B4073 continued on to Jack's Green, returning to Painswick via Beech Lane.

Our photograph, kindly taken by Wally Walters, shows the walkers about to leave the car park. The observant will note that there are not 45 people in the picture. The number increased as the walkers left the car park.



## Stroud North Link Bus

This door to door service is being well used but funding is initially only for two years. It is therefore very important that we make maximum use of it. Why not liaise with friends and neighbours when, for example, organising visits to Stroud, thus making the service more cost effective. To book a place, please call the Travel Centre on 01452.423598.

## The eyes have it

Very many thanks to all who supported our coffee morning on 7th December in aid of The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

As a result, we shall be able to send a cheque for £1,200 to help their work.

*Paula Errock & Mandy Garstang.*

## Village Diary

Please note that the 2006 Village Diary is now available at Painswick Woodcrafts, New Street. The shop is open from 9.30 to 5.00pm Wednesday to Saturday but 9.30 to 4.00pm in January and February.

Beacon subscribers	Dec 2004	Dec 2004-05	Final
	LATEST at 20th December		
2005	2004	2004-05	
New, or renewed after lapsing	116	102	103
Renewed from last year	483	515	518
<b>Total - including postal</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>621</b>

## PROPERTY REPORT for January by Murrays Estate Agents

We wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Hopefully you all enjoyed the festivities of the past weeks and are eagerly anticipating your next house move. 2006 looks like good news for all those buying or selling with most property gurus forecasting an upturn in the market. I believe the magic word for the coming year is *confidence* and with property sales and prices increasing all over the country, confidence seems to have returned. Here in the Stroud Valleys we have recorded the best sales figures for this time of year that I can remember and unless we have a complete 'white-out' in January and February, I can see the trend continuing into the New Year. Already we are preparing many quality new instructions for marketing, showing that sellers are confident that their properties stand a much better chance of selling in this more buoyant market. Buyers too have accepted that property isn't about to collapse and many of those naturally cautious in 2005 are buying with confidence realising that property is a safe investment and the market is yet again on the up. At Murrays we had an interesting year, making many improvements and streamlining our service and adapting to cope with a more difficult market where our many years of experience and strong agent input has enabled us to maintain and grow our market share often creating sales from the smallest opportunities, leaving 'no stone unturned' in our efforts to match our properties to the

buyers we believe are genuine. Painswick office has performed well, in fact I am now spending most of my time here. Sadly we are saying a fond farewell to our good friend Hilary Kilby who leaves Murrays to begin a well earned retirement.

Seasonally in this business things are quieter at this time of year but we have been surprisingly busy with several good instructions, a number of which have already agreed sales. A quality bungalow on the Cheltenham Road at Pitchcombe quickly went under offer, as did a semi-detached house at the bottom of Stamages Lane and a modern detached house in Gloucester Road. We are also instructed on a 3 bedroomed cottage in Butt Green, a large apartment together with business premises close to the village centre and jointly with Savills, on a substantial house with 4.5 acres at Edge. Other exchanges and completions include Hurst Cottage, Gwynfa Cottage and Corvara with sales agreed on Yoke House, Rose Mullion and St Michaels in Victoria Street. The latter may well once again become a restaurant: more news next month.

Our only problem now is that we really need more properties to sell.

*Clive Murray*



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## JANUARY 2006

Sat	7	Local History Soc/STET Landscape walk (meet at Juniper Hill/Wick St lay-by For details phone 814139	10.00am
Mon	9	Tourist Office Volunteers Tea	Ostlers Room, Falcon 3.00pm
Tue	10	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) EXTEND: exercise class for over 60s and less able people of all ages. Tuesdays	Christ Church Hall 9.30 to 12.00noon Pitchcombe Village Hall 2.00 to 3.00pm
Wed	11	Probus: Paying for Rain - Mr W Affleck Horticultural Society: Welcome to Thailand - a Video presentation by Stan Newey	Ostlers Room, Falcon 10.00am Town Hall 2.30pm
Thu	12	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners Experienced beginners - Thursdays Tea Dances - Thursdays Music Appreciation: Jazz in the 20s	Town Hall 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm Painswick Centre 2.30 to 4.30pm Cotswold Room 7.30pm
Fri	13	Country Market with coffee available: Fridays	Town Hall 10.00am
Mon	16	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - CTAP	Christ Church Hall 12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	17	Local History Society: Edward Jenner - His Life, Work & Legacy Jazz Evening no entry fee	Croft School 7.30pm Ostlers Room, Falcon 8.30pm
Wed	18	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall 7.30pm
Sat	21	<b>Copy dateline for February to Editorial Team</b>	
Mon	23	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Dog Training Group	Christ Church Hall 12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI: Reflexology & the Metamorphic Technique - Sam Bloomfield	Town Hall 7.30pm
Wed	25	Probus: The Ice Cream Industry - Mr J Falcon Women's Fellowship: Opening Service	Ostlers Room, Falcon 10.00am Christ Church Hall 7.30pm
Thu	26	<b>Diary deadline for January to Edwina Buttrey via Beacon box please</b> Music Appreciation: Edvard Greig	Cotswold Room 7.30pm
Sun	29	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing. Contact John Rhodes - 812709 CTAP Christian Unity Service	Car Park opposite the Golf Club 10.00am Christ Church 10.30am
Mon	30	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Puffins	Christ Church Hall 12.00noon to 1.15pm

## FEBRUARY

Wed	1	Public Meeting: Through traffic A46 (see page 3)	Town Hall 7.00pm
Sat	4	<b>February issue of The Painswick Beacon published</b>	
Mon	6	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Yew Trees W.I.	Christ Church Hall 12.00noon to 1.15pm
Wed	8	Probus: The changing face of the Law - Mr R Morgan Horticultural Society: English Garden History - Barbara Drake Women's Fellowship: RSPCA - Midge Leney	Ostlers Room, Falcon 10.00am Town Hall 2.30pm Christ Church Hall 7.30pm
Thu	9	Music Appreciation: Tastes Differ – Tastes Change	Cotswold Room 7.30pm
Mon	13	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Tennis Club	Christ Church Hall 12.00noon to 1.15pm
Fri	17	Music Appreciation: Concert outing	Symphony Hall
Sat	18	All Things Bright and Beautiful –	Painswick Centre afternoon
Mon	20	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Falcon Bowling club	Christ Church Hall 12.00noon to 1.15pm
Sun	12	Bird Club: Birds on the Flood Plain	Hartpury 10.00am
Tue	21	Local History Society: A Briggs/Archard production!	Croft School 7.30pm
Wed	22	Probus: American Civil War - Mr K Browning Women's Fellowship: Rainbow House, Poland - Mrs Medicot	Ostlers Room, Falcon 10.00am Christ church Hall 7.30pm
Mon	27	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - St Mary's Guild	Christ Church Hall 12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI: The St John of Jerusalem, Eye Hospital. - Dr Denise Magauran	Town Hall 7.30pm

## MARCH

Mon	6	Austerity Lunch: Hostess - Pauline Lamont	Christ Church Hall 12.00noon to 1.15pm
Wed	8	Probus: Murphy's and Other Laws - Mr R Hennessey Horticultural Society: The Newent Onion Fair - Plus bring & buy plant sale	Ostlers Room, Falcon 10.00am Town Hall 7.30pm



Thu	9	Women's Fellowship: Recycling - Sue Hurt, Stroud D C	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Sat	11	Music Appreciation: Gioachino Rossini	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Mon	13	<b>Beacon Village Quiz</b>	Painswick Centre	6.45 for 7.15pm
Tue	14	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Conservation Society	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Mon	20	Bird Club: Wildfowl and Wetland Trust - talk by Mike Teesdale. Followed by AGM	Town Hall	
Tue	21	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Horticultural Society	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Wed	22	Local History Society: Pitchcombe - Notes and Recollections - Michael Little	Croft School	7.30pm
Thu	23	Probus: Brunel as a Railway Engineer - Mr D Cartwright	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Sat	25	Women's Fellowship: Childhood Memories - Barbara James	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Tue	28	Music Appreciation: The Art of the Accompanist	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Wed	29	Painswick Music Society Concert: Carducci Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
		Yew Trees WI: The Elsa Conservation Trust - Graham Dougan	Town Hall	7.30pm
		Horti. Soc: Bookings morning for outings	Church Rooms	10.00am to 12noon
<b>APRIL</b>				
Wed	5	Probus: The Cossacks - Mr M Chance	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	6	Music Appreciation: Children and Music	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Sat	8	Painswick Music Society Concert: Robert Irving, cello; Fali Pavri, piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Wed	12	Horticultural Society: Climbers, ramblers and scramblers - R Bracher	Town Hall	7.30pm
Tue	18	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	19	Probus: AGM	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	20	Music Appreciation: Last night of 18th Season	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Sat	22	Painswick Music Society Concert: Sir Thomas Allen, baritone; Malcolm Martineau, piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	25	Yew Trees WI: Porridge - Mrs P Cottle	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	26	Painswick & District Conservation Society AGM - With guest Speaker	St Mary's Church Rooms	7.00 for 7.30pm
<b>MAY</b>				
Sat	6	Painswick Music Society Concert: Nicola Eimer, piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Wed	10	Horticultural Society AGM, followed by talk - The work of 'Perennial' - Susan Bowers (with raffle)	Town Hall	7.30pm 8.15pm
Tue	16	Local History Society: Annual Outing		
Tue	23	Yew Trees WI: Resolutions, followed by a talk about Badgers - Tony Dean	Town Hall	7.30pm
<b>JUNE</b>				
Tue	20	Local History Society: AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
Tue	27	Yew Trees WI: the Everyman Theatre - past, present and future - Sara-Jane Hasman	Town Hall	7.30pm
<b>JULY</b>				
Tue	25	Yew Trees WI: BBC Radio Gloucestershire	Town Hall	7.30pm
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
Sat	9	Annual Show	Painswick Centre Hall	3.00 to 5.00pm
Tue	26	Yew Trees WI: Travel that has inspired my paintings - Peter Jenkins	Town Hall	7.30pm
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
Wed	11	Horticultural Society: The magic of the Outer Hebrides - Barbara Drake	Town Hall	7.30pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI: Cookery demonstration by Robert Rees	Church Rooms	7.30pm
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI: Annual Meeting, followed by talk on Local Cheeses - Liz Godsell	Town Hall	7.30pm



**NEW APPLICATIONS**

PREACHERS BARN, WICK STREET  
Retrospective application for conversion of barn to dwelling  
LULLINGWORTH, STROUD ROAD,  
PAINSWICK Alterations to kitchen wing  
LULLINGWORTH, STROUD ROAD,  
PAINSWICK Alterations to entrance & erection of internal gate

**CONSENT**

GREENHOUSE COURT LODGE,  
GREENHOUSE LANE, Erection of a conservatory  
KNAPP HOUSE, THE VATCH, SLAD  
WARD Replace left hand full length barn door (beyond repair)

LOWER BUMPS, THE GREEN, EDGE  
Erection of a summer house  
LITTLE ACRE, CHELTENHAM ROAD,  
Conversion of attic space to additional accommodation and installation of dormer windows  
CLOVERS, KINGS MEAD Two storey extension to dwelling and garage  
JENKINS BARN, JENKINS LANE,  
EDGE Extension and alteration. Demolition to a wall  
JUNIPERS, EDGE ROAD, Loft conversion with dormers

**RESULT OF APPEAL : PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED**  
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**Future of Standish Hospital**

Everyone in the District will be aware of the circumstances surrounding the well-loved Hospital at Standish. Many years ago, the local health service made the decision to close the hospital down and transfer facilities to the Gloucester Royal, despite a local campaign to save it. Last December, the remaining staff and services were vacated from the site and since then it has lain empty, save for a small number of people on short-term rentals who also provide a measure of security. However, the site – properties and grounds – are gradually, but surely, deteriorating and the money needed to restore the site is, therefore, inexorably rising.

A community plan to create an exciting, ground-breaking mutual resource to provide health and social care services, and ensure this outstandingly beautiful site remains under the ownership and control of the local community, was developed over a period of over two years. Employing expert advice and with the widespread support of local communities and politicians, this bid was submitted to the NHS, in direct competition with bids from large, private health corporations, and came through as the preferred option.

Only last Spring a local delegation travelled to London to meet with the Minister for Health, Lord Warner, to answer any outstanding questions and make the case for the community-led solution to the future of the hospital site. To-date, that future appears to be unresolved and uncertain.

Within weeks of that meeting, the ‘For Sale’ signs reappeared on the site without any warning and there the situation currently rests.

Despite this, the ‘Save Our Standish’ campaign group and the care mutual team are pressing on with action to get the government and NHS to make a courageous decision and hand the site over to the community. Preferably, before it becomes an irrecoverable disaster, or is sold off to the highest bidder and taken away from any community control. We have held two local meetings in Stonehouse and Stroud, and are distributing postcards for local concerned people to fill in and send off to the Minister.

**But most importantly, we are planning a ‘sit-in’ at Standish Hospital TODAY (Saturday, 7th January), starting at 10am.** This will get extensive media coverage (including local and national TV) and may well be crucial in making the government sit up and listen to the voice of the local community. If you are planning to come in a group, please let us know.

Please contact us on 01453 827631 for any further information or last-minute details about the sit-in, or if you’d like to participate in our postcard campaign. Watch the local press for breaking news too. And thank you for all the continuing support.

**MINI-ADS**

**Logs – Seasoned Hardwoods.** Sold by the large trailer load delivered - £70.00. Other loads available. Contact Felix on 07958108841.

**Young French woman graduate** wishing to study English seeks part-time employment in exchange for rent, for three months starting in January, preferably with a family. Contact 812845.

**Andalucia, Spain, Villa in foothills above Neria.** 3 Bedrooms, sleeps 4/TV, own pool. Wildlife, walks, views, mountains and Mediterranean. Available July/August. £550 per week. Telephone 814070 or 0034 6470 19686.

**Sky Digibox-** for sale £25.00. Telephone 812997.

**Office Space to rent** - ideal location. Phone (after 15th January 2006) 812245.

**Alphabet child’s dish** wanted - complete A-Z around edge - for new(ish) bilingual grandson, to assist learning curve. Offer £10 (for the bowl) if in good condition. 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 6QN. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to The Painswick Beacon. Receipts are not forwarded unless requested.*

**Mini success**

A reader, David Ryland, reports the result of a Beacon Mini Ad:

*Problem :*

Neighbour with child attending school in Gloucester finds her current car fails MOT, but only has limited funds to buy a new one.

*Solution :*

Advertise locally. This can be costly so took advantage of Beacon Mini Ads which are priced reasonably and therefore allow for the problem to be explained.

*Result :*

Three phone calls within days, one from Browns Hill area where we found just what we were looking for. Now, we know the Beacon is not delivered to this area but Painswickians are a kindly lot and asked around their friends!

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# The Personal Column

## Happy 100th Birthday

Congratulation to RUTH DE COURCY-IRELAND, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 11th December, her husband, Capt Brian de Courcy-Ireland having lived for 101 years. Ruth attended Badgeworth Church on the morning of her birthday and celebrated with a champagne lunch afterwards.

## Babies

Congratulations to Ceri and Tery Ross in Sydney on the birth of their son, Finley Joseph, on 8th November, a brother for Hannah and 2nd grandchild for Sylvia and Lynn Steer.

## Engagement

Congratulations to JAN GITTINS of Court House, Painswick and HARRIET SURMAN of Upton-on-Severn, who announced their engagement recently.

## On the move

Best wishes to PAULINE FOREMAN, who has moved from Butt Green to Apartment 11, Richmond Painswick

and to FRANCIS and JANE OTWAY, who have moved from Cotswold Mead to Apartment 12, Richmond Painswick

and to IMOGEN WHEATON, who has moved from Hambutts Mead to Apartment 14, Richmond Painswick.

## Welcome

We would like to welcome PADDY and RITA CUSTIS, who have moved from Tewkesbury to Apartment 18, Richmond Painswick

also DAVID and JANET CRISPIN who have moved into Corvara, Cotswold Mead,

and Mr and Mrs CARTER who have moved to Hambutts Mead from Cheltenham.

## Get well soon

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to JANE KILPATRICK, FRANKIE MARSH, EILLEEN O'SULLIVAN, CHRISTL MATTHIAS, MARGARET JONES, MARJORIE GURDEN and DON SLADE.

## Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of PHILIP JARMAN, EUNICE TATTERSAL, MARGARET DODD, ISABEL STANYON and Lady SOPHIE JOANNA GORDON, who have all died

## Did you see...

**David Attenborough chasing spiders amongst our famous yew trees?** As trailed in the July Beacon, the intrepid Mr Attenborough featured some of Painswick's wild life in the third programme of his current BBC series *Life In The Undergrowth: The Silk Spinners*.

He admits to being amazed by the behaviour caught on camera for the first time. "I think the thing that surprises you is that when you watch spiders normally, you think, 'well, they're just spiders and mechanical little creatures', but when you start to film them, you discover that they have individual personalities. I mean, you can watch spiders of the same species, and some are lazy, some are hard working, some don't like light. They all have personalities, there's no doubt about it."



## Beacon VILLAGE DIARY

We do our best to include all information we receive for the diary, but rely very much upon the help of organisers of events for its accuracy.

By including the maximum number of entries on the two pages we set aside for the diary we know we are helping organisers to plan ahead and avoid clashes of dates or times. To achieve this **we are always anxious to contain the information in one line of text**. Where organisers are keen to include telephone numbers, rendezvous, and so on please let us have a mini-item we can include elsewhere in that issue of the Beacon. *Ed.*

*The*  
**Anthony  
Fisher**  
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## NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date

**SATURDAY 4th FEBRUARY**

Items for publication to Editorial Team using E-mail or the Beacon Post Box by **SATURDAY 21st JANUARY**

Mini Ads to the Treasurer, Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN **SUNDAY 22nd JANUARY**

Business adverts to Dermot Cassidy at 1 Painswick Heights, Yokehouse Lane, Painswick GL6 7QS by

**THURSDAY 19th JANUARY**

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey **THURSDAY 26th JANUARY**

Letters and articles for publication are particularly welcome by Email to **painswickbeacon@supanet.com**

or, alternatively, on computer disk. 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 be sure to provide your name, address and a contact phone number.

The Beacon's telephone number is **814500**  
Our web site is **www.painswickbeacon.org.uk**

including **Beaconline** carrying the Painswick Beacon web edition  
Address for general correspondence not items for publication,  
Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street GL6 6QN

## Beacon Committee

Editorial team this month

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Dermot Cassidy, Carol Maxwell,  
and Terry Parker

\*co-ordination and compiling

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