

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 22 No. 12

March 2000

## Young organisers



Lucy Speed, Hannah Whittaker and Ellie Jackson who masterminded last month's Blue Peter sale at the Croft School. Details inside.

## PVG keeps a close watch

The Painswick Valley Group will hold its third Annual General Meeting at the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 23rd March.

The Group state: "Contrary to public belief the threat to Painswick Valley has not gone away. The Local Plan is still only at the Deposit Draft stage and there are still developers pressing for the allocation of land at Hammonds Farm for residential use who will continue to do so until the Local Public Inquiry which is now expected to take place some time in 2001. Therefore it is vital that PVG demonstrates the stamina to maintain its opposition throughout this lengthy process. All Friends of Painswick Valley are welcome at the AGM for an update on the Plan and PVG's continuing contribution to it."

## 'CARE VILLAGE' DEBATE CONTINUES

The outline planning application for a 'care village' on land north of Cotswold Mead continues to generate enormous interest in Painswick, and last month the subject once again dominated the agenda at the Parish Council meeting.

The subject seems set to attract comment for some time to come, because the application will not now be considered by the District Council's Planning Committee until April at the earliest. A planning officer told the Beacon that the application has been put on hold pending the applicant's submission of further information in response to concerns raised by the Council. One of these is the issue of high-ways safety.

A lengthy and at times heated Parish Council debate on 16th February, observed by about twenty residents, culminated in a vote on a proposal to suspend Standing Orders so that the motions carried the previous month could be reviewed and possibly overturned. The proposal was defeated by 6 votes to 5.

This means that the decisions made at the January meeting stand, namely that (1) the Council opposes the outline application on grounds of scale, size and density within the AONB and on a green

field site, but supports the building of a nursing home and associated dwellings; and (2) the Council offers to discuss with the developer a new development plan for the site.

The discussion got off to a dramatic start, with news of two contrasting petitions by villagers. One, already to hand, supported the application, and the other - presented at the meeting by Carole Ross - opposed it. Both had 118 signatures at the time, prompting Council Chairman Terry Parker to comment on "a fascinating coincidence", and the clear evidence of a community that was divided on the issue.

Explaining why the subject was again on the agenda, Terry Parker said that since the previous meeting the Council had met the developer and that some reductions had been made to the scale of the project. He thought that in view of this, and the continuing level of public interest, members should have a further opportunity to comment. Mr Parker also clarified the significance of the outline application, in view of previous uncertainty as to whether support for it would be taken by the District Council as implying approval of all the details provided by the applicant. He said that everything in the outline appli-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# HAMPTONS

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## Council Meeting on 16th February

Reported by Alan Bamber

### Planning decisions

Council Chairman Terry Parker said a recent correspondent had asked how the District Council could overturn a Parish Council decision, evidently believing that decisions on planning applications are made by the Parish Council. Mr Parker restated the position, which is that the Parish Council's opinions are sought on applications but that actual approval or refusal lies with the District Council.

### Barns

A letter from the Conservation Society drew attention to a barn that has been erected near Edge Road. The Society asked if it was true that the District Council could not refuse applications for barns. Martin Slinger said his understanding was that it was necessary to apply for approval but that if barns were smaller than a specified size (believed to be 45 x 30 ft by 15 ft high) applicants could assume they had approval if they had not heard within 28 days of applying. It was agreed to check this with the District Council, and to make the point that the Parish Council wishes to be informed of all barn applications.

### Copies of plans

The District Council had said they were unable to meet the Parish Council's request for a second copy of planning applications. They did not have any spare copies, and plans are subject to copyright. John Stephenson-Oliver suggested asking applicants for a second copy and it was agreed to look into the practicalities of this.

### Sheepscombe Go Slow?

A letter from the County Traffic Manager John Lindsay stated that a 20mph speed limit could be justified in Sheepscombe. With the exception of Jacks Green, the roads conformed to the County's criteria for introducing such a limit. He proposed holding a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss the matter further.

### Stamages Lane car park

In the light of the recent public meeting about Stamages Lane car park, Traffic Committee Chairman David Hudson said the Council now had three options - to accept that charging was here to stay, to re-affirm the Council's wish to have the charges removed, or to return to their original preference for parking limits or charges at weekends and bank holidays only. Councillors decided to seek the removal of charges.

Terry Parker said it was now confirmed that the County Council has the right to direct the District Council to remove the charges on the grounds of highway safety but it would involve a formal dispute between the two bodies.

It was agreed to write to the County Council asking them to press for the removal of charges. It was also agreed to ask the County to put on hold the proposals to extend parking restrictions in nearby roads until the charging issue was finally resolved. David Hudson and others restated their view that charging was a nonsense given the effect that it had had on the use of the car park. Ann Daniels was a lone dissenting voice but the Chairman said he had some sympathy for her views.

### Recreation Field Pavilion

Malcolm Watts again questioned the logic of requiring the Rugby Club to carry out repairs and renovation work at the pavilion when there was some uncertainty as to the future of the building and the Youth Club's continued use of it. Other councillors agreed with this view, but Terry Parker said the Council had no option but to require the work to be done because the Rugby Club's licence stipulated that they must leave the building in a good state of repair on the termination of their lease.

### Footpaths

Jennifer Crook (Chair of Footpath Committee) said that additional money had been offered for altering local stiles so as to make them easier for the elderly and infirm to negotiate, matching the recent donation of the Conservation Society which was conditional on others making a similar offer.

### Curbs on Kerbs

A letter from Tony Bradley commented on the dangerously high kerbs in Bisley Street and expressed the hope that when other roadside kerbs are reinstated they should not be so high. Mr Bradley said that either pavement parking should be banned altogether or lower kerbs should be put down to make it less dangerous for everyone. The subject was referred to the Traffic Committee.

### Travellers

Councillors were concerned about a new encampment of travellers on Painswick Beacon. Terry Parker said that Amaury Blow (Painswick Manorship) was going through legal processes to remove them. It seemed it was not straightforward for the police to take immediate action.

### Gloucester Street

The Council agreed to seek a widening of the pavement outside Christ Church in Gloucester Street, where the pavement is too narrow for pushchairs. A letter from John Lindsay confirmed the feasibility of this but warned that it would necessitate restrictions on street parking at that point. Councillors agreed that the pavement outside Ludloes also needed widening.

### Frederick Gyde Trust

The Council agreed to take over administration of the Frederick Gyde Trust. They had agreed to this in principle the previous month, subject to scrutinising financial information and other details provided by the current trustees. The trust is responsible for the war memorial garden including the bird bath and the war memorial itself.

### Edge vandalism

Martin Slinger drew attention to vandalism at Edge quarry, and also the tipping of asbestos on the common.

### Organic produce

Jennifer Crook said she knew someone who was interested in running an organic produce stall at the rear of the Town Hall, in a similar operation to the weekly fresh fish sales there. She was advised that the person should write to the Council.

### Greenhouse Lane

Jackie Woof drew attention to the very poor state of Greenhouse Lane which has numerous deep potholes.

### Cemetery store

Martin Slinger said there was a need for a smaller mower that would go through the doorway at the Cemetery store. David Hudson suggested widening the doorway.

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# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

## Applications

- Woodland Cottage, Jack's Green, Sheepscombe. Erection of replacement extension and alterations to outbuildings.
- Beech Corner, Beech Lane, Sheepscombe. Erection of extension.
- Greenacres Lawn, Cheltenham Road. Erection of conservatory.
- Millpool House, Kingsmill Lane. Remedial pruning of two oak trees.
- Hale Cottage, Hale Lane. Internal alterations and installation of a soil and vent pipe.
- Hillworth Cottage, Gloucester Street. Internal alterations to fit new staircase to serve attic, bedrooms, shower rooms, means of escape.
- Highbury, Cheltenham Road. Erection of single storey extensions.
- Tamarin, Bulls Cross. Erection of single storey extension.
- Washbrook Mill, Edge. Alterations and extension to dwelling.

## Revised Plans

- Gyde House, Gyde Road. Conversion and refurbishment of existing house to provide 18 one and two bedroom apartments. Main changes: Retention of original doors, additional landscaping, revised parking layout, new drying areas.
- Forty Acres, Wick Street. Erection of sectional boarding cattery. Main changes: No amendments to chalets. Additional information available showing changes to accessing arrangements.

## Consent

- Woodpeckers, Golf Course Road. Erection of garden store.
- Land adjacent to Mantle, Woodborough Close, Knapp Lane. Outline application for the erection of one house and a double garage.
- Rudge House, Edge Road. Addition of parapet walls, porch, laundry room and conservatory.
- Dozmary Cottage, Vicarage Street. Retrospective application for installation of staircase.
- Wychwood, The Highlands. Extension and alterations to roof.
- Stroud Slad Farm, The Vatch. Change of use of the stables to office use for a temporary period.
- The Fieldings, Slad. Extensions to dwelling. Revised pedestrian access.

## Refusal

- The Stables, Gloucester Road. Demolition and relocation of statue of Pan.
- Hill Farm, Holcombe Lane. Erection of new tennis court and storage shed.

## Playgroup at the Garden



*Little people admire the little flowers. Painswick Playgroup paid a visit to the Rococo Garden last month to see the superb carpets of snowdrops. They walked across the fields from the Playgroup building. Leader Beatie Bell is at the back.*

## Gloucester Street to be resurfaced

Residents who have complained for some time about the poor condition of Gloucester Street will be pleased to learn that the road is shortly to be resurfaced. The work is expected to be done in the period 23rd to 30th March and a temporary traffic order has been issued for this period allowing two-way traffic in Pullens Road and at the top of Gloucester Street.

Motorists heading for Gloucester from either the Cheltenham or Stroud direction will therefore turn into Pullens Road, joining up with Gloucester Road at the top of

Pullens Road. Access to and from the Croft area will be via the top end of Gloucester Street. The Order states that pedestrian and vehicular access will be maintained, but the Beacon has been informed that daytime residents' parking in the areas of working will not be possible. There will be a traffic control in Pullens Road.

Parish Council chairman Terry Parker says that he has been assured that Severn Trent Water will not dig up the road again immediately afterwards!

## World Book Day at Painswick Library

On 10th March we will be celebrating World Book Day. Library-goers will have seen (and hopefully sent off) postcards to vote for their favourite author and we will have a result on that for World Book Day.

World Book Day is about reading for both learning and pleasure. Last year over thirty countries took part in this worldwide celebration of books and reading, so let's join in. At Painswick Library there will be a small selection of books for sale, tea and biscuits and a literary quiz - all entries in by 1pm on 14th March and a prize for the first correct answer drawn.

As many of you know we now have internet access at the library, so even if you don't know your mouse from your

ram, book a slot and come along. It's FREE to use and fun to learn.

You may be interested to know that there is a World Book Day web site:

[www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com)

and other web sites referring to the event.

Anyone squinting at this page might like to come and have a look at our selection of reading glasses, for sale in the library, prices from £2.99.

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## Midsummer Ball

Plans are under way to hold the Painswick Midsummer Ball at Painswick Mill on Friday 23rd June. Ticket information is available from Ruth Smith on 813693.

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### Care Village debate, continued from page 1

cation was binding except for illustrations. Councillor John Stephenson-Oliver said this meant that the number of units was binding, and if the Council approved the outline application they were approving the number of units, and would no longer have any say on them. "If we buy the frame we buy the picture", he said. However, David Harcup still maintained that it was possible to support the application in principle only, leaving the detail to be clarified later.

David Harcup and Keith Hardwidge both put forward a vigorous defence of the application. David Harcup disputed claims that a large number of residents were against the scheme and said that in reality the Council did not know the feelings of the village because they had "not done a consultation." His impression was that there was overwhelming support for a nursing home and he argued that the only viable basis for it was a scheme of this type with "feeder units", because "smaller nursing homes are going bust". He praised the work of the development group, who had carefully examined all the possibilities, yet were now accused of being the developer's sales force.

Keith Hardwidge said he was convinced that it was a "first rate" scheme for Painswick. The facilities on offer were not equalled anywhere else and the developer had responded to the call to scale down the plans. Mr Hardwidge added that there would be spin-offs for the village because the increased population would

help local business and provide new employment opportunities. Also people moving into the care village would vacate houses elsewhere in Painswick.

In contrast David Hudson and Ann Daniels maintained that nothing had significantly changed since the previous month and that the size of the scheme was still unacceptable. The developer had removed five apartments from the second floor but the height of the building was the same as before and the developer could reinstate the units into the empty loft space in a few years time.

David Hudson said he had spoken to a large number of residents, especially in the "older parts of the village", and he could not agree with Mr Harcup's assessment that there was a big majority in favour. "I don't think people want a large care village on the edge of Painswick", he said, and he re-affirmed his support for a smaller nursing development within Painswick.

Councillors also disagreed on the extent to which the scheme would cater for the less well off. Keith Hardwidge said that a number of places would be reserved for people on DSS support and this was equivalent to providing the affordable housing that everyone wanted. "What more could you ask for?", he demanded. David Hudson replied that even with DSS support it was likely that people would have to contribute from their own income, and he doubted if many of those who rented or had bought council houses would be able to raise the necessary finance.

There were further disagreements on the prospects of a scheme of a reduced size, whether from the current developer or another one.

Terry Parker said the developer could not reduce the number of units without escalating unit costs. The "crunch" was that an economic size was required in order to provide the required level of care. He referred to a letter from Mr Cockell which compared the reduced size of the Painswick plan with that of the care centre at Nantwich. Ann Daniels retorted that what was right for Nantwich, with its much larger population, wasn't necessarily right for Painswick, and, as the exchanges grew more heated, she suggested to David Harcup that he might like to have the care village in Sheepscombe.

Jennifer Crook thought that too much attention was being given to the current developer's difficulties, which should not be the concern of the Parish Council. She and Ann Daniels were sure there were other developers who would come in. Denise Ward warned, however, that a smaller scheme would be more exclusive and costly and she thought that if it were thrown out the village would not get anything else of a comparable design quality.

### St Mary's Home

In the past few weeks there has been a renewal of interest in alternative sites for a nursing home, and rumours have been circulating about the future of St Mary's Home in Stamages Lane. The Beacon contacted Severn NHS Trust (who own the property and provide the care), and the Corporate Administration Manager, Bridget Berrecloth, issued the following statement to the Beacon:

"Severn NHS Trust is considering whether or not St Mary's Painswick is an appropriate building for the medium term care of those who are currently resident within it. The first consideration will be improving the care and environment offered to the residents. No decisions can be made until we are sure that change will affect this. The re-use of the property is a secondary issue and does not concern us at this stage. We have no further comment to make at this stage."

Since receiving this statement the Beacon has been contacted by parish councillor David Hudson who informed us that he had spoken to the Chief Executive of Severn NHS Trust Mr Richard James, and Mr James had stated that once residents had been found alternative accommodation, hopefully by the summer, the property would be put on the market. We contacted Bridget Berrecloth again and she confirmed that this is the case.

### Public apology

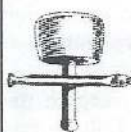
A public statement has been issued by Keith Cockell, Managing Director of Richmond Healthcare, apologising for comments that he made about Mr and Mrs Crook of Queensmead in a letter to the Parish Council dated 15th February. The letter commented on the reasons for Mr and Mrs Crook's opposition to the Care Village application. Following a complaint by the residents, Mr Cockell has apologised for "any distress, misunderstanding and confusion" caused by his remarks. At the request of Mrs Crook, a parish councillor, the section of the letter that caused offence and the subsequent apology were read out at last month's Council meeting.

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## Stroud Road traffic accidents

The Managing Director of Richmond Healthcare, Keith Cockell, has sent the Beacon a copy of a letter written to him by his highway consultant, WSP Development, responding to a letter by Carole Ross in last month's Beacon.

WSP compare Carole Ross's figure of 25 accidents on the A46 between Stamages Lane and Kingsmill Lane (900 metres, January 1990 to November 1999) with their own figure, obtained from the County Council, of 8 personal injury accidents (PIAs) (700 metres between 200m west of Cotswold Mead to 100m north of Stamages Lane, January 1994 to October 1999). They note that Carole Ross includes "damage only" accidents of which there were ten, leaving 15 PIAs. They say that although some authorities record damage-only statistics, it is more normal to base the assessment of the safety record of a stretch of road on the personal injury rate.

Comparing like with like, WSP report that the statistics measured in PIAs per month per hundred metres show: Carole Ross 0.0140, WSP 0.0197 and they comment: "The rate resulting from WSP data is therefore higher than that from Ms Ross's data but not significantly so. The discrepancy may in part be due to the growth in traffic over the last ten years which would tend to lead to a higher number of accidents in the last five years, and the fact that traffic flows may be slightly higher to the east of Cotswold Mead". They add that speed was a factor in five of the eight PIAs in their data.

"The introduction of the site access and the traffic generated by the development would, when considered in isolation, tend to slightly increase the risk of accidents on Stroud Road. However, given that the junction will meet geometric standards, and the low traffic generation of the Care Village, any additional risk due to the development will be small. Moreover, any such risk will be outweighed by the introduction of the following safety measures:

- Relocation of 30mph speed limit from south of Stamages Lane to west of Cotswold Mead;
- Gateway feature to emphasise the commencement of the 30mph limit when approaching from the west;
- Hatching markings on the road surface to reduce its apparent width;
- Pedestrian refuge in the centre of the road;
- Introduction of street lighting."

WSP conclude that taken as a whole the measures will significantly reduce the risk and severity of road accidents along this stretch of road.

## Affordable Housing requirements

In a letter to Painswick Parish Council dated 14th February, Stroud District Council's Housing Strategy Manager Andrew O'Brien commented on the District Council's policy on affordable housing in the Local Plan, and stated that surveys had shown a need for such housing in Painswick. He expressed concern that "the care village developer does not accept that a need exists and has apparently ignored the advice". He also claimed that "the developer has acknowledged that the proposed Care Village scheme would involve care costs which Social Services could not support and therefore the scheme would only be available to people of private means."

However, the letter went on to acknowledge that it may not be appropriate to have affordable housing for younger people at the care village site, and also that affordable housing for older people did not necessarily have to be part of the care village so long as the developer identified

and contributed towards such housing elsewhere in Painswick.

The letter concluded that "despite having provided the developer with details of identified local need, information on how these needs might be met, and a potential Housing Association partnership to assist in this process, the inclusion of affordable housing has been totally ignored."

Commenting on the letter at last month's Parish Council meeting, Chairman Terry Parker said he had asked Mr O'Brien whether the District Council would still want ten affordable housing units if the nursing home development turned out to be uneconomic. Mr O'Brien had replied that they would adopt a "flexible approach".

Terry Parker also confirmed that the Gyde House developer was interested in providing affordable housing. This would not be along Gyde Road but on Gyde land near Marling Cottage.

## What if...?

In view of villagers' comments (see letters) about the possibility of a housing estate being built on the Stroud Road field in the event of the 'Care Village' application being refused and the developer withdrawing, the Beacon contacted Mr Nick Stewart of the County Council's estates department. Mr Stewart said that he and others had invested a tremendous amount of time and effort into this project and they were fully committed to seeing it through. He did not wish to dwell on a "hypothetical situation" but he confirmed that the land has been declared surplus to the County's requirements and that normally the Council would look to sell on the most advantageous terms, which in the long term could conceivably include selling for residential use.

District Council planning officer Karen Dixon told the Beacon that the land is allocated to a specific purpose in the Draft Local Plan and that an application for a different use would be contrary to the Local Plan and therefore likely to be refused planning permission by Council members.

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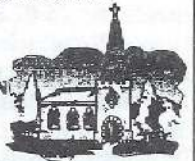
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# Painswick Centre update

We are pleased to report that the long awaited agreement with the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen is about to be finalised which will see the Guild using part of the Painswick Centre as their first headquarters. This will take up a relatively small part of the premises and will include an office and a small permanent exhibition. We are optimistic that the presence of the Guild will increase the number of visitors to Painswick, something that will not only enhance the reputation of the village but also benefit other exhibitions and small businesses. As for the Centre, it will bring in much needed income.

The Guild hopes to open their office in mid April. In the meantime we are, as much as our limited funds allow, carrying out repairs and redecoration aimed at increasing the usage of the Centre and providing proper facilities for community services.

The car park remains a concern as it continues to be used by those who have no right to use this private parking and by doing so deny parking for those who

have paid to use the Centre. We have appealed to people's sense of consideration. This has not worked; we are obliged, therefore, to take stronger action.

The financial situation is gradually improving and our day to day expenditure is within our income. However, we have not been able to build up a fund to deal with the natural deterioration of the building.

Further, it is clear that we shall not be able to make the significant improvements we have identified to make the Centre something that we can all be proud of without a significant injection of capital. Accordingly we are working on a Business Plan which will be the foundation of applications for grants.

Finally, if you have any questions as to what we are doing, or not doing, want to find out what we are about or wish to help us in any way please call me on 812232.

John Stephenson-Oliver, Chairman,  
Painswick Centre Management  
Committee

# Sow seeds for Christian aid!

Seeds are being sown by Painswick's gardeners this month to bring new hope to desperately poor communities in Rwanda, India and Nicaragua. These countries are the focus of this year's Christian Aid Week appeal, and the plants are being produced for sale in the shop that week, 14th to 20th May.

Will you please sow an extra tray (or two!) this year for Christian Aid? Any healthy plants are welcome, but there is always a demand for bedding plants of all kinds, which sell very quickly.

Peter Minall

# Diamond Wedding



John and Kay Richardson who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. John and Kay have lived in this area for over forty years - in Edge for about thirty-six years, and in Painswick for the past four years. They were married in Bournemouth.

# POLICE REPORT

**Incidents: 15.01.00 - 10.02.00**

House Burglaries: Slad 1. Business Premises: Painswick 1. Sheds: Painswick 1. Vehicles: Painswick 5, Cranham 1, Sheepscombe 1, Edge 1. Other: Painswick 6 (theft 3, damage 3), Cranham 1 (theft), Slad 1 (theft).

**Items Stolen from Vehicles:**

Handbag and contents (2), wheels (5), radio cassette, golf balls, mobile phone.

**Items Stolen from Elsewhere:**

Cash, fire extinguisher, garden pots, mountain bike, chicken and foodstuff.

### Reported Incidents:

Eight incidents were reported and one was of value to the police. Thank you.

### Security Improvement Recommendations:

Thieves have taken away insecure items which were left on view in cars and gardens. Please note!

The one house burglary this month was at a house which was alarmed. Although entry was gained, the thief was frightened off when the alarm was activated and nothing was stolen. This proves how effective alarms are. We recommend that you fit one.

We have recovered some property from a house in Stroud which we have been able to return to the owner living in Painswick. This was possible because the items had been postcoded with an ultra violet pen. This again proves the value of marking your property. Mark yours today. There is a comprehensive marking kit available in this police area for you to use and it can be obtained from either PC Gary Power (01452 335674) or Bob Alder (01452 813997).

Police Team & Liaison Group Coordinator

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The Beacon welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local interest. Short letters are more likely to be included. Long letters will be summarised or edited, as will those containing comments that the Beacon considers unsuitable for publication.

**'Care Village' application**

In the latter half of my working life I helped run a national trade charity. Its royal charter enabled it to run purpose-built sheltered housing, nursing homes and give financial assistance where needed. Administration and fund-raising brought me into contact with other charitable institutions and their homes as well as local authority and the private sector.

It was apparent that the really successful schemes provided for the various stages of dependency, from active retirement to a dependency one hesitates to contemplate, on one site, and were designed and managed to the highest standards.

Both Mair and I have visited such a home at Nantwich and though it not my purpose to proselytise on its behalf it is worth recording that a friend of ours who we found unexpectedly to be resident there and at 92 enjoys a full life, drives and is a valued worker for those less able.

When the committee of four undertook on the town's behalf their research it came as no surprise to me that they returned with a clear recommendation which is now before us. I would have been apprehensive had it been otherwise but my experience over a number of years convinces me that if one has to grow old this is the best option and especially if everyone is given the even-handedness we are assured will be the case.

Patrick Daly, Kemps Lane

CARE is the word most used by those who took the trip to Nantwich. How, I wondered, could the Parish Council have made an informed judgement when only two of their members made the effort to go to Nantwich to see for themselves exactly what was on offer for care of the elderly of Painswick from all walks of life.

I have had it suggested that this was another executive style of housing for those that have, and the have-nots would again miss out. How far they were from the truth.

The Gyde House or St Mary's Home is what should be converted to give the people of Painswick a nursing home? Having been to Nantwich I can't imagine anyone would want to end their days in a converted institution if they had the choice of a lovely new purpose-built bedsit or apartment, or two-bed cottage, with all their possessions around them and their friends and family as neighbours, regard-

less of their means; then when they could no longer care for themselves, have the secure knowledge they would be cared for in the nursing home that is run more like a 5-star hotel than an institution.

Keith Cockell is not a developer with a big 'D' but an engineer who has put his considerable expertise into making caring for the elderly an art form. He CARES enormously for the environment, his staff and most of all his residents, and would have been living on site. I am so sorry that in all probability this service has been lost to Painswick for ever. What next, Bovis Homes? Who cares?

Anne Smith, New Street

Gloucestershire County Council is committed to sell and Richmond Healthcare to buy the Stroud Road site, subject to planning approval. Were this refused, the County would be free under its policy for disposal of surplus land to sell to the highest bidder. The risk is therefore of 'farewell care village' and 'golden hello' to a national house builder.

Harold Wood, Kingsmill Lane

Whilst one can understand and sympathise with the NIMBY concerns of some residents, what is the justification and reasoning for our elected Parish Councillors, representing all of the people, to reject the proposals? Do the Parish Council and the general population realise the tremendous opportunity they are throwing away? What about pride, dignity, staying close to one's friends and familiar surroundings, and the chance to choose and enjoy the location of one's dotage!

The current application is for outline planning permission. The only "facts and figures" available are those presented at the public exhibitions, or the information gathered from visiting the similar care village in Nantwich. How many objectors, and indeed how many Parish Councillors, have visited either to determine the true facts? Facts:

\* A large number of people in Painswick have indicated they want and need the range of housing and nursing care being proposed. Are their needs to be ignored or refused?

\* Most of the potential residents who would buy or rent in the care village would vacate large family houses in Painswick, enabling more young families to move into our community.

\* The proposed care community would bring a significant range of employment opportunities into Painswick.

If this opportunity is turned down, how soon before we have a high density (Bussage style) housing development approved for the site?

David and Barbara Harley, Court Orchard

People moving into the Care Village will create homes for young people in Painswick? So said Terry Parker at the January Parish Council meeting.

Does he live in Painswick? Or even on this planet? Hasn't he heard of Widows' Leap? That's what people call the Berry/Hyett Close area. As soon as a house is vacated by one elderly person there are three more queuing up to buy it. One even asserted that these three bedroomed houses are not suitable for families! Get real Terry!

Jane Douglass, Upper Washwell

Joy Shaw of Hale Lane has sent the Beacon a copy of a letter to the Parish Council in which, "in view of the disquiet expressed at the recent Town Hall meeting about the impact of this scheme on a very sensitive site", she asks the Council to consider the possibility of its being transferred to the St Mary's Home site. She believes this will shortly become available and offers advantages of safer access, closer proximity to the village and less environmental impact. [See separate item on St Mary's Home]

Hugh McGregor Ross of Queensmead has sent the Beacon a copy of his letter to the District Council of 21st February in which he draws attention to geological problems at the Stroud Road site. He claims that the site is renowned as unstable ground with slip land (clay which has lost its natural strength) on a steep slope. He says the application has made no mention of this problem at the site, and refers to the 'Encyclopedia of Planning Law' which requires the developer to carry out the necessary tests and works, and the District Council to take this problem into account when deciding on the application.

There is also a letter from Richmond Healthcare's consultants on page 5.

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# RESTHAVEN - A CARE HAMLET ON THE DOORSTEP!

The recent publicity for a new nursing home in Painswick has prompted a number of people to make enquiries about Painswick's nearest existing nursing home, Resthaven, at Pitchcombe, which was founded by Maud Little in the late 1930s.

Maud Little was a remarkable woman. Born in 1890 and brought up in Pitchcombe she spent much of the 1914-18 war as a nurse at Standish Hospital looking after the many wounded soldiers sent there to recover.

Not long afterwards she herself became seriously ill with tuberculosis but in due course recovered, thanks, she fervently believed, to help from the Almighty. In return she felt an irresistible calling (in those pre-NHS days) to establish a Home where others of all ages could benefit from healing of body, mind and soul. She knew just the spot, in a field below Pitchcombe Wood, and persuaded her brother to let her have the necessary land.

In those days there was no AONB, no Stroud District Council and no planners to worry about. Raising money in the 1930s cannot have been easy but her faith was so strong she was sure that if God wanted her to do this He would show the way and, sure enough, when needs arose they were wondrously satisfied from one source or another.

The foundation stone of the chapel was laid in 1937 and Resthaven opened its doors in 1938 as a Registered Nursing Home and for the next thirty or so years "Maudie", as she became known, personally welcomed those of all ages who needed its care and led the team of underpaid and even unpaid staff who provided this. Initially Resthaven was predominantly vegetarian and had its own garden and smallholding supplying organic food grown under the guidance of

By Michael Little

the Soil Association. It has taken another half century for such ideas to catch on in a big way.

Resthaven became a Registered Charity in 1964 and under a succession of managers has developed into a 25-bed home, registered with Gloucestershire County Council and the Health Authority, offering nursing, respite and residential Care and, since 1990, four independent living units in the grounds. Molly Rawcliffe, whom many Beacon readers will have met, retired in 1999 after nine years in charge and her place has been taken by Carole Sankey RMN, who has already made an excellent impression on patients and their families.

Because Resthaven's building and facilities were paid for many years ago and because Resthaven is a charitable company, whose shareholders receive no return on their investment, the fees are still quite modest compared with other homes, though there are constant challenges to be faced including the national shortage of nurses of which we hear so much.

The present Trustees are Dr Marjorie Corley and Dr Margery van Zyl, both retired GPs from Edge; the Revd Canon Geoffrey Bird, former Rector of Edge and Pitchcombe; Derek Grimsley, a retired Unilever executive from Pitchcombe; and myself, who was born there and just keeps going back.

For over sixty years, and especially in

the last ten or so, Resthaven has given a special welcome to Painswickians of whom there are currently several in residence. When possible we always like to help local people though, in the nature of things, we have no control over when vacancies occur and sometimes disappointment is unavoidable if a prospective patient needs a room urgently and cannot wait.

Although purpose-built there is a constant need to update the accommodation to comply with current expectations, e.g. en suite facilities, not to mention increasingly demanding regulations applied by the Inspectorate. It is likely that we shall have to launch a major appeal shortly for funds towards the cost of knocking some of our smaller rooms into larger ones and building a small extension to maintain the overall number.

For years we have been aware of the hopes and aspirations of many Painswick residents for a nursing home within the village and if, against the trend of recent closures, this comes to pass and increases the choice available so much the better for those seeking residential and nursing care in this part of the Cotswolds. Resthaven will never be able to offer the prospect of church, library and shops within a short walking distance. On the other hand our views of the Painswick Valley will be hard to match and if we can continue to offer a friendly, caring atmosphere on a homely scale our rooms will be full for another sixty years.

## 'Hospice at Home' project

For the past ten years Cotswold Care Hospice at Minchinhampton has been doing a wonderful job, caring for patients with life-threatening illnesses and for their families.

After the launch of a highly successful pilot scheme the new Hospice at Home service is now up and running; a bank of nurses working with GPs and community nurses. These dedicated nurses provide up to twenty-four hour care for patients in their own homes, where most of them would rather be. And like all other services offered by Cotswold Care, it is entirely free.

The Painswick Friends of the Hospice are wholeheartedly behind this scheme

and we are sure that you will wish to join us in raising money for this new service, together with all the valuable work already done by the Hospice, in our next fund-raising event. This will be a Fashion Show at the Painswick Centre on Wednesday 29th March at 7.30pm, organised through the generosity of Helen and Pat Graham who run Helen G Fashions in Gloucester Street, Stroud, and Bath Road, Cheltenham. This promises to be an exciting evening, and we do hope you will support us.

Tickets at £7 include light refreshments and a glass of wine and are available at the Painswick Post Office, Londis and Helen G Fashions, Stroud.

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# Taking a back seat

David Ryland writes:

"As from 1st March 2000 the Taxi and Private Hire business which I ran has been taken over fully by Allan Weager and his son Martin. They have assisted me over the past years by dealing with the airport and other distance work, and are known to many of you. I feel fortunate in being able to hand over a business to two people who have maintained, and will continue to hold true, the values which Jean and I set out to achieve when we started business in 1984.

The telephone number 01452 812604 will cease to be a taxi line from this date, but Jean and I can still be contacted on our private line of 01452 812700. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a new advertisement giving both home and mobile numbers where Allan and his son can be contacted.

In conclusion may I thank all those who have supported us over the past years. We enjoyed the work, made so many friends, and will miss sitting next to you."

**BEACON FOOTNOTE:** Many Painswickians will wish to thank Jean and David for the service they have provided, which has often gone beyond the call of duty in helping villagers with their transport and other problems.



Jean and David Ryland

## Cancel the quiz? You can't be serious!

Where are you? After several years of having a 'full house' at the Beacon's Village Quiz Night (and teams reluctantly being turned away), bookings have been very slow this year. We may even have to cancel it if we don't get a few more teams. We have set a deadline of next Wednesday, 8th March, for deciding whether to go ahead, so please get cracking! Either send in the entry form (last month's Beacon, or the form in the letter sent to societies) or contact the editor on 814500. Assuming that we go ahead, it will still be possible to book after next Wednesday but obviously we'd prefer to hear from you as soon as possible.

A reminder: 18th March, Painswick Centre, 7.15pm, teams of four, £12 per team including refreshments, and a jolly good time will be had by all.

## Fashion Show

Maggie Slader, Sally Bateman and Libby Graesser would like to thank everyone who supported the CLIC Fashion Show on 24th February so generously, and would like readers to know that they raised £2000 for CLIC.

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## 'Music for All' at Christ Church

The Cotswold Male Voice Choir has generously agreed to put on a concert for The Haven Trust at 7.30 pm on Saturday 25th March at Christ Church, Gloucester Street, Painswick.

This choir is based in Cheltenham and has become a well known and respected part of the music scene in and around Gloucestershire, where it performs extensively. It has also made many tours throughout the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Netherlands and Eire. Such performances have raised tens of thousands of pounds for charities.

The diverse programme on 25th March will include a blend of secular and religious pieces but with an emphasis on traditional songs and operatic choruses. There will also be a trumpet solo by Neil Roberts and a trombone solo by Jack Smith. The concert will be conducted by Stephen Lea, the Director of Music at The Marling School, Stroud, and the accompanist is Jean Lea who is currently the organist at Holy Trinity Church in Slad.

The congregation of Christ Church adopted The Haven Trust as their annual

charity last year and they are hosting and supporting this concert. For this we are very grateful.

Please join them on March 25th for what I am sure will be a very cheerful musical event and at the same time you will be helping these young families with children under 5 who are in very real distress at the Day Centre of The Haven Trust at 31, Spa Road, Gloucester. Do come!

Tickets at £6.00 each will be available from Mrs Frances Marsh, Mynd House, The Highlands, Painswick, GL6 6XH.

Janet Jenkins

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## Our Blue Peter Bring & Buy

From Ellie Jackson, Lucy Speed and Hannah Whittaker:

"On Friday 28th January the Croft Primary School held a Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale. It was arranged to raise money which would go towards buying equipment for premature babies.

On the day of the sale some of our mums came in and helped set up and run the stalls. We also had a helping hand from Class 5, who brought the bags of stuff over from the cloakroom. Whilst we were setting up, we realised we had too much stuff to sell and had to pile things on top of one another!

It was lovely to see the classes of children coming into the hall with their money

and choosing new toys and presents for their parents. They all looked as though they really enjoyed themselves. The Guides kindly ran a refreshment stall.

At the end of the sale Mr Tucker and Mr Jones helped us clear everything away and pack the left-overs into boxes which were then taken to charity shops in Stroud and the Haven Trust. So not only the Blue Peter Appeal benefited from the sale.

The grand total raised was £205.87, so thank you to everybody who helped on the day and came to buy."

Footnote: Head Teacher Bernard Jones says it was the girls' own idea to hold the Bring and Buy sale and that they did all the planning and motivating.

## Lost ring?

Liz Burge has found a dress ring which may belong to someone who was at a cheese and wine party at her house before Christmas. If you think it is yours, please contact her on 813177.

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As spring approaches why not enjoy Sunday Lunch at The Painswick Hotel, excellent value at £17.50 per person and children of all ages are most welcome (we have a 3 year old ourselves - so we understand!). For the traditionalists Aberdeen Angus Roast Beef is a permanent feature.

Every other day of the week we have our lunch in the Restaurant, or for those wanting something a little lighter, appreciate our light lunch menu in the comfort of the lounge before a roaring log fire.

Plans are advancing for another Gourmet evening on Friday 24th March. This will feature the Rhone wine area and details are now available. If you do not receive regular missives from us call now to have your name put on the mailing list.

## Bronze medals for Painswick Cubs

On Sunday 13th February the Painswick Cub Pack took part in the Stroud and Tetbury District Cub 6-a-side football tournament at Stroud Leisure Centre. Painswick Cubs were one of sixteen teams participating in the competition. We were drawn in League 1 with three other teams and won all of our matches, taking us into the semi-finals. Here we were narrowly beaten by Severnside and went into the play-offs for 3rd and 4th placings, where we beat Whiteshill to take the bronze.

The presentations were made by Ann Larkcom, Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs, to each of the boys.

As the new Cub Scout Leader I feel very pleased with the boys' efforts and results and we look forward to taking part in more District activities over the coming year.

Robert Goddard, Cub Leader

## Right of Way

The section of New Drive between Knapp Lane and Stamages Lane (the grass path connecting these two roads) has now been declared an official public right of way and included on the County Council's Definitive Footpath map. The Parish Council owns and maintains the path.

### \*\* By the way \*\*

A change this month from the local questions. You probably know the rank of that Italian soldier with the mandolin, but could you put these fictional military persons in the order of their rank, highest first? Barbara, Blimp, Benjamin, the model of a modern one, Nym, ... and the one with the mandolin. The answers are on page 17.

By Rambler

## Can you help?

Can any reader give me more information about the Drewett sisters who lived at Butt House (or Court) at the top of Gloucester Street in the 1930s? One of them appears in Howard Beard's archive pictures (page 15).

They taught me dancing at Gyde in the 1920s and I learned from Millicent Semark that they were skilled seamstresses and made all the clothes for the Gyde girls.

They must have had good connections with the Folk Song and Dance Society who were reviving and collecting at the turn of the century. Are there any of a later generation who can tell us more about these interesting sisters?

Robert Norris, 'Cockayne', Loudwater Lane, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 4AL



**Painswick Cubs footballers: Left to right, back row - Richard Goddard, Greg Gwilliam, Ashley Fox, Andrew Hassall. Front - Ben Nicholls, Michael Goddard, William Allan, James Barnett, plus mascot Jonathon Goodard in front.**

## Anyone for tennis?

The new summer season is nearly upon us so here are some reminders for current and new members.

Ladies' team practice and coaching starts on Wednesday 29th March. Interested? Please contact Joan Griffiths on 812804. Men's team practice starts Friday 31st March. Interested? Contact Peter Funnell on 814120. Prospective new members, please telephone Bill Lambell on 823231.

Team tennis is available from the Premier Division to Division 6 in the Gloucestershire Summer League with two boys' teams in the new Rover League. Social tennis starts after the clocks change, providing tennis on three evenings and Saturday afternoons (see the club's new booklet for details).

John Barrus

## Smash hit dance

Shimmering silver surroundings greeted over one hundred people who danced into the night at a successful Millennium Valentine Dance. Red hearts supplemented the decorations in The Painswick Centre.

The excellent atmosphere at this joint venture by the local tennis and badminton clubs was enhanced with the music of 'Jubilee'. This live group ensured the energetic use of the dance floor with little spare space all evening.

The only racquet in sight was as one of the star prizes in the raffle to raise funds for the charity CLIC. The thoroughly enjoyable occasion produced a profit and a donation will be made to The Painswick Centre.

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## League form picks up

Painswick's First Fifteen's disappointing league season has been in sharp contrast with their excellent Tetley Bitter Vase run and that contrast has been difficult to explain. However, with their interest in the Vase now behind them, they have put together several excellent results with a particularly fine win last Saturday (26th February) against league leaders Chosen Hill Former Pupils. Playing at Broadham, Painswick scored two tries, one by Martin Hayward and the other by Steve Vines. Martin converted Steve's try to give the home team a twelve point lead. Somewhat surprisingly, given their superior league position, the visitors failed to get on the scoreboard and Painswick at the final whistle fully deserved their clear-cut victory.

On 19th February, Painswick hosted the Bristol side, Southmead. This was a bottom of the league table clash with victory of crucial importance to both teams. Well into the second half Painswick led by 32 points to 10 but Southmead came back strongly with a

penalty and converted try. To their credit Painswick kept their nerve and there were no further scores. For Painswick, Wayne Lee and Mark Henley each scored two tries. Gary Lightfoot converted Henley's second try as well as kicking a penalty. He also converted a try by Steve Vines.

Painswick United were also in action at Broadham last Saturday when they met Tetbury in the Stroud Junior Combination Cup. The result was a clear victory for the visitors by 35 points to nil.

### Results [(L) denotes league match]

Sat 5 Feb. Cirencester 1st XV 15 Painswick 1st XV 0.

Sat 12 Feb. (L) Ashley Down 1st XV 27 Painswick 1st XV 8. Painswick United 64 Ashley Down 2nd XV 8.

Sat 19 Feb. (L) Painswick 1st XV 32 Southmead 1st XV 20. Southmead 2nd XV 6 Painswick United 32.

Sat 26 Feb. (L) Painswick 1st XV 12 Chosen Hill FP 1st XV 0. Stroud Junior Combination Cup. Painswick United 0 Tetbury 2nd XV 35.

## Sponsored Sahara hike

David Emery from the Painswick Cricket Club and son of Denis Emery from the Painswick Bowling Club has sent the Beacon the following letter.

"Between 18th and 26th March 2000, I will be joining around sixty people trekking across the Sahara Desert in Morocco. We will be hiking 100 kilometres across sand dunes, hills and rocky terrain, where few other than camels have ventured before! The physical challenge is not the only aspect. More importantly, I will be raising money for Macmillan Cancer Relief. The money I raise will enable Macmillan to continue their work with the NHS and others to provide the best care possible for people living with cancer, and their families. Macmillan fund specialist cancer nurses and doctors, as well as buildings for cancer treatment and care, and make

grants to patients facing financial difficulties. All of which makes the lives of cancer patients and their families easier."

David adds that he has to raise a minimum of £1800 and would be grateful for sponsorship. He says that any amount, however small or large, will be gratefully received. He can be contacted on 01452 538612. If any reader would like to sponsor David, cheques should be made payable to Macmillan Cancer Relief and sent to Mr David Emery at 86 Millbrook Street, Gloucester GL1 4BW.

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WELFARE WITHOUT COMPROMISE

*The Beacon commissioned this article as one of a number of special features marking the new millennium. We are most grateful to Elizabeth and Ted Burge, and to the many members of Painswick's churches who assisted them.*

For hundreds and thousands of years, people in this area have 'lifted up their eyes unto the hills' and asked 'From whence cometh my help?'. Many, if not most, have replied 'My help cometh even from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth.' (Psalm 121). The same is true today. In the past there have been times of religious and civil strife, as at the Reformation and during the Civil War, leading to fragmentation of the Church, persecution and deep-seated distrust. There is very little of that amongst Christians in Painswick today.

The most obvious example of change is found the way Christians of most denominations worship together without embarrassment or even surprise. We now have a Revised Common Lectionary, listing agreed Bible readings over a three year cycle for Sundays and major festivals, used throughout the world by Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists, the United Reformed Church, Baptists and others. Services in the vernacular rather than Latin are now accepted, and the roles of the laity, both men and women, have been greatly expanded. The most important recent development has been the Anglican ordination of women to the priesthood which reflects moves towards more imaginative and creative doctrines.

The Act of Uniformity of 1662, with the Government trying to enforce the new Book of Common Prayer, simply had to be followed by the Act of Toleration of 1689. Today's equivalent is found in most service books including the Anglican Alternative Service Book (ASB) of 1980, with even more alternatives likely in the evolving book of (Anglican) Common Worship, due in 2001. One could call these moves the new Uniformity with the Toleration of Alternatives.

The earliest Protestant nonconformity was made patently evident in Painswick about 1655 by the Quakers, The Religious Society of Friends, founded by George Fox. Within two or three years a gift of land from the Loveday family enabled them to set up a Quaker Burial Ground near Dell Farm, since they were forbidden burial in consecrated ground. Well respected Painswickians, such as the Lovedays, were put in jail or heavily fined

*by Elizabeth and Ted Burge*

for professing their faith and refusing to worship in church, and they were even fined for refusing to take off their hats to certain dignitaries. Numbers ebbed and flowed over the centuries until The Friends Meeting House built in 1706 was closed in 1894, having been reduced to one lady and one man, both in their eighties, who did not consider it seemly to continue to meet unaccompanied! After use by the Plymouth Brethren (1928-50), who first met in a room in Vicarage Street 1894, it was reopened for The Society of Friends in 1953, who for a few years had met in the Congregational Church Hall. In the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Friends attract members of all denominations for a service, with breaks for characteristic silences.

Dissenters first met in houses and later had to register their meeting places; for example the former Town Hall was licensed for Congregationalists in 1689, who first met in a house in 1672. A building dated 1656, on the site of Christ Church Gloucester Street, became a Presbyterian Chapel in 1705, and it was rebuilt in 1805 to form the present fine building. It was much restored in 1893 and has a magnificent stained glass window designed by Burne Jones (1898), donated by the Skinner family, and made by the William Morris workshops. A 'Sale of Work' in 1894 raised money by means of 'A Fishing Pond in the Evening' - can anyone explain this? In 1972 Painswick Congregational Church became Painswick

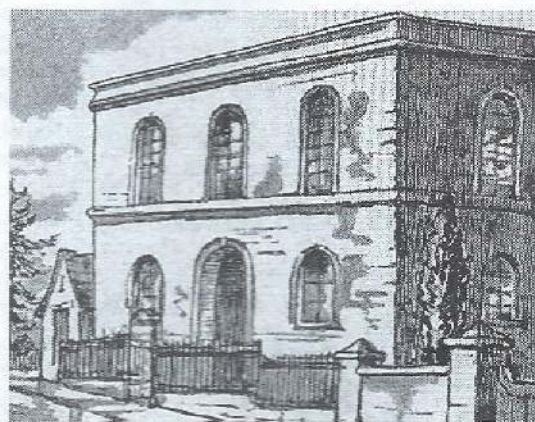
*"reduced to one lady and one man ... who did not consider it seemly to continue to meet unaccompanied ..."*

United Reformed Church (URC) when the majority of Congregational churches joined the Presbyterian Church to form the URC, the first reunion since the Reformation. In 1983 they were joined by the Baptists to form Christ Church. In the nearby Hall, Austerity Lunches are organised by the Churches and others for charities, and here the Christian Aid shop is held annually - another ecumenical activity. This is part of Christian Aid Week and, together with door-to-door collections, raises about £7,000.

A notable member of Christ Church is Hazel Hendry who during the 1980s and 90s collected goods and raised many thousands of pounds for Tear Fund, Christian Aid and other charities by sponsored walks and cycling and other activities.

More recently she has taken many large lorries to Bosnia and Croatia, laden with collected medical supplies, food and much else. Her work has been recognised nationally and internationally.

The Methodist movement started in 1738 when John Wesley, in London, experienced 'an assurance of salvation' and felt compelled to bring the message to others. His brother Charles Wesley, who wrote 5500 hymns, preached in Painswick in 1739 to 'near one thousand gathered in the street'. George Whitefield, also in 1739, preached from the stairs belonging to the schoolhouse, to "over 3000". John



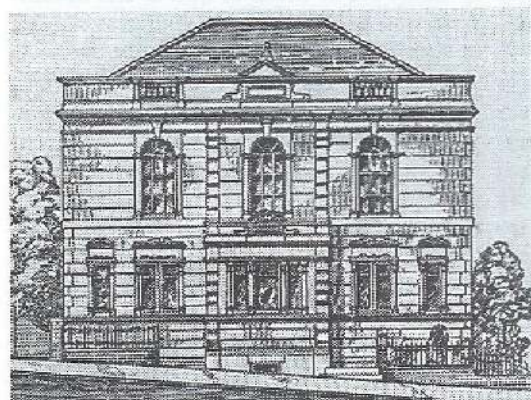
*The Congregational Chapel before the restoration of 1892-3*

Wesley likewise preached on a number of occasions in Painswick between 1743 and 1790. Wesleyan Methodists built a Chapel in New Street in 1806, and Baptists who, it is said, baptised in the Sheepscombe brook, built their Chapel in that village in 1820, the same year as the Anglican St John's Church was built. In 1831 there was a swop - the Wesleyan Methodists went to Sheepscombe, became the Methodists in 1932 and are still there. The Baptists went to New Street and were there from 1831 to 1983, when they linked up with the URC. Their building became an Antique Centre. The Primitive Methodists, established in Painswick by 1829, met in a room in Vicarage Street (which house?) until the 'Ebenezer Chapel' in Bisley Street was built in 1854. In 1932 they became Methodists and used the Bisley Street Chapel until 1964. The pews went to Sheepscombe Methodist Church. Later their building became a Spiritualist Church, founded in Painswick in 1968, and it has been an office for an Estate Agent since 1985.

The commonly available histories of Painswick have little to say about Roman Catholics during and after the Reformation, although there are several lists (1577 - 1780) of 'Catholics of substance', in-



cluding William Rogers of Painswick who in 1680 was destined for transportation to Canterbury (England!) - but the prepared Bill was never passed. Llanthony Priory (later an Abbey) had the patronage of Painswick from about 1118 until 1530 and was suppressed in 1538 - 40. After the Emancipation of Catholics, step by step from 1774 to 1829, there were Catholic meetings and services in Stroud at Beeches Green. Alice Howard came to Castle Godwyn in 1921 and soon sought to establish a Catholic community and church. In 1931 some derelict cottages, stables, a hay loft and a slaughter yard were purchased for conversion, almost all the work being done by Alice's brother Henry and a local stonemason, Jobie Swain. The Church was blessed and dedicated to Our Lady and St Therese in 1934, at which time there were only nine known Catholics in Painswick. Alice Howard asked Ursula Usher, the daughter of Sir James Sleeman, then living at Verlands, to look after the Church, and she did so faithfully until her death in 1990. In 1941 the Church was bombed and out of action for eight months. By 1954 it was rebuilt in the simple style of the Cotswold tradition with a new belfry and main doorway, and reopened in 1956. Here is another example of ecumenical



*Congregational Chapel after restoration*

activity: every Wednesday from 10.15 to 10.30am, silent prayer on a monthly theme is led by members of the several denominations.

The history of St Mary's Church is well documented - the earliest priest in 1086, the oldest part of the present building 1377-1401, the nave 1480, the spire added (or possibly repaired) 1632 and struck by lightning in 1763 and again in 1883 when part crashed into the nave, the South aisle built in 1741, and rebuilt in 1883. The lych gate was added in 1901, built with old beams from the 1819 bell-frame. The South porch was built in 1968.

The fame of Painswick bells goes back to 1686 when the bellringers founded The Ancient Society of Painswick Youths, and added two bells to the existing six. These eight were recast in 1731 by Abraham Ruddall of Gloucester to make ten. Two

more were added in 1821, and at the tercentenary of The Ancient Society a thirteenth was added - a 'flat 7th' to form a perfect octave in the middle of the twelve. In 1993, another bell was added by recasting the 1st and 2nd to make three bells - so now we are fourteen. When record peals were rung lasting up to 11 hours 35 minutes in 1930, with 17,687 changes, the local celebrations included the town band which forced a way through the crowds to deliver ringers to the nearby Falcon Inn.

The churchyard is one of the finest in the country with clipped yew trees dating from 1750-92, which were until recently clipped by hand! They are usually reported as numbering 99, the hundredth being impossible to grow, some say by the malign influence of the Devil! A recent count indicates that there are more than 100 - you may wish to count them yourself! Is the Devil defeated? Together with the many 'slab, ledger or table tombs', and other shapes, the yew trees are one of the chief tourist attractions, another being over 300 beautifully embroidered kneelers in the Church.

The 'Clipping Service' held each year in September, is nothing to do with clipping the yews. The old word 'clipping' (or clypping) means 'embracing' and it is the Church that is embraced by a circle of people right round the outside of the Church. This splendid village function is the time for family reunions, with lots of children, the girls with flowers in their hair and the boys with button holes. They are attracted not only by the ceremonial procession but also by the bun they receive at the end. First held about 1850, it has been annual since 1897.

The fabric of the Church suffered in the Civil War when Painswick was ravaged by troops from both sides, with Royalists in 1644 setting fire to the north aisle, desecrating the tombs, and damaging the north side of the tower where cannonball scars are still visible. One Puritan prisoner in the church scratched on one of the pillars: 'Be bold, be bold, but not to (sic) bold', a near quote from Spenser's 'Faerie Queen'.

The patronage was transferred in 1530 from Llanthony Abbey to the first of a series of individuals until in 1642 it was sold to trustees for the Parish. Sadly the original Deed was lost and a confused period of legal disputes followed. It was taken over by the Lord Chancellor in 1897 to become a crown living. In 1977, Sheepscombe parish was made part of the Painswick benefice, and Cranham was included in 1996.

Two 16th century vicars became bishops, another was removed by Order of Parliament, and his successor was 'removed with violence', 1643! William

Herbert Seddon (1855-1924) had the distinction of resigning in 1890 after only four years as vicar, only to be persuaded to return in 1897 and serve another eighteen years. His wife, Frances Isabel (Perrins), was received into the Roman Catholic Church about 1914, and died at the age of 93 in 1951. They worked well together, and he has been described as 'an ecumenical ahead of his time'.

In 1790 Mary Roberts, a Quaker until dismissed for irregularities, naturalist, feminist and political activist, moved from London to Yew Tree House in Vicarage Street. Having made copious notes relating to the local countryside, she returned to London about 1811. There she wrote 'Annals of my Village' (1831) about the wildlife on hills and valleys around Sheepscombe and Painswick, month by month throughout the year. The accurate detail and wide ranging information are sometimes compared with Gilbert White's 'The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne' (1789).

In the 1880s, a Quaker botanist, James Atkins, retired to Painswick and identified and named the Atkinsii snowdrops which flourish in the Rococo Garden and Painswick House.

Hopes for the future spring from recent and present events. We have noted several ecumenical activities, some of them initiated by 'Churches Together Around Painswick', which are examples of close collaboration yet preserve individual identities. The Gloucester Diocesan Gazette has been combined into the magazine 'Together' covering activities of all the denominations. Each year about ten ecumenical groups meet for Lent courses, and in the last two years Alpha Courses have been introduced. Since 1995 the Anglicans have established a link with the Lutheran Church of St Albani in Gottingen, and there have been several exchange visits. There are continuing talks in the UK about unity between the Anglicans and the Methodists. Discussions on both doctrine and practices are taking place at the highest level between Roman Catholics and Anglicans. More controversial topics concern such acute moral problems as abortion, remarriage of divorced persons, homosexual relationships, and the priestly and episcopal role of women. The very liveliness of these considerations bears witness to the deep and heartfelt thinking and searching within the churches. Above all, we echo Psalm 133, 'Behold how good and joyful a thing it is brethren, to dwell together in unity'.

FOOTNOTE: The Beacon will be pleased to receive any additional information relating to this article. Ted and Elizabeth ask that any errors be pointed out.

## Puffins Coffee Morning

This year The Puffins have chosen to raise funds for new equipment at the Oncology Department in Cheltenham Hospital. One of our members has been having treatment at the unit and has experienced the work going on there. She has also recognised the need for new equipment.

Please come along to the Town Hall on 25th March between 10am and 12 when we will be holding a Coffee Morning. We will also have plants, cakes, raffle, bring and buy, and a very warm welcome for you..

## 'I believe'

Are you wondering... why are there denominations of Christianity? Come and find out during Lent. Each Thursday a representative of a church will give a short history and explanation, including leading a time of worship according to that place. All are welcome, especially newcomers.

**Churches Together Around Painswick:  
Lent Meetings, Thursdays at 7.30pm**

- March 16 The Methodist Chapel,  
Sheepscombe.  
March 23 The Friends Meeting House,  
Vicarage Street.  
March 30 Christ Church, Gloucester  
Street.  
April 6 St James the Great, Cranham.  
April 13 Church of Our Lady and St  
Therese, Friday Street.

## Gardening Assistance Scheme

The Gardening Assistance Scheme, funded by Stroud District Council, will be running from 10th April to 6th October, providing help with essential gardening tasks. The scheme is free to older or disabled people in receipt of a state benefit. Others may also be eligible for help at a small charge. To register for the scheme please telephone the enquiry line on 01452 767154

## A tribute to Vic Hill *by Philip Berry*

As spring approaches, horticulturists in Painswick again look forward to longer and warmer days and the opportunity to prepare the soil for seed sowing. Many of them will I am sure feel a great sense of loss due to the death in January of Vic Hill.

I first met Vic in 1977 when as a grass cutting contractor he asked me to take charge of his lawns at Little Gables as his job now involved travelling to far-flung corners of the globe. It was a great pleasure to work for Vic and his wife Iris, particularly as you felt you worked with them, as a team member, sharing a common goal in maintaining a garden to the highest standards.

Shortly afterwards, whilst working for another resident of the Highlands, who referred to people by profession, rather than name, I learnt that Vic was the "Kraft Cheese Man" who had moved down from London to work in Cheltenham. From the duration of some of his flights you could perhaps have said he had 'spread'.

Despite the extensive travelling, Vic still managed to look after his vegetable patch. Although time was short he didn't do things hurriedly as this wasn't his style. He was a perfectionist who took a great pride in the way he worked and planted with amazing precision. Vic's garden was a reflection of himself, as a man who was immaculately attired and neat in all he did.

When Vic retired he became a very keen competitor in Painswick's two horticultural shows, winning many prizes and certificates. These cards were all proudly displayed on the walls of his garage together with similar awards for home-made wine and for poultry. Vic now kept a number of brightly coloured and exotic fowls to add even more interest to his garden.

Vic joined the committee of the Horticultural Society and held office as Outing Secretary. Always keen to encourage other gardeners he presented the Vic Hill Novices Cup to Painswick Show. He worked very hard to help set up both shows and his keen eye always ensured that rows of trestles were as straight as was humanly possible.

Not too long into retirement Vic suffered a nasty fall from a ladder, sustaining a serious head injury. Recovery was naturally a fairly lengthy process and Iris coped splendidly with a patient who was somewhat frustrated by temporary incapacity.

After a year's absence Vic was back setting up tables for the horticultural Show, a task he carried out faithfully for some years. It was during coffee breaks on these occasions that we learnt of Vic's love of the countryside. He would always ask me if the haymaking and harvest had been good and if the barley would be accepted for malting. He would reminisce, as he smoked his familiar pipe, of his youth in rural Somerset where he helped on the land and enjoyed a drink in local inns when the day's work was done. Vic appreciated the good country food served in those days and in recent years I remember him heading gleefully for the cheese board at our Annual Suppers to partake of the product he worked so hard to promote.

Vic was a splendid person to work with, always kind and courteous, and shared his knowledge generously with others. Over the last couple of years we didn't see so much of him as Iris became ill and then Susan, the youngest of their four daughters, died tragically. With so much to cope with there was a further blow for Vic as he was diagnosed with cancer. He battled on bravely, however, maintaining a positive attitude, hoping for a recovery.

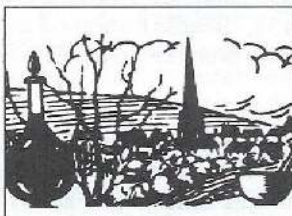
Sadly Vic had a fall in October which resulted in him being in hospital for two months, but was able to come home in December as his daughter Sheila was allowed a generous amount of time off work to care for him. Vic's local doctor and the team of district nurses at the Painswick Surgery did a wonderful job overseeing his well being until he died, as he would have wished, surrounded by his family at Little Gables.

At Vic's funeral held in St Mary's Church on 18th January Richard Purdy gave an excellent address speaking warmly and humorously of their many enjoyable chats "over the garden hedge" and of the mutual interest they had in flying. He mentioned Vic's wartime service as an RAF pilot flying in the Burma campaign. No wonder long flights to the Far East for Kraft were no problem to him!

I should like to conclude this tribute with Richard's words: "We shall miss him sorely. He was a good neighbour and gallant gentleman and we count ourselves fortunate to have enjoyed his friendship for the past few years. We can only offer our condolences to Iris and the family in their very sad loss".

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### OPENING TIMES

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SATURDAY

9.00 - 1.00

## The Ashwell House Day Centre Fifteen years on...

In October this year it will be fifteen years since the Ashwell House Day Centre was started under the auspices of Age Concern. June Crane was the Organiser but after ten years she retired and her place was taken by Pam Bailey.

The purpose of the Day Centre is to give those people who are housebound, and some who live alone, often in isolated locations, a day out of their normal environment, and a chance to meet and talk to others. This often helps the carer by having their dependant come to us and off their hands for some hours. The Day Centre is held in the lounge of Ashwell House due to the generosity of Margaret and Charles Say who allow us to use this lovely room.

We try to make our typical day enjoyable, but active! After arrival, members settle in with a cup of tea or coffee. The 'work-out' follows, interspersed with conversation usually putting the 'world' or at least Painswick to rights. Before members sit down for lunch, we usually enjoy a sherry. This gives us the opportunity to toast members' birthdays and express our best wishes to the lucky lady or man. Lunch follows served by the helpers. In the afternoon, we either make our own entertainment, with games, cards or quizzes, or occasionally we have a visitor who entertains us with a talk or songs. We have twelve members attending the Centre at present, most ferried by our volunteer car drivers.

A number of outings are arranged throughout the year; often a pub lunch, a day on the canal, tea in a helper's garden or visit to a garden centre.

## Additional Curates Society

There will be a coffee morning in aid of The Additional Curates Society on Saturday 1st April from 10am to 12 noon, in the Church Rooms. Entry is 60p inclusive of coffee and biscuits. There will also be a Bring and Buy stall.

Ruth Robinson, ACS Secretary

The Day Centre is held every Wednesday - from 10.30am to 3.00pm - but depends upon the team of volunteers who help at the Centre and car drivers to do the 'fetching and carrying' for the members. There is a shortage of both helpers and drivers and new volunteers are needed to maintain the smooth running of the Centre. Any help would be greatly appreciated - just a few hours per week, or once a fortnight, or even once a month morning or afternoon - any new help would be very welcome.

If anyone is interested, but would like to see what happens, they are welcome to come along to the Centre and meet members and helpers.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the following if you are prepared to give a few hours of your time, or if you would like more information.

Pam Bailey 813503, Pat Walker 813253,  
Anne Kenber 813259

## February wedding



*Ken Carter and Marina Luker who were married at Christ Church Painswick on 19th February. Our photo was taken as the couple were about to enter the Royal Oak for the wedding reception. Marie has worked at the Oak for many years.*

## Painswick Bird Club



At Witcombe reservoirs

On 19th February twenty members and friends had a guided walk around the reservoirs arranged by Tony Metcalf. Due partly to the more open weather of late allowing many birds to feed on the surrounding farmland, numbers on the water were relatively light. Even so, about twenty different species were seen from cormorants to redwings.

Members were surprised to hear of the regular visits by ospreys on migration in March-May and again in August-October when they fish the water and spend the rest of their time hiding in the nearby woods.

Shells of the fresh water mussels were common over the site. Apparently gulls collect them when the water levels are low and drop them from a height onto the road or other hard surfaces to break them. Perhaps this is another example of animals using 'tools in their every day life'?

Please note the AGM details in the Diary.

Malcolm Cooper

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## The Beacon's annual invitation...

Like Oliver, we are coming back to ask for more! Five years ago our treasurer was over the proverbial moon when the number of Beacon subscribers touched 600 for the first time. He jumped even higher with delight recently when a new record was achieved and the number exceeded 650. It is with some trepidation, therefore, that we dare to approach readers again, hoping that you will match or even surpass these figures in the forthcoming financial year.

Most residents are familiar with the nature of the Beacon, but perhaps a brief repetition will be tolerated, especially for the benefit of newcomers to the village. The Painswick Beacon is an independent community newspaper, produced on a voluntary and non-profit-making basis, with the main aim of bringing news of local events - especially the activities of local clubs and societies - to the attention of all Painswick residents.

The Beacon is delivered free of charge to all households in Painswick, and arrangements are also made to deliver to residents of nearby villages who wish to receive the publication, plus postal delivery to those further afield. Being independent, our only means of meeting production costs is the money raised through business advertising and personal contributions. Each is vital to our continued operation, and we are extremely grateful for the tremendous support that has been forthcoming from both sources over the past twenty-two years.

Readers will find an addressed envelope (containing a payment slip)

enclosed with this issue. If you wish to subscribe for 2000-1 please use these to send your subscription. Either post/deliver it to our Treasurer, or hand it in at the counter in Painswick Post Office. If you mislay the slip and envelope, simply write your name and address on a card, and place it with your subscription in an envelope addressed to the Beacon Treasurer at Longhope, Blakewell Mead, Painswick, GL6 6UR.

We must stress that there is no obligation whatsoever to subscribe and that all Painswick households receive the Beacon regardless of whether they do subscribe. Nor is there a set amount - we are grateful for any contribution, however small or large. Readers sometimes ask for guidance, and all we can say is that the printing costs work out at about 40p per copy (i.e. £4.80 per year) and that the average subscription is above £3. We do, though, have specified rates for postal delivery to cover the high costs of postage and envelopes; please contact our Distribution Coordinator Arthur Lock (813565) for more details. (However, for ex-residents who have gone into residential care we mail the Beacon free of charge.)

As a small token of our gratitude, we offer subscribers a discount on personal advertisements ('mini-ads') and also enter them into a prize Christmas draw.

Once again we would like to express our thanks to all who support us - subscribers, advertisers, our team of distributors, and all who take the time and trouble to send us articles for publication.

## Crisp advertising

The picture (February Beacon) taken at the Children's Millennium Party of the Walker's crisp bag held by me was just chance. I was not encouraging a walk - or anything else. But it is an opportunity to remind readers that tokens from Walkers crisps and The Times Newspaper are being collected by the Croft School to get free books. The scheme continues until 8th April. Tesco vouchers for computers are also welcome.

Jane Otway

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## Chance meeting



John Goddard enjoys a close encounter with one of the legendary Beverley Sisters ('Babs', we believe). John's alibi is that it was a chance meeting when he took a friend to view a property in Gloucester and discovered the singer doing a publicity exercise for the developer.

## TOURIST OFFICE

The Tourist Office will be opening on 18th April for the summer season, and I do need more volunteers to man the office so that we are able to open for the same hours as in previous years.

If you have some time to spare just once a week or once a month and like meeting people this is a very enjoyable way to pass the time. Last year there were over 5000 visitors to the office and all the questions asked were answered. We deal mostly with questions asked of the Painswick area and the Cotswold Way.

If you think that you would be interested in helping in the office please telephone me, Terry Causon, on 01452 813506 when I can give you more information.

Terry Causon

## London coach

A few seats are still available on the coach to London on Wednesday 15th March, leaving Stamages Lane car park at 8.30am and returning from London (Trafalgar Square) at 6.30pm. The fare is £9.

Bookings (cash or cheques made 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).

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## A day out to Lambeth Palace

Thursday 11th May

For the first time in its history, Lambeth Palace will be open to the general public during the year 2000. The palace is part of the 'String of Pearls' Millennium Festival in which a number of historic or important sites and buildings on the banks of the River Thames in London not normally open to visitors will be made accessible to the public.

Our timed entrance to Lambeth Palace is 12.45. The tour lasts one hour and finishes in the marquee, where there is a gift shop and a restaurant area serving light refreshments. The afternoon is free - why not get a bird's eye view of London on British Airways Millennium Eye - for bookings telephone 0870 5000600 - or perhaps Tate Modern will be open by then, or just stroll along the Thames.

The coach leaves Sheepscombe at 8.15am, Painswick at 8.30 and the Royal William at 8.45. Departure from London is at 6.30pm. The total cost is £12 (cheques payable to A and B Lucas please). Tickets are selling quickly - early booking is recommended!

For further information or booking please contact Barbara or Arthur Lucas at Cockshoot House, Sheepscombe, GL6 7QY; telephone/fax 812281.

### By the way... (see page 10)

Answers: The very model of a modern  
Major-General (Gilbert and Sullivan);  
Colonel Blimp; Major Barbara (George  
Bernard Shaw); Captain Correlli (Louis de  
Bernieres); Corporal Nym (Shakespeare);  
Private Benjamin (in a film of that name)

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## Painswick 100 years ago

Dr Hartnell-Beavis, who was formerly connected with Stroud Hospital, was about to commence practice in Painswick. Dr Beavis had been in South Africa and was on his return journey with a number of wounded soldiers in his care. His mother, Mrs Hartnell-Beavis, and her family would be taking up residence in Falkland House, Gloucester Street. It was being said that Painswickians need not be afraid to fall ill because in the course of four days there would be no less than four doctors in Painswick. Dr W Balfour Fergusson retained his position as leading practitioner in the town, and in addition to Dr Beavis a couple of other gentlemen intended to "try their luck". Dr William McCall had taken up residence in Gloucester Street while it was rumoured that Dr Mason would also solicit patronage.

At Stroud Police Court, Charles Webb, butcher of Painswick, pleaded guilty to having in his possession for use in his trade three weights which were "false and

unjust". He was fined 2s 6d. David Dixon was similarly charged in respect of four weights but he pleaded not guilty. Evidence, however, was against him and he was fined 2s 6d with costs.

All persons with any claim against the estate of Eleanor Catherine Jones, late of 'Gwynfa', spinster, who died on 17th January 1900, were invited to send particulars to Little and Mills of Stroud.

There was thanksgiving at the Parish Church to Almighty God for the relief of Ladysmith. Mr T E Peters read a telegram announcing the event to the schoolchildren and 'God Save the Queen' was sung with great enthusiasm. In the evening the Painswick Band paraded the streets in honour of the event. "General White" superintended the firing of cannon, including five pieces of "field artillery". Rejoicing continued on Saturday evening when the field artillery again made echoes around the town.

On the 16th Spring & Son held an auction of three lots. Lot 1 was the freehold of the Woolpack Inn at Slad, as instructed by Mr Thomas Selwyn, Trustee of the late Richard Bond. It was described as stone built and slated comprising entrance passage, small bar, kitchen and back kitchen, sitting room, four bedrooms and excellent wine and beer cellar. The outbuildings included stable, piggery and WC. It was later reported that the Inn was bought for £1,175 by Stroud Brewery Company. Lot 2, consisting of six fully paid-up shares of £2-10s-0d each in the Painswick Gas Light & Coke Co Ltd, was sold for £1 per share.

Residents were interested to learn that the water proposed to be utilised as Painswick water supply was "exceedingly pure, gives no evidence of sewerage or other pollution and is well suited for a town supply".

the memoir of  
a lad growing up  
in Painswick in the 1940s

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Jeremy Menuhin

## Jeremy Menuhin opens Music Society's concert season

The brilliant pianist Jeremy Menuhin is making a return visit to open our Millennium season of concerts in St Mary's church on Saturday 25th March, at 3pm. Jeremy plays with many leading orchestras and chamber groups throughout the world as well as appearing as a soloist. He gave a wonderful concert for us in 1997 and we look forward to his programme of Schubert and Beethoven sonatas.

Tickets for this concert and the rest of the season may be obtained from Hywel James, Canton House New Street tel 812419, or the Shetland Shop.

Naomi Dunn

ing in Morning Assembly. Staff and pupils left assembly making such comments as "That was amazing".

The Schubert Ensemble then played to an audience of pupils from Marling, Archway and Stroud High. They interspersed their playing with discussion about the music and their work, inviting questions from the audience. A good dialogue ensued. They included some modern works and confessed that they too found some of them difficult at first. They held their audience entranced for about an hour.

The rest of the morning was spent in very fruitful coaching of the quartets and trios from the three schools, the final outcome of which we shall be able to hear on the evening of 29th March at Stroud High School, 7.15pm. Tickets are available from the Painswick Music Society (Hywel James, 812419) and from the three schools.

Clare Haynes

## Beacon Singers' concert

This year the Beacon Singers will again be holding their Easter Concert at St Mary's Church. It is on Good Friday, 21st April, at 7.30pm, when they will perform Fauré's Requiem.

There is no admission charge, but there will be a retiring collection.

This magnificent work is definitely worth hearing, so if you are unable to come on Good Friday there will be a performance on Sunday 26th March at 6.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Stroud.

## Music Society's Schools' Project

The first very successful stage in Painswick Music Society's School's Project took place on 18th February at Stroud High School. The Schubert Ensemble of London started the day by play-

## And Yehudi Menuhin remembered at Painswick Music Appreciation Group

Yehudi Menuhin, famous violinist and idealistic humanitarian citizen of the world, a legend in his lifetime, died last year and it was therefore fitting that we were treated to a review of his life. On 17th February, Pat Burrows presented excerpts from famous recordings to a large audience, in tandem with Maurice Maggs who filled in with the 80-year old maestro's video. From child prodigy of genius to world famous adult musician who combined technical virtuosity with artistry of an intense emotional and spiritual kind, to orchestral conductor in his later years - we heard and saw it all. Not only classical music: Bruch, Elgar, Mendelssohn and Beethoven violin concertos, but also illustrations of his musical broad-mindedness and versatility, playing gipsy music, joining up with Stephan Grapelli in jazz and Ravi Shankar in Indian music, it continually fascinated us. An evening to savour.

Those of us who went to hear the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in the Cheltenham Town Hall on 3rd February might have left with differing views on the programme, but none regretted the visit. Whilst Schoenberg's "Song of the Wood Dove" and Berg's Violin Concerto might not have been to everyone's taste, there was unanimous enjoyment of Mahler's Fourth Symphony with its serene song finale.

To come: on 16th March Robert Hales will talk about Gloucestershire's Hubert Parry's later works and his significant contribution to The Three Choirs Festival. Tickets for our trip to Oxford on 23rd March to hear the Welsh National Opera's 'Barber of Seville' are now sold out but there is a waiting list (Anne Leoni, 812521).

Ralph Kenber

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## Spring Is In The Air Before Inspector Calls! Queen Victoria To Visit Painswick?

'Spring is in the air!' cries The Most Organised One with surprising passion, interrupting my concentration as I compose this article. For a fleeting moment, something stirs within me.

'Spring, my beloved? You mean spring as in spring chicks, gambolling lambs and young men's fancies?'

'I mean spring as in the spring that's just sprung off the new DIY garage door closer gadget that you're supposed to have spent all last week-end DIYing,' she continues. 'The garage door has just DIYed itself closed and nearly guillotined the car with me in it. You really are hopeless: why

do you never read the instructions?'

'Because, darling angel, they're always in Serbo-Croat or Korean. And anyway half the fittings were missing...' The MOO storms off muttering 'I may as well do the job myself', which, of course, she does in less than five minutes.

*Spring is in the air!*, by a strange coincidence, also happens to be the title of the next sparkling PaDS event on Saturday, 1st April at the Painswick Centre. Starting at 3pm, the afternoon will burst with humour and passion, poetry and prose, all sprinkled with a little April foolery. Designed for all those that are spring

chickens at heart, it will all be rounded off with a sumptuously scrumptious cream tea, complete with homemade scones! Can't you just feel the sap rising? Admission will be by programme, available from 18th March from Pauline Foreman (phone 813379) or Jean Burgess (812167).

Meanwhile, rehearsals are now well underway for the May production of J B Priestley's classic, *An Inspector Calls*. Director Gill Cox tells me that the play is a 'set book' on school syllabuses and consequently PaDS is offering a workshop to any schools interested. Don't kids today just have all the luck? For the rest of us, there will be four performances at the Painswick Centre on 18th, 19th and 20th May, including a matinee on the Saturday. Tickets will cost a mere £5.00 for Thursday evening and Saturday matinee performances and £6.00 for Friday and Saturday evenings. You can even get £4.00 tickets if you snuggle together in parties of ten or more. Start snuggling now!

Incidentally, something the Inspector might like to investigate when he calls is the Mystery of the Missing Pine Table and Blanket Box. These two fine items of furniture, stars of the last PaDS production, mysteriously went missing from the Centre stage sometime between 5th December and New Year. Anyone able to help with enquiries should contact Kevin Parker on 814483.

Peering dimly further into the future, PaDS has started planning for Victorian Market Day. Even now, our Head of Protocol is in very high level negotiations to secure a gracious visit from Her Majesty Queen Victoria! It is hoped that Her Majesty will be amused by the successor to last year's Great Automatic Joke Machine, namely a 'What The Butler Saw Machine', which PaDS technical engineers are in the process of restoring to its original Victorian splendour.

What a packed PaDS programme! Can you resist joining us?

Jack Burgess, PaDS  
<http://freespace.virgin.net/louis.n>

## The sanatorium in the woods

The February meeting of the Painswick Local History Society was an unusual one in that the speaker and the subject of the talk were not those shown in the programme. Mr Amaury Blow, who had been due to speak about the Painswick Manorship Estate, had had an accident and was unable to attend; fortunately, and to the great relief of the Programme Secretary, a member of the Cranham Local History Society, Mrs Janet Whitton, stepped into the breach to give a talk on the history of the Cranham sanatorium.

During the 19th century tuberculosis was rife, mainly due to the damp working and living conditions of the time, and was treated by herbal medicine and quack remedies. In 1898 a doctor from Cheltenham, Dr Pruen, and his partner, Dr Hartnell, purchased land in Cranham Woods to build a sanatorium to provide the new treatment for tuberculosis - exposure to fresh air. Timber chalets were built for the patients and staff and there was a revolving summerhouse so that the patients could enjoy the sun throughout the day. Thirty-one patients could be accommodated and were charged four guineas (£4.20) per week. More chalets were built after Dr Arthur Hoffman took over the lease of the sanatorium in 1912. He

was joined by his son, Dr Geoffrey Hoffman, in 1915. They developed the area around the Red House so that, by 1923, the sanatorium could treat 120 patients. The timber buildings of the original sanatorium were sold and at least two are still in use today: one in the Whiteway colony, the other at a farm in Sheepscombe.

Some famous literary persons were treated at Cranham. James Elroy Flecker wrote four poems while he was there and George Orwell completed '1984' during his stay. Orwell commented on the quiet and leisurely atmosphere at Cranham and noted that the patients had earphones to listen to the radio, which was usually tuned to the Home Service!

The sanatorium played an important part in the life of Cranham village. It provided work for cooks, cleaners and gardeners and was the hub of the social life of Cranham through dances, whist drives and Christmas parties. There was a flourishing bed-and-breakfast trade to cater for relatives visiting the patients and a taxi service from the bus stop at Cranham Corner to the sanatorium.

The general improvement in living conditions and the introduction of effective drugs reduced the incidence of tuberculosis and in 1956 Cranham Sanatorium was closed. Mrs Whitton concluded her most interesting and entertaining talk with this thought-provoking question; as the incidence of tuberculosis is rising again, will there be a sanatorium again in Cranham Woods?

The next meeting of the Society will be in the Croft School on Tuesday, March 21st, at 7.30 pm. Two members of the Society, Barbara Blatchley and David Archard, will give a talk on 'Painswick Pubs, Inns and Alehouses'.

Gwen Welch

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## Senior Circle travels by train and time machine

At the time of year when holiday brochures come crashing through the letter box, Trevor Radway's timely visit to the Senior Circle on 28th January must certainly have whetted the appetites of the more adventurous amongst our members. Trevor Radway is not only a railway enthusiast but a traveller who enjoys a challenge. We were treated to a most interesting talk about a journey from London to Hong Kong in 1989 when communism was still the order of the day in Russia and the world still preoccupied by events in China's Tianaman Square.

The journey began at Victoria Station, then Dover, Paris, Cologne, West Berlin and Poland to Moscow where he and his wife spent four days looking around.

The next leg of the journey to Siberia on an 18-coach train was certainly an experience. The Radways fortunately travelled first class (including food) and had a compartment to themselves which meant reasonable seating whilst scenery-watching by day. The dining car, considered of a high standard by Russians, was very basic. Some passengers had brought sufficient provisions for the five-day journey whilst others had to rely on such food as the few and far between platforms could provide. Three young girls staffed the carriages and battled constantly with passengers whilst persistently straightening corridor carpets and closing net curtains, so blocking the view.

In Eastern Russia smoke poured from tall chimneys. Timbered houses with TV aerials were located near the railway tracks but, away from there, habitation became scarcer and the landscape more and more barren. The railways work on Moscow time and the difference of five hours locally could prove disastrous! Outer

Mongolia looked very inhospitable that September with miles and miles of nothing covered with snow. On to Ulan Bator where a splendid green train with red and orange markings made a cheerful contrast to the white landscape. It was here, at 2am, the whole train was lifted bodily into the air for a wheel change - the track gauge in Russia being 5'3 and in China only 4'8.

And so on into China with a glimpse of the Great Wall, Beijing and a visit to Tianaman Square - ten times the size of our recreation field - just two months after the rising. Here, the authorities tried very hard to show the outside world that all was back to normal. From there to Hong Kong, over the Pearl River, changing landscape and sub-tropical temperatures. It was in Hong Kong that our intrepid travellers tasted fresh milk for the first time in six weeks.

On 11th February, we took a very different look at life in the company of Hugh McGregor Ross who seems quite determined to face the new millennium with hope and confidence.

Hugh is quite certain that there will be no large conflicts as we had in the last century. Statesmen have all come to realise that such wars bring financial ruin and environmental tragedies. Even with forty minor wars since the Second World War, the limiting of the arms trade, the ban on land mines and the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty will see an end to such conflicts. The increasing awareness of the environment amongst the children of today will reap great rewards when those

children become the governments of tomorrow. The World Conference in Brazil was an international event which aired many problems and achieved positive results.

People are on the move bringing a wider outlook on life - every day twenty jumbo jets each with 350 passengers travel between India and Europe and that's an awful lot of people.

Hugh Ross found much encouragement in the field of medicine and he also holds great store by public spiritedness, of "whistle blowing" often to the detriment of the "blower" as in the case of the Dutchman in Brussels who drew attention to troubles in the EC resulting in the resignation of fifteen commissioners. The saga of genetically modified foods and Monsanto is more proof that people are beginning to speak up. People Power has brought the supermarkets to take notice of customer needs, and organic foods, which Hugh obviously puts high on his agenda, are becoming more readily available.

And whilst we were all looking on the brighter side of life, we in Senior Circle were being used as guinea pigs. Pat Daly and a sound engineer were trying out several types of microphones for possible use in the Town Hall. Mr Hubble, who brought along all this equipment, became so engrossed in the talk that he stayed to the end. Apparently he was agreeably interested - and not only with the success of his trials.

Daphne Hudson

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## Conservation Society's AGM

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st March in the Church Rooms at 7.30pm. Formal notice is on its way to members, but others will be most welcome to come along and join that evening; it is the evening when subscription renewal falls due.

As in previous years, the business part of the meeting will be kept to as short a period as possible, and be followed by our traditional break for chat and light refreshments.

Our distinguished guest speaker this year will be Ian Stainburn, Resident Architect of Gloucester Cathedral. We look forward to hearing about projects of varying type and scale with which he and his colleagues have been associated across the years. This should give us an intriguing insight into the difficulties associated with conservation of the largest and most significant building in this county of ours.

Leslie Brotherton

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# The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 1st April 2000

March			
6th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Mothers' Union	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
7th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
	PCMS: What is the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary - Mr R J M Walker	Church rooms	8pm
8th	Conversational French Classes (Advanced) - Wednesdays Conversational Italian Classes (Intermediate) (Some places still available for both classes)	Library Rooms " "	9.30 - 11am 11.30am - 1pm
	Horticultural Society: Roses - Thomas Sanday (Director, Sanday Roses Specialist Nursery, Almondsbury)	Town Hall	7.30pm
10th	W.I. Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
	World Book Day at Painswick Library	Library	2pm - 5pm
	Senior Circle: At the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games - Roddy Jaques	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 11th	Antiques and Collectors Fair	Painswick Centre	10am - 4pm
13th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Tennis Club	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
14th	Mothers' Union: The work of the Chaplain's Office in Eastwood Women's Prison	Church Rooms	2.30pm
15th	Painswick Probus Meeting: Churchill - A Tribute - Bob Berry	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Wives' Fellowship: Home Safety	Christ Church Hall	8pm
16th	W.I.: Beyond the Antarctic Circle - Jane Otway	Town Hall	2.30pm
	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: 'Parry in Gloucestershire' - Robin Hales	Town Hall	7.30pm
18th	Painswick Beacon Village Quiz Night Tickets £12 per team of four. Bookings/Enquiries to the editor, 814500	Painswick Centre	6.45 for 7.15pm
19th	<b>COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Postbox in New Street</b>		
20th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Mr & Mrs Arthur Lock	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
21st	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
	Painswick Local History Society. Barbara Blatchley and David Archard: 'Painswick Pubs, Inns and Alehouses'	Croft School	7.30pm
	Painswick Conservation Society AGM and Talk: Ian Stainburn, Resident Architect, Gloucester Cathedral	Church Rooms	7.30pm
22nd	Painswick Pre-School Playgroup. Coffee Morning	Town Hall	10am - 12
23rd	<b>DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Postbox in New Street</b>		
	Painswick Music Appreciation Group Opera trip - The Barber of Seville - Welsh National Opera	Apollo Theatre, Oxford	



23rd	Painswick Bird Club AGM: Talk - Spring Birds and Returning Swallows - Peter Philip	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Painswick Valley Group AGM - all Friends of Painswick Valley welcome.	Town Hall	7.30pm
24th	Senior Circle: A Canadian's Impressions of Living in England - Bob Shea	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 25th	Painswick Puffins Coffee Morning/Bring & Buy in aid of the Oncology Department at Cheltenham Hospital	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
	Mothers' Union Lady Day Festival - Speaker, Mrs Pat Harris	Gloucester Cathedral	11am
	Painswick Music Society Concert: Jeremy Menuhin, Piano	St Mary's Church	3pm
	Music For All : Cotswold Male Voice Choir Concert in aid of The Haven	Christ Church	7.30pm
27th	Austerity Lunch: Hostess - Miss Pauline Lamont	Christ Church Hall	12.15-1.15pm
29th	Painswick Probus Meeting: Members Recall, followed by informal lunch	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Dress Show in aid of Cotswold Care Hospice new Home Care Project	Painswick Centre	7 for 7.30pm
	Wives' Fellowship: Age Concern	Christ Church Hall	8pm
	Theatre Club outing to Cheltenham.	The Falcon	6.45pm
30th	Senior Circle Coach Trip to Newent & Dymock to see Daffodils with W.I. Tea at Dymock	Meet at Falcon	1pm
<b>April</b>			
Sat 1st	<b>APRIL ISSUE OF THE PAINSWICK BEACON PUBLISHED</b>		
	Coffee Morning in aid of Additional Curates Society	Church Rooms	10am to 12
	"Step into Spring" PaDS presents an afternoon of poetry and prose, with a cream tea. Tickets £3.50. Tel: 812167/813379	Painswick Centre	3 - 5pm
2nd	Grannies Attic Sale	Town Hall	11am - 4pm

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### HAMPTONS' PROPERTY REPORT

Hamptons International expands even further with a new office opening in Oxford on March 1st, making a total of 58 offices including 16 within London itself. Opening in Oxford enables us to offer a complete service out from our London offices through to the Cotswolds and Bath.

Here at our local office we are experiencing a very busy time with a lot of new instructions and a great deal of viewings. We are happy to offer a range of interesting properties including Highgrove Barn - a conversion of real quality

situated in an idyllic setting with one acre. Another beautifully presented property is Quietways Cottage in The Highlands where the current owner has totally refurbished the property. Bopoto in Slad is a 1970s built contemporary property in 2.5 acres of wonderful garden and paddocks. 1 Hyett Close has already been sold subject to contract in just over one week. We have many other properties in Sheepscombe, Cranham and Painswick which we are selling on a low key basis - all over £300,000. This leaves our cupboard rather bare in the £150,000 - 250,000 bracket which is the most popular price range for a lot of our applicants. Hence a race for Mead End in Cotswold Mead which has recently gone under offer after some hectic bidding.

In the pipeline we shall shortly be offering seven new unique town houses which will be converted from the current Painswick Squash Club. The marketing of this is due to start in April when we shall have full details.

All particulars of any of the above houses are available from the Painswick Office.



## The WI glimpses opium country

Nora Jones, a Painswick WI member, was celebrating her 90th birthday on the day of our February meeting. Owing to family commitments she was unable to be with us, so everyone signed a birthday card to accompany the plant of bright pink begonias to be taken to Nora after the meeting.

Members were gratified to hear that a beautiful blackwork cushion stitched by Nina Harris had been accepted for the WI Millennium Craft Spectacular to be held at Tatton Park in Cheshire in May.

Mr Roger Horsfield, speaker for the afternoon, is a former teacher and school inspector. Now he leads groups of tourists on sightseeing visits abroad, having himself visited twenty-five countries to date. "This is the best screen I've had in all my WI talks", began Roger on seeing the Town Hall screen.

Declaring Thailand to be an ideal place for a holiday, he showed a slide of his party enjoying lunch in the open, in brilliant sunshine.

After spending three and a half days in Bangkok, among the opulence of wide streets where large modern buildings stood side by side with strange, beautifully-shaped, traditional ones, the party moved northward by train towards Changmai. Trains, coaches and elephants provide the transport in Thailand, said Roger.

At one stop en route he photographed an enormous tree recently pushed down

by an elephant; at another there was a group of water buffalo in a field. "They are extremely dangerous", he was warned. There was a snake charmer in the street, with two writhing snakes.

Crocodiles were noticed swimming in a river. Nearby was a market stall selling nothing but crocodile shoes dyed in bright colours: reds, greens, blues, yellows. Fresh vegetables and fruit on another stall brought more colour to the scene, as did the flower stalls. One vendor offered quails' eggs, and another was selling baskets. All the stallholders seemed to be smiling: it was noticeable.

Moving on, our speaker visited a school, where he found the children having their relaxation period: a forty minute rest on mattresses on the floor. Outside a craftsman working on the pavement was fashioning jade ornaments. The nearby temple, with its roofs, pinnacles and golden statues, was truly impressive.

Reaching the north of the country, with Burma and China ahead of him, Roger felt he was in no-man's land; opium reigned supreme, though people still smiled. Children were curious and interested. The houses were thatched and built on stilts. Our speaker met an opium addict, lying on his couch, smiling broadly. He spends each day in an opium dream, while his wife does the work in the fields. It wouldn't do in the WI!

Dorothy Binns

## Horticultural Society's Annual Show

Just a quick look at new classes for the Show, to be held on Saturday 9th September. The classes may require some time for preparation.

In the Decorative Section the three exhibits to be displayed in niches will be as follows:

- 'What a Celebration' - title to be shown.
- 'From the Shrubbery' - featuring foliage and berries only.
- 'Pot et Fleur' - using pot plants and fresh flowers.

### Non-niche exhibits:

- 'Simply splendid' - using 7 blooms

and foliage (18" x 18")

- 'Food for thought' - in a kitchen container (18" x 18")
- 'The new arrival' - petite, not to exceed 9".

### For the Junior Section:

- 'A miniature scarecrow'
- 'An internally decorated jam jar'
- 'An externally decorated flower pot'
- 'A paper or cardboard house' (max 15cm square)
- 'An animal face mask'

### Handicraft Section:

- 'An evening bag'
- 'A child's bib'
- 'A jewel box'
- 'A sleeveless garment'
- 'A set of three wine coasters'
- 'A picture using shells'
- 'A greetings card, hand-painted in watercolours'
- 'A photograph of an unusual tree'
- 'A photograph of a water scene'

Further details from Philip Berry, 813227

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# The Personal Column

## Welcome

We welcome GRAHAME and JULIA MUNDELL to Woodbury, Vicarage Street;

also the ELDRIDGE family to Court Barn, Stroud Road,

and TOM BOURNE who has moved into Dozmary Cottage, Vicarage Street.

## Farewell

We are sorry to say goodbye to ROS and MIKE LITTLE who have moved to Weston-Super-Mare;

and to PETER, SUE, JAMES and EMMA BARRETT who have moved from Dozmary Cottage, Vicarage Street, to Tirley.

## Change of House

SOMERSET and HÉLÈNE MOORE have moved to the New House Flat in Friday Street. They have also bought The Old Passage Inn at Arlingham which will be opening for summer suppers by the river in due course.

JOYCELYN and GEORGE WARREN have moved to Laneside, Queensmead, from Sheepscombe;

and JANE DOUGLASS and her sons have moved to 7 Berry Close from Upper Washwell.

## Ruby Wedding

Congratulations to KATHLEEN and IVOR DICKS who will have been married forty years on 5th March. Love from their daughters and their families.

## Baby

Congratulations to SUSIE and BOB on the birth of their daughter Alice Rosie on 4th February, a second grand-daughter for Jenny and Phil Oakley and second great-grandchild for Nora Jones.

## Diamond Weddings

Congratulations to PHYLLIS and FRED ARTHUR of Vicarage Street who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 12th February. Love from the family.

And to JOHN and KAY RICHARDSON of Knapp End, New Drive, who also celebrated sixty years of marriage last month.

## Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of DIANA CHARNOCK-SMITH, AGNES GYDE, 'STEVE' STEPHENS, JOAN FORD, PHILIP BOUCHER, JANET ROBERTS and JESSICA FITZWILLIAMS. (According to the national press, there will be a thanksgiving service in Painswick for Jessica Fitzwilliams on a date to be announced. There was a private funeral in Ireland.)

## Weddings

Best wishes for their future happiness to MARINA LUKER and KEN CARTER who were married at Christ Church on 19th February;

and congratulations to JASON MUSTY (son of Carolyn and Brian Musty) and SHELAGH APPLEBY who were married in Swindon on 12th February.

## 90th Birthday

Congratulations to FRED PEARCE who was 90 on 27th February.

## Get Well Soon

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to FRED ARTHUR, JUNE STANGROOM, ALICE PLAYLE, FRANK ADLAM, REGGIE MERRYWEATHER and PHILIP HULME.

## Did You See?

NORMAN RAMPTON was on HTV West recently, being interviewed at the opening of the new bowls centre at Brockworth. Norman played a major role in planning this new leisure complex.

'Thank you' letters are on page 17.

## THE PAINSWICK BEACON

### Next Issue

Publication Date  
**SATURDAY 1st APRIL**

Items for publication to Jillie Speed\*,  
The Old Carriage House, Edge, by  
**SUNDAY 19th MARCH**

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton,  
Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by  
**SUNDAY 19th MARCH**

Business adverts: Contact Liz Fisher,  
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**THURSDAY 16th MARCH**

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey,  
14 The Croft, by  
**THURSDAY 23rd MARCH**

\* Articles for publication, and other items for the Beacon Committee, may also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in New Street (next to the telephone kiosk).

Items for publication are welcomed on computer diskette (returned to you after use) or by e-mail to:  
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In all cases please give your address and phone number. E-mail messages received by the copy deadline will be acknowledged on or before that date.

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