

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 23 No. 6

September 2000

## Work to start on Gyde House conversion

Work is expected to start soon on the conversion of Gyde House, following an announcement by the housebuilders Wainhomes. This former National Children's Home and Coral Atkins Children's Home is being converted into nineteen apartments and town houses plus a lodge house.

The development will provide spacious two-bedroom units, and prices will commence at £200,000 for the smaller apartments. The units are being marketed by Hamptons International and more details can be obtained from their Painswick office. The first units are expected to be available in the spring.

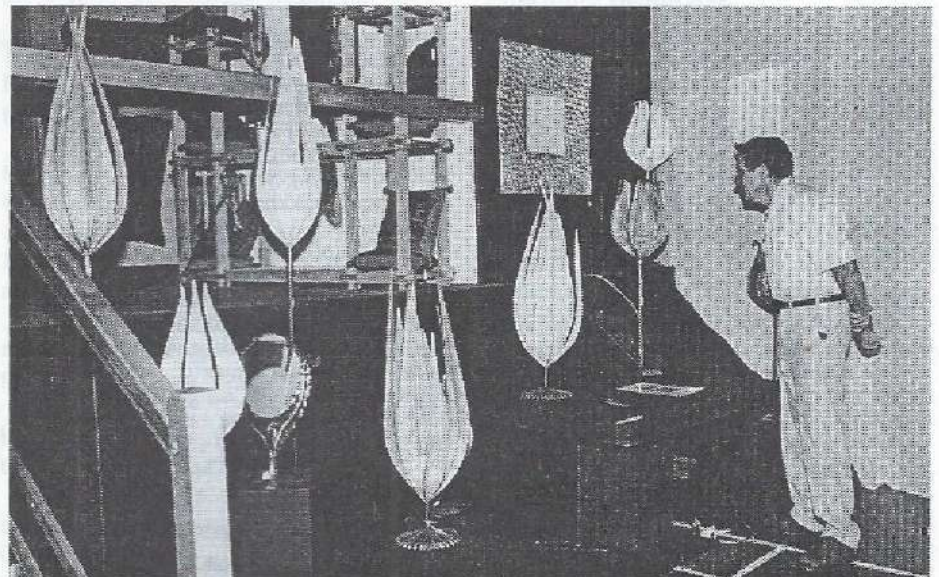
Wainhomes state that a great deal of attention has been given to cause minimal disruption to the overall character of the building including the housing of many car parking spaces into stone-built car ports situated on the original 'working' side of the house. Daniel McGowan of Wainhomes comments that "Gyde House is a listed period house which, whilst built in 1912 in the Edwardian era, has the character of a building much older".

The conversion of Gyde House has been included in the draft Stroud Local Plan for the period to 2011, and it accounts for twenty of Painswick's allocation of thirty new dwellings in the Plan.

## Young prize-winner



## Dazzling display



A visitor admires Colin Chetwood's spectacular copper and paper lamps at last month's Guild of Craftsmen Exhibition

## Long life, Bow-wows and puppy-dog pie - read all about it!

Longevity would seem to be a commonplace in Painswick these days. However, this is no recent phenomenon, as the latest publication from Painswick Local History Society emphatically demonstrates. In one concise little volume the truth about long life in Painswick is revealed in ballad form.

And that's not all. The Painswick legends of puppy-dog pie and Bow-wows are also explored, both in verse and anecdote. Did you know that Painswick residents are known as Bow-wows and that Painswick is famous, or is it notorious, for puppy-dog pie? Do you know why?

This lightweight and light-hearted booklet explains all - or, at least, as much as is known. It is a revision, with additions and illustrations, of a small booklet which was on sale priced 4d many years ago. The publication is 'Barks and Bites from Bow-Wow Land' and is guaranteed to raise a chuckle or two. Copies are on sale at local retail outlets or direct from Carol Maxwell (813387) or Gwen Welch (812540).

If you are a Bow-wow you need to know about these matters...

Carol Maxwell

## Last chance for travel tokens

If you haven't yet picked up your new travel tokens from Painswick Post Office you must do so before 15th September. Don't forget!

Left: 7 year old Helen Rishworth with her miniature smooth-haired Dachshund puppy 'Floppy'. Helen won the prize for 'best child handler' at the Painswick Show. Full details inside.

## Not this year...

Painswick failed to reach the final of this year's Bledisloe Cup competition for the best kept villages in Gloucestershire. Painswick made it to the second round but did not progress further. The 'large village' finalists were Bourton-on-the-Water and Hardwicke. Final judging took place towards the end of last month. At the time of writing the result is not known.

Congratulations to near-neighbours Miserden who reached the final of the 'small villages' category. They are vying for the trophy with Lower Slaughter.



# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Applications**

- Braeside, Cheltenham Road. Erection of detached garage.
- Red Stables, Yokehouse Lane. Erection of 2 storey extension.
- Byeways, Slad. Erection of conservatory.
- Woodside, Sheepscombe. Reroofing and building up of open-sided garage/store to provide recreational/store area.
- Severn Trent Water Reservoir near Gloucester Road/Gyde Road. Erection of 15m lamppost with dual polar omni antenna and cabin plus ancillary equipment.
- Baraclough House, Hambutts Mead. Erection of single storey extension (existing glazed link to be demolished)
- A46 Bus Stop, Cheltenham Road, opposite entrance to Green Acres. Erection of a bus shelter.

**Additional Plans**

- Plot 3, Paul Camp, Back Edge Lane. Erection of one 4 bedroomed house (revised scheme following permission 00/433). Additional information regarding landscaping materials and west elevation provided.

**Revised Plans**

- Painswick Squash Club, Yokehouse Lane. Retrospective application for 'FOR SALE' sign. Main changes: alternative position for sign and reduction in size.

- 28 Upper Washwell. Erection of extension. Main changes: Revised to omit the ground floor window to the garage in side elevation.

**Consent**

- Salt Box, The Camp. Retrospective application for erection of a roundhouse and hut.
- Spoonbed Farm, Gloucester Road. Refurbishment of dwelling, internal and external alterations.
- Weavers Cottage, Longridge. Erection of 2 storey extension.
- Hammonds Farm, Wick Street. Extension to agricultural building.
- Beech Farm, Sheepscombe. Extension to agricultural building to form covered yard and feed area.
- Field Croft, Sheepscombe. Erection of single storey extension.
- The Lamp House, Victoria Street. Erection of entrance gate and railings.
- Cotswold Villa, Gloucester Street. Replace railings to front of property.
- Rococo Garden. Change of use of the Red House, the Eagle House and the Orangery for use as venues for civil wedding ceremonies.
- 2 Abbey Cottages, The Vatch, Slad. Erection of detached garage.

**Notification of Appeal**

- Painswick House Stables. Moving a statue of Pan to the conservatory of the Stables.

**Refusal**

- Shutway Quarry, Sheepscombe. Retrospective application for erection of one dwelling.

## Village Diary

The 2001 Village Diary is now available for use in Painswick Woodcrafts, New Street. Do remember to put in all the village events that you are arranging and so hopefully prevent a clash of dates.

The shop is open daily 9.30am to 5pm (4pm January and February), and on Sunday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm until Christmas.

## BT stamps to be withdrawn

From 30th September 2000, BT telephone savings stamps will no longer be available.

But don't worry, BT stamps are being replaced by the BT payment card. Unlike stamps, which can be torn, lost or stolen, the BT payment card is safe and easy to use. If you should lose your card, don't worry - any payments will already be recorded with BT. Just ask for a replacement card.

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Heather Appleby,  
Painswick Post Office

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## POLICE REPORT

**Incidents: 15.7.00 - 15.8.00**

House burglaries: Painswick 2, Slad 1. Business premises: Painswick 1, Sheepscombe 1. Sheds: Painswick 1. Vehicles: Painswick 3, Cranham 2. Other: Painswick 2 (damage), Cranham 1 (damage), Sheepscombe 1 (theft).

**Items stolen:**

From vehicles: Handbag and contents (x 2), wheels and tyres (x 4), radio, strimmer, hedge trimmer, lawn mower.

From other areas: Handbag and contents, money, child scooter, trailers.

## Flu vaccinations

Despite that at the time of writing we are having some lovely summer weather, winter will be here before we know it.

Painswick Surgery will have influenza vaccines available from the first week of October and patients will be able to obtain vaccinations by booking an appointment with the Practice Nurse between 11am and 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm. If these times are not convenient, patients can still telephone (after 2pm please) to arrange a more suitable time.

Nicola Hayward, Practice Manager

**Reported Incidents:**

Sixteen incidents were reported of which seven were of value to the police.

**Security Improvement Recommendations:**

The security of property is still of concern to the police. The three house burglaries were walk-in offences when the offender gained access through an open or unlocked door. There have been a number of incidents where people have been in gardens or calling with unconvincing excuses. So be on your guard at all times.

To those of you who own trailers, horse boxes or caravans, we would advise you to secure them by wheel clamping, chaining to solid objects or removing the wheels, thus making it as difficult as possible for the thief to tow them away.

Police Team & Liaison Co-ordinator

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## At your service



James Sheppard behind the counter at the café in the Painswick Centre. The café is being run on a trial basis by Chan-cellors. At the end of September its long-term prospects and other potential uses of the room will be assessed by the Centre Management Committee.

The room has been smartly redeco-rated and furnished.

The cafe is open for drinks and light refreshments daily from 10am to 4pm. There are also tables outside for use in fine weather.

## Coach trip to London

A London outing has been arranged for Wednesday 18th October, departing from Stamages Lane car park at 8.30am.

The usual stop will be made at Harrods, Knightsbridge, and the coach will then proceed to Trafalgar Square, arriving at approximately 11.15am.

The return departure will be from Trafalgar Square (National Gallery) only, at 6.30pm. The fare is £9.

Bookings should be made with Pauline Berry. Cash or cheques (made payable to Painswick L and B Outings), should be sent by post to Highfold Farm, Holcombe Lane, Painswick, GL6 6RF or may be left with Mrs Dawn Mallinson, The Patchwork Mouse, New Street, Painswick.

All enquiries concerning this outing, please, to Pauline Berry, 813227.

## Autumn courses in Painswick

As usual there is a wide range of educational and recreational courses on offer in this area in the forthcoming academic year, especially at the local colleges in Stroud, Cheltenham and Gloucester. For those looking to stay in Painswick itself, there are several possibilities, including:

### WEA (Adult Education) Courses

Full details were given last month. In summary there are three courses:

**Learn to Draw:** 10 weekly meetings beginning Tuesday 26th September at the Church Rooms, 9.30am to 11.30am. (Please Note - not Wednesday. The WEA leaflet that we were given last month had an incorrect date on it)

**Advanced Watercolour:** 10 weekly meetings beginning Wednesday 27th September at the Church Rooms, 2pm to 4pm.

**Enjoying Poetry:** 10 weekly meetings beginning Wednesday 27th September at the Library Room, 2.30pm to 4pm.

For further information on these courses please contact John McCabe on 01452 813125.

### Stroud College classes in Painswick

**Upholstery and Soft Furnishing:** 10 weekly meetings beginning Monday 25th September in the Church Rooms, 1.45 to 3.45pm. Tutor Edna Powell. Course fee £36.60 including materials fee.

**Beginners' Spanish:** 10 weekly meetings beginning Wednesday 27th September, at the Library Room, 10am to 12 noon. Tutor Eli Henshaw.

**China Restoration:** 10 weekly meetings starting Thursday 28th September in the Church Rooms, 10am to 12 noon. Tutor Jane Wynch.

## Line Dancing classes

A new Line Dancing class for beginners will commence at the Painswick Centre tomorrow, SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER, 7.30 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. Please phone Julie Cole on 01453-752480 for more details.

To enrol on courses and for more information, phone Stroud College on 01453-763424 or contact local organiser Mavis Mandel on 812666.

### University of Bristol Continuing Education Department

**Art and Architecture of Florence and Siena:** the Middle Ages to the 17th Century. Tutor: Peter Clarkson. 10 weekly meetings on Mondays from 10am to 11.30am starting on 2nd October at the Library Room. Fee £44. This is an "illustrated exploration of Italian art and architecture from the age of Giotto and Duccio, through the revolutionary advances in the creation of pictorial space in 15th century Florence, to the early careers of Leonardo, Raphael and Michelangelo.

There will be a follow-up course 'Art and Architecture of Venice' in the spring term.

To enrol contact Hilary Betts, 0117-9287844, email: hilary.betts@bris.ac.uk

### BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BEACON

Owing to the popularity of our business advertisements, which have really taken off this year as never before, we regret we are unable to take any new bookings until after the October edition of the Beacon is out. We only allow 20% of the space in the Beacon to be taken up with advertising, and we currently have several adverts on a waiting list. We need this breathing space to re-assess the allocation of space until December, and we hope the situation will be a little easier in the New Year.

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# Another great success

The Painswick Show was yet another great success. The weather on Saturday was fine and very warm which allowed both the competitors and spectators alike the opportunity to enjoy the magical setting of Painswick Park, picnicking around the ring or enjoying a moment or two in the refreshment tent. On Sunday the turnout was slightly lower due to less favourable weather conditions. However there were ever greater numbers entered in the jumping competitions on Sunday afternoon which meant that one or two of the events in the afternoon had to be cancelled, including the parade of traditional and rare breeds. One of the celebrities entered at the show this year was Olympic team member Blythe Tate, who came to the show to prepare his horse at the competition before going into quarantine prior to the Games later this year.

The horticultural events took place on Saturday. The tent was packed with wonderful flower arrangements, garden produce, handicrafts, cookery, artwork and photographs. This year, for the first time, Painswick Show hosted a special 'Summer Competition' for the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies. The horticultural events are loyally supported with many of the competitors coming back to the village each year from far flung locations to take part. It was lovely to see three out of four generations of Gladys Hobbs's family competing in the events and also Mr and Mrs Wear's daughter Sue Jones who made the journey from the Channel Islands to compete in the flower section.

One of the chief attractions of the Painswick Show are the many events and competitions especially for children. In the horticultural tent there are classes for

painting and drawing, flower arranging, woodwork, cookery, collage and homemade jewellery. This year saw greater than ever numbers of youngsters entered in these classes. There is also a class for the best child handler in the dog section, not to mention the many pony classes. For the less competitive younger visitors there are numerous side shows, fairground rides and a bouncy castle. St James City Farm brought their interesting range of traditional and rare breed farm animals. They were very friendly and seemed to enjoy their trip out providing children the opportunity to handle and stroke them.

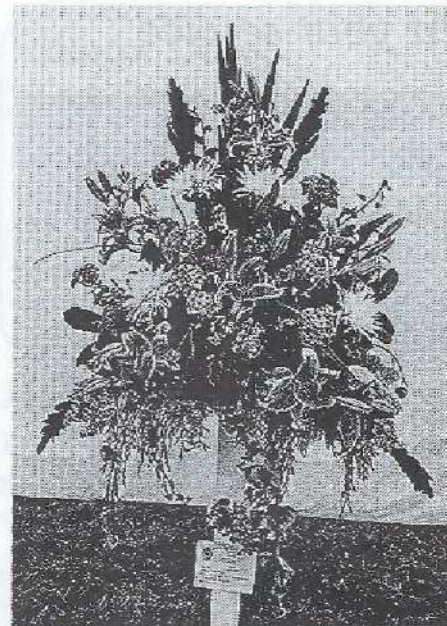
Arguably the most attractive stand in the show was Hannah George's gypsy wagon standing under a walnut tree and adorned with her Gourmet Garden Herbs. Hannah who comes from Dell Farm and partner Ben Zinkin supply a range of beautiful ornamental herbs and plants.

The success of the show is due to the hard work and Wellingtonian organisational powers of the Painswick Show Committee who despite rain or shine put on a fabulous event and ensure it is smoothly and efficiently run. They are currently looking to recruit some more volunteers to help with the organisation of the show and ask for anyone who may be interested to contact the Hon Secretary Mrs S Pyle, telephone 01666 840886, for further information.

Iris McCormick



Linda Evans with her Border Collie "Pippit" who was judged the 'best veteran' dog



Freda Huddleston's prize-winning pedestal flower arrangement

### Exemption Dog Show results:

The Exemption Show attracted 264 entries in the various classes from a total of 84 dogs.

- Best Puppy and Best in Show: Mrs Claire Rishworth's Greyhound, "Geoffrey". Reserve Best in Show: Mrs Angela Birchall's Wolfhound, "Savannah".
- Very Highly Commended: Mrs Val Davis's Border Collie, "Blaze".

### Novelty Classes:

- Best Child Handler 7 to 14 years: Miss Helen Rishworth - Miniature Smooth haired Dachshund, "Floppy".
- Best Veteran Dog over 7 years: Lady Linda Evans's Border Collie "Pippit".
- Best Painswick Dog: Mrs Curtoys's Border Collie, "Fred".
- Dog with Waggiest Tail: Miss Betty Phillips's Cocker Spaniel, "Jasper".
- Dog with Most Appealing Face: Mrs Vinson's Bearded Collie, "Denis".
- Best Cross Breed, Best Condition and Best Rescue: Ann Sadler's Cross Breed, "Penny".
- Prettiest Bitch: Mrs Johnson's Cairn Terrier, "Dileas".
- Handsomest Dog: Sue Dunnett's Labrador, "Woody".

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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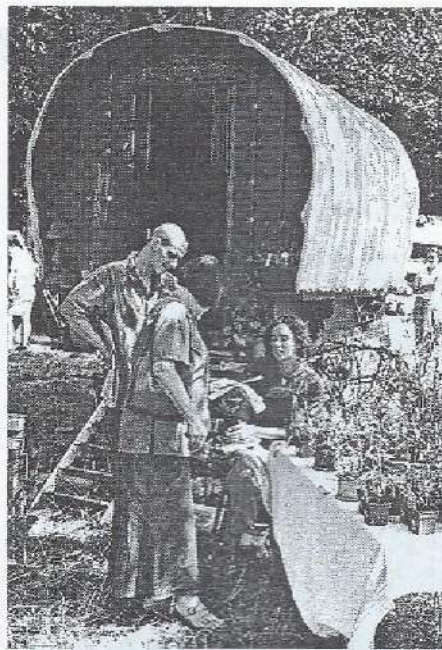
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- Dog the judge would like to take home: Mrs Vinson's Bearded Collie, "Denis".
- Best of Novelty Classes: Ann Sadler's "Penny".
- Reserve Best Novelty: Helen Rishworth's "Floppy".

**Horticultural Section:**

- Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies: Summer Competition. Gold Medal: Slimbridge Horticultural Society. Silver Medal: Mr and Mrs Hopkins. Bronze Medal: Painswick Horticultural Society.
- RHS Banksian Medal (most prize money in both Local and Open Sections): Mrs G Hopkins.
- The WI Cup (WI Member with largest amount of prize money in Horticultural Section): Mrs G Hopkins.
- The George Bland Challenge Cup (most prize money in the Local, Open, Decorative, Domestic, Wine, Photography and Handicraft Sections): Mrs G Hopkins.
- The Christine Arnold Challenge Cup (Houseplant in flower 2ft square): Local section. L Chittendon.
- The Oke-Smith Challenge Cup (Collection of culinary vegetables): Mrs G Hopkins.
- The Ann Mildred Challenge Cup (Best exhibit local vegetables): Mrs G Hopkins.
- The Phyllis Baron Memorial Cup (Sweet Peas in a vase. Open Section): Mrs G Hopkins.
- The Tom Chamberlayne Cup (Most prize money in Open Section): Mrs G Hopkins.



*Hannah George and Ben Zinkin offer a range of shrubs and herbs from their attractive gypsy wagon*

- The Lullingworth Trophy (Best exhibit in the Decorative Section): Freda Huddleston.
- The Kit Fox Memorial Salver (Best Seville Orange Marmalade): Patricia Davey.
- The Mrs E G Oke-Smith Memorial Cup (Most prize money in Domestic Section): Patricia Davey.
- The Walter Worthington Memorial Cup (Best exhibit in the Wine and Liqueur Section): Richard Purdy.
- The Spanoghe Cup (Best photograph 'On The Move'): Melanie Colver.
- The Millennium Trophy (Best exhibit Photography Section chosen by the judge): Mrs Gibson.
- Diana Stephenson Cup (Best exhibit in the Handicraft Section): Nina Harris.
- The Child Welfare Clinic Cup (Best exhibit by junior up to 10 years): Tom Bennett.
- The Charnock Smith Challenge Cup (Best exhibit by junior up to 16 years): Sam Byrne.
- The Vic Hill Cup (Best Junior Flower Arrangement): Alexandra Mead.

**Rare & Traditional Breeds:**

- Supreme Animal Champion: Stan Dixon (Longhorn Heifer).
- Cattle - Interbreed Champion: Stan

- Dixon (Longhorn Heifer). Reserve: Robert & Alison Kirk (Dexter).
- Pigs - Interbreed Champion: Alan Charlett (Glos Old Spot). Reserve: Viv Coates (British Lop)
- Sheep - Interbreed Champion: Mrs Wise (Black Welsh Mountain). Reserve: Sarah Hart (Ryland)
- Fleece Competition - Best Coloured Long Wool & Champion Fleece: Mr I E Watkin. Reserve & 1st White Longwool: S & L V Gibbings.
- Child Handler Classes. Exhibitor Under 10 years. 1st: Holly Dixon, 2nd Joshua Shaw, 3rd Rebecca Jackson.
- Exhibitor 10 - 15 years: 1st James Minchin-Mitchell, 2nd Glos City Farm, 3rd Gemma Shaw.
- Poultry - Best in Show: Mrs J Pear. Reserve: Mr D W Pearce.



*Heather Appleby (left) presents Melanie Colver with the Spanoghe Cup for photography*



*Ella Adlam gets her Scottish terrier 'Rupert' into position for judging*

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# Local cricketing family's achievements

Members of the Bressington family have been associated with the local sporting scene for many years since the days when father, Adrian, joined the Painswick club having previously played his cricket in the Bristol area.

Both Adrian and Marjorie have given much encouragement to their children in their sporting activities and the Painswick Club has been especially grateful to Marjorie for the help she has given, not least on the many occasions when she has prepared the teas.

Adrian continues to play occasionally for Painswick whilst his sons Alastair, Nathan and Edward play at differing levels of the game. Recently Adrian and 13 years old Edward have appeared in the same Painswick side. Edward has already played for the Painswick First Eleven which is a considerable achievement at such a young age.

However, it is the achievements of the older brothers that have gained wide publicity with Alastair and Nathan both playing for the County's Second Eleven and, most recently, Alastair's considerable ability as an all-rounder being recognised by the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club with the award of a professional contract.

Almost immediately following the contract signing, Alastair was asked to play in the County's First Eleven in a four-day Championship match against Glamorgan. Several Painswick residents went to Bristol to watch the game including Lynn Steer who as a Glamorgan supporter is able to provide an unbiased report about Alastair's performance. Lynn writes as follows.

"Glamorgan were top of the Championship Second Division going into this



*Alastair returns to the pavilion after his undefeated innings against Glamorgan*

match and Gloucestershire were bottom. In addition, the top three Gloucestershire bowlers were absent, Lewis and Smith being injured and Harvey on international duty with Australia. Surely maximum points were there for Glamorgan's taking. Both teams had batted poorly on the first day, due no doubt to a difficult drying wicket. Day 2 was washed out through rain and I travelled down to Bristol on the third day with high hopes of a Glamorgan victory. Gloucestershire, batting on an improving wicket, raised their first innings score to 308 runs, Glamorgan having been dismissed for 122. Glamorgan lost two second innings wickets carelessly but were going along comfortably when Alastair Bressington was called up to bowl. With his third delivery he got the ball to rear from a length and Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, who was forced to

play a stroke, lobbed the ball gently into the slip fielder's hands. In his next over Alastair sent down an identical delivery to end Adrian Dale's innings.

At this point Alastair had taken two wickets for no runs. He finished the day with figures of 9 overs, 3 maidens, 14 runs, 2 wickets and bowled an immaculate line and length throughout. The next day he took a further two wickets. Needless to say, I was not there to see this additional success. Surely with any other county, Alastair would be a regular member of the side. Even Glamorgan might find a place for him!"

As an addendum to Lynn's report, your correspondent notes that Alastair achieved a comparatively rare feat when in Glamorgan's first innings he caught and bowled Mike Powell to end his first over in first class cricket with a wicket maiden. Although Alastair was disappointed not to have been asked to bat higher in the order, he remained not out at the end of the Gloucestershire innings. He will certainly have been delighted to have been a member of a winning side which defeated Glamorgan by the convincing margin of 10 wickets.

The Beacon has also received the following from Joan Palmer of 'Outside Edge', Edge Lane:

"I am sure that all Painswick cricket lovers, as I am, have noticed the wonderful success of one of our local boys, Alastair Bressington. He was called up in place of an injured bowler in the Gloucestershire 1st Eleven last month, against Glamorgan. He helped in no small way towards our first win over Glamorgan for eleven years, by taking five wickets for 49 runs in the match. His mother, Marjorie, tells me that his stronger point is batting, so it seems we have a potential all-rounder coming up for the county.

I have seen no live cricket since my operation for a fractured hip last year, except for one day at Cheltenham in July, but I hope that when Alastair gets his place in the team I shall still be alive and able to watch him."

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## Painswick Cricket Club news

The league season ended on the last Saturday in August with the First Eleven away at Ryeworth and the Second Eleven's match against Westbury on Severn having to be cancelled.

The First Eleven's season was one of average performances in which, although never in contention for promotion, they were always likely to maintain their position in the Third Division (1st XI) of the 3D County League, and so it proved. The Second Eleven's future is in doubt as they have finished in what would normally be a relegation position but the proposed restructuring of the league puts a query over which division they will be playing in next year.

The Second Eleven's inconsistent performances have been very much the result of the failure to field a full team on occasions and there will be a drive during the winter months to increase the club's playing strength. The facilities at Broadham are excellent and it is a shame

that more people are not minded to play. Painswick's recruitment problems are, however, little different to many other clubs in that all sports are having difficulty in recruiting younger players.

### Results

(All Saturday matches are league games unless asterisked)

Sat 5 Aug. Ruarden Hill 1st XI 219-9 (P Cash 5-28) Painswick 1st XI 174-8 (P Jones 43 not out). \*Kingsholm 191-4 Painswick 2nd XI 192-5 (K Rowe 108 not out).

Sat 12 Aug. Oldlands 1st XI 110 (O Earle 7-28) Painswick 1st XI 111-2. Upton St Leonards 2nd XI 263-3 Painswick 2nd XI 106.

Sat 19 Aug. Painswick 1st XI 151-7 (I Hogg 73) Hatherley & Reddings 99. Painswick 2nd XI 50 Leonard Stanley 2nd XI 53-0.

Sat 26 Aug. Ryeworth 1st XI 186-8 Painswick 1st XI 187-6 (A Wise 50).

## Hopes for new rugby season

The new season begins today (Saturday) with Painswick First Fifteen at home to Widden Old Boys in a non-league match. Painswick have appointed Wayne Lee as Club Coach and Wayne told the Beacon that the Club had been disappointed to find that they had been placed in Division 2 of the Gloucestershire League when they had finished above the relegation zone in the 1999/2000 season. Wayne said that the players were determined to regain their place in the higher division not least because they believed their playing ability justified Division 1 status. He went on to explain that, disappointment aside, he believed a season in Division 2 would give the Club a better opportunity to pursue the policy of building for the future by introducing young players to the senior game whenever circumstances justified their inclusion. Wayne said that anyone with an interest in playing rugby will be given a warm welcome on training evenings which start at 7.15pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A warm

welcome is also extended to Beacon readers to support the Painswick sides, particularly on Saturday 9th September when Painswick are at home in the first round of the National Cup against Supermarine (Swindon). Kick-off times are all at 3pm until the clocks go back after the third Saturday in October when the games will commence at 2.30pm.

Footnote. There was considerable disappointment locally when injury forced Wayne to retire from the game at a comparatively young age but his enthusiasm is such that there is little doubt the coaching role will provide a new outlet for his obvious skills.

(Please see Diary section for fixtures)

## New badminton season

Club members please note that the new season commences on Monday 4th and Thursday 7th September. The pre-season social event will be on Saturday 2nd September.

Friday evening sessions will be running once again this year and are open to members and anyone of reasonable standard including people interested in joining the club. These begin on Friday 29th September continuing until Friday 15th December, at 8pm in the Painswick Centre hall.

Junior members are also reminded that Junior Badminton begins on Thursday 14th September and continues weekly to Thursday 14th December.

## Educational grants - a reminder

Painswick parents and students are reminded that the Painswick Educational Foundation Trustees will meet shortly to discuss grant applications for the coming academic year. Application forms will be available from Painswick Library, through The Croft and Sheepscombe Schools or from Michael Little, The Clerk to PEF, 2, Rowcroft, Stroud, Glos, GL5 3BB (phone.01453-763433), to whom they should be returned as soon as possible.

## 'The Old Vicarage'

In last month's Personal Column we printed a farewell note received from former residents of The Old Vicarage, Edge. Hamptons International also referred in our pages to the sale of this property. We have been informed that the vendors lived in a wing of the building with the address '1 The Old Vicarage' and that the owners of 'The Old Vicarage' have not moved. The Beacon regrets any confusion but we relied on the information given to us. Hamptons have asked us to make the same point on their behalf.

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# Summer weddings

The past few weeks have been a bumper time for weddings in Painswick, with several well-known local families participating in marriage services at St Mary's Church and Christ Church.

*Below: Andrew Cave Winscom and his bride Elizabeth Hudson on 12th August, pictured with Elizabeth's parents Peter and Daphne Hudson. Peter and Daphne are of course well known in Painswick for their involvement in many village activities. Peter has been a bellringer for many years, so it was good to hear the bells ringing out splendidly for this very special occasion.*



*Above: A 'trombone guard of honour' for Giles Chamberlin and Sue James as they leave Christ Church after their marriage service on 12th August. Almost hidden at the back are Sue's parents Joe and Anne James. The bride and groom had a long walk to the reception - about five yards directly across the road to Joe and Anne's house in Gloucester Street!*



*Right: Chris Hale and Rebecca Price who were married at Christ Church on 29th July. Behind them are Allen and Cheryl Hale. As Painswick's butcher in Friday Street, Allen will need no introduction to local residents. Neither will his son Chris, who also works in the shop nowadays.*

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# A coast to coast bike ride for charity

In May of this year, a team of six Royal Air Force Policemen completed a coast to coast mountain-bike ride for charity. The charity, Sargent's, cares for children with cancer, through the provision of equipment to help their condition, and toys, games and environments to lift their spirits. The team's aim was to raise £2000. This will go towards two much needed pieces of equipment to help children in Northern Ireland. By way of thanks to all those who supported this worthy cause, I would like to offer a brief account of the trials we put ourselves through on Sargent's behalf.

The route took us from the town of Whitehaven, on Cumbria's West coast, across the Lake District and the Pennines and on to Sunderland on the east coast. The greater part of the ride was conducted off-road, and if that made for spectacular scenery, it also made for some very steep climbs as well! The total mileage amounted to something over 200 miles, which we completed in three and a half days. This meant we had to keep up an average of about sixty miles per day. Not too difficult if you're on tarmac roads on touring cycles, but when you don't have a road to start with, and you insist on visiting as many peaks as possible on the way, it starts to become more testing!

Day One began bright and early on the coast at Whitehaven, and we aimed to

reach Keswick via Ennerdale Water and Crummock Water. All day we were blessed with sunshine and high temperatures, which worked wonders for our suntans. Already thigh muscles were starting to twinge, as we charged up the rocky tracks in misguided over-exertion. How we would regret that in the days to come!

Day Two found us with stiff legs and a dread of the hills that lay ahead. Today we would skirt Penrith, before taking off road to Nenthead, a distance not so far in miles, but certainly a long way up, taking us across Cross Fell. The greatest benefit of such climbs, of course, is that what goes up, i.e. us, must also come down! This was achieved at varying speeds, ranging from 'slow', through 'controlled but exciting'; to 'thank God I made that in one piece!' We finished the day's ride tired but exhilarated, and glad that it had ended with a downhill.

Day Three, and the last major climbs of the ride. The weather, which had so far been hot and sunny, could not have changed more dramatically. The ground was covered in frost, and a thick fog hung in the air. Within a few miles of riding our faces and hands were numb with the cold, and by the time we had strayed onto the open moorland, we could not see each other, let alone where we were going! Today was also the day when we abandoned all paths and tracks, to head by

compass (or the GPS if our navigation failed us!) in a circular route over the best mountain-biking sections of the moor. The worst weather, but by far the best riding of the entire trip. Steep ascents, streams and rivers, and close to vertical drops appeared out of nowhere in front of us as we cycled blindly on, miraculously resulting in only one crash, and that because the lead cyclist was going too slowly for the rest of the pack, who toppled into each other whilst negotiating a ridge. By mid afternoon we were out of the fog and off the moors, elated that we now only had the final half-day's ride into Sunderland ahead of us.

Surprisingly, the final twenty miles or so of Day Four proved to be by far the most hazardous of the whole trip. The cycle routes into Sunderland, where we would finish our ride, were littered with burnt out cars, broken glass, abandoned shopping trolleys and rubbish-filled canals. Navigating our way through the streets of Sunderland towards the harbour and our final destination, it was also the first time that we got lost! As we rounded the last bend and saw the sea, the sense of relief and achievement was palpable. After the obligatory celebrations and photographs, we retired to a nearby pub for some well-deserved refreshment. Cycling back to the back-up van afterwards, we suffered our first (and only!) puncture. It had to happen.

I hope this brief account has given you some idea of trials we put ourselves through on behalf of the charity for which the people of Painswick contributed so much. In all, the sum of £200 was raised by the village, which went towards a grand total of £2300. Thank you, on behalf of Sargent's Fund, for your generosity and support.

Richard Appleby

## Oriel Singers to return

The Cheltenham-based Oriel Singers, previous finalists in the BBC Choir of the Year event, will be returning to Painswick to give another concert in aid of the Mission to Seafarers, known to most of us as the Missions to Seamen. It will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 14th October in St Mary's Church. Tickets will be on sale from 28th September at the Post Office and Shetland Shop, or phone me at 813444. Do put this date in your diary to support an excellent cause and enjoy another fine evening's entertainment.

John Parfitt

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## Fund-raising for cancer relief

Macmillan Cancer Relief's World's Biggest Coffee Morning will take place on 29th September at the Painswick Centre. There will be bring and buy, cakes stall and other attractions. Please support this worthy cause.

Thank you to all who attended my coffee morning in aid of the Oncology Unit at Cheltenham Hospital (Focus). I am pleased to announce that we raised £352 (£300 last year).

Thank you for kind gifts and donations. Thank you also to all those who helped in making the morning such a success.

Joyce Smith

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# A very big thank you

It is perhaps timely that these words are printed in the September issue of *The Beacon*, coinciding as it does with the beginning of a new educational year at The Croft School.

When I began my Headship in January 1983, my previous five years as Deputy-Head of a 250 pupil school had been good training for taking on the role of headteacher. As the years progressed, however, I realised that more and more of the training for the management of a school was 'on the job' training. Unlike many other businesses (for that is what schools are today) there was no regular leave from the job while you were being brought up to date with new procedures. By now, the complex environment of a school has adopted many of the trappings of business - words such as monitor, targets, review, success criteria, financial management and so on have become the norm. Responsibility for a great deal of the financial management rests on the governing body, through the headteacher - from pencils to teachers, from books to fuel. Responding to government initiatives, be they curricular or 'social' becomes a priority.

And in the middle of all this are the children - the reason schools exist in the first place.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the people who have said and written such complimentary things about my time as Headteacher of The Croft. I was heartened, but embarrassed, to hear references made to my desire to maintain the safe, friendly environment in which the pupils learnt. Over the years the school

has aimed for academic success, but is has also aimed to give pupils self-confidence, social awareness, and a belief that everyone has something to offer, all within a disciplined, structured environment.

My last day as Head was on 31st August, but effectively when the pupils left on 21st July, school finished for me - the rest has been paperwork since then. I have always regarded it as a privilege to be part of the development of pupils as they progress from nervous Reception infants to confident Y6 pupils.

The Croft School staff, parents and governors have been generous in their thanks, as have many Painswickians. I also need to express my thanks - going back a long way, to Derek Hodges, Jim Hoyland and Pam Westcott - and over recent years to Mike Adlam, chairman of governors, for his support (often of a challenging nature), to Bob Miles (a steady voice of reason when things are tough), and to all the staff, teaching and non-teaching (current and past) for their support and loyalty, all the governors and PTA officers and many, many more.

It is fair to say that my retirement from education after thirty four years came several years earlier than I had at once planned. I now look forward to using my skills in some other area of work, as yet unknown. But, as I said to the children on many occasions, "we're all good at something" - so I'm sure something will turn up!

I wish The Croft school 'family' every success in the coming years.

Bernard Jones

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by NICKY GUMBEL



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## 'Alpha' - What the papers say

"What distinguishes Alpha from other initiatives is the easy-going, relaxed feel of the proceedings - that and its astonishing success."

*The Times*

"Alpha makes Christianity relevant to modern life."

*The Express*

"What Alpha offers, and what is attracting thousands of people, is permission, rare in secular culture, to discuss the big questions - life, death and their meaning."

*The Guardian*

"Alpha is an unqualified success."

*The Daily Telegraph*

As indicated last month, a further Alpha course is planned for this autumn, starting in early October and taking place at Castle Godwyn.

A recent Mori poll indicates that more than 3.6 million people in the UK have now either done Alpha or know someone who has! As in previous years we are holding an evening in September (Wednesday 13th) for those who haven't yet done so and those who are just interested to find out more about what Alpha is, and whether they might enjoy it! So if you are one of these, consider yourself invited to supper at Castle Godwyn and come along without any commitment. Remember, this is especially good for those who have no time for church. Please ring Frankie Marsh (812829) or Caroline Milne (812625) so that we know how many to cater for, and they can answer any more questions you might have.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you there for what should be a good evening.

Ian Marsh

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## By the way...

You will have heard of commoners' rights. In the case of Painswick Common (the Beacon), there are four commoners' rights, known as 'Pasture', 'Pannage', 'Estovers' and 'Turbary'. 'Pasture' is easy enough, but do you know what the others are?

Answers are on page 17.

By Grumbler



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# 30s Kids and the Painswick Banner

The 30s Kids Group, children who attended Painswick School in the 1930s, are holding their Millennium Grand Reunion this year. As in 1994 and 1997, the past two triennial reunions, they will meet for tea and buns at the Town Hall after taking part in the Clipping Service on 24th September.

The Group have over 200 Members scattered across the world and some are travelling from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada to be with their old friends once again.

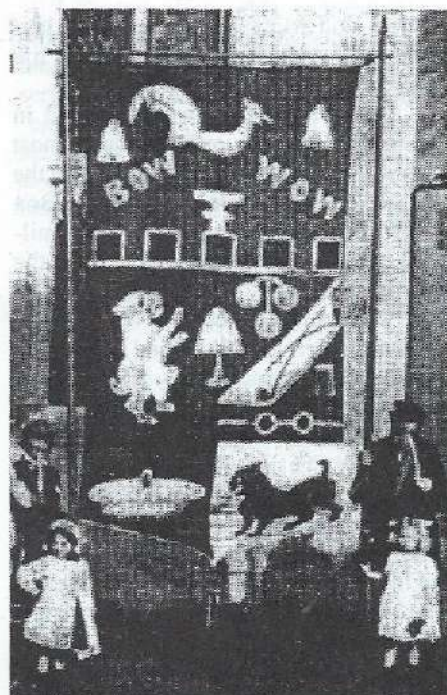
To mark this event, Christine Jolly (now Mrs Sheldon), a 30s Kid herself, has

fabricated a replica of the old Painswick banner on behalf of the Group. This will be carried at the head of the 30s Kids delegates who will join in the Clipping procession, just as they did as children over sixty years ago. This re-enacts the carrying of the original banner in the procession during the first part of the last century.

The old banner belonged to the Ancient Society of Painswick Youths, i.e. the bell ringers. It was last seen strung across New Street shortly after the last war. Several photographs dating back to the early 1900s show it as being some twelve feet tall and detailed documents describe each of the symbols emblazoned thereon. These include the Painswick yews, churchwarden pipes, the steeple top, the weathervane, a Painswick bow-wow, two golden bells and the bell ringers pot. Four men were needed to carry the original banner but the 30s Kids replica, accurate in all but size, is only four feet tall.

For further information about the 30s Kids Group or the banner, please contact me on 01453-836710.

Harold Pearce. (Painswick Bow-wow and 30s Kids Group Chairman)



*The old Painswick banner. The date is believed to be about 1910. For more background to the 'bow wows' please see page 1.*

## MP's advice surgeries

Details have been provided of the forthcoming advice surgeries to be held by David Drew MP. The ones that take place in Stroud are:

Friday 8 September, 5pm  
Thursday 21 September, 7pm  
Saturday 7 October, 10.30am  
Friday 27 October, 5pm  
Friday 10 November, 5pm  
Saturday 25 November, 10am  
Friday 1 December, 6pm  
Friday 15 December, 6pm.

Appointments are for ten minutes and those attending are asked to provide a summary beforehand of the issue they wish to discuss. To make an appointment, please phone Sarah Madley on 01453 764355. The office is open 10am to noon, with an answerphone at other times.

There are also surgeries at Cam and Dursley.

## Painswick 100 years ago

One of the most successful Generals of the Boer campaign was not forgotten in the infant nomenclature craze at patriotic Painswick where a recent baptism was 'Gladys Amelia French Victoria'.

The high number of deaths - there had been thirty funerals since 1st January - was explained by the extraordinary outbreak of influenza in January and February which took a considerable toll.

Mr and Mrs Charles Sollars thanked God for the return from the South African front of their son George William Sollars, albeit with an injured ankle. He received a bullet wound in the engagement at Nicholson's Neck.

The Rev F W Brown of Bristol had accepted the Pastorate of the Congregational Church in Gloucester Street following the recent removal of Rev Samuel Thomas to Broad Chalk in Wiltshire. He was due to commence duties on the first Sunday in October. The Congregational Church was said to be the oldest in the County and dated from Puritan times. Amongst the famous ministers that had held office here were Rev George Dorwood, once vicar of the Parish Church; Rev John Adam, a worthy Scots divine; the famous Cornelius Winter, friend and companion of Rev George Whitefield and Rev Elijah Martin; James Burrell, and the Rev Thomas Davies, an eminent Welsh preacher. The pulpit had been vacant since the resignation of the

Rev Samuel Thomas the previous year.

'Come, ye thankful people, come' and 'We plough the fields and scatter' were the processional hymns at the Harvest Festival held on Thursday evening the 20th, at the Parish Church. The decorations were most attractive, being largely of white and gold.

At a recent meeting at Painswick Coffee Tavern it was resolved to re-organise the Football Club for the forthcoming season. Twenty playing members promised support.

The first wedding took place on Saturday the 15th at Edge Congregational Chapel since the licence had been granted for marriages.

A tea was provided at the Town Hall for those children who took part in the Bazaar and Fete in aid of the Bell Fund. After games there was dancing in which parents were invited to join in.

John Bailey

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# Careers of distinction

Charles and Mary Muller of Lovedays Mill celebrated fifty years of married life on 25th August.

Charles and Mary were married in Kensington, London, and have spent most of their highly distinguished careers in the capital, though Charles grew up in Box near Minchinhampton and so was familiar with the Cotswolds long before the couple decided to come and live in Painswick in the 1970s.

During their lengthy period in London, Charles - an eminent Lloyds insurance broker - was elected Councillor and later Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The highlight of their municipal careers came in 1968/9 when they were elected Mayor and Mayoress of the Royal Borough - a great honour but one that involved over 700 engagements. Charles says that his serving on many committees gave him a close insight into the deprivation of parts of North Kensington, culminating in the racial tensions of the 1960s.

Mary and Charles Muller have forged close links with several South American countries, and in recent years the ambassadors of Argentina (twice), Paraguay and Nicaragua have been guests at Lovedays Mill. On one occasion Argentina's ambassador and his wife performed a ceremony of dedication of 'Felicitas Wood' in the grounds of the Mill. The name records an estate near Buenos Aires often visited by the Mullers and reflects the long-term friendship between the two countries. Diplomatic relations between the countries are fully restored following the Falklands conflict and Charles says it is gratifying that

Painswick is playing its part in this reconciliation. Charles has also been decorated by the President of Paraguay as a 'Gran Oficial' of the Order of Merit.

After moving to Painswick Charles resumed his political interests and he is currently President of the Stroud Conservative Association as well as a member of party organisations in London.

Mary is well known in Painswick as the organiser of the annual British Legion Poppy Appeal. Less well known, perhaps, is her great interest in ornithology - an interest that takes her to many parts of the world. In fact, the couple were in Newfoundland at an international ornithology conference at the time of their wedding anniversary, so the celebrations were postponed until their return to this country. Mary is a member of the British Ornithologists Union, and voluntarily undertakes the exacting task of producing a scientific index of the Union's quarterly Bulletin.

Charles and Mary have four children



*Charles and Mary Muller in the grounds of Lovedays Mill*

and six grandchildren. They often look after their daughter's horse Moomin, who comes to the Mill to graze in the summer months. Charles and Mary are both members of the Catholic Church in Painswick.

## Garden Party extravaganza!

*23rd September, 2pm - 5pm*

Last year we had a very successful garden party at 8 and 9 Upper Washwell. We raised £1050 for Motor Neurone Association.

We have chosen the Cobalt Unit, Cheltenham, this time for our annual fund-raising.

There can't be too many of us who haven't lost a loved one, friend, close relative or acquaintance to cancer, so this is our way of helping, small though it may be.

Stalls will be as last year including cakes, tombola, toys, materials, books, produce, white elephant, plants, cream teas and raffle. We welcome any offers of help, and any item for any or all of these stalls will be appreciated.

In the event of inclement weather the venue will be Christ Church Hall, Gloucester Street.

Anne Gardiner and John Hogg, Susy Archer and Alan Coates

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### The Friendship Group (Carers and ex-carers)

We are now entering our eleventh year and numbers continue, especially with ex-carers, who are a tremendous help to those currently caring for someone.

However, if there is a carer or ex-carer who would wish to come to our meetings held once a month on a Friday afternoon we would certainly welcome them. For more information please ring Renee Hill, 01452-813535.

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### Forgotten?

Have you forgotten or can't remember whether you sponsored me for my 25 mile bike ride in aid of Teckels Animal Shelter?

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## Parking

I am writing with reference to the letter by Alan Major in the August 2000 Painswick Beacon in which he mentions the comment made by Ann Daniels at the June meeting of the Parish Council that people moving into the centre of the village do so in the full knowledge of the limited parking space and should accept the situation. Far from being a "crass statement" as Alan Major rather rudely suggested, it is a matter of fact that as soon as people move into the centre they immediately want to move the goal posts to suit themselves and demand priority parking for residents. The number of dwellings without any facilities for cars far exceeds the number of parking spaces available, and how many of those residents now have two cars? We must indeed look after our residents but so must we look after our traders and also enable visitors to move around without being impeded by cars. These are all conflicting interests. The Parish Council will shortly be producing a Traffic Policy for Painswick in an attempt to grapple with this seemingly intractable problem. Constructive and helpful comments are always welcome.

David Hudson, Chairman of Parish Council's Traffic Committee

John Holmes of Vanbarr, Longridge, writes to express his "disappointment that the Parish Council, in its role as Trustee, turned down the request for parking on the recreation field to cover a particular clash of events at the Institute, the events being a village wedding and a bowls match. It seems to me that over the last few years both the Institute Trustees and Recreation Field Trustees have lost sight of just why these charitable gifts were made".

Mr Holmes draws attention to the effects recent changes at the Institute are

having on the Bowling Club. He says, "The Bowling Club has a legal lease from the Trustees and despite requests has not been given any formal notification that there has been any change in responsibility. The Institute Trustees backed the application for our new pavilion, and planning consent was granted on condition of adequate parking. The demise of the Institute Club and the newly introduced parking problems is losing the Bowling Club prestigious fixtures including the hosting of County Matches. We are already losing members, and I can foresee that the Bowling Club will eventually be forced from the Green that it has occupied since 1912.

I sympathise with the Centre Management Committee in its efforts to attract village activities to the hall, but see that it will fail if adequate hassle free parking cannot be provided. The bottom half of the Recreation Field is not well used, and provides good access to the centre of the village and the Painswick Centre in particular."

Mr Holmes expresses concern that the original purpose of the Centre and the Field - to provide facilities for parishioners - is being forgotten and that commercial considerations are taking precedence. He ends by asking, "Is this what the people of Painswick really want?"

[Mr Holmes makes it clear that he writes as an individual and without the consent of Painswick Bowling Club]

## Quiet Times

What a great idea, John Stephenson-Oliver, this quiet period of yours [August Beacon]. My nimble mind immediately fastened onto untold domestic possibilities! Like cutting down on the seemingly never-ending flow of commands from "her that must be obeyed"! Commands like: "mow the lawn, it's your fault you didn't do it when it was dry", "and don't forget to do the edges this time", "take the dogs for a proper walk this time, it was my turn yesterday", "I'll be in London all Thursday, repeat after me all the jobs you will have to do" and "have you still not put that kettle on" (as if I could do everything at once...)

I started off meekly requesting one quiet commandless day a week, which was laughed out of court, and even one miserly morning a week was met with an icy "certainly not!". In fact it all backfired on me: "and by the way, about time you stopped monopolising the telephone in the morning just when I need to use it!"

Any other ideas, John?

Ralph Kenber, Kingsmead

## The Park

Mr and Mrs Le Page of The Highlands have sent the Beacon a copy of their letter to the District Council opposing the application for a residential development at The Park. They state that such a development in the AONB and the rural surroundings of the Park is totally unacceptable.

## Bonfires

A distressed Ashwell resident has contacted the Beacon on the subject of bonfires. Housebound, she finds it very frustrating every time she opens a door or window to be engulfed by smoke. She says if bonfires must be lit, please consider neighbours in the vicinity.

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.

## Thank you! 623 and still rising.

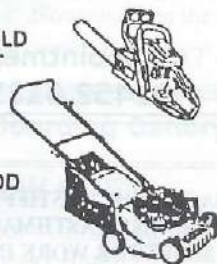
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Renewed	535	518	498
To date	623	657	621

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# Changes in the Natural Environment

*The Beacon is most grateful to Cedric Nielsen for agreeing to write this special feature article marking the new millennium.*

The ancient parish of Painswick was created as a Saxon Manor at the beginning of the last millennium. It is possible that some of its boundaries may well have been those used to define the Roman Villa estate based at Highfold Farm. It follows natural features such as the escarpment from the Portway round to Edge Common. Within this framework of high ridges, Painswick together with Cranham forms a natural entity, enclosing several streams and lower ridges. Protected from the North by the high ridge of Painswick Beacon Common rising to 282 metres (920 feet), most of the Parish enjoys a sheltered and warm position.

Above the 180 metre contour, the limestone of the inferior oolite supersedes the softer Lias limestone and clays. At this meeting point rainwater which has percolated through the oolitic limestone is brought to the surface by the clay, causing spring lines along the hill sides. The change from the light stony soils of the oolite to the heavier clays of the hillsides and valleys has encouraged a remarkable diversity of plants and wildlife to develop in these widely differing environments.

From the top of Painswick Beacon almost the entire parish can be seen. The high upland ridges still have considerable areas of common land, while the slightly deeper soils have been sown for centuries to oats, wheat, barley, beans and lately oil-seed rape. The steep sides of the ridges and the escarpment have rarely been cul-

*by Cedric Nielsen*

tivated and are still covered in beech woods.

Lower down the hill sides the lias clays are mostly grassland, supporting cattle and sheep and until quite recently many apple and perry pear orchards.

To go back in time over the past millennium and to try to determine the natural environment and man's effect on it, is like trying to solve a complicated detective story. Only one living organism now remains which has been present for most of this time. It is the Great Oak of Painswick, standing alone as it does today in the centre of a field near Edge Farm.

The Oak was most likely one of many acorns produced in a good summer around the year 1000. This was its best chance of survival because the abundance of acorns ensured that some survived in a hostile world where many animals foraged for food. It is possible that the acorn took root in a hedge. It was certainly in one when Baker drew up his first field map of Painswick in 1820. As part of a hedge, the sapling oak grew within its protection, until about twenty years later when someone noticed and it was pollarded. The top was cut off at about three metres from the ground - high enough to allow the shoots that grew to replace the top from being eaten by cattle or deer. After seven to ten years the new growth would have been cut off again for use as fire wood; this treatment would have continued. Pollarding was allowed outside the Lord of the Manor's woods. There are still many pollarded trees in the hedgerows around Painswick, but none as old as The Oak.

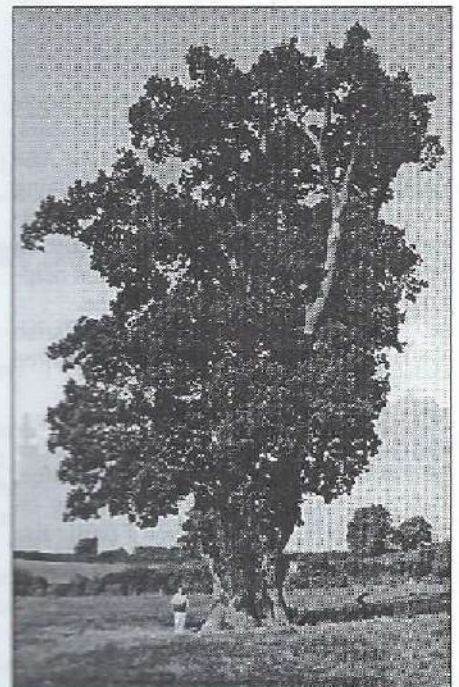
As the first century came to an end, the ownership of the Manor changed hands violently, from the Saxon Thane Ernsi to William the Conqueror's cousin Walter de Lacy. As a result we have our first written record of the Manor. The Domesday Book of 1086 tells us about Wyke, as the manor was called. It was one of the largest in Gloucestershire, containing 14000 acres of woodland and 6000 acres of cultivated land. The population was between 250 and 300; most appear to have been living on the west side of the manor, farming land which was probably cleared for the Roman villa. The eastern side was mainly woodland with small clearings in which the embryo Sheepscombe developed. The woodland at this time was large enough to give shelter to wild boar, wolves and possibly bear. The upper reaches of the streams would have been dammed by beaver. Red and roe deer would have grazed the clearings, while in the tree canopy red squirrels ran from tree to tree. Woodland butterflies

danced in the sunshine in the clearings.

The woods were havens for woodcock, snipe and owls, the long eared, tawny and barn which hunted wood mice and dormice. Overhead, kites and buzzards patrolled the skies. On the arable land, the summer evenings would echo to the call of the corncrake, pheasants, partridges and numerous singing birds.

Up on the commons, then called "waste", the bleating of sheep grazing the short herb-rich turf and the sounds of the lark would be all that disturbed the silence.

The de Lacys introduced rabbits, called coney by the Saxons. On the



*The Great Oak of Painswick. Cedric Nielsen is standing beside the tree, giving some idea of its size.*

southern slopes of the Beacon a field name, Coneygre Field, indicates the site of the Manor warren. East of the Royal William a pillow mound (artificial rabbit warren) can be seen in the woodland. Rabbits at that time were unable to survive without man's protection; usually a warren reeve kept guard to drive off vermin such as polecats, martens, and weasels, besides poachers.

When the de Lacys built the Lodge in the mid thirteenth century, the manor was still part of a huge estate centred on Herefordshire. The Lodge was a hunting house surrounded by one of the largest deer parks in Gloucestershire. The reason for the park was that red deer were becoming scarce; already wild boar had been hunted to extinction on this side of the Severn. The park was an early form of conservation in that deer were rounded up on the common and driven to the deer

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leap between the Park and the lane to Damsells Mill. Here the park wall was low enough for deer to jump into the park but because of the steep slope inside they could not jump out.

Roe deer, being smaller, were able to thrive in the shrinking woodland part of it now being called Buckholt. Beavers had long since gone. Their fur was much prized to trim hats but their fatal flaw was their musk glands, "the Viagra of the day."

Otters, foxes, badgers and hedgehogs managed to survive despite efforts to remove them by the peasants who thought that anything likely to harm their livestock should be killed.

The stable conditions brought about by the Norman rulers lead to an increasing population. The need to provide food led to the clearing of woodland along the valley sides and the development of new fields and hedges. There are indications that hedges existed around the new fields and larger communal fields. The number of tree/shrub species that are present in a length of thirty metres is the measure used. For every species found above two add a hundred years. Therefore a hedge with eight to ten species is likely to be eight hundred years old.

Towards the end of the thirteenth century the climate changed over northern Europe. Winters and summers became much colder, which led to poor harvests. The effect on Painswick was that famine led to a decrease in the population and a lowering of resistance to disease. As the cold conditions began to ease, the Black Death took its toll. There are no records for the number of deaths in the Manor; over the country about a third survived.

The effect on the wildlife was dramatic. Arable fields became pasture, the remains of ancient ridge and furrow ploughing can still be seen in steep fields below the beechwoods. Difficult, heavy clay land regenerated back to woodland. Nature regained some of its losses. The Great Oak, having survived the climate change, benefited from the Black Death. The demand for wood for heating was reduced and it escaped further pollarding. The branches grew and were able to mature. Unfit for timber for houses or ships, the tree grew on.

The Black Death caused a reduction in the labour force and labour intensive cropping systems gave way to extensive sheep farming, controlled by the great landowners. Large flocks of sheep now grazed the upland grassland, tended by shepherds and their families. Most of the grassland was never ploughed again until 1940. Sheep grazing over the centuries resulted in a specialised herb-rich grass-

land, able to survive droughts. Over thirty to forty species of plants can be found in a square metre. Early June is the best time to see this grassland at its best, covered in orchids, buttercups, thyme, rockroses and many other flowering plants.

During the sixteenth century the population began to increase again and this brought renewed pressure on the woodlands for timber for housing; eventually stone became cheaper and stone-built cottages took over from timber frames. The resulting quarries on the hills with their waste tips created a new environment on which drought resistant plants could grow. Juniper followed by whitebeam took hold as the organic matter built up in the surface layers of the tips.

Agriculture development was slow and farming methods remained unchanged over many hundreds of years. In 1757 Robins painted a view of Painswick from Pans House in Frith wood. It is the first visual record of the countryside. It shows a well ordered landscape with fields and hedges, the remains of larger common fields and much larger areas of common. Nature had been tamed, the natural flora had retreated to the Commons. Thomas's painting of 1791 from the same place shows more detail and includes the many orchards along the valley sides.

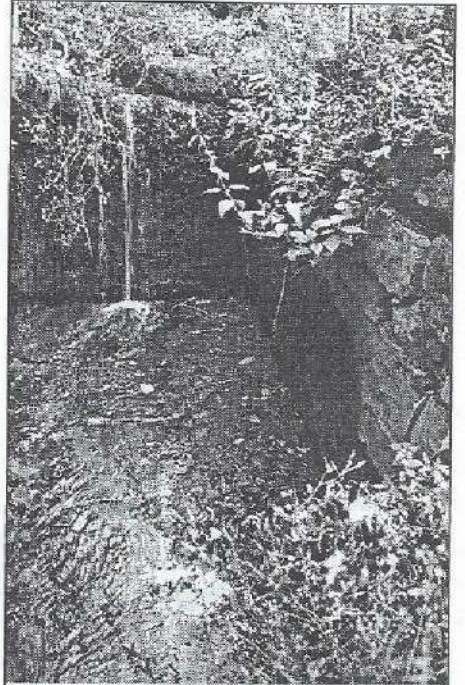
The first detailed records of the flora were written by Oade Roberts in 1818, when he wrote a flora of Gloucestershire and stated that about half the flora described, 550, occurred in Painswick. His daughter Mary Roberts published a book in 1831 titled, "The Annals of my Village". It is a picture of village life and the natural environment at that time. Its importance is that it records the wildlife at the very end of medieval farming practice.

She describes 66 species of birds. Some of them no longer live here such as the kite, long-eared owl, wheatears, whinchats, stonechats, nightjar, stone-curlew, landrail, water-crake, hobby, and ring-ouzel. She also mentions some birds which are now called by different names, such as the crescent-stare, greater pettychaps, waxen-chatterer, common goat-sucker and throistle.

Flowers were more interesting to her and she mentions 110 species, many used as herbal remedies. Rarities include the green hellebore, found near the Dell, henbane, which grew at Jacks Green, and yellow star of Bethlehem. Her father states that the red helleborine was very rare.

Twelve wild animals are described. She mentions that many people in Painswick believed that hedgehogs suckled cows and goats and tells of her efforts

to prove to them that it was not physically possible. She did her best to stop the indiscriminate killing of polecats, pine martens and weasels. Red squirrels and dormice were common in the beechwoods, but not close to the village.

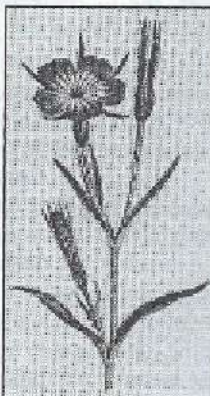


*The sheep wash near Edge Farm. It was probably last used about 150 years ago. The water level was raised by blocking the natural stream. Sheep were plunged in at the far side and scrambled to some steps in the wall on the near side.*

Her description of the communal effort at the hay harvest and at the annual sheep wash at Edge Farm gives a lively picture of rural life at that time.

Mary's account of one of her visits to her favourite place, Painswick Beacon, is I believe worth repeating: "A few sheep graze tranquilly along the ramparts, wild flowers grow beside the trenches. The Mount is situated at the verge of a wild common, rising gently upwards from the vale below. Local people believe it is inhabited by fairies. There is no sound except the sighing of the wind through the tufts of grasses or the pealing of church bells on Sundays. Now and then the heavy

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



*Corn cockle - no longer a familiar sight in cornfields*

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## Changes in the natural environment

creaking of a waggon grates upon the ear, when returning to the stone quarries of which there are several in view, the bleating of sheep and on high the cheerful song of the lark are the only sounds that break the stillness of the place". What a contrast to the present; there are no sheep nor larks, instead a steady flow of golfers and walkers with their dogs. In the background the continuous roar of traffic as it passes a long the M5.

Baker's map of 1839 shows the field system which has changed little since, except for a few hedgerows which have been removed during the later part of the twentieth century. Clues to former woodland on the map are the field names, such as ridding or redding. The loss of most of Longridge Wood and all of Worgans Wood above Slad since the map was drawn indicate nature is still in retreat.

As the nineteenth century progressed more information on the natural environment can be found. Uriah Davis, 1881, wrote about the flora and fauna in his "Short Notes on Painswick". The pasque flower could be found on the commons, Daphne mezereum was very rare and spindle trees were only found in a few places. He sets out a list of forty four species of butterfly found around the parish; those no longer here are: high brown, pearl-bordered and greasy fritillaries, large tortoise-shell (considered a pest in apple orchards), Camberwell beauty, grayling, large heath, large and Clifton blues.

The cereal and arable land would have remained on the drier and easier worked soils, while the remainder of the cultivated land would have been permanent pasture and orchards. The status remained constant as can be seen from a series of large scale Ordnance Survey Maps for 1884, 1903 and 1923.

The great changes to the countryside

which affected the natural environment started with the Second World War, 1939 to 1945, when large areas of permanent pasture were ploughed up to grow cereals for food. Many old perry and apple orchards were also cleared from this time to provide more cultivated land. The effect on the plant life was particularly severe; many grassland species were lost and the changing colours of the flowers in the fields became a memory.

The advent of improved agricultural methods and production were encouraged by successive post war governments with the aim of increasing home grown food. This led to the use of artificial fertilisers and pesticides as normal practice on most farms.

Pesticide use gained momentum from the 1960s and had a two pronged effect on wildlife. Herbicides were the first to be used generally. Very powerful chemicals were developed which killed all broad-leaved plants and left cereal crops virtually weed free, except for invasive grasses. The sight of corn fields yellow with charlock and later red with poppies, soon disappeared. Besides the obvious plants numerous others perished such as: corn cockle, corn marigold, scabious, toadflaxes and many types of chickweed; in the pastures, the loss of cowslips, yellow rattle docks, sorrel and thistles.

The knock-on effect was the loss of many species of insects, butterflies and grasshoppers. If starvation did not kill the insects then insecticides did.

The use of powerful insecticides developed from chemical warfare gradually penetrated the very core of the natural environment by the accumulation of these poisons within the wildlife. It moved up the food chain eventually reaching the top predators, hawks, owls, fish eating birds and mammals such as otters, foxes and badgers. The accumulated poisons affected their reproductive systems and lowered their resistance to endemic diseases such as TB. We, the top of the food chain, have also been affected. By the mid-1970s traces of insecticides could be found in all inland and coastal waters in Europe, including the off-shore islands. Rachel Carson's book *The Silent Spring*, laughed at when first published in 1954, with its grim prediction, was becoming a reality. A tape recording I made of the dawn chorus in 1963 in Bisley Street, compared with today's feeble effort, shows up the contrast. Instead of tens of blackbirds all

competing, now there are separate individuals at some distance apart.

The common lands of the parish, once the bastions of the natural environment, lost their use as grazing areas, as traffic increased across the roads surrounding them. Shepherds moving with their flocks were too expensive and out of fashion. All the commons lost their flocks of sheep by the early 1950s. For a time grass burning kept invasive scrub and trees at bay. The mowing of the golf course on the Beacon allowed the herb-rich sward to survive. By 1990, virtually the whole of the Beacon except the golf course was scrub and trees;

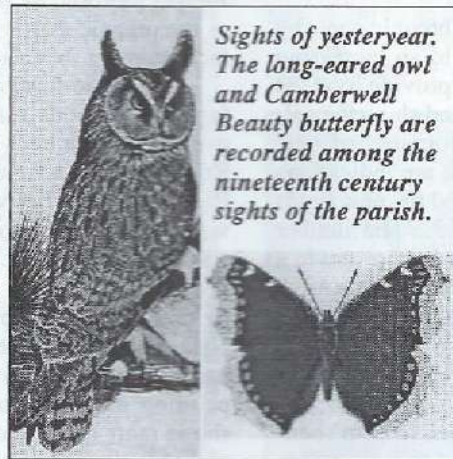
Edge, Bulls Cross and Juniper Hill commons were fast going the same way.

Fortunately at that time a group of golfer naturalists got together with the Manor of Painswick and English Nature to decide a strategy to reverse the trend to woodland. A public meeting was arranged and from this initiative developed groups of volunteers to remove the scrub

from the Commons and to create conditions for the regeneration of the herb-rich natural grassland flora and fauna. The problems of maintaining the grassland allowing free public access have still to be resolved. To illustrate the problem, Crickley Hill Countryside Park receives over 200,000 visitors each year and is owned by the County Council, while Painswick Beacon is privately owned land and cannot afford two wardens, car parks and a visitor centre free. Only public money can do this.

Legislation to curb the excesses of some individuals is necessary to control wanton destruction. However, if the public do not perceive this as a problem there will be no extra funds. A programme of education to develop a sense of care and pride in what we have in this unique environment is possibly the way forward. All this requires money and the natural environment does not rank high in the politics of government. In other words you do not get elected for saving a blue tit. Funds from lottery sources do not at present go directly to English Nature and until they do funds to save the natural environment will be limited.

The Great Oak today stands alone. It is in its third stage of life, and after three hundred years of decline it is now hollow with a ring of branches growing round the rim. To keep it together these have been trimmed and are held by metal collars and chains. Let us hope that it will continue well into this millennium.



*Sights of yesteryear. The long-eared owl and Camberwell Beauty butterfly are recorded among the nineteenth century sights of the parish.*

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Stonemason Max Knowles at work restoring some of the intricate carving above the entrance to Lovedays House.

## Celebration of Poetry

The Celebration of Gloucestershire Poetry, a garden party held at Yew Tree House on 29th July, raised a sum of £810.97 for Christian Aid. Thanks to Veda Warwick and Dave Walton who read the poetry, to the Friends who kindly made their Meeting House available, to all those who attended and to those who so willingly assisted.

Ted and Elizabeth Burge

# 'Which hat I am wearing?'

## Parish Councillors suffer from split personalities

At the July Parish Council meeting a lively discussion took place regarding councillors' dual roles as members of the Council and trustees of the Recreation Field. The subject was raised by John Stephenson-Oliver, who said he was most unhappy with the situation, especially as the trustees often go into a private session at the end of a Council meeting. This exposed councillors to accusations of hypocrisy because people thought they were saying one thing in public and another in private.

Council Chairman Terry Parker explained that although membership is the same, the Council is a separate body from the Trust and individual councillors become trustees on being elected to the Council. Keith Hardwidge said that, in that case, councillors should be given the right on election to say whether they wished to

be trustees of the recreation field. It was agreed to look into this possibility.

Terry Parker said the Charity Commissioners had always been emphatic that the trustees' business should be kept separate from Council business, and they therefore had to hold separate meetings. It was quite possible, he said, that the Council could come to a different decision to that of the Trust; for instance the Council could recommend an action which the trustees subsequently found to be contrary to the terms of the Trust or to Charity Commission guidelines.

It was agreed to obtain more documentation and guidance on the subject, and to return to it at the September meeting.

The Beacon has contacted the Charity Commissioners and has been informed that although most charities and trusts hold their meetings in private there is no general requirement for them to do so.

## Historic Churches sponsored ride/walk

The annual sponsored walk or bike ride for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust takes place next Saturday, 9th September. The idea is to 'sign in' at as many churches as possible during the day. There are several seasoned Painswick campaigners. Why not join them? You can make up your own circuit. More details may be obtained from Mike Buttrey, 812565.

## 'By the way' - answers (see question on page 10)

'Pasture', obviously, means the right to graze stock. 'Pannage' is the right to graze pigs on fallen acorns and beechnuts. 'Estovers' is the right to take underwood by coppice or by pollarding, and to gather fallen wood for fuel, etc. 'Turbarry' is the right to dig turf or peat for fuel, roofing or making up the fertility of gardens. (With acknowledgement to the authors of 'A Guide to Painswick Beacon & Popes Wood')

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# Now's the time to support trade and commerce

The Annual General Meeting of Painswick Chamber of Commerce will be held at The Falcon Hotel on Wednesday 11th October at 7.30pm, to which all members and others who share an interest in the promotion of trade and tourism are invited.

A healthy continuance of both trade and tourism is of prime importance to the life of the community and the recent closure of an amenity shop in Friday Street gives cause for concern. Painswick is a 'gem' of a place but it is also one of the Historic Wool Towns of the Cotswolds

and throughout its long history has always been a thriving, working parish: indeed it is not so many years ago that it was more or less self sufficient.

Times change and Painswick becomes ever more dependent upon tourism and this is being actively encouraged by the circulation, far and wide, of our promotional pamphlet, although we realise, perhaps thankfully, that our infrastructure precludes us from becoming another Bourton-on-the-Water.

With the closure of small businesses, shops, post offices and banks, so many of

our rural communities are resembling little more than "artificial husks", a frightening prospect should this happen to The Queen of the Cotswolds, in which we are privileged to live.

David Archard

## Beastly beauty!

Pictured right is Hazel Morris, one of the exhibitors at 'Another Beastly Art Exhibition' at the Painswick Library Room last month. Hazel, who lives in Kingsmill Lane, Painswick, specialises in fashion jewellery and small decorative items, such as the fascinating animal-shaped aluminium mirrors on the wall behind her.

Hazel has been a jeweller and metal-worker for eleven years, having set up in business shortly after qualifying at the Birmingham School of Jewellery and Silversmithing. She is an Associate of Cotswold Craftsmen and her work has been exhibited in many venues locally, including the Fiery Beacon Gallery in Painswick. Hazel has a workshop and gallery in Nailsworth, known as Studio 21, and will be delighted if Painswick residents call there to see more examples of her work.



## Flower Festival donation

As a result of voluntary donations given at the Flower Festival at St Mary's Church at Whitsuntide, a cheque for £782 was handed over last month to the Cotswold Care Hospice. Susan Shearer, organiser of the Flower Festival, presented the cheque to Paula Woodcock, Chairwoman of the Painswick volunteers, and Chris Weaver, Chairman of the Cotswold Care Hospice Board.

## GEAR - helping the homeless

To any visitor in Gloucester, once they have left the main streets, the picture of the homeless - often alcoholics - sitting around is familiar. Helping the homeless is one of the least attractive charities to the average person, but behind each person sitting in a doorway, waiting either for the Night Shelter or the Day Centre to open, is a sad story. The Night Shelter at the Mariners' Hall in Gloucester and the Day Centre in Wesley House provide a lifeline with medical help, advice, food and shelter for the tragic and homeless ones of Gloucester.

Would you like to help a sponsored jump which has been initiated by Brian Jones, the Manager of GEAR (Gloucestershire Emergency Accommodation Resource), and his family? In October, Brian, his wife and two sons will leap from a plane hopefully to try to raise £40,000 towards new and suitable premises for the Day and Night Shelters. If you could promise even a small sum please ring or write to me. It will be appreciated and I will enter your name on our sponsor form.

Diana Feilden, 1 Hambutts Mead,  
812112 (Trustee of the GEAR project)

## 5 VALLEYS WALK

A good number of Painswick residents usually take part in the annual Five Valleys Walk organised by the National Meningitis Trust. The Walk is on Sunday 1st October. Now in its thirteenth year, the walk has raised a total of £415,000 to help fund vital research into the disease.

For those not familiar with the format, the walk is a circular route of twenty one miles taking in the Nailsworth, Golden, Toadsmoor, Slad and Painswick valleys, and it is divided into sections so that walkers can do as much or as little as they want. It is very well organised with refreshments available at checkpoints and a free bus service connecting parts of the route. The checkpoints are open from 8.30am until 5.30pm.

There is a registration fee of £3 per person, or £8 per family ticket. Please phone Laura Butt at the Trust headquarters on 01453 769026 to register or for more details, or email her on laurab@meningitis-trust.org.uk

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## Bryan Ricketts

Bryan Ricketts, who sadly died in August, made a massive contribution to the social and cultural life of Edge, as was so clearly evident at the funeral service in Edge Church last Tuesday. We hope in due course to print a suitable tribute to Bryan, but in the meantime the Beacon Committee would like to acknowledge its indebtedness to him for the help and support that he gave for many years. Most recently Bryan has been a regular contributor to our 'By the Way' quizzes, and now is an opportune moment to reveal the true identity of 'Rambler'. His final, typically quixotic, contribution appeared in our columns only last month. Bryan also sent numerous lively pieces for publication in the Beacon, especially in connection with the Edge writing competitions.

Bryan's quizzes at the Village Hall were a delight, and the Beacon committee has several times been honoured to be invited to enter a team for what is essentially an Edge village event. We marvelled at the ingenuity of his questions and his ability to generate a warm and informal atmosphere - features that we have envied when running our own village quiz at the Painswick Centre.

## 'Save the Children' concert

There is to be a concert in aid of Save the Children at Sibly Hall, Wycliffe College, Stonehouse, on Saturday 23rd September, 7.30pm.

The Emerald Ensemble with Samantha Newbold, piano, will be performing works by Handel, Albinoni, Bach, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. Tickets, price £10, are available from the Stroud Tourist Information Centre, tel 01453-765768.



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## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

## PaDS in alphabetical order...

**A** is for Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 21st September, 7.30 pm at the Painswick Centre.

**B** is for being there. So, be there for a truly dramatic evening!

**C** is for casting, now underway for the next PaDS production, *Alphabetical Order*.

**D** is for its director (Alasdair King) and also for demented, which he probably soon will be.

**E** is for eagerly enthusiastic, which everyone is: after all, rehearsals haven't yet started.

**F** is for Frayn (Michael), him what wrote *Alphabetical Order*.

**G** is for gritty dialogue and gutsy characters, which abound in *Alphabetical Order*.

**H** is for humour, humanity and homology, all of which also habound in *Halphabetical Order*, and 'ippos, 'edgehogs and 'omicide, which don't.

**I** is... ungrammatical, which *Alphabetical Order* certainly am not. (*But you certainly is: Editor*)

**J** is for the journalistic jugulars, which the play goes for.

**K** is for knife-like repartee that does the cutting.

**L** is for library, the curiously chaotic setting for *Alphabetical Order*.

**M** is for Machiavellian manipulation, by

which *Alphabetical Order* is created from the chaos.

**N** is for November, 16th, 17th and 18th, when *Alphabetical Order* will be memorably performed each evening.

**O!** I nearly forgot: there will be a matinee on Saturday the 18th.

**P** is for PaDS (of course) but also for Painswick Players which PaDS used to be and could be again. It all depends on the AGM (Thursday 21st September, 7.30pm).

**Q** is for queues outside Painswick Centre for the AGM (Thursday 21st September, 7.30 pm), eager to join the debate on the re-naming of PaDS and other gripping issues.

**R** is for red (or white) wine, free glasses of, the real reason for the queues outside the Painswick Centre.

**S** is for Saturday, 18th November, the last night for *Alphabetical Order*.

**T** is for Thursday, 16th November, the first night for *Alphabetical Order* and Thursday, 21st September for... the AGM.

**U** is going to come ain't U? Otherwise...

**V** have vays of making U change your mind.

**W** is watch this space, for more dramatic, behind-the-scenes revelations from PaDS and...

**X** is for the mysterious goings on once the AGM is over; so...

**Y** not come along and find out more?

**Z** is for ze end of zis piece, all of which was in... *Alphabetical Order*.

Jack Burgess, PaDS

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

## Wives' autumn programme

Painswick Wives' Fellowship starts its autumn programme on Wednesday 13th September with an Opening Service at the Friends Meeting House, starting at 8pm. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 27th September at Christ Church Hall, also at 8pm.

All Painswick ladies, whether old or new members, will be most welcome to join the group or to come to any of the interesting events planned for this year. Most meetings are on Wednesday evenings in Christ Church Hall. For more information please contact Gill Gyde on 812587.

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## Sheepscombe Bridge Club - come and join us

Sheepscombe Bridge Club will start again on Thursdays, fortnightly from 21st September. New and old members are very welcome.

Please come to the Village Hall upstairs room at 7.15pm so play can begin promptly as we endeavour to finish at 10.15pm.

We have a core membership of 22 people and we really need to raise this to about 36 to keep the club interesting and competitive. It is a friendly club of diverse standard so if you play bridge and would like to try duplicate, come along with a partner and see how it goes. Do not worry about speed of play as we can always give averages if you fail to complete a hand, which can take any pressure off.

Bridge players of Sheepscombe - turn up or the Club will move to Painswick! Bridge players of Painswick on the waiting list for Painswick - come and play at Sheepscombe.

For any more information please ring Barry or Joy Edwards on 812588.

## The Lunch Club - can you help?

Summer holidays are over, and dare we ask if you could now spare some time to help with the Lunch Club at Ashwell?

We need about one and a half hours of your time, from 11.45am to 1.15pm on either Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Serving meals to fourteen members, washing up, making a cup of tea, and cleaning up afterwards are the tasks, and maybe helping one or two people home.

Most of our helpers are 'on duty' for one session per month.

If you think you could join our team, please contact either Audrey Timpson, 812296, or Naomi Maclaurin-Jones, 813320.

Audrey Timpson

## Horticultural Society prepares for next Saturday's Annual Show

Just a reminder that today, Saturday 2nd September, is the last day for entries for the Horticultural Society's 48th Annual Show. Entries may be left at Highfield, Edge Road, until 10pm.

The Show will take place on Saturday 9th September at the Painswick Centre, opening at 3pm, with classes for vegetables, fruit, floral exhibits and arrangements, cookery, preserves, handicrafts and a Junior Section.

Teas will be served throughout the afternoon. There will be a sale of items from the Plant and Produce stall to suit all tastes, a raffle, a guess the weight of the cake competition, and, of course, the ever-

popular 10 pence stall, run this year by Jenny Gaugain, following in the footsteps of her mother, Gladys Hobbs, who has 'retired' after many years of dedicated fund-raising for the Society, which has been deeply appreciated.

Members may renew their subscription at the Show, and anyone wishing to join the society will be most welcome. The committee would greatly appreciate donations for the plant and produce and 10 pence stalls.

Members may also book for the Autumn Supper, to be held on Saturday 21st October. Enquiries to me (813227).

Philip Berry

## Music Appreciation Group's 13th season

Some may think 13 unlucky, but we count ourselves very lucky indeed not only in having a membership steadily rising year by year, but especially more and more members volunteering to entertain us with their own presentations.

In the coming season there will be more of these than ever before: Richard Purdy (selecting our Opening Night music), Alex Nichols (of course), John Parfitt (always suspected he had it in him!), Leslie Brotherton (about time too!), Lawrence Turner (our other opera expert), and the

two Annes - Léoni and Smith.

And of course lots more goodies, including two concert outings and the English National Ballet doing Swan Lake in Bristol on 2nd November. If you want to join us for that, please tell us by the latest 14th September, our opening night. See you then!

Ralph Kenber

## New season for Local History Society

The first meeting of Painswick Local History Society for the new season will take place at 7.30pm at the Croft School on Tuesday 19th September. Amaury Blow will give a presentation on the fascinating findings of a recent archaeological survey which was conducted on the Painswick Manorship Estate. Everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell

## Conservatives' wine tasting

Painswick Conservatives are holding a Wine Tasting with a Buffet Supper in the Painswick Centre on Saturday 14th October 2000. The wine tasting will be introduced by a wine master, and there will be tasting notes for up to 20 wines, predominantly New World. There will be a tasting competition with prizes, and, after a buffet supper and a chance to clear the palate, a promises auction. You will be able to purchase any of the wines tasted, by the bottle (or by the case!), at attractive prices. Not to be missed!

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# The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2000

## September

Sat 2nd	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	12.30pm
3rd	Line Dancing - Beginners. Information from Julie Cole, 01453-752480	Painswick Centre	7.30 - 8.30pm
5th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
7th	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
8th	WI Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
Sat 9th	Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride	Gloucestershire	10am - 6pm
	Horticultural Society Annual Show and Exhibition	Painswick Centre	3 - 5pm
12th	Mothers' Union: "MU Miscellany" - Rosemary Franklin	Church Rooms	2.30pm
13th	Painswick Probus: Kashmir, Pakistan - L Badham	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Alpha Course - Introductory Supper Party. Phone 812829 or 812625 for details	Castle Godwyn	7.30pm
	Painswick Wives Fellowship. Opening Service.	Friends Meeting House	8pm
14th	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Opening Night	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Talk by Margaret Meyercourt: Michaelmas and the Young Child (No entry charge)	Hawkwood College Old Painswick Road	7.30pm
15th	Senior Circle: Two Feet in the Past - Derek Hodges	Town Hall	2.30pm
19th	Painswick Local History Society - First meeting of new season Talk on Painswick Manorship estate.	Croft School	7.30pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
20th	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
21st	W.I.: Getting into hot water - the story of volcanic activity in New Zealand - Janet Jenkins	Town Hall	2.30pm
	PaDS AGM	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
	Sheepscombe Bridge Club. New season commences. Old and new members very welcome.	Sheepscombe V Hall	7.15pm
23rd	Garden Party Extravaganza, in aid of Cobolt Unit, Cheltenham All welcome.	8/9 Upper Washwell	2 - 5pm
24th	<b>COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Postbox in New Street</b>		
	Painswick Clipping Service	St Mary's Churchyard	3pm
	Painswick '30s Kids' Reunion		
25th	Upholstery & Soft Furnishing course commences, 10 weekly meetings.	Church Rooms	1.45 - 3.45pm
26th	WEA Courses Begin: Learn to Draw	Church Rooms	9.30 - 11.30am
27th	Painswick Probus: Farming Today - J Rowe	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Beginners Spanish course commences, 10 weekly meetings	Library Room	10am - 12 noon





27th, contd.	WEA Courses Begin: Advanced Watercolours Enjoying Poetry	Church Rooms Library Room	2 - 4pm 2.30 - 4pm
	Classes Begin: Conversational French (Advanced) - Wednesdays Conversational Italian (Intermediate)	Library Room " "	9.30 - 11am 11.30am - 1pm
	Some places still available: Tutor - Caterina Krucker		
	Painswick Wives Fellowship. AGM.	Christ Church Hall	8pm
28th	<b>DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Postbox in New Street</b>		
	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: 1923 - A Good Year for Music - Jim Grantham	Town Hall	7.30pm
	China Restoration course begins. 10 weekly meetings	Church Rooms	10am - 12 noon
29th	Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Relief	Painswick Centre	Morning
	Senior Circle: A Mystery: The Disappearing and Reappearing House - Tony Bradley	Town Hall	2.30pm
	PCMS: Archdeacon Christopher Wagstaff's Retirement Service	Gloucester Cathedral	7.30pm
<b>October</b>			
1st	Five Valleys Walk for National Meningitis Trust. Contact 01453-769026 to register.	Stroud Valleys	All day
5th	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
<b>Sat 7th</b>	<b>October Issue of The Painswick Beacon Published</b>		
Sat 14th	Oriel Singers Concert in aid of Mission to Seafarers	St Mary's Church	7.30pm

**Rugby Fixtures [(L) denotes league match]. Home fixtures 3pm.**

	<b>First XV</b>	<b>United</b>
Sat 2 Sep.	Widden OB (home).	
Sat 9 Sep.	National Cup. Supermarine (Swindon) (home).	Westbury on Severn (home)
Sat 16 Sep.	(L) Old Elizabethans 1st XV (home).	
Sat 23 Sep.	(L) Smiths Industries 1st XV (away).	Smiths Industries 2nd XV (home).
Sat 30 Sep.	(L) Tewkesbury 1st XV (home).	Tewkesbury 2nd XV (away).
Sat 7 Oct.		National Cup Second Round. Gordon League 2nd XV (home).

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**Property Report**

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First of all we would like to thank all those people who visited our stand at the recent Painswick Show and took part in our Property Quiz. We would like to congratulate two winners - Lynn and Tony Gibson, and Audrey Timpson - we hope they enjoyed their champagne!!

Work is due to commence on the conversion of Gyde House and we shall shortly have full printed particulars. The first apartments are hoped to be ready in the early Spring and the provisional plans may be inspected in our office. In order to keep informed on the development, please register your interest with us and we shall put you on our mailing list for the brochure.

Painswick Heights is now well under construction and in October we hope to have an opening ceremony in the showhouse. If you would like to have a preview, please contact us for an invitation.

Other new instructions include: Appleshaw - Pitchcombe - a spacious 5 bedrooomed chalet bungalow; on Upton Hill - New Horizons - a completely refurbished house with a magnificent conservatory in 3 acres; and down in the village of Upton - Mill Cottage - a 2 bedrooomed cottage with great potential. Rural period properties include Edge Cottage on the Green at Edge with its delightful garden and small paddock; The Old House, Cranham - a fine period house with garden and paddock of about 1.5 acres. In Painswick we are offering Woods Mill for sale - a beautifully converted barn with spacious versatile accommodation and a lovely sunken garden and parking in the heart of the village. On the edge of the village is Highgrove House - a charming period property in a most idyllic secluded location with elegant 5 bedrooomed accommodation in a lovely garden.

Exchanges include two properties in Cranham - Mallards and Beechfield and at Paradise Berry Cottage.

For further information on any of the above please call in our office or ring us on 01452 812354.





## Computing Club of Painswick?

For those interested, and the number speaking to me on the subject seems to indicate that there may be more than we originally thought, an update from the short article in the April Beacon seems to be appropriate.

The first line of enquiry then was to see whether funding and/or other resources might be attracted to help bring the inner 'café' room at the Painswick Centre into use, as had been provisionally offered to us by the Centre's Management Committee. The present position is that between £500 and £1000 from one source has been identified as probably available if the project to set up the inner room with internet connection goes ahead. In addition to this we are aware of several computer users willing to offer slightly outdated equipment. What we do not have at the moment is assured interest, so there must be reservations about going ahead and trying to attract additional funds from an unknown number of users.

There seem to be three assured requirements if the room were to be converted; (a) materials to construct benches, a partition, security, wiring of power circuits, etc., (b) volunteers willing to involve themselves in DIY to install these facilities, and (c) upwards of twenty CCofP members willing to pay at least £20 a year to access equipment, excluding on-line costs.

As readers may be aware, Chancellors have been operating café services from this part of the Centre in August and may continue this for a little beyond the end of the Guild exhibition. The Chairman of the Management Committee has informed us that that there could still be a prospect of

bringing that room into use for computing activities, since his committee will be reviewing catering and other implications for these rooms after the end of September in the light of valuable experience gained this summer.

The second approach would be to forget about having a fixed base, a Painswick cyber-café, but arrange a communication system so that those interested could keep in touch with one another and/or assist with exchange of information when wanted. This could include arranging for the CCofP members to meet (say) monthly on a regular fixed-day basis, perhaps 10.00 until 12.00 wherever it is most economic to rendezvous. Even without fixed equipment to hand such encounters might be of mutual assistance and a forum for discussion. If there were sufficient interest, it might be possible to arrange some informative demonstrations e.g. an expert invited to join the Group, maybe bringing a lap-top with them to help explain techniques. In addition to or instead of the meetings, it would be relatively straightforward to maintain a listing of all who wish to know about others sharing concerns about computing or getting into computing from scratch; this so that contact between individuals experiencing difficulties (or bouts of euphoria) can take place at minimum notice.

Before taking either or both of these forward it seems to me important that anyone interested in either the first or second methods of approach let me know. Using the responses I receive by the end of September I will be pleased to see what I can do to get a real show on the road. If there is strong support for the first option, I will of course let the Management Committee know so that they can take it into account in their review. Looking forward to hearing from you by note to Longhope, Blakewell Mead, GL6 6UR, or email to [Leslie.Brotherton@care4free.net](mailto:Leslie.Brotherton@care4free.net).

Leslie Brotherton

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# The Personal Column

## Babies

Congratulations to SALLY and PAUL TIMPSON on the birth of their daughter, Daisy, on 7th August, a sister for Max and a fourth grandchild and first granddaughter for John and Audrey Timpson;

also to EMMA and KEITH HENRY on the birth of their son on 10th August, a first great-grandson for Sheila Potter.

Congratulations to SARAH and ANDREW TAYLOR on the birth of their third daughter, Jane Marie, on 27th August, a sister for Samantha and Catherine.

And there is another great-grandchild for Brian and Ruth de Courcy-Ireland: In Australia, eight weeks early, a third daughter, Sofia Alison Lynn, for PENNY and CALLUM BURNS - an eighth grandchild for Douglas and Alison Robinson of Mayfield, Vicarage Street.

## Welcome

We give a welcome to REBECCA and TRAOLACH McCABE and their small children Isobel and Oliver on their move to Tabithas, Vicarage Street.

## Change of House

MARGERY (MIDGE) LENEY has moved to No 1 Hyett Close and keeps the same phone number.

PEGGY DODD, who recently moved to Tetbury (details in last month's Beacon), has the phone number 01666-500062. She would enjoy hearing from her friends in Painswick.

## Weddings

Best wishes for their future happiness to ELIZABETH HUDSON and ANDREW CAVE WINSOM who were married at St Mary's Church on 12th August;

also to SUE JAMES and GILES CHAMBERLIN who were married at Christ Church on 12th August;

and to MARIE HODSON and PHILIP LOWE of Lantern Cottage, Tibbiwell, who were married at the Painswick Hotel on 29th July.

## Ruby Wedding

VINCE and ANN DANIELS will be celebrating their Ruby Wedding this month (Love from Barbara, Bev and the family).

## Golden Weddings

Congratulations to GLADYS and DON HARDING who were married at St Mary's, Tewkesbury, on 2nd September 1950;

also to SALLY and MICHAEL BRENNAN who will celebrate their Golden Wedding on 16th September;

also to MARY and CHARLES MULLER who were married on 25th August fifty years ago.

## Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of NORMAN DALE, DOROTHY McEUNE, ROY TRUMAN, RUBY MORRIS and BRYAN RICKETTS, who have died recently.

## Get Well Soon

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to GLADYS HOBBS.

## Thank you

I wish to most sincerely thank all those who visited me during my recent spell in Cheltenham Hospital and for all those get well cards. I regret that I shall not be able to reply to them all.

Denys Hill

Many thanks to Margaret and Charles of Ashwell House, Shirley his carer, Mr Wildy, doctors and nurses from the Surgery, and those who were very kind to Bert (Wright). He was very happy at Ashwell and joined in most things. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Mary Luker

BILL and PHYLL VARAH would like to thank all those who sent cards and good wishes on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

THELMA and ALAN DALE, of Staddlestones, The Highlands, would like to thank their neighbours and their friends in Painswick for their support and sympathy on the death of Norman, a husband and father. Thanks also to the doctors at Painswick Surgery, especially to Dr du Toit. To the staff at Painswick Surgery and the District Nurses Rachel, Tina and Gareth, thank you.

## NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date  
**SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER**

Items for publication to Jillie Speed\*,  
The Old Carriage House, Edge, by  
**SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER**

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton,  
Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by  
**SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER**

Business adverts: Contact Liz Fisher,  
Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by  
**THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER**

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey,  
14 The Croft, by  
**THURSDAY 28th SEPTEMBER**

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

Items for publication are welcomed on computer diskette (returned to you after use) or by e-mail to:  
[Painswick.Beacon@dial.pipex.com](mailto:Painswick.Beacon@dial.pipex.com)  
In all cases please give your name, address and phone number.

## BEACON COMMITTEE

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