

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 24 No. 3

June 2001

## So glad to be back!

Following the reopening last Friday of Prinknash Bird and Deer Park after the Foot and Mouth outbreak, lots of locals and tourists have been to see and feed the birds and animals.

And were the fallow deer pleased to be back, getting their customary extras from enthusiastic visitors like these?



## Neolithic and Roman finds at Martin's farm

Happening upon bits of old pottery, nails and odds and ends while ploughing his fields is nothing new for Edge farmer Martin Slinger. He has run the family farm in Jenkins Lane for almost 60 years.

But while walking over a field that he had just ploughed, he saw two smallish bronze rings and a leaf motif piece, also bronze.

Martin is well versed in local history, especially that of fields around his farm where it is known that ancient fields lie inside present boundaries. He called up his friend, Cedric Neilsen, the Painswick naturalist, who took the finds to Gloucester Museum.

There it was established that they had come from a fourth century Roman soldier's horse fittings.

An earlier discovery, that has only just been returned to Martin by English Heritage, created even more interest.

This is a small, arrow-head shaped piece of flint. Martin had first believed it to be an arrow head, but experts at English Heritage have written to say that it has been chipped from a larger piece of flint, while making a weapon or tool, and dates back to early neolithic times, that is, 3,000 years ago in the New Stone Age.

Martin now has them wrapped away for safety, along with many other unusual finds he has made over the years.



*Not too easy to see, but here's Martin with the Roman horse pieces he found*

## Nursing home plan changes again

After District Council planners wrote to the Stroud Road nursing home architects on 9th May, saying it had been agreed that 25 per cent of the dwellings should be 'affordable,' asking for details of numbers of beds, and seeking further investigation of the site for stability, the ground rules have changed again.

At a meeting a week later on the Local Plan (to be finalised on 18th June), after a submission from District Councillor Barbara Tait, it was agreed that the number of dwellings associated with the nursing home would be not more than 20, with no specific mention of 'affordable dwellings.'

As the Beacon goes to press, the developer, Richmond Healthcare Developments Ltd., has not replied to the 9th May letter, and it is not clear what the response might be. However, it is too late for any application based on the 20 dwellings plan to be heard at the June meeting of SDC's development control committee. Any new proposal will again go out to all interested parties.

## Note for contributors and advertisers

The July issue of the Beacon needs to be produced slightly earlier than usual because the Editor is away for three days during the production period. Consequently copy deadline for this one issue only will be brought forward to Thursday, 21st June, rather than the following Sunday. The deadline for mini-ads remains as Sunday, 24th June.

Amendments to Business advertisements are also required by 21st June; the Diary events copy cut-off remains as Thursday, 28th June. Hopefully this small change will not prove to be too inconvenient.



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Council meeting minutes of 16th May, 2001

At the preceding Planning meeting, the chairman, Coun Malcom Watts, reported that the application for the lay-by at Shutway Quarry was being taken to appeal by the applicant on a legal point; and that the conditions imposed by the SDC planning authority on the St Mary's Home proposals were many and various, and could be examined in the Town Hall.

Coun Watts had organised, as requested, for the District Housing Development Officer to meet Parish councillors and explain the rules and processes governing "affordable housing" since this description was constantly confusing.

On the nursing home application for the Stroud Road field, deferred the previous week by Stroud District Council, a letter from SDC planners to the developer's architects was read out. This stated that 25 per cent of the buildings should be affordable units instead of ten, asked for details of the number of beds in the nursing home and associated dependent buildings, and that further investigation of land stability should be done.

A letter was read from the chairman of Painswick Conservation Society, expressing disappointment that the District Council had approved the St Mary's Home development when both the Society and the Parish Council had objected. The council chairman had replied.

THE MAIN meeting, the annual parish council meeting, began with the election of chairman and vice-chairman. Coun Terry Parker was proposed as chairman and Coun David Hudson as vice-chairman. In the absence of other candidates, each was unanimously elected.

Committee representatives were decided as follows:

**Finance and General Purposes:** Couns

Johnny Johnston, Martin Slinger and Tony Crook, with Coun Slinger having special responsibility for cemetery and parish maintenance, and Coun Crook to take special responsibility for the Town Hall.

**Footpaths:** Couns Ann Daniels, Alan Shearer, Malcolm Watts, Denise Ward and Jacqueline Woof.

**Plantation:** Couns Daniels, David Harcup, David Hudson, Watts and John Stephenson-Oliver.

**Planning:** All councillors except Coun Ward.

**Traffic:** Couns Harcup, Hudson, Johnston, Shearer, Slinger, Stephenson-Oliver and Woof.

It was unanimously decided that all previous chairs remain in their roles. Coun Crook was appointed vice-chairman of the planning committee.

A number of councillors were confirmed as representatives on 14 outside organisations, and a full list of these and the committees is available in the Town Hall office. It was agreed that the list of councillors displayed in the public library should include a passport-size photograph of each one.

#### *Planning and maintenance*

Coun Watts had examined further the subject of a roller blading surface for youngsters, and reported that Stratford Park main hall had a smooth wooden floor that was hired out for blading. He suggested that the Painswick Centre might be interested in providing such a venue.

The recreation ground pavilion was in a poor state and it was agreed to appoint a working party to suggest urgent, medium-term and long-term solutions to the refurbishment needs. About £8,000 was needed now to restore it to a safe state, and an electrical survey was put in hand to have essential work done immediately. Council agreed it was important to show its support for the youth club that is held in the pavilion.

It was agreed to draw up a resolution to go to Gloucestershire Association of parish councils that District Council officers should meet a parish council to discuss any 'significant' planning application as soon as it was received, and that a parish councillor should be allowed to address a District Council Development Control committee whenever a 'significant' planning application was being considered.

Coun Slinger reported that a meeting would take place in Edge on 12th June to discuss an alternative footpath solution to that which residents currently rejected.

#### *Traffic and parking*

The Highways authority had turned down a request for traffic calming measures along Butt Green, but residents would be

sent a letter asking them to watch speeds, and the speed gun would be used there if time permitted.

Highways had also explained it was impossible to put speed tables on New Street, but Coun Hudson said that if the speed gun showed traffic was still speeding there, he would press for some form of calming. Councillors agreed to operate the speed gun, with the help of local residents, at certain times of day and evenings. New Street would be targeted on 21st and 22nd May, followed by Slad, Edge and elsewhere.

The partial collapse of the A46 surface at Pitchcombe would be repaired by erecting a mesh and stone retaining wall, but the road would remain open during the work.

Coun Hudson said it was difficult to justify a need for any additional parking within the village while Stamages Lane car park was so underutilised, and Coun Daniels thought it was time to name and shame residents who continued to park illegally for long periods in the village centre. These residents should be sent a letter asking them not to ignore parking restrictions.

A coach parking bay will be marked out in front of Court Orchard, Stamages Lane.

#### *Miscellaneous*

The Parish Clerk reported that about 100 Millennium medals were still available for purchase after the distribution to parish children. It was agreed to offer these for sale at £4 each on a 'first come, first served' basis.

CPRE informed the Council that judging for the Bledisloe Cup in Painswick would be between 2nd and 17th June. Coun Daniels suggested that all residents be asked to tidy up outside their own property.

Coun Daniels reported that English Nature was still investigating the fencing of common land beside Red Stables, and she questioned the siting of large blue signs at Gyde House and yellow ones fixed to telegraph poles advertising the properties. Coun Parker said he would check what permission had been given.

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## POLICE REPORT

### Incidents from 16th April to 15th May

House burglaries: none. Business premises: Painswick, 4; Sheds: Painswick 2; Vehicles: Painswick 7; Other: Painswick 5 (assault 1, theft 3, damage 1), Slad 1 (theft).

### Items stolen from vehicles

Petrol (x2), handbag and contents, umbrella, rucksacks and contents (x2).

### Items stolen from other places

Ladder, money (x2), golf clubs (x3), stamps and carpet cleaner.

### Reported incidents

Ten incidents were reported this month four of which were of interest to the Police.

### Yearly figures

(Last year's in brackets)

House burglaries 23 (29); other burglaries 37 (35); vehicles 79 (90); theft 25 (38); damage 18 (21); other 26 (23); totals 208 (236).

It is pleasing to report that the number of crimes in each category has fallen again during the past year, with the exception of business premises/sheds where there has been a small increase.

The total crime for the year has reduced for the fourth year running. This is partly due to your increasing security of property, together with your vigilance which has made it difficult for thieves to succeed. Keep up the good work!

**PC Gary Power and the Neighbourhood Watch coordinators**

### ...And Gary's farewell

This is my last report for the Painswick area; I am being moved to other duties at Stroud Police Station, and would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their help, co-operation and kindness. It has made working in the area such a pleasure.

I am particularly grateful to the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators for passing messages and making local enquiries. They have been invaluable.

My successor, PC John Brakewell, will take over on 1st June. I leave, wishing you all the best for the future.

**PC Gary Power**



As busy and bountiful as ever: this was lunchtime at the Christian Aid Week event in Christ Church Hall, filled to capacity for splendid meals, home-made cakes, plants and lots of other well-stocked stalls

## Spirited support for Kevin's 100-kilometre Inca Trail run

Readers may remember back in March that the pleasantly rotund Kevin Parker intended to mark his 50th birthday by walking the 100 km Inca Trail in Peru, 14,000 feet up in the Andes.

In the process, he committed himself to raise at least £2,500 for Scope (the charity for those with cerebral palsy) and to become less rotund in the process.

Although he has not actually done the Darkest Peru bit yet – that takes place in September – he has achieved the first of his goals by getting commitments for the £2,500.

Apart from the cash, Remy Cointreau has donated two superb bottles of Rémy Martin special vintage cognac with a street value each of £100. Valiantly resisting all temptation, Kevin intends to auction these bottles up to and at the forthcoming Victorian Market Day (14th July), and add

**Did you hear?** About the wellknown Painswick personality who rang to place his cat locally while he went on holiday. The stunned: "We only take people here" response alerted him to his having called a retirement home by mistake.

the proceeds to the money already raised for Scope. Be ready to take part in a truly spirited auction for a very good cause!

Those who have spotted the newly slimmed down Kevin pounding the streets also testify that he is getting dangerously close to being fit. At a recent weigh-in, sources close to Kevin – and you can get close to Kevin now – revealed that so far he has lost some 30 pounds!

Bids (or donations to Scope) c/o Kevin Parker, Rose Cottage, Vicarage Street or call Kevin on his mobile – he's bound to be jogging - 07850 888624 for further information.

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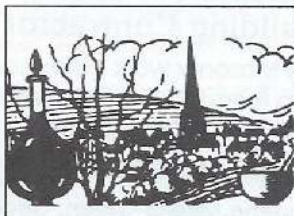
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# Post offices still an endangered species

Just over a year ago, the government announced that it intended to overhaul the current Benefit payment system and remove the option of receiving Benefit payments as cash at a Post Office.

The National Federation of Sub Postmasters quickly pointed out that this would force the closure of about 6,000 post office outlets throughout the UK, because Benefit payments represent 30% to 40% of a typical post office's income.

This news galvanised a national outcry and The Western Daily Press gave the subject much publicity and organised a petition (with Painswick Post Office pictured on the signature sheets) to make the government reconsider its decision. Many other organisations, notably the WI, also became actively involved and eventually the petition, containing over three million signatures, was handed in to 10 Downing Street.

The government did review its intended action, but decided to go ahead with the plan to stop the direct payment of Benefits as cash over post office counters. However, it did recognise the damage that this action would have on many rural [and urban] post offices and communities, and entered discussions with the Post Office network, the Federation of Sub Postmasters, the High Street banks and many other interested parties.

As a result, and in an attempt to make up for the loss of income for small post

offices, it is planned to introduce the following new business to post offices:

1. The setting up of the Universal Bank, supported by all major High Street banks. Benefit recipients will be able to open an account into which their entitlement will be paid (probably monthly and in arrears), and they will then be able to make withdrawals in cash. Post Offices will be paid to operate these accounts, but there is a major concern that people with existing bank accounts will opt to have their Benefit paid into that account thereby removing business (and payments) from their local post office.
2. Post offices will act as paid Government General Practitioners by providing information and advice on a range of products and services. Detailed information on this proposal is not available yet.
3. Post offices will act as collection points for mail order deliveries when customers cannot be at home to receive deliveries during normal hours.

In addition, other new business is being introduced into post offices – for example, you might be aware that it is now possible to pick up Passport application forms from Painswick Post Office, and have the application checked before it is forwarded by secure mail.

Personal banking is now well established at post offices, but it is surprising how many people are unaware of this facility on their doorstep that can make up for the loss of a local branch of their bank and help to keep their local post office open.

This is the present position regarding the future of your post office. There will be fewer offices in two years' time, but your protests have, at least, made the government aware of the important position that post offices hold in all small communities throughout the country.

If you value your local post office, the best thing you can do is to use it at every opportunity. Every transaction done earns income for the postmaster and that helps to ensure the future of that office. The old adage, Use It or Lose It, has never been more true.

Ray and Heather Appleby

## From The Beacon Ten Years Ago

### Low turn-out for Parish Meeting

There was a disappointing turn-out for the Annual Parish Meeting on 1st May. An estimated 17 parishioners turned up, inviting comparisons with some years when it has been 'standing room only' in the Town Hall. Perhaps this reflected a general satisfaction with the way village affairs are being handled, or maybe a lack of important things to get excited about.

This last point seems less convincing in the light of some of the topics raised last month: starter homes and where to put them in Painswick; parking on the recreation field; whether tourism should be promoted; methane gas levels at the Plantation tip, and so on.

Several residents thought it was time to look again at the possibility of using part of the recreation field as a parking area. John Hulme said: 'Without extra parking Painswick is dying.' This discussion pointed to a dilemma for Painswick: that residents do not necessarily want more tourists...but without them and places for them to park, there is a danger of losing more shops.

### Preparing for the Victorian Street Market

The Painswick Traders Forum has been busy preparing for its Victorian Street Market to be held on Saturday, 13th July and a timely reminder will probably be appreciated by those who have not yet made a suitable note in their diaries.

Some 25 'market traders' have reserved indoor pitches in the Town Hall and the Institute, and another 18 outdoor pitches in Friday Street and Victoria Street.

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# Letters to the Editor

## This is Jilly, and she's fine!

To our angry astonishment, we had a visit from an RSPCA inspector in response to an anonymous telephoned complaint about "A neglected sheep living in a run-down cottage".

Jilly, our 14-year-old ewe, orphaned at birth, thus hand reared, has for the past year suffered from variable arthritis in a front leg, which obviously affects her mobility at times. Upon this problem becoming evident advice was taken, including that of our local vet, Mr Julian Reed, since when she has received appropriate daily medication.

Breakfast and supper are served daily and comprise chopped vegetables – mainly cabbage, cauliflower foliage, carrots and the like, plus a plentiful supply of soft hay to compensate for the loss of



her front teeth, which fortunately does not appear to affect her normal grazing habits. Her accommodation is substantially built, dry and airy (as required), insulated

in winter by straw bales and is considered to be very adequate. We believe the anonymous caller totally misinterpreted or misrepresented the scene and could easily have avoided this by calling upon us. Sadly, the subsequently displayed notice at our entrance, inviting such a call, has met with no response.

The RSPCA inspector was well satisfied with her welfare and condition. He had been called away from The Forest of Dean, leaving incomplete negotiations between MAFF, trading standards, farmers, etc for supplies of essential foodstuffs to stranded farm animals. This call probably cost in excess of £150, and reflects very many hours of volunteer efforts in raising funds. We therefore invite the anonymous caller to make a substantial donation to the RSPCA in recognition of their hasty, ill-judged action.

Angela and Mike Critchley  
Lower Washwell Cottage

## Right for cheques

In the May issue of the Beacon, there was a small error in the Personal Column (referring to Dodie Sutton's death) to the fund that we have at the surgery. Unfortunately, the name of the fund was shown incorrectly as the 'Painswick Surgery Emergency Fund' and I have since received cheques that might need to be returned. The correct title is 'Painswick Special Equipment Fund,' just in case anyone might wish to make a donation in lieu of flowers.

Nicola Hayward, Hoyland House

## More about the 'Cow' shield history

I read the article about the 'Cow' shield in last month's Beacon with great interest. I am afraid that I cannot shed any further light on the shield, but I do have the Painswick Infant Welfare Clinic minute book, covering the period from November 1938 to November 1950. The clinic nurses during that time were Nurse Judd, Nurse Critchley, Nurse Roberts, Nurse Young and the redoubtable Nurse Workman from Sheepscombe.

I knew Nurse Workman in my early years in practice and I got to know, and greatly admire, Nurse Judd at the end of her life. She was a remarkable woman.

The Welfare Clinic had a savings account at the Post Office and it was doubtless there that the cow money went. Fund raising was always a major task for the committee. A whist drive and dance was held every year.

In 1939, they danced to the Painswick Paragon Band, but in the following year, it was decided to get together a military band from the troops stationed in the district. Men in military uniform and children under 14 were to be admitted at half price. The room was to be decorated by Toc H, and Nurse Judd was asked to buy 'whist score cards and powder for the floor'.

Other events in the year were a New Year and Christmas tree party, and a summer outing to Weston. Babies under three and mothers who had attended the clinic at least five times during the year went free.

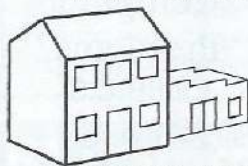
Finally, there was the garden party with games that took place in the summer on the field and lawns at Hazelbury House,

by courtesy of Miss Bloxham, a stalwart member of the welfare committee. First and second prizes were awarded in the following events: bean bag games, skipping for mothers, three-legged race, needle-threading race, toddlers race, potato race, stepping stone competition, pinning on Mickey Mouse tail and lastly, and most remarkably, 'perambulator race with and without baby'.

They were an enterprising lot in those days!

Jim Hoyland

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## Low turn-out for Parish meeting

(SEE ALSO PAGE 4, COL 3)

Drama, passion, crowds - all were missing from this year's annual parish meeting; extraordinary when compared to past years. The occasion when direct influence may be exerted upon the Parish Council, our most local democratic process, attracted only 12 members of the public. Could it be that there is widespread satisfaction with the past year's achievements?

Development, said Chairman Terry Parker, had been an underlying theme throughout the year, not least with regard to significant changes in Painswick's built environment: Gyde House had created 19 units of housing, St. Mary's Home would provide another 19, but purpose-built, properties, and the proposal to build a nursing home and associated care dwellings in Stroud Road was causing much discussion and representation.

Tribute was expressed to Bob Miles who has moved northwards from his Painswick benefice, to Bernard Jones on his retirement from Croft School, and to Alan Bamber for his role as reporter of Parish Council meetings.

A public notice about the County Council's intention to add Hollyhock Lane to the Definitive Map is likely within the next three weeks; a consequence will be that it will become a path to be maintained to a national standard. Can anyone remember when that saga began? Vicarage Street is to be resurfaced in the latter part of the summer.

The poor state of many highways, as well as potholes and dangerous pavements, were drawn to the attention of

## Bo-peeps and sweeps

The Victorian Street Market on 14th July will again feature a Children's Fancy Dress competition for those up to age 11; the theme is Bo-peep and Chimney Sweeps. Judging will be at 3pm. Perhaps Mum and Dad might like to dress as Victorians as well.

If you would like a stall, either as an individual or to raise funds (Used Toy Stall or Good secondhand clothes?) for the school or play-school, call Beverley Gorton on 812716.

councillors. Edge residents were increasingly concerned and are meeting about highway safety, there having been three accidents in the previous week alone. The 20mph speed limit throughout Sheepscombe had been welcomed, even if the profusion of signs required had not pleased everyone.

Some 114 planning applications were handled by the Council in 2000 and Malcolm Watts explained how these were scrutinised and comments assembled before observations are passed to District Council. Progress on the Parish Plan was on target, and local wishes regarding the future of our four villages and countryside can be influenced through that document.

Barbara Tait explained that an all-seat election for District Council would arise in 2002 because of boundary changes.

One hour and five minutes and this annual important event was concluded.

### Blood donors needed

Blood donors are urgently needed at sessions being held in the Painswick Centre on Wednesday, 27th June. The first is at 1.30pm until 3.15pm then 5pm to 7.15pm.

The service welcomes regular donors but will be delighted to see those giving for the first time. Contact Maureen Stevenson on 610764 for further details or queries.

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## Ode to Fred, in his later years

(From a collection of poems, written by Fred Pearce's grandchildren, Mark and Rosalyn White)

Late to bed, early to rise...  
Birds sing dawn chorus at Longridge  
Stoke the Rayburn, sweeten porridge  
Toast with Viv's own marmalade  
Briskly stirred, hot sweet tea  
Hear the news, Radio 3  
Wind the clock on the mantelpiece

Early morning stroll with a friend  
Wendy, Gemma ever faithful.  
Over the stile, through woods and fields  
Tasty mushrooms, what a find!  
With a flick of his stick  
The dog takes chase  
Of a twig sent far and high

Coffee in shade, muse over puzzle  
Spot of salad? Lettuce begin!  
Chop up the logs, mow short the lawn  
Moment to ponder, up by the pond  
Tea in the summerhouse  
Views across Painswick  
Photos remember good things

Tend the garden, harvest the fruit  
Stock the Rayburn and watch the news  
With a month to celebrate  
The Sheepscombe Eight would sup 'til late  
How far do they lie  
Those stars in the sky?  
Late to bed, early to rise...

(See also Thank You note on Page 20)

### PAINSWICK POST OFFICE



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# Penguins, seals and dense ice-packs

After an unseasonably cold, high summer Christmas at Hobart, we left on the purpose-built Russian icebreaker, Kapitan Khlebnikov, of Vladivostok, on 28th December. Not designed for ocean voyaging, the ship altered course towards New Zealand for 24 hours on meeting severe weather from the south. Very heavy rolling led to some injuries, including cracked ribs, for some passengers.

On the passage south, we visited the peri-Antarctic, volcanic Macquarie Island, landing by inflatable Zodiacs to walk among Royal, King and Rockhopper penguins (some 20,000 breeding pairs) and resting/sparring Elephant seals. A marvellous New Year's Day.

Onwards across the Southern Ocean and Antarctic Circle to the Balleny Islands, whose ice pack was so dense as to stop the ship. After some hours beset she withdrew, going north about Sturge Island and resuming course on its eastward side where the pack could be penetrated. Similar diversions were made on the way to McMurdo Sound, leading to views of rarely-seen islands.

Antarctica - the world's coldest and driest continent - was sighted on 5th January, and a landing made at Cape Adare where we visited the largest known colony of Adelie penguins (270,000 breeding pairs) and Borchgrevink's huts, used for the very first overwintering in 1899-1900. Expecting to encounter polar bears, they took firearms for protection; unused cartridges frozen into the soil remaining visible, as were coal brickettes. The interior contained the first of several preserved Huntley and Palmers biscuit tins seen during the visits. We also rescued three New Zealand scientists whose survival gear - save one tent - had been lost in high winds some days earlier.

Murky, cold weather prevented a land-



**Earlier this year, Abel and Bronwen Reseigh of Randalls Field, made the trip of a lifetime to Antarctica, partly celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary and his retirement, mainly an exciting expedition to fulfil a long-held fascination for polar history. This is a snippet of their story**

*Bronwen and Abel on the ice cap*

ing at Cape Hallet, an excursion on foot across the sea ice to a frozen-in iceberg being an alternative. Caverns of blue ice, fronted by 20-foot icicles, were explored and some of our party climbed to its summit. Increasing wind and sea movements created ice cracks that caused concern among our leaders and a prompt return to the ship.

Ross Island was sighted on 8th January, the ship again parking in the ice. We walked to Cape Royds and Shackleton's 1907-09 hut. The open water and snow free beaches associated with summer were not visible due to the unprecedented ice conditions and snowfall. Outside the hut were kennels, bales of hay for the ponies and a wheel from the first car in Antarctica. Items preserved inside included sleeping platforms, mummified hams and framed pictures of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.

Then a short flight and walk to Cape Evans and Scott's 1910-13 hut, where we saw the private quarters of Scott, Wilson and Lt. Evans; the 'tenements' of Oates et al; tins labelled Colman's Mustard, Fry's Concentrated Cocoa; a saw for frozen seal meat, the 'puffometer' for measuring wind-gusts and snow shoes for ponies.

After visiting Scott Base (New Zealand) we flew into one of the Dry Valleys

- Taylor - at midnight, unbroken daylight now. A paradoxical place, where truncated glaciers don't calve, melting is brief and the water quickly re-frozen; where no snow has fallen for 2,000 years, making it drier than the Sahara, and where rocks are shaped and polished by wind and grit. A mummified seal was seen. Eastwards across the Ross Sea, following the edge of the ice shelf (as large as France) towards the Bay of Whales - sites of Amundsen's 1910-12 and Byrd's 1928-29 bases.

After passing huge fragments of the gigantic iceberg B15 (180 by 20 miles), we reached a new, most southerly position attained by a surface vessel, the expeditioners walking 800 yards further to a point on the shelf 682 miles from the Pole.

During the return voyage a heli-landing was made on berg B15D (ten miles by two miles) whose cliffs rose to three hundred feet. Re-crossing the Circle and Southern Ocean (again, more injuries) we landed on Campbell and Enderby Islands to visit colonies of Royal Albatross, Hookers's Sea Lions and the rare, endangered Yellow-eyed penguin. The strange, indigenuous Megaherbs provided a botanical treat.

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# Painswick cricketers optimistic

After a disappointing start, Painswick's cricketers have reason to be optimistic about the rest of the season. There have been difficulties in raising a second eleven, but last week 14 players were available and Painswick had a convincing five-wicket victory. The first eleven had not been playing to their potential until last Saturday, when they reached a total of 203 and were disappointed to lose.

Playing at Dumbleton in the Village Club Championship, Painswick were always on the back foot against a side which is literally in a different league. The home team amassed a total of 280 for the loss of one wicket. In reply, the visitors had reached 160 for eight when the final delivery of the 40 overs was bowled.

Painswick believe that the structure of the championship needs examination so that junior clubs are drawn against comparable opposition in the early rounds. That said, Painswick played well on a ground which is regarded as being in one of the most attractive settings in the country. Sadly, although the day was fine and sunny, a bitter wind kept spectators in the pavilion.

Man of the match was Chris Loveridge who scored an excellent 41. Veteran Club Vice-President John "Boss" Hogg turned out for Painswick against Randwick in a Sunday friendly match and took three wickets in one over. Results (Saturday matches all league games):  
Sat 5 May. Ruardean Hill 1st XI 227-5

Painswick 1st XI 145 all out.  
Sun 6 May. Dumbleton 1st XI 280-1 Painswick 1st XI 160-8.  
Sat 12 May. Slaughters 1st XI 193-6 Painswick 1st XI 123 all out.  
Wed. 16 May. (Midweek league). Chalford 122-5 Painswick 125-2.  
Sat 19 May. Gloucester Arcadians 1st XI 141-8 (P.Jones 4-30) Painswick 1st XI 118 all out (W.Neville 47, C.Loveridge 41).  
Sun 20 May. Randwick 62 (J.Hogg 3-14) Painswick 64-2.  
Wed 23 May. (Midweek league). Painswick 159-5 Frampton 2nd 129-7.  
Sat 26 May. Painswick 1st XI 203-9 (C.Loveridge 50, D.Emery 44) Birdlip 1st XI 207-7. Dymock 2nd XI 74 all out (G.Soutar 4-12) Painswick 75-5.

## Ladies' golf in full swing

The golf season for Painswick Ladies is well under way, with competitions and matches at home and away. Friendlies have already been played against Lilleybrook, Forest Hills, Cotswold Edge and Stinchcombe golf clubs. Although Painswick is a small ladies section, there is always a team willing and eager to play.

Ladies' Competition results for May

are as follows: Felling Shield, 1st Kate Haddock, 2nd Sylvia Walker and 3rd Delia Mason. May Medal, 1st Bronwen Godley, 2nd Delia Mason and 3rd Elizabeth Amos.

Seniors' and men's matches are also taking place, also club competitions and open competitions. The recent institution of a 9-hole evening social competition, on Wednesdays, is proving very popular. All matches are completed with a sociable meal in the Club House. Visitors continue to marvel at the beautiful state of the course, the lovely Club House and the excellent catering of Andy and Candice. Social functions are also very much in evidence and the May Ball was reinstated on 18th May. An excellent evening was had by all.

The Ladies' Section is holding a Mixed Open Competition on 27th June and the Club Captain's Charity competition in aid of the Cobalt Unit Appeal fund is on Saturday, 30th June. Both events are still open for entries.

A very successful Seniors' Open Competition was held on 16th May with over 100 entrants from far and wide. This perfectly orchestrated event was organised by John Weston, an ex-seniors captain. Contact: Sylvia Walker on 813141.

## Tennis Club dedicate a bench in Valerie's favoured spot

The Tennis Club intend to place a bench in memory of Valerie Funnell alongside the courts at Broadham where she spent many hours. Anyone wishing to make a contribution should send a donation to John Courts, Meads, Gloucester Road, Pitchcombe, Stroud, Glos, GL6 6LP, with cheques made payable to Painswick LTC.

There have been two very enjoyable American Tournaments in May, with 16 entries in each. Barbara Wyatt and Dave Haslam were winners on Sunday, 6th May, and Ruth Smith and Danny Luke on Saturday, 12th May. Many thanks to the organisers, Jan Haslam and Bill Lambell.

The summer social event will be a BBQ and Boules evening at Broadham on Saturday, 23rd June from 7pm. (Bring your own choice of meat or whatever to BBQ). Tickets are £5 each, available from Ruth (813693), Sally (813004) or Bill (813231).

## Cricket fixtures

Sat 2 June 1st XI v Cheltenham Saracens 1st XI (Home).  
Sun 3 June Painswick v Cranham (Away).  
Sat 9 June 1st XI v Tetbury 1st XI (Away).  
2nd XI v Gloucester CS (Home).  
Sat 16 June 1st XI v Charfield (Home).  
2nd XI v Old Richians 2nd XI (Away).  
Sat 23 June 1st XI v Cotswold 1st XI (Home).  
2nd XI v Westbury on Severn (Away).  
Sun 24 June Painswick v Ampney Crucis (Home).  
Sat 30 June 1st XI v Churcham 1st XI (Home).  
2nd XI v Ruardean Hill 2nd XI (Home).  
Sun 8 July Painswick v Stanway (Home).  
*Some Away games omitted for space reasons*

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## Can you help with archiving of photographs?

There have been a number of occasions when we would have liked to have included a photograph in the Beacon from an event or location as it was some years ago. Sometimes we have managed to find one, but all too often have been frustrated in our quest. It seems that an archive of photographs would not only be of value to the Beacon, but could also be of much wider interest.

The Beacon committee wonders whether there are one or two villagers that would like to help to build up such an archive? We would be pleased to meet the essential costs; what is needed is: (a) someone with a computer into which photographs can be scanned and stored on CDroms, and (b) residents willing to

lend photographs for a few days while they are scanned in.

At the same time, basic information about photographs needs to be recorded on to a database so that accessing a particular scene is straightforward. Before progressing the idea, is there anyone with the necessary know-how and an hour or two to spare at home once or twice a month? If so, please let me know, and we can discuss the idea and see whether an appeal for the loan of photographs is worthwhile. With technology reaching the stage it has, selling copies of completed disks might be of considerable interest, perhaps with a modest surplus going to a local charity?

Tony Crook

## Beacon's annual report on income and expenditure

### INCOME

Advertising	8537
Subscriptions	4254
Donations & retail copies	336
Misc.	21
Interest	266
	<b>£13414</b>

### EXPENDITURE

Printing inc. Directory	7735
Editing materials	320
Postage inc. subscribers	415
Stationery & materials	260
Insurance	205
Village Quiz (net cost)	148
Christmas Draw etc.	62
Telephone & committee expenses	668
Internet services	165
Pouches for distributors	362
Other inc. weather station	279
	<b>£10619</b>
Excess Income over Expenditure	<b>£2795</b>

The main computer was replaced, and desktop publishing software upgraded in the year. Internet service use has been phased towards those that are free. The dedicated telephone line was fully operational for the first full year and Internet access greatly used to obtain articles and information as well as assist in internal communications.

The number of contributors using email has significantly increased, which is a very real help in preparing copy for publication.

We have issued weatherproof pouches to all our voluntary distributors, and purchased a modest weather station for the Croft School, from whom we hope to receive monthly reports for publication. We remain as determined as ever to improve the quality of the newspaper you receive.

The two main sources of income are advertising and voluntary subscriptions, and we take this opportunity to thank last year's 633 subscribers (See Page 4 for up-to-date figures), and the strong support received from advertisers.

Readers will be aware that we limit advertising space in the Beacon; the consequence is that we have a queuing system as requests to advertise exceed that space. Where we are aware of Painswick residents being in residential care, we are pleased to forward complimentary copies.

Any reader who would like a copy of the full statement, kindly audited by Mr John Weir, should contact the Treasurer, Leslie Brotherton.

## Here's how your Beacon is produced

Several villagers have enquired about how the Beacon is produced, and are astonished to hear how many people are involved, so the committee felt that a brief explanation would be useful.

First, of course, everyone is a volunteer; there are no paid posts. In all, it takes 42 people to get the Beacon through your door - 32 of those are the indefatigable distributors who each has an average round of 30 houses.

There are ten residents on the committee, seven of whom make up the editorial committee that meets twice a month, firstly about a week after an issue is distributed, looking at follow-up articles and general ideas for the next month; then about a week before printing the subsequent issue, we meet for about two hours to go through all contributed pieces and other coverage, deciding on content.

Afterwards, putting the pages together on screen takes eight days before they are laser proofed to take to the Stroud printer three days before you have your copy delivered. Our distribution chief picks them up in bulk on Friday afternoon and arranges the bundles for each deliverer.

The Beacon uses up-to-date technology, with a substantial computer, CDROM storage and archiving, large memory, a scanner, laser printer, dedicated fax, email, and the latest acquisition, a digital camera (I'm still trying to get the hang of it).

If all the hours of all 42 volunteers were added up, it would show an incredible monthly commitment that I never fail to admire. But the Beacon also relies on advertisers, contributors and tip-offs. Please keep those coming!

Tony Crook



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## Rococo concert and jazz to aid torture victims

The Gloucestershire Supporters of Medical Foundation are holding a Summer Concert and Picnic in the grounds of the Rococo Gardens, on the evening of Saturday, 23rd June, starting at 6pm when the grounds will open for picnicking beforehand.

Music during the picnic will be provided by Night Mail, a local jazz group that enjoyed considerable success on the fringe of the Cheltenham Jazz Festival. Concert-goers are welcome to explore the garden until the concert begins at 7.30pm.

Artists appearing are the well-known local choir, the Stuart Singers, Hayley Savage, a classical guitarist and composer, currently giving a concert in Italy, and Claire Heaney who will play the flute and Northumbrian smallpipes. Both Hayley and Claire are establishing formidable reputations and have appeared at Wigmore Hall and St. George's, Bristol.

During the interval there will be a mall charity auction, when concert-goers will have the chance to bid for such items as a week for two and four people in an Umbrian farmhouse with swimming pool, a long weekend in an enchanting cottage on the seafront at Lyme Regis, and champagne, champagne flutes and a wine cooler.

Medical Foundation, founded by Helen Bamber OBE, is the only organ-



*Classical guitarist Hayley Savage*

isation in the UK providing support for victims of torture and organised violence. Clients come from all over the world, and include ex-Japanese prisoners-of-war and victims of the troubles in Northern Ireland. The concert is being sponsored by the local branches of Hamptons International.

Tickets for the concert, priced at £20, are available from local branches of Hamptons or telephone me on 01453 884376.

Jane Williamson

## New fares scheme for elderly

This year, the District Council concessionary fares scheme for the elderly is different - you can choose either £20 worth of tokens, or a free bus pass that enables you

to make as many bus journeys as you like on recognised bus routes, paying only half fare. As usual, the Post Office can issue your tokens, and are able to provide you with the bus pass. In the latter case, you will need to take a passport-sized photograph of yourself for the Post Office to seal into the pass.

The tokens this time are metallic and can still be used on recognised bus routes, on trains and are acceptable by most taxis. They are valid from 1st June, but your present white plastic tokens can still be used up to their expiry date of 31st July.

The bus pass can be used on any recognised bus route throughout the county, but also on any journey that starts in Gloucestershire and ends in an adjacent county, such as Painswick to Yate. And you can catch a bus to Gloucester then on to the Forest of Dean. However, it will not be possible to use the pass on buses caught in Cheltenham and Gloucester city before 9am.

If you have any queries or problems, call Stroud District Council on 01453 754379 for advice.

## CANCELLATION

The Bird Club outing scheduled for 11th June to Cannop Ponds has regrettably been cancelled. Although we all hope that the foot and mouth afflicting farms everywhere will be fully controlled soon, the Club has received notice that our trip to the Forest of Dean cannot go ahead. Dulcie Brotherton

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Applications

- \* Land at Jacks Green, Sheepscombe. Erection of one dwelling with associated business accommodation (Resubmission following refusal).
- \* Wellspring, Cheltenham Road. Erection of three sheds.
- \* Tullyfield, Longridge, Sheepscombe. Erection of extensions and alterations to existing dwelling (Resubmission).
- \* Shutway Quarry, Sheepscombe. Creation of a vehicle hard-standing.
- \* Edge Cottage, Edge. Erection of a conservatory extension, front and side porch extensions, including demolition of out-buildings.
- \* Sunnyside, Cheltenham Road. Renewal of permission for erection of a replacement bungalow with garage under, and alteration of existing access to Cheltenham Road.

### Revised plan

- \* Painswick House, Gloucester Road. Creation of new garden areas, including tennis court, swimming pool and walled vegetable garden. Realignment of drive and new gates on to road. Main changes: alterations to landscaping.

### Consents

- \* Washwell Farm, Cheltenham Road. Revised plan to previous permission, to include balcony.
- \* The New House, Friday Street. Conversion of part of ground floor from shop to one residential unit.
- \* Rest By The Way, Cud Lane, Edge. Erection of replacement dwelling with attached double garage (Existing house and garage to be demolished).
- \* The Worthings, Sheepscombe. Erection of extensions.
- \* Butt Green Cottage, Butt Green. Erection of two-storey extension (Existing rear extension to be demolished).
- \* Tocknells Cottage, Cheltenham Road. Erection of a conservatory.

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## COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR 7th JUNE



**John Rhodes**

Labour

There are several issues that are paramount to living in the Painswick area. First, low cost housing should be available to villagers and incomers, so that the area retains its social balance and cohesion, and youngsters setting up their own homes can continue to live in the villages.

Second, traffic control measures to slow down vehicles and reduce the number of trucks coming through the villages.

Thirdly, a bio-diversity plan to protect environmentally sensitive sites from being destroyed by new houses, extensions, drives and trackways.

As a county councillor, I would take issue with the lack of environmental safeguards at the county level of government, and harness the bureaucratic procedures into being more open and effective.

I have already been addressing these issues as a director of Vision 21 (Sustainability & Bio-diversity in Gloucestershire), but being a councillor will give me far more effective power to make these changes.



**Terry Parker**

Liberal Democrat

I have represented the Painswick Division of the county council for the past 12 years, and have seen many changes in that time. Until recently, I was the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on public protection at Shire Hall and, in that role, have been very concerned to seek to ensure the continued presence of Painswick's fire station. If elected, I will continue to seek the retention of the station. Another concern has been to safeguard Painswick's library, and I would wish to continue to protect this important community facility.

I serve on a number of county council committees, including education, waste management, commons and rights of way and rural estate management. Keenly interested in sport, I am Chairman of Painswick Cricket Club and a member of Painswick Tennis Club. My overriding wish is to see the decline in the number of Painswick's shops halted, and the creation of more employment opportunities in the parish.



**Joan Nash**

Conservative

I have lived in the ward all my life, at Upton St Leonards until my marriage, then at Holcombe Farm. Having served as a Painswick parish councillor for 12 years, followed by 12 years as a Stroud district councillor, I would now like to represent you on Gloucestershire County Council. I believe I can only serve one council effectively at any one time, so there can be no conflict of interest when making decisions.

I am particularly interested in young people and in all aspects of education. I feel there should be choices for parents in selecting schools for their children, and special schools should be protected. I have been involved with social housing issues for many years as a voluntary member of a national housing association, and am aware of the issues facing Social Services. I am most concerned about supporting rural post offices, shops and employment. The recent crisis in the countryside has made everyone aware of the danger of losing a valued way of life.

## PROPERTY REPORT FOR APRIL - this month from Hamptons Painswick agency

The summer is here at last, and with the sunshine out come the viewers. We have been extremely busy in the last few weeks with lots of exchanges, sales and new instructions. Although instructions are down on last year we are happy to offer the following for sale: In Painswick, 4 Brookhouse Mill - a charming wing of this converted mill with versatile accommodation, Tabithas in Vicarage Street - a view to die for from this unique property close to the centre, the Bunch of Grapes in New Street - a gardener's delight, The Martins in Vicarage Street - a 4-bed cottage with parking, Brookdale, Far End, Sheepscombe, with magnificent views; The Laurels in Slad and The Briars

in Longridge - both detached family houses with exceptional views.

A rare commodity in Painswick is a building plot together with the house in Woodborough Close. These can be sold together or separately - all offers in writing by the 6th June, please.

Furnished showhouses are open both at Gyde House, 11am - 6pm every day, and Painswick Heights, 11am - 4pm weekends and Bank holidays. Do call in and appreciate these unusual properties.

Exchanges recently include: in Sheepscombe, Wordings Mount and the five barns at Bidfield Farm; Highgrove House just outside Painswick; a new house at Brimpsfield, with the second one under

offer; a cottage in Bondend Road, Upton; Crestwood in Cranham; and in Painswick, Rafters, the top flat of Yew Tree House in New Street; 11 Hyett Close; Cleverlys in Vicarage Street; 1 Painswick Heights; 9 Randalls Field; and at Pitchcombe, the bungalow Appleshaw.

Currently we have a lot of cottages and houses to rent in the village on six-month shorthold leases. If you are looking to rent for a short period while in between houses, do call in for details. Rents start at £500 a calendar month.

We are happy to give advice on any property-related matter, so do please give us a ring for a free market appraisal on 812354.

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# Gyde House kids plan a grand reunion

Former children from Gyde House, still living in the vicinity, are planning a grand reunion on Saturday, 23rd June and are trying to contact as many staff, kids and associates of Gyde as they can to ensure a reunion to remember.

The function room at The Falcon Inn has been booked for the day and the plan is to meet at 11am and enjoy a buffet lunch at 1pm. At 2pm, there will probably be a walk around the grounds at Gyde, returning to the Falcon at 4pm for tea and biscuits. There is also a disco from 8pm until midnight that evening.

Since there is virtually no funding for the reunion, the organisers are having to charge for lunch and the disco, but no profit is being made, and if any money is left over, it will be donated to charity.

Kim Williamson, one of the organisers, told the Beacon they were hoping to receive some funding from the National Children's Homes, but until this has been confirmed, the costs will be: Lunch £5.50 a head; Disco £2.50 each. There will also be a pay bar for soft drinks, etc.

Anyone coming to the reunion, wanting overnight accommodation, should get in touch with Kim as several hotels, including The Falcon, expect to be available. Various rates to suit all budgets.

Kim and the other organisers want this to be a memorable event and look forward to seeing as many friends as possible. If any readers, she asks, are in contact with people whom you think they have not been able to contact, please let her know.

Kim is on 01453 753200, Fax. 01453 764332, and Mobile: 07774 684331. Or you can write to her at 10 Wheelers Walk, Paganhill, Stroud, GL5 4BW.

## Latest news from Painswick Centre

The unveiling of the Supporting Wall takes place on Saturday, 16th June from 5.30pm to 7.30 pm. Everyone is invited to go along to celebrate, and to see all the work that has been done to the Centre - thanks to your generosity. Free entry, free glass of wine and live piano with Rob Burgess. Plus a Line Dancing demonstration by The Jolly Stompers, and an excerpt from Alan Bennett's Talking Heads (performed by Leslie Woloviec, courtesy of the Painswick Players).

Due to popular demand, a second Yoga class is being held on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 11.15am, starting on 12th June. (There may also be a few places available for the 11.30am class). Advance bookings only, please, through Girish Patel on 01453 759006.

Are you retired? Do you have children at school, or even (well behaved) toddlers? Do you work from home? Are you bored? Need some exercise? Like dancing? If so, join in some fun and fitness at The Jolly Stompers line dancing sessions, Thursdays 1.30pm to 2.30pm or Sundays from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Phone Julie Coles on 01453 752480 for more details.

## Suits Yew, Sir!

Having been based for several years in Painswick, Rowland Oxland has opened a branch of Yew Tree Tailoring in Union Street, Stroud, offering made-to-measure tailoring, as well as hire wear and reasonably priced ready-to-wear. However, he wants to assure Painswickians that he is still available for home visits.

## Quakers seek help for disabled and exploited children

Hope for Children is a charity that aims to assist children who are deprived, exploited and disabled, especially those in developing countries.

To raise money for Hope for Children, members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Painswick are holding three open days on 26th, 27th and 28th July from 10am to 4.30pm at the Friends Meeting House on Withymead, just off Vicarage Street, where refreshments will be served in aid of this charity.

We will ask that the money raised be used specifically for prosthetics for child amputees, many injured through war. If the weather is fine, you can sit in the garden of our historic building and enjoy the view across the valley to Dell Farm.

Inside the simple but beautiful interior there will also be some excellent photographs of the Quaker Tapestry. The tapestry itself, which was designed and stitched by Quakers worldwide and illustrates the history, work and life of Quakers to the present day, is housed in Kendal, Cumbria. (If you holiday in the Lake District and you have one (!) of those rainy days, a visit to the tapestry is a pleasant way to keep warm and dry).

Please do come along and support Hope for Children - and learn a little more about one of the special old buildings of Painswick.

Ann Yates

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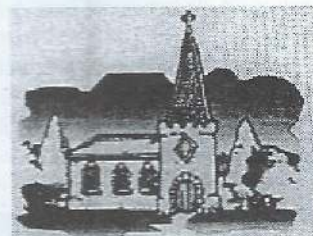
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GL6 6RD



## All's well, reports the Horticultural Society's annual meeting

The chairman, Philip Berry, reporting on the year's activities, thanked officials and members who had made exceptional contributions: Naomi Dunn for her work with Painswick in Bloom, Janet Dent for coping with seed orders and Stanley Miles as speaker-finder for his outstanding programmes during the year. In particular, the chairman highlighted the talk on 'well-dressing' by Mr Orchard-Robinson with his choice slides, Mr Peter Jones with his 'hundred gardening tips,' who proved a riveting speaker, and a horticultural quiz concocted by Gus Gauguin and Naomi Dunn. Gus was also warmly thanked for arranging the splendid programme of outings.

The Horticultural Show had as always been a considerable success but entries for the flower decoration and the handicrafts were disappointingly few. The Autumn Supper had been well attended, and Dawn Mallinson was congratulated on providing delectable food. Keith Crane, the treasurer, said finances were in a healthy state and that ten to 15 show tables could safely be purchased.

Keith Crane was replaced by Alan Major as treasurer and Shirley Burley by Doreen Pegg as programme secretary. Ken Morton-Lloyd had kindly agreed to audit the accounts again in 2001. The President, Gordon Gardner, thanked the chairman, who was proposed for a further term and unanimously re-elected as show secretary. From all reports, the society is obviously in good heart.

After the business meeting came a fascinating talk on cacti and succulents by Mrs A Robson of Leonard Stanley, an authority on the subject. She brought with her a dazzling display of both, a great number of which were in bloom. Not only did Mrs Robson give us details of each plant's provenance but also of its requirements to achieve maximum success.

Pauline Lamont



Yes, the bus was stuck, then the tractor that came to the rescue also sank in the mud, but the coach operator soon had us on the way again

## No stick-in-the-muds at the Society outing either

As Percy Thrower once said: "Always check the depth of your soil before planting." Profound advice indeed for gardeners, and for those who organise horticultural outings.

On the afternoon of 19th May, 55 horticulturalists set off to Hodges Barn at Shipton Moyne for the first stage of the Chairman's Spring Social Event. After a little bit of shunting, Rover European Travel's largest coach successfully negotiated the entrance at Hodges Barn and we proceeded down the long drive to meet Mrs Hornby and view her beautiful garden. Each section contained skilful planting to give harmonious colours and a wonderful variety of flowers and foliage. Gently sloping lawns and very few steps made excellent access throughout.

Fortified with a cup of tea and home-made cake we departed. Unfortunately, this time we ground to a halt in the gateway. From the torrential rain of two days previously the going was definitely soft and the wheels of our coach proved that the soil was deep enough to grow parsnips and hadn't been impoverished with hardcore as the chairman believed.

Had the home-made cake just tipped the scales against us? We were certainly in a jam and the familiar cry of "Everyone out" was heard. Our driver, Paul, placed some flat stones behind the wheels and members tried valiantly to push the coach

out. Even those of us who were once rugby lock forwards failed to budge it. Fortunately it was a beautiful spring day and nobody seemed to mind the unplanned delay. Comments such as "Don't panic, Captain Mainwaring" kept spirits up and help was soon at hand.

The cavalry arrived, firstly in the shape of a John Deere tractor from Escort Estates nearby and secondly, Rover boss David Hand brought out another coach to take us swiftly on our way. Everyone happily boarded the second coach with the exception of the chairman, who is always reluctant to leave a working tractor! While we rather hurriedly enjoyed Dr Taylor's fine walled and terraced garden in Tetbury our coach was extracted, unscathed, and we arrived on time at Cherrington Village Hall for our buffet supper with Avening WI. "We're not stick-in-the-muds," said the chairman, concluding the evening.

Philip Berry

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# A surfeit of Buddhas and a Victoriana finish

"I've had it up to here with you!"

The Most Organised One seems to be concerned about something. Tentatively I try to wrinkle out more precise detail: "Up to where exactly, darling?"

"You know what I'm talking about! As a result of your stupid Beacon article last month, we're now knee deep in Buddhas!"

"Ah, just knee deep? Well, never mind. We've still got a bit to go before we're submerged!"

I chuckle at my witty repartee. The MOO doesn't. I sometimes think she suffers from a complete humour bypass. Actually, that's not true. It's usually me that suffers. The MOO continues: "I've put up with the Buddhas in the hall and the lounge. And since I'm used to sharing the bedroom with one small, fat, balding man who does nothing, another one won't make much difference. But I refuse to share my bath with a Buddha! Get rid of it, now!"

In truth, I have to admit to being astonished at the power of the Press. Or at least the power of the Beacon. My appeal in last month's column for a Buddha to star in our production of Peter Shaffer's (literally) brilliant *Black Comedy* led to a deluge of suggestions about where I could find one. Some of the suggestions posed the odd logistical problem and had to be ruled out: one Buddha in Bangkok, for example, turned out to be somewhat larger than the Painswick Centre in which *Black Comedy* is to be staged (on 12th, 13th and 14th July).

Anyway, my thanks to everyone who responded: we now have a veritable T'ummi of Buddhas to audition for the

part. (A veritable what? A veritable T'ummi! I thought everyone knew that T'ummi is the Sanskrit collective noun for a large number of Buddhas gathered together in one place. And if it isn't, it ought to be).

Actually, auditioning a Buddha is a tricky process. How do you do it? What do you look for? Serenity? Perceptive enlightenment? Perceptive enlightenment might be particularly apt since perceptions of light and dark reversed lie at the chaotic heart of *Black Comedy*. Whilst the audience watches the play in the light, everyone onstage is acting as if in complete and blinding darkness, the Buddha included.

On the subject of perceptions, the more perceptive amongst you will have noticed that we have moved back the production dates for *Black Comedy* by one week.

The reasons for this are much too interesting to go into here, but the practical upshot is that the final night will coincide with the evening of Victorian Market Day (14th July). So you'll have something to look forward to when the Victoriana finishes, won't you? It also coincides with Bastille Day, so you know what'll happen to you if you don't show up. Vive la Revolution!

Finally, a quick and final reminder. There is still (just about) time to catch the last night (2nd June) of Gill Cox's production of George Eliot's *Silas Marner* in Cranham Village Hall. Call Gill on 814367 for a ticket.

Jack Burgess

## WI hear of child health and elder abuse

The WI were meeting. It was the merry, merry month of May...or was it? Rain poured down, the wind blew hard. Inside the Town Hall stood a line of umbrellas, drying. Members' raincoats and warm jackets hung from the iron pegs. We settled down to Resolutions i.e. those being put forward at the WI General Meeting at Cardiff in June.

One of them concerned the health of school-age children, particularly the provision of a school nursing service. Since the late 1980s, this service has found itself at the wrong end of cutbacks in a number of health authorities, with some areas suffering a 50 per cent reduction. Predictably, children in rural areas and from poorer families are most at risk, and school nurses are invaluable. At Cardiff, the Government is to be urged to ensure that all school-age children have access to a dedicated school nursing service.

A second resolution concerned older people and the training of staff working with them. Interestingly, it had been initiated by a Gloucestershire WI, Amberley. What is termed 'elder abuse' can take the form of physical, psychological, financial or sexual abuse, and also by way of neglect. Sadly, money is the problem.

After all this serious business members found a cup of tea most welcome, while sitting back to enjoy a colourful video about Fairtrade bananas growing and being exported, while still quite green and hard, from the Windward Islands, to be obtained just a few minutes down the road at the supermarket.

During the business part of our meeting, members heard of a public speaking course taking place at WI House, Gloucester, on 13th and 14th June; a Red Cross practical demonstration (not a history) at our own meeting on 21st June; our Crack Cancer coffee morning on 4th July in the Town Hall, and the garden meeting on 19th July. Variety!

Dorothy Binns

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### Salmon, wine & bridge

A Salmon Supper With Bridge, in support of the CLIC India Cycle Challenge, will be held at Painswick Mill on Saturday, 30th June at 6.30 for 7pm. The evening starts with supper, and the price of £15 a head includes a glass of wine. Application forms from Joan Wells 812245 or Libby Graesser 812304.



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# In the footsteps of Cider with Rosie

Thunderstorms and heavy rain did not dampen the enthusiasm or the spirits of the members of Painswick Local History Society who went on a guided walk around Slad last month. Their guide, Jim Fern, was born and brought up in Slad and, as a contemporary of Laurie Lee, knew the people and places described in *Cider with Rosie*. He is referred to in that book as 'Little Jim'.

The walk started from the Woolpack inn and the first stop was beside the cottage opposite the inn's car park, where Jim Fern was born. The cottage was later bought by Laurie Lee and his widow, Kathy, still lives there. Further along the lane is the cottage where Jim's father and grandfather were born; it has been altered and enlarged since those days. Outside the old school house Jim recounted his memories of starting school when he was

## Painswick Local History Society

three years old and being given a hard slate and piece of chalk for use in the writing lessons.

Older boys liked to play in the road outside the school and try to jump onto tree trunks hauled by a steam engine that regularly passed along the road. At this point in the walk heavy rain persuaded the walkers to visit the Woolpack and by the time the rain had stopped the party was refreshed and ready to continue and hear more of Jim's entertaining and interesting memories.

Jim pointed out the cottage where Rosie had lived and other places which

are mentioned in the book. Throughout the walk Jim interspersed his memories of childhood with comments about the changes that have taken place since.

The Slad of Jim's childhood was a village of unpaved lanes and grass tracks, of candlelight and chamber pots. Many of the villagers were poor and had to work hard to survive. The gardens of the cottages were used to grow fruit and vegetables to feed the families; they could not afford to have the lawns and flowerbeds seen in Slad gardens now. There was no street lighting and Jim used to feel very frightened when he went to church choir practices on winter nights along the dark, winding church path.

Many of the families had lived in Slad for generations and there was a strong community spirit. Dances and other social occasions were held in the Recreation Hut. All those involved in the running of these events took their duties very seriously and jealously guarded their positions; offers of help were not appreciated!

Dusk was falling as the walk ended, a walk during which Jim Fern had vividly conveyed what it had been like to live in a small Cotswold village eighty years ago.

The last meeting of the current programme is the AGM on Tuesday, 19th June, in the Croft School, at 7.30pm, followed by an illustrated talk on Painswick during the last 100 years.

Gwen Welch

## Early days at Canton House and the risks for travellers

A change of date from the third to the fourth Tuesday of the month – to avoid Easter – caused a clash with what was clearly a very popular meeting of the Bird Club, but there was a full house at the Croft to hear two of our members outline the results of their current projects.

Hywel James spoke about his ongoing research into the history of his own residence, Canton House in New Street, and particularly of the Holder family who occupied it for much of the 19th century. They were butchers and grocers, and the shenanigans – or perhaps one should say business acumen – of some of the family led to the accumulation of considerable wealth.

Hywel traced the changing shape of the buildings on the plot through early maps, and speculated that the raised level of his garden, compared with that of neighbouring properties, might be due to the underlying remains of a slaughterhouse and of decades of butchering waste.

Hywel is still in the early stages of research and would welcome information from anyone who can cast light on the ancient or more recent past of this property. One topic that he has not so far been able to resolve is what connection – if any – there is between Canton House and the piece of land known as Canton Acre.

Peter Minall gave an entertaining insight into travelling conditions to and from Painswick from the 17th century to the coming of the railways. Renouncing the romantic approach, he dwelt on the difficulties facing travellers, from mere discomfort to accident, flood and highway robbery.

He shared with us his theory that Bull's Cross (formerly Bull Cross) takes its name from the Bull Inn which stood a short distance along Wick Street and from which the carriers' waggons departed for London. His talk was illustrated with a selection of contemporary images, including fascinating early advertisements for local carriers and coach operators.

These presentations elicited many questions and comments from the audience and a lively discussion ensued. The logistical problem of feeding, housing and managing the large numbers of horses required by the long distance carriers and stagecoaches was one topic canvassed at length, and gave rise to the question of how many of those hard-working animals may have ended up under the garden of Canton House.

Mark Bowden

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### St Mary's appointment

The first round of advertising has failed to attract appropriate candidates, but a new incumbent will hopefully be in place in the autumn, Bishop John Went has told the Beacon.

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# Caring for our historic houses

Members and their guests were totally absorbed by our guest speaker on 3rd May, Mrs Catherine MacCarthy of the National Trust's Severn Region. As a professional preventive conservator, she spoke about caring for the interiors of the Trust's historic houses. This may seem simple, but the size and cost of her task emerged as she spoke about reconciling the constantly increasing numbers of visitors with their ever more fragile materials.

Her selection of slides gave hard evidence of the problems and we were shown 'before and after' photography which dramatically illustrated the importance of preventive or restorative action on irreplaceable items. Particularly interesting was her explanation of 'agents of deterioration'; that is the everyday factors that are normally thought to be harmless but – over time and in quantity – can be devastating. Quite apart from insects, these include light, humidity, perspiration, dust, and temperature which, combined with decades of basic household cleaning, have left conservators a daunting legacy.

Ending, she showed members a range of the equipment that restorers use in their work: for example, shaving brushes (but not made of badger!) for dusting books. It was a fascinating talk by a charming speaker.

The formal part of the meeting approved the Treasurer's report and accounts and, within the Chairman's report, agreed the re-election and co-option of the existing committee, with the exception of Leslie Brotherton who stands

## Conservation Society Annual General Meeting

down after six years in office. As Leslie's successor, I stand in his debt for a Society with a healthy membership and equally healthy bank balances, the latter due largely to his skill in producing the most successful Painswick Video 2000. The committee will aim to maintain or improve on this situation. Dawn Mallinson continues to look for locations to visit, post foot and mouth, and members are urged to support each of these. Her outings are carefully budgeted and thus depend on a good turnout to avoid a loss.

The past six months have been exceptionally busy with planning matters, and the committee had to hold no fewer than three extraordinary meetings, in addition to those scheduled, to consider the Care Village site (on its fourth outline planning application) and the St Mary's Home site (an immediate full planning application). This is not the place to unpack their details, but your committee feel strongly about, in their view, weaknesses in the District planning

system. Residents who have taken a close interest may feel the same. We have made several representations to the Parish Council, and to our Ward Councillors in Stroud, questioning decisions and procedures. Parish Chairman Terry Parker has been constructive and we hope for a similar response in Ebley Mill.

I also commented on the previous Squash Club development, facing us across the Painswick Valley. Most residents must be aware of this building and what (deplorably) looks to be its long-term appearance. The construction has been such that we finally wrote to the District Compliance Officer to say that "... the development has so altered from the original application in both scale and appearance as to leave the planning process almost meaningless."

In such a context, I believe the Village Design Statement team, on which we have three representatives, is an important means of protecting Painswick in the long term from changes that could adversely affect the area.

Our Treasurer, Gus Gauguin, is circulating this report and the accounts to members unable to be at the AGM and at the same time he keenly awaits subscription renewals. **Douglas Robinson**



## Bright and early start makes a rewarding and tuneful day

The morning of 13th May dawned brightly, sunny, warm and windless. A dozen or so members of Painswick Bird Club gathered in Kingsmill Lane. The objective was to prove that it was not necessary to drive lots of miles to see birds when you live in such a beautiful place as Painswick.

We pooled our knowledge and profited from the attendance of Cedric Neilsen, the well-known local naturalist, and Malcolm Watts, our past president. In the space of 120 yards and in just over an hour, we identified 22 species by sight, sound or both. Which proved the point of our objective admirably.

The most vociferous were the yaffle (green woodpecker) and the cuckoo, the latter being unique in laying its eggs in the nest of another species. This could be one of several species, but the female always chooses the same one, and her eggs are made to look like the host's own.

The bird club is an active group with a programme plan already in print up to March 2002. We have not yet reached the

stage of having a waiting list for membership, so if you are interested, please contact our secretary, Dulcie Brotherton, on 813101. **Harold Wood**



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# The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 7 JULY AND FORWARD DATES FOR 2001

June			
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
6th	Conversational French Classes (Advanced) - Wednesdays Conversational Italian Classes (Intermediate) - Wednesdays	Library Room " "	9.30 - 11am 11.30am - 1pm
	Painswick Probus Club Meeting	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Horticultural Society Outing: Coughton Court, Alcester, Worcs. (NT)		10.30am depart
7th	County Council/General Election	Town Hall	7am - 10pm
	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
8th	W.I. Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
11th	Bird Club - outing to Cannop Ponds	CANCELLED	
12th	Mothers' Union Outing to Fairford	Fairford Church	2.30pm
	Wives' Fellowship: Evening drive to Bibury Trout Farm	Coach leaves Painswick	6.15pm
14th	AONB Partnership walk, with Cedric Neilsen	Park by Rococo Gdn	2pm
15th	Senior Circle: Westonbirt - John Workman, Chairman of the Trustees	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 16th	Coffee Morning in aid of Cobalt Unit, Cheltenham. Various Stalls. All welcome	Christ Church Hall	10.30am - 12.30pm
	Unveiling the Supporting Wall	Painswick Centre	5.30pm
19th	Senior Circle Outing to Westonbirt. Teas at Cherrington	Falcon	1.30pm
	Local History Society AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
20th	Painswick Probus Meeting	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival	Gloucester Cathedral	7.30pm
	Wives' Fellowship: Life as a Vet. - Ros Harris	Christ Church Hall	8pm
21st	W.I. Meeting	Town Hall	2.30pm
21st	REVISED COPY DATE: Items to Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
Sat 23rd	Theatre Club Outing to Bath	The Falcon	12.30pm
	Tennis Club Barbecue and Boules: Tickets £5	Broadham	7pm
	Gloucestershire Supporters, Medical Foundation - Concert	Rococo Gardens	6pm
	Gyde House Kids Grand Reunion	Falcon	11am





27th	Horticultural Society Outing: Hatfield House, Hatfield, Herts		9am depart 7pm ret.
28th	Art Exhibition - Joyce Bell & Mary Hosler (Until 1 July)	Town Hall	Daily
	DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
29th	Senior Circle: The Adventures of a Linguist - Benedict Kolczynski	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 30th	Salmon and Bridge supper in aid of CLIC India Challenge Contact Joan Wells 812245 or Libby Graesser 812304	Painswick Mill	6.30pm
July			
3rd	PCMS: Annual General Meeting	Church Rooms	8pm
4th	Coffee Morning in aid of the Crack Cancer Campaign	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
	Painswick Probus Meeting	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Wives' Fellowship Barbecue	The Latchetts, Kingsmead	7pm
5th	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Sat 7th	JULY ISSUE OF THE PAINSWICK BEACON PUBLISHED		
	GDMS Meeting: Poetry Readings by Veda Warwick & David Walton	Gloucester Cathedral	2.15pm
12/13/14th	Painswick Players Production: "Black Comedy" by Peter Shaffer Tickets: Shetland Shop/Post Office or 812167	Painswick Centre	8pm daily
21st	Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	The Falcon	1.30pm
26th	Horticultural Society Outing: Snowhill Manor, Broadway, Worcs. (NT)		12 noon depart
26/27/28th	Open Days in aid of Hope for Children: Refreshments	Friends Meeting House	10am - 4.30pm daily
27th	Art Exhibition - Robert Ball (Until 5 August)	Town Hall	Daily
August			
6th	Art Exhibition - Mary Bingle (Until 12 August)	Town Hall	Daily
Sat 11th	Charity Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy, Cakes, and etc	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
15th	Horticultural Society Outing: RHS Garden, Rosemoor, Grt. Torrington, Devon		8.30am depart 7pm return
September			
Sat 8th	Horticultural Society Annual Show & Exhibition	Painswick Centre	3 - 5pm
24th	Calligraphy for Beginners/Improvers £36 for 3 Workshops (also 1st & 8th October) Details: Tel. 01452 611614	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm daily
28th/29th	"At Last!!! The Millennium Review" - Painswick Players	Painswick Centre	8pm daily
November			
Sat 10th	Charity Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy, Cakes, etc	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
Sat 17th	Woollen Sale	Town Hall	
29th/30th & 1st Dec	Farcical Christmas Production by Painswick Players - to be announced	Painswick Centre	Daily





# First-hand report on the space shuttle 24 hours after launch

Some eighteen months ago, with his usual foresight, Pat Daly planned a talk, called "An Introduction to the International Space Station," by Hugh Kenshole, who had worked on the Canadian contribution when with the Canadian Space Agency. Fortunately, this talk was given just 24 hours after the launch of Space Shuttle "Endeavour," carrying the Canadian Robotic Arm from the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral, Florida, for delivery to the space station.

His talk on this subject, which might be a difficult one for the man-in-the-street to comprehend, was given in a down-to-earth manner that we all appreciated. As Risk Assessment Manager at the Canadian Space Agency, Hugh was able to assess the potential dangers inherent in this project. A great deal of debris is already floating around in space, at such a speed that, should an object the size of a fleck of paint crash into a spacecraft, it would have the energy equivalent of a Porsche travelling at 120 mph. Cosmic rays and other aspects of the space environment make for additional hazards during space travel.

We were told that the cost of the NASA contribution alone had risen from eight billion dollars (for the originally planned 30-year life span) to 40 billion dollars (and counting!) for a life span now reduced to 10 years through delays and shortage of funds. At least we are able to see it in the night sky from time to time - Mr Kenshole provided a schedule of sighting opportunities for Painswickians.

When completed, the international space station will be 356 feet long, and 262 feet wide, considerably larger than a football pitch. The recent launch carried the Canadian-built robotically-controlled arm (virtually a complicated crane) that is needed to complete the assembly of the space station, and to conduct on-going maintenance and re-supply tasks.

What benefit is there from all this

## Painswick Senior Circle

effort and expenditure, one might ask? From the initial plan for it to be a second-stage launch platform for manned flights to Mars, it has devolved to hoped-for purer drugs (such as Insulin), investigating gravity's impact upon biological evolution, and better forecasting of solar storms and the effects upon our climate. So, is it really worth all this money - or is it really a question of national pride amongst the nations? Fortunately, the British taxpayer has so far only been involved financially in a small way (through the European Space Agency); however, it is good to know that our scientists and engineers are highly sought after and fully involved in much of the programme.

Richard Harris's talk on 4th May on the development of Ironbridge in Shropshire many years ago seems as far removed from today's space adventures as one could imagine. And yet there is a great similarity since, through just one man's vision of the future, Ironbridge became the cradle of the Industrial Revolution. In 1700, Andrew Derby brought about the development and use of iron in everyday life and heralded the beginning of an era when Britain became the Workshop of the World.

Millions of years before this happened, the River Severn flowed northwards towards Shrewsbury and the Dee Estuary but, as a result of the Ice Age, the direction of the Severn reversed to run south to Worcester and Gloucester, exposing rock, coal and ironstone. Iron foundries and coal mines changed the landscape, and in 1800 Telford built a splendid iron bridge over the Severn, sufficiently high for tall ships to go under, so vital to the success of the iron and coal industries of the day.

Prosperity followed - and then depression as times changed. Ironbridge today stands in delightful countryside with its industrial remains, a Heritage site now visited by thousands.

Daphne Hudson

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# The Personal Column

## 90th birthday

Congratulations to JOAN FAWCUS who celebrated her 90th birthday on 20th April.

## Births

Congratulations to EDWARD and ALLISON QUANT on the birth of a son, Jonathan Edward, on 5th April in Newcastle, a third grandson for Mrs Kathleen Quant:

also to MATTHEW and SUE DAY on the birth of their son, Thomas Matthew, on 16th May, a first grandchild for Bernard and Angela Day of Croft Orchard.

## Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to KATY ANDREW who has broken a leg in a riding accident;

also to DAVID HUDSON, out and about after a knee operation;

and to DEREK WELLER who has also been in hospital.

## Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of SARAH WETHERED, RON WEEKES, BARRY PEACHEY and MABEL BROWN who have all died recently.

## Comings and Goings

We would like to welcome Dr JOHN and Mrs JILL WRIGHT who are coming to live at Broadway Heights, Kingsmill Lane;

also JANE HOLFORD who has moved into 11 Hyett Close from Sheepscombe;

and MICHAEL and PATRICIA GREEN, living at 2 Severn Cottages;

and MICHAEL and PAULINE BREEZE and family, who are moving from Sutton, Surrey into 9 Randall's Field.

We are sorry to say farewell to Group Capt PHILIP TURNER, his wife, SALLY, and their son, OLIVER, who are moving to RAF Halton;

and to PAUL and CLARE HOOPER

who have moved from Kingsmill Lane to Northamptonshire.

## Change of house

BERYL GYDE has moved to 14 Pullens Road from Canton Acre, and GERALDINE and CHRIS PIPER-SMITH have moved to Bell Cottage in Friday Street.

## Thank You

MURIEL and GRAHAM ANDREWS wish to thank their many friends and neighbours for their kind thoughts, gifts, cards and continuing help with transportation during Graham's long stay in hospital.

- CHARLES and MARGARET THORNE-SAY would sincerely like to thank the many people who sent cards, telephoned etc. on Charles's recent heart surgery (he is progressing well). Also on Margaret's retirement from Ashwell House. We are delighted to be staying in the lovely village of Painswick. Thank you all.

RUTH ROBINSON would like to thank all helpers and the people who came and supported the coffee morning on 28th April in aid of the Additional Curates Society. With donations and contributions from the coffee morning, a grand total of £260 was raised.

VIVIENNE PEARCE, daughter LYNNE YOUNG and family, would like to thank all relatives and friends for their cards, and donations to the Red Cross, and for their support and sympathy on their recent bereavement. Special thanks to Fiona Francis for her beautiful painting on the coffin.

## Congratulations

To TONIE COWIE, of 20 Ashwell, who has been awarded two commendations for her paintings, entitled The Courtyard and A Quiet Place, from the Art Awards for the over 60s;

also to LUCY KIRKMAN of Painswick and JULIAN WILTSHIRE of Didcot, whose engagement was announced recently.

## NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date  
**SATURDAY 7th JULY**

Items for publication to Jillie Speed\*,  
The Old Carriage House, Edge, by  
**THURSDAY, 21st JUNE**

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

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

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

Letters and articles for publication are welcomed on computer diskette (returned after use) or by email to: [Painswick.Beacon@dial.pipex.com](mailto:Painswick.Beacon@dial.pipex.com) Items to be published, and other mail for the Beacon Committee, can also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in New Street (next to the telephone kiosk). Please provide your name, address and contact phone number.

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