

The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to KIERAN and ELIZA HITCHCOCK on the birth of their son, Luke, who was born on 20th March,

and to HELEN BRAGG and HARVEY GARDNER on the birth of their daughter Ella Florence on 21st March, a third grandchild for George and Kay Bragg.

Engagement

Congratulations to RACHEL SPENCER and JONATHAN HINES who announced their engagement recently.

90th Birthday

Birthday greetings to DAVID MANNERING who celebrated his ninetieth birthday on 13th April.

Wedding

Congratulations to CHARLOTTE JAMES and SIMON LEWIS who were married in St.Mary's Church on 2nd April.

Academic success

Congratulations to ALEX BREEZE on gaining his MA for Creative and Transactional Writing.

Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to DORRIE CHILD who broke her arm in a fall recently, and URSULA DAWS and NICK MARSH.

Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of METTE LAUFF, COLLEEN NEWMAN and DOLLY FERN who have died recently,

also to PETER and JEAN SHELDRAKE whose granddaughter Jennie died in a motor accident in South Africa; Jennie was IAN and FRANKIE MARSH's daughter-in-law, married to

their son Nick who was injured in the same accident.

Welcome

We would like to welcome DOROTHEA FRANCIS to No.18 and JOE MIFLIN to No.19 Ashwell House,

also to JOHN MUNDAY who has bought Solway in Cheltenham Road, also Mr and Mrs JAMES from Devon who have moved into the Lamp House,

also Mr and Mrs O'NEIL who have moved into Hillview in Butt Green, also welcome to FRANCES and WILFRED WARREN to No.11 Stroud Road, St.Mary's,

welcome to Mrs S HARRIS the new owner of Mellguards, Pitchcombe, and Mr and Mrs GILBERT SCOTT who have moved into Pyll Barn, Sheepscombe,

and Mr and Mrs HARRIES who have moved into the Malt House, Sheepscombe

and to a newly appointed local policeman JERRY SEYMOUR.

Farewell

Best wishes in their new homes to Mr and Mrs BENNETT who have moved from the Malt House in Sheepscombe, and Mr and Mrs HALSEY who have moved to Minchinhampton from Pyll Barn in Sheepscombe.

Thanks

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all those very kind friends and neighbours who have given me so much help and kindness after my accident. Ella

**Poll-
ing Day
Thurs-
day 10th
June**

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NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY 5th JUNE

Items for publication to Editorial Team using the Beacon Post Box or to Longhope, Blakewell Mead GL6 6UR by

SATURDAY 22nd MAY

Mini Ads to the Treasurer, Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN

SUNDAY 23rd MAY

Business adverts to Iris McCormick, St.Anne's, Gloucester Street GL6 6QN by

THURSDAY 20th MAY

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrely, 14 The Croft, by

THURSDAY 27th MAY

Letters and articles for publication are welcomed on computer diskette or by Email to: painswickbeacon@supanet.com Items to be published, and other mail for the Beacon Committee, can also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in New Street (next to the telephone kiosk). Please provide your name, address and a contact phone number. **The Beacon's telephone number is 814500**, and can accept short recorded messages: our fax is on **01452.814500** Our web site is www.painswickbeacon.org.uk

Beacon Committee
Production Team this month
Jack Burgess 812167
Terry Parker 812191

Personal Column: Rachel Taylor 813402
Diary: Edwina Buttrely 812565

Feature Writers:
Carol Maxwell 813387
Jack Burgess 812167
Dermot Cassidy 813737
Sport: Terry Parker 812191
Directory Editor: Liz Fisher 812130

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The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 27 No.2

May 2004

Painswick Festival all set for November

The programme for the Painswick Festival of the Arts in November has just been published and tickets are now available.

The Festival consists of eight events over two weeks (6th - 20th November), the first week being devoted to music and the second to poetry and drama. In parallel, there will be exhibitions of paintings and craftwork by local artists. Commenting on what led up to the idea for a festival, Revd John Longuet-Higgins said that it was a happy coincidence of events. The Music Society wanted to do something special to celebrate their Diamond Jubilee season, whilst both Painswick Players and Painswick Blues had independently come up with proposals for using St Mary's Church as a venue. The Vicar and Church Wardens of St Mary's and other local churches loved the concept of bringing the events together.

"We all thought, why not at the same time celebrate Painswick's local talent and see if we can fund some young musicians, enrich our worship and restore the roof of the 13th century St Peter's Chapel in St Mary's?"

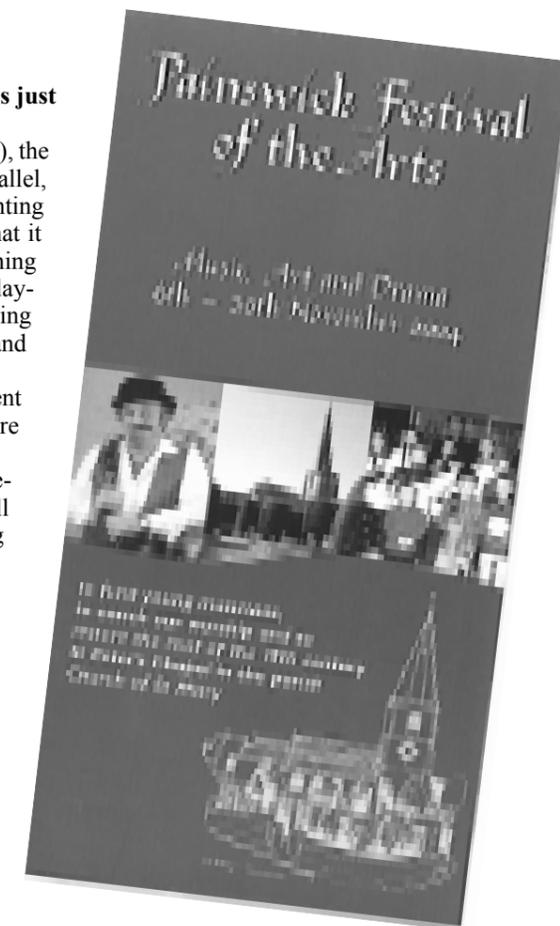
November was chosen because - with the exception of November 5th fire-works - it's a month when not much goes on. "So, we thought, why not fill it with opportunities for hearing and making great music, watching moving drama in a wonderful setting, and creating and admiring local art."

The Festival committee are particularly proud that Cambridge Voices, one of Britain's premier chamber choirs, are launching the Festival on Saturday 6th November with a concert at St Mary's Church, which will include the well-known *Faure's Requiem*. The Cambridge Voices will also sing a Mass on the Sunday morning. In terms of ticket sales, undoubtedly, the most popular event will be on the following Wednesday evening when St. Mary's welcomes the legendary Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band.

But there is much else to enjoy, including a choral workshop with Chris Swain and the chance to sing with Claire Graydon-James (who teaches at Covent Garden). There will be two poetry events at Christchurch, banner making at St Mary's and an exhibition of paintings, drawings, ceramics, embroidery and prints by a group of professional artists living in the Painswick area. The Festival finishes with performances by Painswick Players in St Mary's of *A Man For All Seasons*, Robert Bolt's classic play of conscience about Sir Thomas More, his refusal to compromise his beliefs and his eventual execution by Henry VIII.

Tickets for all events are available from The Shetland Shop, or by post from the Benefice Office (The Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick, Gloucestershire GL6 6UT) or from Stroud Tourist Information Centre (tel 01453.760960)

Turn to page 11 for the complete Festival Programme.



**Poll-
ing Day
Thursday
10th**

Sophocles is dead

Mary & Charles Muller of Lovedays Mill wish to advise their friends that Sophocles, their long term family parrot aged 34 years, passed away peacefully on Wednesday 7th April. Thanks to the veterinary care and attention provided by Neil Forbes, his life was made as comfortable as possible in spite of health problems in the past.

Sophocles had many friends in the district. He took a keen interest in all Beech Lane activities and could even identify vehicle sounds of those regular visitors to the Mill.

Inside this month... First cuckoo?... Full Festival programme... Phone fraud... Rococo Garden feature... Wish you could draw?... 450 years and still bowling on... Your voting opportunity... Annual Parish Meeting and HGVs... painswick-pc.gov.uk... Rec Field parking... sex appeal success and More (Sir Thomas)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

St.Mary's Development – Stroud Road wall

The committee noted that a communication had still not been received from the developers regarding the 'mix' of stonework in this wall and it was agreed to write to the senior manager concerned who had previously given an undertaking to take appropriate action.

Care Development – Stroud Road

The committee noted that there was continuing correspondence between Hilary and David Simpson of Halcyon House, Cotswold Mead and the District Council and the Parish Council regarding the development, including concern about the intentions expressed by Keith Cockell, its Managing Director, to make some facilities such as the health suite and its swimming pool available to the wider public at various limited times. The committee felt that compliance with planning conditions, including use by non-residents, is a matter entirely within the purview of the District Council. Terry Parker reported having spoken with Mr Cockell at length, including airing misunderstandings which can arise if this overall project continues to be described as a 'care village' when it is Richmond Painswick's known objective to integrate with the village of Painswick and not be isolated in any way. Mr Parker reported the intention Mr Cockell has to invite local suggestions regarding naming of this project/development, preferably names which exclude *care centre* and also the word *village*.

(The Beacon looks forward to including that invitation in its columns in due course.)

Planning procedures

It was reported that the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils had just published guidance upon 'best practice' in dealing with planning applications. The Chairman, Mrs Woof, undertook to examine this information and report to a future meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL

Memorial garden – mowing

A letter was received from Mr David Archard, a former Frederick Gyde Trustee, in which he expressed concern that a decision appeared to have been taken not to mow the grass in the Memorial Garden so that the extent of wild flowers could be better

seen. His view was shared by other former Trustees. Some Councillors at the meeting shared his concern and accepted that this be a matter for consideration and determination by the Frederick Gyde Trust which was to meet on the following Wednesday.

(The decision on this matter will be too late for inclusion in this issue of the Beacon. The outcome should be apparent for all to see.)

Village Guide, map and leaflet

The Council was advised that a draft new Village Guide (prepared and potentially funded, as previously offered and agreed, by the Beacon) was nearing completion, and its reference to the Council for checking of content and layout is imminent. In its preparation it had been necessary to update and enhance the existing village map, and a draft single-sheet leaflet about Painswick had also been prepared. As the map, and possibly the leaflet, required early consideration, the Council set up a small group to deal with the matter.

Council web site

The Clerk reported that an official Painswick Parish Council web site had now been set up at painswick-pc.gov.uk As the site had only just become operative the content is still limited, but Roy Balgobin informed members that its scope would be rapidly expanded within the next few weeks. (The Beacon has invited the Clerk to prepare an article for next month's issue explaining the intended scope of the site.)

Recreation Field – parking

A lively debate took place upon a letter received from Painswick Bowling Club concerning the ways in which severely limited car parking at the Painswick Centre was affecting their activities, if not indeed the future of the club. The Chairman of the Centre joined in addressing the Council on the subject, underlining the fact that realising the full potential of all these essentially recreational activities were inhibited by the limitations of parking nearby.

Members attention was drawn to previous advice from the Charity Commissioners that the Field could only be used for facilities directly associated with recreational activities; the creation of open parking by the general public would not be permitted by them. It was noted, however, that, in response to previous enquiries, the County Council's Highways officers had not raised objection to a modest increase in traffic using the junction of Lower Washwell Lane

and the A46 in this connection.

The Council, after lengthy discussion, agreed to seek guidance from the Commissioners as to whether some permanent car parking which was restricted to support recreational facilities only, at the sports clubs and the Centre, would be permitted. If so, further studies and consultation would be undertaken regarding access, and type of surfacing which minimised degradation of the appearance of the Field. This request, without prejudice to subsequent consideration of whether to progress the matter, was formally referred to the field's Trustees (see below).

Village policeman

Disappointment was expressed that no reply had been received from the police regarding the withdrawal of an officer dedicated to policing Painswick and nearby areas. The Council was informed, other than by the police, that a PC Jerry Seymour had been appointed and was now on such duty. (The Council received a letter on the subject from Inspector Holmes on the day after the meeting.)

St.Mary's development – community funds

As a condition (reported here last month) of its planning consent the developers of the St.Mary's site had set aside £22,870 for recreation projects in this community. The Parish Council had sought advice from the District Council, with whom the funds are to be deposited, as to whether such funds could be used for urgent renovation of toilets at the Town Hall, St.Mary's Street, and the Youth Club pavilion. As the District Council had advised that such projects were not 'recreational', it was agreed to request the developers vary the Section 106 agreement in this regard. It was also agreed to add the Painswick Centre's refurbishment of toilets to the list of locations needing improvement.

RECREATION FIELD TRUSTEES

Immediately after the conclusion of the business of the Parish Council the members reconvened in their capacity as Trustees.

Occasional parking

In accord with established practice the Trustees approved twelve dates in the current year upon which limited parking would be permitted on the field in support of functions at the Bowling Club or the Painswick Centre.

Permanent parking

The Trustees received and approved the recommendation from the Council (above) and approved representations being made to the Charity Commissioners.

PLANNING MATTERS

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

NEW APPLICATIONS

THE MALT HOUSE, THE GREEN, SHEEPSCOMBE. Internal alterations to convert 1st floor bathroom to an ensuite bathroom
 YEWTREE COURT, FAREND, SHEEPSCOMBE. Construction of a raised terrace and landscaping
 PARK LODGE 2 & 3, BUTT GREEN. Erection of extension, double garage & installation of a dormer window
 BLAKEWELL FARM, EDGE ROAD. Conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to holiday accommodation
 PARK HOUSE, THE PARK. Two storey extension
 FIELDWAYS, LONGRIDGE, SHEEPSCOMBE. Erection of conservatory
 CAMPERDOWN, LONGRIDGE, SHEEPSCOMBE. Erection of a garage. Existing garage to be demolished
 PARK BANK COTTAGE, THE PARK. Erection of an extension to form a garden room/conservatory
 1 BUTT GREEN. Erection of extensions & installation of dormer windows
 THE PAINSWICK CENTRE, BISLEY STREET. Erection of a single storey rear extension
 ST PETER'S COTTAGE, ST MARY'S STREET. Installation of a dormer window on rear roof
 DILLAY FARM, THE CAMP (SHEEPSCOMBE WARD). Creation of a lake
 OUTSIDE EDGE, BLAKEWELL MEAD. Erection of a conservatory
 JENKINS FARM, JENKINS LANE, EDGE. Repairs & refurbishment of existing house and erection of extensions

REVISED PLANS

DILLAY FARM, THE CAMP (SHEEPSCOMBE WARD). Creation of a lake (additional information)

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THE OLD INN, GEORGE COURT, VICTORIA STREET. Rebuild section of boundary wall in old weathered stone & introducing double vehicular gates
 SHEEPSCOMBE COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, FAR END LANE. Single storey extension to provide additional classroom
 MEADOW COTTAGE, KINGS MEAD. Erection of a porch
 LITTLE BRIDGE HOUSE, STEPPING STONE LANE. Erection of a conservatory
 COTSWOLD HOUSE, NEW STREET. Internal alterations, demolition of garage & external render renewal
 PAINSWICK GOLF CLUB, GOLF COURSE ROAD. Erection of a 15 metre monopole Telecoms tower mounting two antennae and two 0.6m transmission dishes, with ground based equipment cabinet and AC link cabinet within a fenced compound
 LOWER WASHWELL COTTAGE, LOWER WASHWELL LANE. Erection of glass house
 TROY, GLOUCESTER STREET. Change of use of existing stone store building to residential accommodation
 FURNERS FARM, ELCOMBE, SLAD. Single storey extension
 Land at DAMSELLS MEWS, THE PARK. Retrospective application for minor extension to residential curtilage by re-aligning access tracks
 ASHLEIGH, GLOUCESTER STREET. Single storey extension and internal alterations to provide a cloakroom & shower room

REFUSAL

ASHTON HOUSE, GLOUCESTER STREET. Erection of new conservatory & conversion of existing outbuilding window to door

MINI-ADS

Cornwall – Holiday home Mylor Bridge, rural setting. Sleeps 4-5. Ideal for walking and sailing. Easy access to Eden project, Heligan and all parts of Cornwall. Contact 812254

2 Cottages to rent in Painswick – 1x2 bedroom with garage and 1x1 bedroom. Central village location – extra parking available - use of maintained walled garden. £650 pcm and £500 pcm. Call 813741 or 07879 448600 .

Responsible Person – required to take the minutes of monthly meetings of Rococo Garden Trust. If you are interested please contact 813936 for more details.

House for Sale – Modern terraced with garage. Large sitting/dining room, two double bedrooms. Small front garden and rear courtyard. Freehold. Offers invited 13 Berry Close Painswick. 812445.

Rock Cornwall – Well furnished comfortable holiday letting bungalow. Sleeps 5. Weeks available in May, June, September and October onwards. Contact 812832

Dining Chairs – Set of 4 light oak dining chairs with leatherette backs and padded seats. Excellent condition. Village center. Room wanted £50 ono. 813444.

Horse Manure – Free – bag your own well rotted horse manure. Large or small loads. Please call 813329

Cleaner Available - July 1st 2004 onwards, including weekends. 813295

MINI-ADS - non-commercial, maximum of 30 words - are 10p per word with a minimum payment of £1. Maximum of 14 accepted per month. Beacon subscribers have 25% discount. Please send money with mini-ad to Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to The Painswick Beacon. Receipts are not forwarded unless requested.

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| | | | | |
|------------------|--------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Tue | 8 | Mothers' Union AGM | Church Rooms | 2.30pm |
| Wed | 9 | C.T.A.P. Quiet Day | St Mary's Church | 11.00am to 3.00pm |
| Thu | 10 | Elections | Town Hall | 7.00am to 10.00pm |
| Fri | 11 | Senior Circle: Anchors Away - Johnny Johnson | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| Tue | 15 | Local History Society A.G.M. | Croft School | 7.30pm |
| Wed | 16 | Painswick Women's Fellowship: "Air Ambulance" - Ian Nicholls | Christ Church Hall | 7.30pm |
| Sat | 19 | Talk by Sir John Mason on Global Warming in aid of Christian Aid: followed by supper | Friends Meeting House | |
| Tue | 22 | "Big Toddle" - Sponsored half-mile walk in aid of Barnardo's and Painswick Playgroup | Yew Tree House | 11.00am |
| Wed | 23 | Theatre Club Outing to Malvern Theatre | The Falcon | 6.00pm |
| | | Bird Club: Field trip to Keynes Country Park. Guide, Ali Swainston | | 10.00am |
| | | Painswick Players <i>A Man for All Seasons</i> Auditions | Painswick Centre | 7.30 pm |
| Fri | 25 | Senior Circle: 'Seen but not heard': Being a Parish Clerk - Roy Balgobin | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| Sat | 26 | Painswick Puffins Coffee Morning in aid of Painswick Playgroup: Coffee, Cakes, Second-hand Toys, Tombola and Colouring Competition | Town Hall | 10.00am to 12.00 noon |
| Wed | 30 | Painswick Women's Fellowship: Evening Drive | | |
| JULY | | | | |
| Thu | 1 | Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting | Ashwell House | 2.30pm |
| Tue | 6 | PCMS: AGM | Church Rooms | 7.45pm |
| Fri | 9 | Senior Circle: "Antiques Roadshow" - Philip Taubenheim | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| Wed | 14 | Painswick Women's Fellowship: B.B.Q. | The Latchets | 7.00pm |
| Sat | 17 | Tennis Club Games & B.B.Q Evening | Broadham | |
| Sat | 24 | Dog Show | Recreation Field | tba |
| Tue | 27 | Country Studio Art Exhibition opens | Library Room | |
| AUGUST | | | | |
| Fri | 6 | Country Studio Art Exhibition ends | Library Room | |
| Mon | 9 | Children's Holiday Club - daily until 14th Led by a team from St Mary's Church | Croft School | Mornings |
| Mon | 30 | Coffee Morning in aid of USPG | Church Rooms | 10.30am to 12.30pm |
| SEPTEMBER | | | | |
| Fri | 10 | Senior Circle: "Wills of the rich and famous" - Mr Haigh | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| Sat | 11 | Horticultural Society Annual Show & Exhibition | Painswick Centre | 3.00 to 5.00pm |
| Fri | 24 | Senior Circle: "Mares eat oats" - Ha Houghton | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| Tue | 28 | Bird Club: "Bird ringing and migration" - Brian Bailey | Town Hall | 7.30pm |
| OCTOBER | | | | |
| Fri | 8 | Senior Circle Outing to Westonbirt Arboretum | | |
| Thu | 21 | Day of Prayer for World Peace | Catholic Church | |
| Tue | 19 | Bird Club: Visit to Cotswold Falconry Centre, and Optional visit to Batsford Arboretum | | |
| Fri | 22 | Senior Circle: "Keeping it in style" - Jenny Bailey | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| NOVEMBER | | | | |
| Thu | 4 | C.T.A.P. AGM: Speaker Mr Douglas Sammon FRCS, Orthopaedic Surgeon | Christ Church Hall | 7.30pm |
| | | Bird Club: "Alternative Majorca and its bird life" - Tony Hawkins | Town Hall | 7.30pm |
| Fri | 5 | Senior Circle Outing - before the rush - to Cribbs Causeway - Shopping | | |
| Sat | 6 - 20 | Painswick Festival of Music, Art & Drama Fortnight opens (see programme below) | | |
| Sat | 13 | Tennis Club Autumn Social Evening | | |
| Fri | 19 | Senior Circle: AGM followed by "Richmond Village" - Keith Cockell | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| Sat | 20 | Sue Ryder Care Coffee Morning | Town Hall | 9.45am to 12.00 noon |
| Sat | 27 | Annual Mission Bazaar | Church Rooms | 11.30am to 2.30pm |

What next at the Rococo Garden?

During the last twenty years the Rococo Garden has developed and blossomed into a unique horticultural experience. It is truly one of Painswick's greatest assets and, as such, should be seen very much as within our community. It is now on the brink of the next stage of restoration.

Back in 1984 when restoration commenced, the only evidence of the garden's existence was the depiction in a painting by Thomas Robins. The site itself was covered with trees and vegetation, obliterating all signs that there had ever been pattern and design or any sort of order beneath. Today, after steadfast and relentless effort, much of it voluntary, we see the lines and vistas that constitute this fascinating garden, restored as faithfully as possible to the image presented in the painting. 33,000 visitors a year enjoy the result, the only garden of its type in the country.

Paul Moir, who is the Director of the Rococo Garden, and his team are keen to start the next phase of restoration. Of course, this will be a costly undertaking. As many readers will know, the board of trustees of the Garden, which is a charitable trust (a new ninety-nine year lease is currently being drawn up), has been pursuing the idea of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the past two years. It was hoped that a grant of £2 million would re-

sult from the application. This has entailed meeting many of the criteria, including the drawing up of a conservation plan, specified by the Lottery Fund in order to be eligible to make the application. Assuming this stage can be reached there is, of course, no guarantee that the application would be successful.

The trustees have decided to withdraw from this course mainly because the demands of the application criteria have proved to be too high. A considerable investment would have been required simply to be eligible to apply and the Charitable Trust's funds would have been at risk if the application had been unsuccessful.

The time factor has also been significant. It would have been at least another eighteen months from the submission of the application to a result. As Paul points out, the money must start coming in now if the work is to commence.

So, what is to be the next step? The trustees have decided to revert to their £500,000 project. Several alternative

sources are being investigated such as DEFRA, the Regional Development Agency and various fund-giving charities. The enterprise is non-profit making so all money raised will go directly into the restoration and development work.

Paul is enthusiastic about the idea of developing the Garden into a real community facility. People should enjoy it on a variety of levels. It is already available and proving popular as a venue for weddings, birthday parties, baby-naming ceremonies, anniversaries, craft classes, exhibitions, even wakes. Several schools have become involved, with children spending whole days there engaged in a range of curriculum activities. Paul would like to encourage more children to consider a career in horticulture, pointing out the real joys and sense of achievement involved. He

is very keen to develop a community concept, including in the near future better facilities for the disabled.

The buildings in the Garden are in need of attention to restore a little of its flamboyancy and this will be part of the work of the next phase. Restoring the buildings will increase facilities for activities. The aim is to expand visitor numbers to 45,000 which will also benefit Painswick on a wider scale. It is envisaged that this stage will take three years.

This wonderful project needs everyone's sup-

port. Money can be raised in a variety of ways even on a small scale. There is an excellent friends association which holds all sorts of events - there will be a coffee morning on 1st May, for example. Individuals can sponsor a 2mx2m square. Do you have any ideas, or would you like to become involved? As Paul says "This was never a serious garden. It was frivolous, the playroom of the house." It is a precious legacy but not one we should have a precious attitude to.

The Rococo Garden is one we should all enjoy in our own way. It is also a key factor in Painswick's commercial and community life and we do need, therefore, to support it in any way we can.

Carol Maxwell



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Phone fraud

We have been advised of a telephone fraud currently in operation (this applies to home and/ or work telephones - landlines and mobiles). Upon answering the telephone, you will hear a recorded message congratulating you on winning an all expenses trip to an exotic location. You will then be asked to press 9 to hear further details. If you press 9 you will be connected to a premium rate line that costs approximately £20 per minute.

Even if you disconnect immediately, it will remain connected for a minimum of 5 minutes, costing around £100. The final part of the call involves you being asked to key in your postcode and house number (which has other serious consequences). After a further two minutes, you will receive a message informing you that you are not one of the lucky winners. The total bill will be around £260. Since the calls are originating from outside the UK, BT and other telephone companies are left relatively powerless to act. The only safe solution is to hang up before the message prompts you to press 9.

There is also another scam at the moment whereby you may receive a call purporting to be a phone engineer testing the line. You will be asked to dial 90, then press the hash key and hang up. If you comply, the caller has full access to your phone line and can place long-distance and international calls for which you will be billed.

Yet another scam involves mobile phones. If the figures 0709 appear on your phone display, do not call back because it causes what the police enigmatically describe as 'adverse repercussions'. You have been warned!

Philately will get you anywhere

One or two people have mentioned their interest in getting together with, or at least knowing about, others in this area who collect stamps. The Beacon will be pleased to receive expressions of interest and arrange a date upon which those who contact us can get together and, if that is their wish, organise future meetings for themselves that suit mutual needs.

We know of at least one first-day-cover collector, and another with many from Borneo he wants to dispose of. Maybe there are others keen to compare notes. Just use our E-mail address or post box, and we will do the rest.



Baroness Cox speaks in Painswick

Baroness Cox, President of Christian Solidarity Worldwide, will be speaking at the Town Hall on 22nd May at 7.30 pm. Caroline Cox was last in Painswick when she preached in St. Mary's about a year ago. Christian Solidarity Worldwide seeks to support and represent persecuted Christians in many parts of the world. She and other members of CSW, often with great courage, manage to get into places that may not be accessible to larger organisations that have to go through official channels. At The International Human Rights Conference last November a spokesman said: "I have a problem with the phrase silent majority. We are praying to-day for a noisy majority, a passionate majority, that will become the voice of the persecuted church. We have been silent for far too long."

Caroline Cox speaks regularly on these issues, and on Islamic and other forms of terrorism. In his capacity as a member of The CSW Board of Reference, our MP David Drew, chaired a press conference arranged by CSW in The House of Commons in February on human rights abuses in North Korea: these include chemical weapons experimentation on political issues. We believe this will be a highly topical meeting and hope many will come.

David Stanley

The Painswick Beacon

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

VILLAGE DIARY

| MAY | | | |
|-------------|----|---|--|
| Sat | 1 | Friends of the Rococo Gardens: Coffee Morning | Orangery, Rococo Gdns 10.30am to 12.30pm |
| Sun | 2 | Open Garden at Trench Hill. Adults £2, children free Historical walk around Sheepscombe with Elisabeth Skinner. Tickets £3, to include tea & cake Jolly Stompers Line Dancing (Improvers) - Sundays | Sheepscombe 1.00pm to 6.00pm Sheepscombe Church 2.30pm Painswick Centre 7.30 to 8.30pm Sheepscombe Village Hall 11.00am to 4.00pm |
| Mon | 3 | Traditional May Day Fair, stalls, plants, raffle, tombola Games, table tennis & skittles. Refreshments. | |
| Tue | 4 | Dog Training Club: Tuesdays | Christ Church Hall 9.30 to 12noon |
| Wed | 5 | Senior Circle Coffee Morning Traditional Tea Dances: Wednesdays Painswick & District Conservation Society AGM Speaker: member of National Trust - Tynesfield House Painswick Women's Fellowship "Everyman Theatre" - Derek Aldridge | Town Hall 10.30am Painswick Centre 2.00 to 4.00pm Church Rooms 7.00 for 7.30pm Christ Church Hall 7.30pm |
| Thu | 6 | Bingo Session: all welcome - prizes (Wednesdays) Bristol University Classes (10) commence on Italian High Renaissance. To enrol Tel: 0117 9287844 Jolly Stompers Line-Dancing: Experienced Beginners - Thursdays Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting Painswick Players - <i>Habeas Corpus</i> by Alan Bennett (until Sat May 8th) | Painswick Centre 7.30pm Small Church Room 11.00am Town Hall 12.30 to 1.30pm Ashwell House 2.30pm Painswick Centre 7.30pm |
| Fri | 7 | WI Market: Coffee & "tasters" available, Fridays | Town Hall 10.00am |
| Sat | 8 | Painswick Music Society Concert: The Nash Ensemble | St Mary's Church 3.00pm |
| Sun | 9 | Christian Aid Week commences Garden Open (National Garden Scheme): Lovely homemade teas. Christian Aid Service | Yew Tree House, Vicarage Street 2.00 to 6.00pm Catholic Church 6.30pm |
| Tue | 11 | Christian Aid Shop open for receipt of goods for sale | Christ Church Hall 1.30 to 4.00pm |
| Wed | 12 | Christian Aid Shop open. Refreshments. - Also open Thursday & Friday Probus: Ataturk - Dr Richard Long Horticultural Society AGM | Christ Church Hall 10.00am to 3.00pm Ostlers Room, Falcon 10.00am Town Hall 7.30pm |
| Thu | 13 | Closing of nominations for election candidates | Town Hall 4.00pm |
| Fri | 14 | Senior Circle: Health & Safety in the Home - Steve Marshfield | Town Hall 2.30pm |
| Sat | 15 | Christian Aid Shop - final day | Christ Church Hall 10.00am to 12 noon |
| Tue | 18 | Local History Society Annual Outing to Woodchester Mansion Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry fee | Woodchester 7.00pm Ostlers Room, Falcon 8.30pm |
| Wed | 19 | Painswick Women's Fellowship: "Quilling" - Laura Fleming Parish Council Meeting Mothers' Union: Diocesan Festival Service | Christ Church Hall 7.30pm Town Hall 7.30pm Gloucester Cathedral 7.30pm |
| Sat | 22 | Copy dateline for June to Editorial Team Theatre Club Outing to Water Mill Theatre, Newbury | The Falcon 10.30am |
| Tue | 25 | Bird Club: Guided walk at Daisybank, Leckhampton Hill, with Frances Meredith | Leckhampton 9.30am |
| Wed | 26 | Probus: Farming Today - Mr J Rowe Annual Parish Meeting | Ostlers Room, Falcon 10.00am Town Hall 7.30pm |
| Thu | 27 | Diary dateline for June to Edwina Buttrey | |
| Fri | 28 | Senior Circle Outing to Weston-super-Mare/Weymouth | |
| Sun | 30 | Christian Unity Service, followed by refreshments | Christ Church |
| JUNE | | | |
| Wed | 2 | Christian Unity Service Painswick Women's Fellowship "Japan" - M Beasley | Friends Meeting House 6.00pm Christ Church Hall 7.30pm |
| Thu | 3 | Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting | Ashwell House 2.30pm |
| Sat | 5 | June Issue of The Painswick Beacon Published | |
| Sun | 6 | Bird Club: Field trip to Nagshead RSPB Reserve Guide Ian Procter/Tim Fretter | Forest of Dean 10.30am |

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Wordsearch

This month we decided to help out those revising for their chemistry examinations by including 16 elements, the first letter of each of which commences with A-H.

The April answers for 11 western USA States were:

- ALASKA
- ARIZONA
- CALIFORNIA
- COLORADO
- IDAHO
- MONTANA
- NEVADA
- NEW MEXICO
- OREGON
- UTAH
- WYOMIN

and 'Well done!' to Beryl Smith again for getting all of

Beacon subscriptions roll in...

A real surge in subscriptions last month took the total to 532 subscribers so far this year. Many thanks: please keep'em coming!

For newcomers to the village we point out that The Painswick Beacon is an independent community newspaper, produced on a voluntary non-profit making basis, with the main aim of bringing news of local activities to the attention of all Painswick residents.

| Beacon subscribers for 2004 - 05 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Summary at 20 th April | | | |
| | 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 2002-03 |
| New or returned | 84 | 62 | 75 |
| Renewed | 448 | 573 | 580 |
| Totals | 532 | 635 | 655 |

PROPERTY REPORT for May by Murrays

Easter and the recent fine weather has brought that traditional burst of activity into the village with the demand for homes here building rapidly together with a flurry of successful sales. Many of the properties that have hung on through the winter have now sold and the new instructions are being quickly snapped up by buyers already concerned that prices may yet again be on an upward spiral. London is also calling again, with our twice yearly Cotswold presentation in Mayfair when we take over the Mayfair office for the day and meet London buyers to introduce the Cotswolds and our properties to this very important marketplace.

There has been lots of activity since my last report both in sales and new instructions with many more coming to the

market soon. Dell View and Rose Cottage in Vicarage are two most appealing 3 and 4 bedroomed cottages, Stonechat Cottage off New Street, a two bedroomed charming detached cottage, two excellent value properties at Canton Acre and Upper Washwell both now privately owned former local authority houses now improved and enlarged to high standards. At Edge Broadreach is a superb individual three year old house with extremely spacious five bedroomed accommodation, at Cranham a 1970s house in an acre for improvement which we are putting to tender and at Pitchcombe Elm Cottage has already gone under offer as has 1 Wordings Mount at Sheepscombe. Other sales include The Fiery Beacon, Madison House (already exchanged) The Lamp House that completed within weeks of finding

a buyer, Whitehall Cottage in Stamages, Hill Cottage in Vicarage Street, Surmang in Cranham, a building plot in Kingsmill Lane and a five bedroomed house in Painswick Road, Gloucester. New owners also moved into The Malt House and Pyll Barn at Sheepscombe recently.

Country Life kept us busy this month, we were part of a record close to 50 page section taken by our Mayfair office which had our phones buzzing earlier this month generating lots of viewings of our local properties. It looks very much like a good forecast for property movement in the coming months, interest rates are destined to rise but I do not believe this will slow down the growing popularity of living in this lovely part of our country.



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Big Toddle

Are you under 5, and do you fancy taking part in a sponsored walk?

Painswick Playgroup is hosting a 'Big Toddle' on Tuesday 22nd June in aid of Barnardo's and Painswick Playgroup.

The walk will start from the Playgroup at 11.00am with refreshments afterwards. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

To take part, or to sponsor the children, telephone Susie on 812633.

Eggs-traordinary Success

On Sunday 4th April over 100 children managed to dodge the April showers and take part in the Easter Egg Trails organised by the Rococo Garden.

There was much eggs-itement in the gardens and lots of fun in the Orangery with the children making Easter cards and Easter bunny headbands. The tombola sold out and the chick's name (in Guess-the-name-of-the-chick) was Betsy, correctly guessed by three-year old Jane Taylor.

A bid thank you to all who supported the event which raised £320 for the Playgroup.

Sex appeal gets results

John Parfitt wishes to thank all who contributed to the Mission to Seafarers book collection. Over 500 books, including 30 Bibles, were shipped to the Portbury Mission: some of these were retained at the Mission for loan and the rest passed on to ships for their own reading libraries. All were very welcome.

Yew Tree House garden open

On Sunday 9th May this delightful garden in Vicarage Street will be open under the National Gardens Scheme.

All are welcome between 2.00 and 4.00pm and delicious home-made cakes and teas will be available.

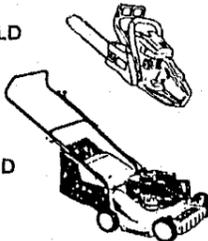
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Caring matters

The Carers' Friendship and Support Group, which meets once a month c/o Mrs R Hill, Wynstowe, Lower Washwell Lane, is open to anyone who is a carer of a relative or friend who is incapacitated in any way.

If you would like to come for a chat and tea with carers and ex-carers, please contact Mrs Hill on 813535.

You will be welcomed by a friendly group who understand carers' problems and may be able to help you.

Crocus Walk raises £522

A big thankyou to those who turned out on March 20th to support the Mother's Day Crocus Walk in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

In spite of the bad weather, we raised £261 thanks to the generous donations from those who joined the walk, from others unable to attend, the sale of crocus pins, and refreshments. The sum of £261 will be doubled by Norwich Union to a substantial £522. Thanks to all who braved the elements to come or who

Antiques evening and supper: 15th April 2004

Thank you to everyone who supported the excellent antiques evening with Philip Taubenheim at Christ Church recently. £650 was raised on the evening and this will be shared equally between the two Christ Church charities of the year: Mvumi Hospital in Tanzania and Stroud Mencap Homes Foundation.

Thanks again to all for your support.

Linda Davies

Local man for trial

As was reported in the 'Citizen' last month, Martyn Sheppard of Lower Tibbiwell Cottages is facing nine charges and is to stand trial, with 2nd August being the likely date.

Mr. Sheppard has denied all the charges - two of making threats to kill, three of harassment without violence, two of arson, one of threatening to damage or destroy property, and one of harassment causing an individual to fear violence. Pending the trial Martyn Sheppard must conform to curfew requirements and reside outside Gloucestershire, visiting the county only to attend court hearings or meetings with lawyers.

Wish you could draw?

Do you often finish a business or committee meeting, look at your notes and realise that the only interesting and creative output has been your artistic doodle in the margins? Or, whilst redecorating the bathroom, do you sometimes get a sudden urge to break out and cover the walls with Dante-esque visions of Heaven and Hell, instead of the tasteful coat of sienna silk emulsion you had planned?

Well, I've got news for you. According to Jane Garbett and Caroline Tate - the dynamic duo behind the artfully named *Where 4 Art Now* enterprise - this is all quite normal and healthy, because we all have innate creative, artistic ability. 'Anyone but anyone, of any sex, at any age can learn to draw,' declares Jane, 'It's all a question of confidence: some people believe they can and do, others think they can't and don't.' She and Caroline claim to have proved this for themselves, both having just completed degrees in Fine Art following breaks from distinctly non-artistic previous careers: Jane was a staff trainer with BT and Caroline, a pharmacist. Mind you, both admit to having always been enthusiastic amateur artists from childhood. But, as Caroline puts it, 'I always wanted to be more creative professionally: I just needed the confidence.'

Since graduating last year, they have put their theories into practice with a highly successful series of six week *Wish you could draw?* courses for adults at the Painswick Centre. 'We use a structured approach,' says Jane, clearly drawing on her staff training experience, 'and put the development of drawing skills in context with the work of great artists, such as the romanticism of Constable and Turner or the creative imagination of Blake and Palmer. Two new courses (Wednesdays, 10.00 am - 12.30 pm and Fridays, 9.30 am - 12.00 noon) are just starting and are open to all.

For children, they also run *Imagination Station*, a mix of art,



poetry and drama for seven to eleven year olds at the Town Hall every Saturday morning. The idea is to choose a theme - for example, *The Jabberwocky* poem - and develop it over four weeks with drama games, designing and making costumes and scenery.

Jane and Caroline describe *Where 4 Art Now* as an 'art in action' business and have set themselves some interesting and challenging goals, based on developing art-based projects for business, social and special needs markets. For example, they are working with children from Tredworth Junior School on a conceptual art project called *Myself in a Box*, they are planning 'art as self-development' courses for complementary healing retreats and they are working on business creativity programmes designed to promote 'right hemisphere' creative thinking amongst stressed out managers.

Plus ça change...

Ever eager to bring you the very latest news of Painswick and Painswickians, we are indebted to Simon Dixon for sending us this item from the July 1827 edition of *The Bristolian*:

OMNIANA

BULLUM v BOATUM. The following whimsical instance occurred at Painswick, Gloucestershire, last week.-

An old weather-beaten tar entered the village with a ship fastened upon his head, and singing, in a very lugubrious style-

Ye gentlemen of England as lives at home at ease

Ah little does you think upon the dangers of the seas.

And little did poor Jack think of the dangers which awaited him on land; he had scarcely got half-way through the village, when he met a cart loaded with stone, drawn by a bull, whose nervous system was so irritated, either by the sound which the tar uttered, or the sight he exhibited, that he made a pause - then a rush - Jack did not stop to hail -but crowded all sail - the bull followed him in his wake, but did not gain upon him having a heavy tender in tow; in the eagerness of the chase, however, the cables parted, and the tender was left behind; and now Boatum found Bullum gaining so fast upon him, that he made a tack, hoping to outmanoeuvre the enemy - but the bull tacked too, and the chase became severer than ever. Happily for the sailor a port was at hand (a public-house,) into which he steered without performing quarantine, and the bull not daring to venture

further, Jack saved himself, and the frigate he had in tow. Though the poor fellow was really in some danger, the scene was so irresistibly comic, that the gravest of the spectators lost their gravity.

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Painswick RFC Juniors

Anyone who has passed Broadham on a Sunday morning during the rugby season cannot fail to have noticed the explosion in the number of children turning out for the Painswick RFC Junior section. There are now 6 age groups, from very small to Under 12's with over 100 children regularly turning out come rain or shine. Matches are held every other week against local and not so local clubs. At recent tournaments we came across the mighty Bath and acquitted ourselves well, with wins in a number of age groups. The club has also hosted 2 rounds of the Gloucestershire County Cup which were very successful, with the U11's, U10's, and U9's all progressing through to the Quarter Finals. Sadly we were to go no further, but fun was had by all, and there's always next year! Next season will see the addition of U13's, as well as the current U7 to U12's. If anyone would like to come along and join in they will be made very welcome. Please contact Chris Hall on 814504.



Stroud Barbarians in Ireland

In early April, a combination team of U11's from Painswick and Stroud was invited to a tournament in Cork. Nine players from each team suspended the local rivalry and joined together as the Stroud Barbarians to take on a number of teams from Eire and Northern Ireland, including Ennis, Galway and Midleton. The Barbarians

recorded 3 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss against strong opposition, which was more than enough to win the Plate competition. Many friends were made and a trip is scheduled to Galway for the early part of the season, on the basis that Galway can make a return trip during Gold Cup week! The Painswick representatives were Andrew Godden, George Jackson, Oliver Hall, Harvey Ratcliffe, Nick and Tim Fenwick, Tom Fox, James Harding and Curtis Brown, all of whom can be very proud of their performances. Thanks to D J Hewer & Co for their sponsorship of the team shirts. Pictured are the team members with the Plate.

Chris Hall

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Cricket

Painswick first eleven were drawn away against Stone in the first round of the Village Championship but were fortunate to have the match switched to Broadham because Stone's wicket was unfit. The match which should have been played on Sunday 18th April was rearranged for the following Sunday. Unusually the competition rules require the side drawn at home initially to lose the home advantage if the match cannot be played on the original day because of adverse weather conditions. Although the Broadham wicket had been well prepared, the outfield was still damp after the rain of previous weeks and the batsmen had difficulty in getting the ball to the boundary. Stone batted first and the Painswick bowlers soon realised that there was little in the wicket to give them help. The visitors' opening batsmen took no chances and were both undefeated at the end of the 40 overs innings when the total stood at 188. No Painswick batsman was able to get on top of the Stone attack and as the required run rate increased, the wickets began to fall and the home side was dismissed for a total of 114 runs. Painswick will be anxious to put the defeat behind them when they travel to Cam today (1st May) for the first league match of the season. On the same day the second eleven are at home to Birdlip. Club Chairman, John Hogg, told the Beacon that he is always keen to recruit senior players and has been pleased to welcome New Zealander David Boon to the club. John would like to hear from anyone with an interest in joining Painswick. He can be contacted on 812505. He is also very enthusiastic about promoting junior cricket and will be pleased if the parents/guardians of youngsters aged 10 years or above with an interest in the game would contact him.

Rugby

Painswick retain the cup

The Stroud Senior Combination Cup will stay at Broadham for another year following Painswick's defeat of Cirencester at the Stroud RFC's ground on 10th April. However, Painswick's victory was not achieved easily and Cirencester will have been disappointed when they failed to convert a penalty award with the last kick of the match. If successful, the penalty would have brought the scores level with each side on 13 points. As it was, the Painswick players breathed a sigh of relief that the game had ended in their favour and, cheered on by their supporters, went off to receive the cup. The game was won up front with the Painswick pack in excellent form but it was Cirencester who took the initiative with a converted try after barely 5 minutes play. Painswick began to get their game together and Nick Rogers succeeded with a penalty attempt to be followed shortly afterwards by a Johnny Hinds try which Rogers converted. The Cherry and Whites began the second half well and Rogers was successful with a further penalty. Cirencester then reduced the deficit to 3 points when they were awarded a penalty. So it was that the match ended with the final penalty attempt by "Ciren" missing the posts to give Painswick a hard fought victory.

League season ends

The end of the season finds Painswick in mid-table in the Gloucestershire Premier Division. Matches have been very close affairs with Painswick during April losing away to Avonmouth by 25 points to 22 and, last Saturday, at home to Old Bristolians by 17 points to 13. The Cherry and Whites were particularly disappointed to lose to the Bristol Grammar School Old Boys as the game coincided with a Vice Presidents and Sponsors Day. However, Painswick were by no means disgraced in a match which saw them recover from a 17 points to nil deficit and nearly win the game in the closing stages. With both sides' defences holding firm, a well constructed movement saw the home team lose possession with the final pass going astray a metre or so from the line. A try at that stage would almost certainly have brought victory. However, the result did not affect Painswick's final league position. Everyone at the club is looking forward to the new season by which time it is hoped several new players will have been recruited to strengthen the first fifteen's squad.

Tennis

The Summer league tennis programme is now underway with 5 Men's teams and 5 Ladies teams entered in the competition. In the Winter league, Painswick's A and B teams came 4th and 5th in Division 1 while the C team won Division 2. A Mixed American Tournament has been arranged for Sunday 9th May.

Remember to vote!

Even without the threatened Euro-constitutional referendum, there is plenty to vote about this year in Painswick. Just to remind you:

Painswick Parish Council

- Painswick ward - 7 seats
- Edge ward - 1 seat
- Sheepscombe ward - 2 seats
- Slad ward - 2 seats

Stroud District Council

- Painswick ward - 1 of the 2 seats

European Parliament

- South West England PR



Stroud District Council District & Parish Elections Thursday 10 June 2004

Timetable of Proceedings

| | |
|--|---|
| Last Day to Apply to Register as a Voter for this Election | 5:00 pm Tuesday 13 April 2004 |
| Publication of Notice of Election 2004 | Wednesday 5 May |
| Close of Nominations | 4:00 pm Thursday 13 May 2004 |
| Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated | Noon Monday 17 May 2004 |
| Withdrawal of Candidate | Noon Tuesday 18 May 2004 |
| Appointment of Election Agents | Noon Tuesday 18 May 2004 |
| Publication of Notice of Election Agents | Tuesday 18 May 2004 |
| Amendments to existing Absent Vote Applications | 5:00 pm Tuesday 25 May 2004 |
| Publication of Notice of Poll June 2004 | Wednesday 2 June 2004 |
| Receipt of Absent Vote Applications | 5:00 pm Wednesday 2 June 2004 |
| Appointment of Polling and Counting Agents | Thursday 3 June 2004 |
| Polling Day | 7:00 am – 10:00 pm Thursday 10 June 2004 |

Thoughts from a grey voter

What are Senior Citizens worth? We are worth a fortune - silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys and lead in our feet. Since I last saw you some changes have come into my life - now have two gentlemen to come to see me every morning - Will Power comes to help me out of bed, then Arthur Rightus shows up and stays all day - he doesn't like staying in one place, so he moves from joint to joint. The vicar called the other day - he says at your age - "Shouldn't you be thinking of the Hereafter? I told him I do this all the time - in the kitchen; in the living room; in the bedroom. I stand there and say "What am I here after?" I am old, but not that old - just a recycled teenager!! Your birthday cake collapsed under the weight of the candles. How do you know you are growing old? Everything hurts -and what doesn't hurt doesn't work! The gleam in your eye is the sun on your bifocals. You feel like the morning after and you haven't been anywhere. You get winded playing cards. Your children begin looking middle-aged. You join a health club but you don't go. A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge. You know all the answers but no one asks the questions. You look forward to a dull evening. You need glasses to find your glasses. You turn out the light for economy instead of for romance. You sit in a rocking chair, but you can't get it to rock. Your knees buckle but your belt won't. Your back goes out more than you do. You put your bra on back to front and it fits better. Your house is too big; your medicine chest is too small. Sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there WHO SAYS AGE IS ONLY IN THE MIND ??

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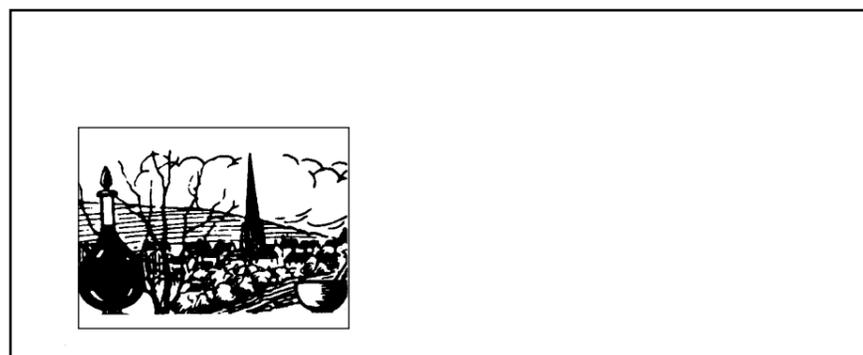
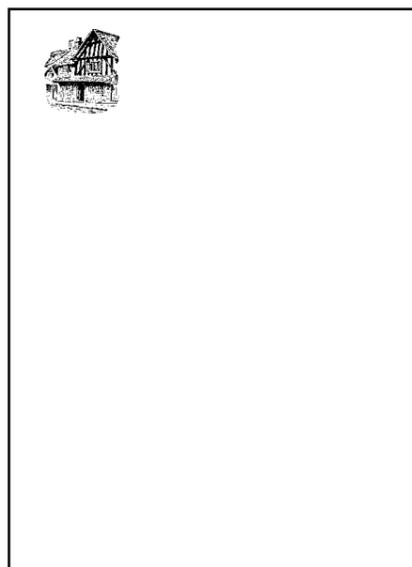
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Painswick Bird Club

On the evening of 15th April we set aside the remains of our artificial chocolate eggs with the expectation of seeing the result of the real thing. This was the return visit of Chris Riddler and our hopes were high.



It is difficult to express our evening's experience in print, and only those present are able to express the feelings of astonishment at the quality of the Kingfishers, and other natural subjects that were projected on to the screen. If I tell you that you could have counted the number of feathers on the birds, or the veins on the wings of the Damsel flies, I should not be exaggerating in the slightest.

This was accompanied by Chris's own natural commentary and anecdotes which kept his audience spellbound. There was one picture of one of his hides which, due to a sudden rise in the level of the river, converted it into a pile of flotsam. Oh calamity we shall have to wait for another year before he visits us again.

Our next occasion will be a guided walk at Daisybank off Leckhampton Hill with many possible sightings on 25th May.

Harold Wood

Summer is a-coming in...

Two reports have reached the Beacon about the first sight -or rather sound - of the cuckoo this year. Harold Wood heard a cuckoo on Tuesday, 13th April at 9.00am and Jane Rowe heard one towards Pitchcombe on Sunday, 19th April at 6.30 am.



Country Studio July exhibition

'Country Studio', Painswick's own art group, is planning an exhibition of members' work in the upstairs Library Room from 27th July to 6th August. The group meets every Tuesday in the Church Rooms, where there is a permanent exhibition of their work on the walls. Speaking for the group, Shirley Elliott said that members were keen to exhibit to a wider audience, hence the planned exhibition.

Painswick Praise

We were delighted to welcome a large group of families to Painswick Praise on Easter Sunday afternoon. This service, now in its third month, is designed with children particularly in mind but aims to involve people of all ages who like to worship God in a relaxed way. Younger members of the congregation take an active part in the service and everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the lovely music, the prayers and the friendly atmosphere.

A chat with the children last week showed that different parts of the service appealed to different individuals. Some liked the story or playing the musical instruments best; others enjoyed listening to the music group or coming with other family members. The drinks, biscuits and balloons at the end were popular with everyone!

Painswick Praise is an Ecumenical act of worship and after three services at St Marys, we are looking forward to holding the May, June and July services at Our Lady and St Therese Roman Catholic Church, on the second Sunday of the month. If you think that you and other members of your family would enjoy coming to Painswick Praise, do join us on Sunday 7th May at 11 am. We would be delighted to see you.

Reverend Helen Sammon,
Ela Pathak-Sen, Elizabeth Burge, Victoria Soutar, Andrew Leach
and Frances Watson (phone 812071)

Good Friday Procession

The Good Friday Procession of Witness was this year led by Methodist Minister, the Reverend Ray Hinch. Approximately 80 parishioners processed from St Mary's Church around the centre of the village making their way to the War Memorial Garden where a short service was held. Afterwards the parishioners were invited to Christ Church Hall for hot-cross-buns and coffee.

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Care Centre

From Keith Cockell, Managing Director of Richmond Care

In response to the letters published in the April 2004 Edition; an integral part of any care home is the provision of day care and respite care for older people. There are many people in Painswick who are in their late eighties and nineties who could benefit from being able to come to the Care Centre at different times of the week to give themselves a break from being alone at home for long periods of time. This also provides a much needed break for their carers. I greatly hope that this will complement a similar arrangement existing with Ashwell House as its meeting point.

The reference to external membership is taken out of context. A range of options will be available for the general residents of

Painswick to enjoy. This will include residential day care, respite care, post operative and post medical care and, often forgotten, loneliness care! Many older people have poor health and mobility but have highly active minds. They need the protection of a caring environment with stimulation to continue to enjoy their life.

At the same time it would be unreasonable for those people who are purchasing the apartments and suites in the development to find that others were using the facilities that they would expect for themselves. I would in no way wish to create an us and them situation. Subject to having a monitoring mechanism, which those who have bought into the development can participate in, the intention is to have an open door policy. This will encourage an active and stimulating environment for those living permanently in the development and will also be available for many older people who decide to continue to live in their own homes in Painswick



and the surrounding countryside.

I note with interest comments made in the report upon the Parish Planning Committee, "The Committee decided to remind Mr Cockell of his earlier undertaking to strive for the maximum of relationships of this sort". I would be pleased to address the Parish Council Planning Committee at any time, if invited to do so. Meanwhile I would want readers to be aware of our desire to maximise our relationship with all aspects of village life, not least local traders where such is practicable. This is, of course, a two-way process.



Ten of the eighteen apartments are now sold subject to contract, all to people who have lived in Painswick for a very long time. Two of the suites have now been reserved by long standing residents of Painswick in their ninetieth year! Their only concern is that they hope to live long enough to move into the care centre. In relation to both apartments and suites we are honouring our undertaking to give priority to residents of Painswick.

The protests raised during the planning stages contributed greatly to a start being delayed, and consequently deprived

many people from being able to benefit from the accommodation and facilities it will provide. Is it not time to draw a line in the sand and accept the benefits that this development will bring to many people living in Painswick?

Painswick on The Web

The Beacon is delighted to welcome the new Painswick Parish Council website which has just gone on-line.

The Painswick Beacon
Painswick
on the
Web



The goal is to have the site www.painswick-pc.gov.uk completed over the next few weeks by which time it will aim to give essential information about the Parish. It is divided into five sections:

- Parish History - a short introduction.
- Directory - contacts and information about local businesses and societies.
- Contact - how to get in touch with the Parish Council.
- Events - upcoming events in the parish.
- Tourist Information - a summary of the local tourism hotspots and resources.

It is worth noting that Painswickians will now have the choice between two separate on-line village directories and diaries of forthcoming events, an unusual distinction for a village of our size!

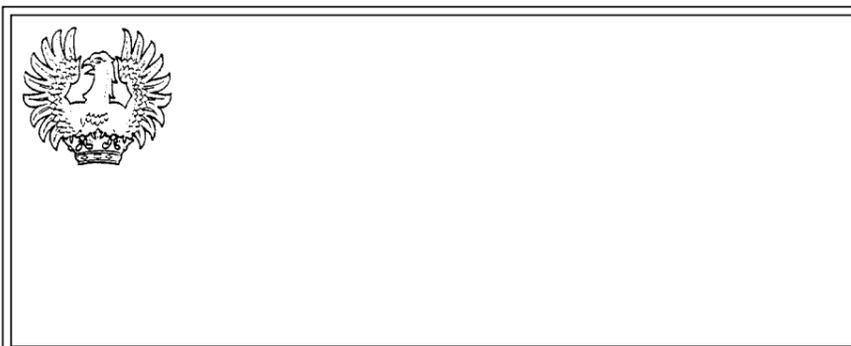
Meanwhile, we are pleased to record that on Saturday, 24th April, **Beaconline** - the Painswick Beacon website - received its 1000th visitor since the launch of the Beacon web edition in February.

450 years at the Falcon

Falcon Bowling Club unfurled a banner last Saturday to celebrate 450 years of having a green on this spot.

"It is an honour and a pleasure to recognise this important date" said Jim Muirhead, Club President.

There was general delight that the weather was so fine for the first day of the new Season; the first time gloves and raincoats had not been required in living memory.



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Angela Hewitt concert: Review

Painswick Music Society packed St Mary's Church on 3rd April to welcome the distinguished Canadian pianist and Bach exponent Angela Hewitt.

This was not just a recital; it was a master class. The audience, full of Sunday pianists (guilty ma'am) got a jaw-dropping lesson. Miss Hewitt used a new Fazioli piano whose lightness is well suited to Bach, here played with great clarity: even at full speed we could hear the spaces between the notes with every semiquaver having something to say. Truly magnificent.

The first piece, the Italian Concerto, was spellbinding with an impressive presto finale with dance-like tunes and rhythms and not a let-up from beginning to end. The second piece, the English Suite in D minor, gave us a powerful opening Prelude and Fugue, followed by three dance movements in different styles with delicately precise conversation between the hands before its final much bigger Gigue alternated delicacy and ferocity before its overwhelming finish.

Then two works by Chabrier, disciple of Wagner, forerunner of Debussy and Ravel. Once accused of 'melodic vulgarity' by the Oxford *Companion*, in Miss Hewitt's hands Chabrier showed how wrong you can get: it was FUN, happy tunes and spectacular runs cheering up a grey spring day.

Then a Chopin Sonata, the one with the Funeral March. More excitement: the first two movements with their cascades of notes relieved by a quiet trio: then that famous march rhythm and 'tune' picked out beautifully; and on to an unusual finish, the hands following each other all over the keyboard before its final crashing ending closed the formal proceedings.

We loved Miss Hewitt. We wouldn't let her go without a couple of encores to send us out into the evening wishing for still more. Thanks again, ma'am.

John Parfitt



The Emperor Quartet: Review

The Emperor Quartet paid a welcome return to St Mary's on 24th April.

After a little Mozart quartet K157 written at the age of 16 we time-travelled to Sally Beamish's Opus *California* with its descriptive titled movements. 'Boardwalk' has sounds of people walking and running up and down, 'Golden Gate' a fascinating collection of impressions, 'Dreams Before Lullabys' was, well, dreamy before the final 'Natural Bridges' whose exciting beginning and passages for the leader brought it all neatly together with Mozart now 200 years behind. Strong meat for rural Gloucestershire but well worth hearing.

Then Martinu's second quartet, more comfortable than Beamish's. Its slow beginning with some nice wild bits, egged on by a fire engine passing the church in the same key, led to more interesting sounds in the *Andante* before an *Allegro* with lots of pretty tunes and dextrous bits for the players. By the end it was fairly rattling along and we really had warmed to this bouncing Czech when the end came all too soon.

Finally the *piece de resistance*, Ravel's lovely 1902 Quartet in F. A fine start with some spectacular explosions but also delicate pastoral passages briefly reminding us of Elgar, then the unusual 'assez vif with pizzicato and tremolo passages played with great expression, and the players looking as if they were loving it as much as we were which was lots. More rustic bits suitable for a spring afternoon in the slow movement before the final *vifet agite* pulled us into the 20th century with its savage opening full of sound and fury signifying a great deal. Edge-of-seat stuff and no more Elgar. We didn't want to lose them so they played us out with a little Britten. A nice day, not just because the sun really was shining.

The next concert is on 8th May with the Nash ensemble whose programme includes Beethoven's great Op 20 *Septett*.

John Parfitt

It's 'Bingo!' for the Cobalt Unit Appeal

The Easter Bingo was a fantastic effort by all concerned, raising £555 for the Cobalt Unit Appeal Fund. Comments were heard from the players that 'they didn't know Bingo could be so much fun!' John Hogg, the caller, had to be restrained from calling so fast. 'Didn't he have a bus to catch?' was the cry!

The next fund raising event for the Cobalt Unit will be a Coffee Morning on **Saturday, 22nd May 10.00 - 12.30** at the **Town Hall**. Stalls will include cakes, bric-a-brac, plants and a raffle. June Gardiner and Suzie Hicks look forward to seeing all you generous people there.

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Habeas Corpus: What's it all about?

Painswickians of distinction have been sidling up to me over the past couple of weeks for a conversation along the following lines:

Painswickian of Distinction: ... er this Happy Corpse thingy that you're doing...

Me: You mean *Habeas Corpus*, Thursday 6th, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th May at the Painswick Centre?

PoD: Yes, that's it. What's it all about?

Me: The subject and overall ethos of *Habeas Corpus* is really explained in the title: *Habeas Corpus* is a legal term meaning literally 'bring forth the body'. As the action unfolds, the bodies - in all senses of the word - are duly brought forth.

PoD: Ah... I'd heard it was all about... well, you know...um... big...um...thingies?

Me: Big issues? Yes, indeed! *Habeas Corpus* is Alan Bennett's brilliant satire on the morals and mores of the permissive society. It tackles those truly big themes: life and death, love and hate, peace and war, man's inhumanity to man and

PoD: ...and Bristols...

Me: What?

PoD: ...you know - wink wink, nudge nudge - great Bristols...

Me: Oh, yes I see! Yes, you're right there was indeed a great Bristol Old Vic production of *Habeas Corpus* a couple of years ago, which really brought out the complexities of social conventions, manners, mortality and domestic misunderstandings inherent in the work.

PoD: Yes, but what are my chances of getting a glimpse of an actual pair of ti...

As Time Goes By

On a lovely sunny afternoon on 6th March, Painswick Players presented *As Time Goes By*, an afternoon of poems and prose covering the wide spectrum of life from cradle to grave, selected and directed by Pauline Foreman. Some pieces were touching, others hilarious, all entertaining when delivered by Diana Barclay, Georgina Sutton, Miles Curtis-Hayward and Pat Daly. Tony Gibson's lighting and sound effects rounded it all off.

Drawing up this varied programme was no mean achievement on Pauline's part, since most of the pieces were new to us, but *Leisure* by W H Davies was enjoyed all the more by the presence of his nephew.

Chrissie Stephenson-Oliver had made a wonderful effort for the catering of the delicious Devonshire clotted cream tea, with the aid of a small band of willing helpers.

Painswick Players are making a donation of £140 to the Meningitis Trust whose Finance Director, Sue Davies, came to open the afternoon's proceedings. This year is the 18th Anniversary of the Trust and since more children die from meningitis than any other illness, their work in publicity, prevention, bereavement counselling etc is essential. They are now aiming to collect £4 million this year. The patron is the Countess of Wessex.

What has now become an annual event was so much enjoyed that enquiries were made as to when the next one could be expected.

Avril Dorey

Mea culpa: The item above was erroneously omitted from last month's Beacon. We apologise. The sub-editor responsible has been shot.



Players plan for the Festival

With the programme for the Painswick Festival of the Arts now published, Painswick Players are about to audition for their contribution, *A Man for All Seasons* by Robert Bolt, to be staged in St Mary's Church from 18th - 20th November. This will be a major production and a chance for local actors to appear in one of the greatest plays of the last 50 years in a truly magnificent and historic setting.

Auditions are planned for Wednesday, 23rd June in the Painswick Centre (7.30 pm) with a view to entering into production at the end of the summer. A large cast of actors - particularly men - is needed and the Players will be looking for new acting talent to join them as well as backstage skills. Contact the director, Jack Burgess, on 812167 if you think you might be interested or just come along on the night.



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Painswick Festival of the Arts Programme

6th - 20th November 2004

The Beacon is delighted to carry here the complete programme for the first Painswick Festival. Leaflets containing even more information are currently being distributed and placed in public places. All indications are that demand

for tickets will exceed supply and we hope that having this information early will enable local people to make their reservations while supplies last. Don't delay, act today.

Tickets for events are available at

- ✓ " The Shetland Shop in Painswick (cheque only), or
- ✓ " by sending SAE and cheque made payable to Painswick Festival to the Benefice Office, The Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick, Gloucestershire GL6 6UT, or
- ✓ " by telephone or in person from the Stroud Tourist Information Centre on 01453.760960

CAMBRIDGE VOICES

Saturday 6th at St.Mary's Church 4.00pm
Tickets £7.50

The Cambridge Voices, founded in 1987. One of Britain's premier chamber choirs. Its membership of 16 drawn from former scholars from the University chapel choirs of Kings, St.John's and Trinity, as well as members of The Bach Choir, The Monteverdi Choir and the Clerkes of Oxenford.

The choir is directed by its founder, *Ian de Massini*, a former scholar from the choir of King's College Chapel, Cambridge. He is also acting assistant organist at both Ely Cathedral and St.Alban's, Holborn (London).

The first half of their programme will consist of the sequence of shorter pieces related to the church and its fabric. The second half will consist of a performance of *Faure's Requiem* with organ accompaniment.

The concert is precursor to the Painswick Music Society's Diamond Jubilee season, following the suggestion of Dr Gerry Mattock and Beryl Calver-Jones, two of the Society's sponsors and is funded by them.

PIANO RECITAL

Sunday 7th at St.Mary's Church 3.00pm
Donations welcome

Ian de Massini will give a performance, from memory, of Bach's 'Goldberg Variations'.

ART

Saturday 6th - Sunday 14th at Painswick Town Hall
Tickets £1.00 Students FREE

Paintings, drawings, ceramics, embroidery and prints by a group of professional artists living in the Painswick area.

JAZZ IN THE CHURCH

Wednesday 10th at St.Mary's Church 8.00pm
Tickets £20

We are delighted to welcome the legendary Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band to St.Mary's. Acker toured the world for 50 years but has now settled in Somerset. He still enjoys playing and recording, also painting and walking.

He says, "I can't believe I actually get paid for doing what I love most in the world".

THE FESTIVAL CHORAL DAY

Saturday 13th at St.Mary's Church
Tickets £7.50 Students £5.00

Festival Choral workshop in St.Mary's with Chris Swain. Music to be studied includes Vivaldi's Gloria, Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine, and some spirituals.

Session 1: 2.30-4.15
Tea: 4.15-4.45
Session 2: 4.45-6.15

for performance at Festival Concert 7.30pm

Tickets £7.50 Singers FREE
soloists include Claire Graydon-Jones who teaches at Covent Garden

BANNER MAKING AFTERNOON

Sunday 14th at St.Mary's Church - 2.00pm
Free Event

POETRY

Wednesday 17th at Christ Church - 2.00 to 4.00pm
Tickets £3.00 or £5.00 to include the evening.

An afternoon workshop run by Lapidus, an organisation, funded by the Arts Council of England, which promotes the role of the literary arts in health, healing and personal development.

7.30pm Tickets £3.00 Students £1.00

Words for Life, an exploration of poetry including competition winners, favourite verses, a Lapidus presentation and local poets. Prizes awarded by local celebrity.

PAINSWICK PLAYERS A Man for All Seasons

Thursday 18th - Saturday 20th at St.Mary's Church
Tickets £7.50 Students £4.00

Now in its 81st year, Painswick Players is proud to present one of the greatest plays of the last century in a setting that does full justice to its historical context. *A Man for All Seasons* is Robert Bolt's classic play of conscience about Sir Thomas More and his refusal to compromise his beliefs, leading to his execution by Henry VIII.