

The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to KATHRYN and JON KING on the birth of their daughter Lexie Kathryn on 18th February, a much-wanted sister for Lois;

and to CLARE and LACHLAN BOWER on the birth of their daughter Isabella Rachel Cass, a first grandchild for Kate and Tony Bower and thirteenth grandchild for Jim and Jane Hoyland;

and to MIKE POWIS and RACHAEL MAYO on the birth of their daughter Isabelle Joanne on 13th March.

Weddings

Congratulations to SANDY DUPONT and Rev CHRIS GARRETT who are marrying next Saturday 9th April at Tewkesbury Abbey;

also to CLAIRE CAMPBELL of Tibbiwell and JOHNNY BURKITT of Swansea who were married on 14th February in Kenya - among the Masai.

Birthday

Best wishes to BARBARA LEWIS who celebrated her 90th birthday on 29th March.

Welcome

We would like to welcome CAROLINE FRENCH who has come to live at 2 Edge Road from Nailsworth;

also to Dr ROYDON and Mrs PATRICIA HALE who have moved into Lyndhurst in Blakewell Mead from Upton St.Leonards and Mr and Mrs LINDEQUE who have bought The Wool Barn in Sheepscombe.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of RICHARD WELLS and ALFRED EDWARDS who have died recently.

Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to JOYCE GIBBINS, KEN OLIVER, GILLIAN PADBURY, GEORGE JORDAN and JUNE PRIVETT

Change of house

Mrs GILL MOHIN has moved from Greenfields in Kingsmill Lane to No.12 Gyde House.

Farewell

We are sorry to say goodbye to ANGELA and GEOFFREY DIVITO who have moved from Lyndhurst in Blakewell Mead to Moored Park in Cheltenham,

and Mr and Mrs CHICK who have moved from Gyde House,

and JOHN PARKER who has left Sheepscombe and moved to Bromyard.

Personal messages

Joyce Gibbins would like to acknowledge all the kindness and good wishes she has received from her friends and relatives since her recent fall. Thank you so much. **Joan Wells**, Helen and Michael would like to thank all our friends and the people of Painswick for the over whelming support they have received with the sad loss of Richard who died so suddenly. His love and laughter will be sadly missed. Thank you also for your prayers which have given us strength.

Bernie and Dorrie Child would like to sincerely thank the many dear friends who have sent cards during Bernie's illness and stays in hospital. They do hope they will forgive them if they cannot reply individually but they are, nevertheless, overwhelmed by their kindness.

The family of the late **Fred Edwards** formerly of Gloucester Road, Painswick, would like to thank everyone who attended his funeral on 4th March this year.

We would like to extend special thanks to the Royal British Legion, Dr.K.Barraclough and Mr Christopher Swaine the Church Organist.

Special pleas

Young and good looking, aristocratic, fun loving black labrador, with full Kennel Club pedigree, seeks elegant black lab lady dog for good times, with a view to puppies! Call **Fido** on 813857 (or Stephanie or Rod)

The Tarbuck family last saw their black and white male cat **Lukie** on 3rd March, wearing a blue and silver collar with his name and telephone number, between Edge and Pitchcombe. A call to 814773 will be more than appreciated.



NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY 7th MAY

Items for publication to Editorial Team using E-mail or the Beacon Post Box by
SATURDAY 23rd APRIL

Mini Ads to the Treasurer, Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN
SUNDAY 24th APRIL

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

THURSDAY 21st APRIL

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey,

using the Beacon Box
THURSDAY 28th APRIL

Letters and articles for publication are particularly welcome by Email to **painswickbeacon@supanet.com** or, alternatively, on computer disk. Items to be published, and other mail for the Beacon Committee, can also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in New Street - next to the telephone kiosk. Please be sure to provide your name, address and a contact phone number. The **Beacon's telephone number is 814500**, and can accept short recorded messages: our fax is **01452.814500**

Our web site is

www.painswickbeacon.org.uk

including **Beaconline** carrying the

Painswick Beacon web edition

Address for general correspondence,

not items for publication,

Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street GL6 6QN

Beacon Committee

Editorial team this month
Leslie Brotherton, Dermot Cassidy, Carol Maxwell, Philip Oakley and Terry Parker*
*co-ordination and compiling

Personal Column: Rachel Taylor 813402

Diary: Edwina Buttrey 812565

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Leslie Brotherton 813101

Jack Burgess 812167

Sport: Terry Parker 812191

Directory: Leslie Brotherton 813101

Business Advertising:

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The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 28 No.1

April 2005

Fiery new beginnings

The **Fiery Beacon Gallery** is to reopen under new ownership on 16th April.

Janet Groves and Alison Grey moved into the village from Gloucester last year and, for Janet in particular, reopening the Gallery will be fulfilling her life's ambition to be involved in promoting the arts. With a sister who makes jewellery who is in turn married to a painter, one can see that Janet's dream of creating a place for exhibition of "Contemporary art and crafts in the Cotswolds" resonates strongly. Alison told the Beacon that while she may not have quite the same long-time interest she has become closely involved with pottery, and this looks like gaining expression in this venue too.

So, following on from the excellent traditions established by Pam Bentley the gallery will feature a regularly changing display of contemporary art and crafts. Including work by both well established and new artisans, there will be a selection of jewellery, photography, textiles, ceramics and glass - together with a wide choice of handmade cards to suit all occasions.

The first exhibition, entitled "**New Beginnings**", will focus on the work of exciting new PhotoArtist (and niece) Amy Sissons including a collection of her beautiful abstract "Liquid Colour" PhotoArt which explores colour, shape and natural forms.

Janet (on the right) and Alison, pictured here talking about their mid-April start, are delighted that the gallery is now ready to open.

They will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00am (12.00 on Sundays) for most of the year, so do call in and explore what will be a regularly changing display. All are invited to relax in the welcoming and friendly atmosphere, and enjoy the fascinating selection of individually crafted work with something to suit every price range.



The VILLAGE QUIZ Winning team - PCMS

Library review

In response to the front page article we published last month the following comments have come our way, some of which may be food for thought:

- ◆ a book-lending and reference library must be as available, as now, indefinitely in Painswick
- ◆ diversification of services provided within the premises should be encouraged
- ◆ video and DVD loan stock should be increased, with better access to County-wide catalogues
- ◆ organisations with retained information about our heritage should be encouraged to deposit and manage their material/data here
- ◆ at worst a drink vending machine would be useful, but a small kiosk/coffee shop even better - maybe for raising funds for voluntary purposes
- ◆ the information service for tourists is ideally, and very importantly, located here
- ◆ information for the local public could usefully be concentrated here, including material from the Parish Council
- ◆ if capital investment is a stumbling block, surely the sale of the upper room to become a flat would be an option

- ◆ making at least the 'upper' part of the car park free for up to (say) one hour for parking would be helpful
- ◆ encouraging users of the new Stroud North mini-bus service to access the library is likely to increase use over the longer term
- ◆ the information point also being a 'box office' for village events would be a bonus
- ◆ maintaining the access to the Internet for those not owning a computer is invaluable and needs to be extended
- ◆ the care centre will have a considerable cadre of residents very likely to require library books on a very regular basis
- ◆ the library floor area itself would be conducive to such as committee meetings
- ◆ a 'lounge' area with easy chairs within the overall floor plan would be desirable
- ◆ children must be catered for through a scheme co-ordinated with the Croft School
- ◆ older young people/students should be encouraged to use facilities and/or work together
- ◆ there should be encouragement of the donation of books, including by clubs and societies upon their own subjects (e.g., bridge, horticulture, drama)

Elsewhere in this issue Spotlight on **Ron**, variable speed monitor, **Georgie** wins top award, **circle** Stop Press, the **procession** of witness, **flowers** in the Cathedral, **disconsolate hound**, pleasure and **dancing**, crazy **drums**, full **Quiz results**, mock **trial award**, new **advertisers**, **Gill moving on**, **Malcolm skylarking**, the awesome **Miss Lucy**, first **newsboy**, and by coach to **Aquae Sulis**.

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Reports upon meetings of the Parish Council cannot help but be selective, if only because of space constraints. We try to draw attention to those of wider interest, but remind readers that the full minutes of Council meetings are available at the Council office on Wednesday and Friday mornings, as well as Painswick Library.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning procedures

Prompted by Terry Parker, the committee took note that where applications related solely to internal alterations it was pointless to circulate comments from one councillor to another since none could view what was intended. It was agreed that in such circumstances, and should the Chairman not have already noted the situation, the first listed councillor advise all that a site meeting was required and the Chairman so arrange.

Chancellors/Painswick Tea Rooms

The application to change part of the ground floor at the rear of these premises to offices was discussed, there being some anxiety that this might be prejudicial to the continuance of the tea rooms in the longer term. It was agreed to support the application subject to the offices being self-contained and on the ground floor only.

PARISH COUNCIL

Bulls Cross - bus shelter

Investigations regarding possible relocation of the replacement shelter (*see report page 2 last month*) into a nearby lay-by had led councillors to revise their views as it was likely to be impractical for busses or coaches to make turns to continue on their scheduled routes. An estimate of cost of a replacement shelter and a new base were received and it was agreed that a grant from the District Council be sought in the 2005-06 financial year.

War Memorial - maintenance

A professional report had been received upon the condition of the memorial in Painswick, opposite the Town Hall. The advice was not to apply cleaning processes to the stonework since such would potentially damage its resistance to the natural ageing process. In this context the plinth itself was reported to be Cotswold ragstone while the cross is of Cotswold stone.

It was, however, suggested that the erosion of names engraved into the stone was fairly advanced and that these be recorded in the not too distant future and separately

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Tel: 01452 812075
'Moorea', Pitchcombe, Stroud, Glos
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etched on such as a brass plate.

It was agreed that attention to the paved surround to the memorial should be given and a quotation be sought together with grant aid for this work.

Ward councillors reported that memorials in the three other parts of the parish were in good repair.

St.Mary's development - wall

The continuing 'saga' of this mixed-stone walling adjoining Stroud Road was the subject of report by the Chairman who had unsuccessfully tried to make contact with the regional offices of Taylor Woodrow, present developers. The Council was reminded that the construction of the wall complied with the planning consent, but the developers had noted local concerns about the quality of the wall and its mix of styles and invited the Parish Council to obtain professional opinions and quotations for reconstruction where such was advised.

Numerous attempts to obtain a response from Taylor Woodrow to subsequent enquiries had been frustrated and there was every indication that they were unlikely to respond.

In the circumstances it was reluctantly agreed to discontinue efforts in the matter.

Police liaison

PC Jerry Seymour was invited to discuss current concerns with the Council. He reported several burglaries in Slad, Cranham and Painswick with some commonality of entering houses otherwise in darkness. Councillor Mrs. Berry urged the police to make more use of Emailing of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and others immediately when such criminal activity is prevalent.

The Council received a follow-up letter sought (*see report page 2 last month*) from Inspector Holmes in which he detailed the complete staffing at his disposal and the range of duties performed by his 'neighbourhood area' of Stroud. He asserted that Painswick "has exactly the same coverage as areas such as Minchinhampton, Bussage and Rodborough, which all have a Community Officer supplemented by Police Community Support Officers". Although PC Seymour was anxious to elaborate upon the letter at his Inspector's request the Council (seemingly) reluctantly accepted the information and the apparent absence of officers on-the-street.

St.Marys - Section 106 agreement

The fact that no payment (about £25,000) of the Section 106 planning condition upon the developers of the St.Mary's site had as yet been made was reported with deepening concern. The District Council, who imposed the condition, and are responsible for collection of the sum due on behalf of the Parish Council, were reported as also being concerned and are pressing the matter with Taylor Woodrow. It was agreed that if it was not forthcoming by the April meeting the matter would

be referred to the National Association of Local Councils.

Library - review

It was reported that the deputy County Librarian had agreed to a meeting with County Councillor Joan Nash and the Parish Council Chairman Terry Parker on 31st March to discuss the County Council's review of the service (*see report on page 1 of the last and this issue*). Mr.Parker indicated his having urged that any such liaison meeting await the point in time, May, previously identified by the service. (*See further reference in the next item.*)

Further, he pointed out that discussions should include representatives of the PCC since they had a direct interest in the future of the library in Painswick as there are adjoining walls and joint services to properties.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Council discussed the format of the Annual Parish Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 25th May at 7.30pm. In previous years this had included verbal presentations of reports from the chairmen of each of the committees, followed by similar presentations by the District and County Councillors.

One of the expectations of Quality Parish Councils is that a written annual report be made and be available to every household in its area. To this end it was broadly agreed that the good offices of the Beacon be sought (at the Council's expense) to include a full page of written reports from the Council's chairmen in its May issue, this satisfying the need to inform residents in Painswick village, and that a print run-on be made available for the other three villages in the civil parish. Such would shorten the proceedings, although questions upon that report would be welcomed.

It was agreed that at the APM opportunity be taken to seek public views upon the review of the library service as it may affect Painswick, with the relevant officers of GCC invited to attend.

Town Hall - refurbishment

The meeting took note of the budget allocation having been made to refurbish parts of the Town Hall; the roof over the office and toilets was already programmed, together with attention being given to the kitchen and heaters in the halls.

It was agreed that the Cemetery and Parish Maintenance Committee be responsible for this review, with the addition of Ann Burges Watson. It was agreed that the committee should consult with others in matters affecting the users/public and, after the meeting, Chairman Martin Slinger made known to the Beacon that it looks forward to the views of users upon such matters as kitchen services, decoration, etc..

Calor Village of the Year competition

The Council agreed to enter Painswick village, as did the village hall committees of Edge and Sheepscombe.

PLANNING MATTERS

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

NEW APPLICATIONS

WELL COTTAGE, SLAD Renewal of permission 02/199 for outline permission for a new garage with new vehicular access

THE COACH HOUSE, PARADISE, PAINSWICK Remove walls between lower corridor and 2 small rooms, install new dividing wall into upstairs extension and replace gutters, soffits & fascias

EDGE HILL FARM HOUSE, EDGE Resubmission following refusal 04/1940/LBC for alterations to windows

MAPLE COTTAGE, SHEEPSCOMBE Demolition of existing summerhouse and construction of a smaller one, farther from the house

QUERCUS BLUFF, THE PARK, PAINSWICK Erection of hay store, tractor store (including stable) and log store

LAMP HOUSE, VICTORIA STREET, PAINSWICK Insertion of imitation sash windows, 2 velux roof lights and erection of replacement fencing

THE COACH HOUSE, SHEEPSCOMBE Alteration to staircase & erection of partition on second floor to form bathroom

REVISED PLANS

HAMMONDS BARN, WICK STREET, STROUD Replacement of existing garage/outbuilding

CONSENT

ROSE COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET, PAINSWICK Demolition of existing side extension. Erection of single storey extensions & refurbishment works

4 PULLENS ROAD, PAINSWICK Single storey extension to form kitchen/living area. (Existing conservatory to be demolished)

FAIRWAY, BEACON CLOSE, PAINSWICK Erection of a replacement dwelling

EDGE LANE HOUSE, EDGE LANE, EDGE 2 storey extension, new rear pitched roof & new garage/stable block

HAMMONDS BARN, WICK STREET, STROUD Replacement of existing garage/outbuilding

RAMBLER COTTAGE, CHURCH HILL, SHEEPSCOMBE Replace downpipes and guttering on house & garage. Replace rotten window on first floor. Remove unsafe chimney stack & rebuild in Cotswold stone

DENBURY, THE HIGHLANDS, PAINSWICK Erection of conservatory to rear of property

PACKHURST FARM, EDGE Erection of a conservatory

WOODLAND COTTAGE, JACKS GREEN SHEEPSCOMBE Renewal of permission 01/126 for the erection of replacement extension & alterations to outbuilding

PLAN WITHDRAWN

CLOVERS, KINGS MEAD, PAINSWICK Erection of extensions, installation of dormer windows to roof and new link between dwelling and swimming pool & plant room

Directory 2005

corrections/updates

STATUTORY AUTHORITIES and REPRESENTATIVES

District Councillors - Painswick Ward
John Stephenson-Oliver
The Three Owls, Blakewell Mead,
GL6 6UR 812232
JSO@nichemanagement.freeserve.co.uk

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Clothes Sale - Starting on 5th April at 10.00 am. New and almost new. Give your wardrobe a boost at The Patchwork Mouse. Enquiries please ring 813122

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Sat	14	Blues Night: Sherman Robertson	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Sun	15	Christian Aid Week begins		
Tue	17	Local History Society Annual Outing		
Wed	18	Senior Circle May Coffee Morning		
Fri	20	Senior Circle: Flowers in May - Katherine Kear	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	21	May Ball: a 'first' for Croft School	tba	
		Blues Night: Ottis Grand	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI – Life as a Photographic Artist	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	25	Annual Parish Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
		Women's Fellowship: Community First Responder Scheme - Kevin Dickens	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
		Probus: Amnesty International - Mr Alan Frost	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Sat	28	Theatre Club Outing to Watermill Theatre, Newbury	The Falcon	10.30am
JUNE				
Thu	2	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	3	Senior Circle: Air Ambulance - Ian Nicholls	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	7	Bird Club to Keynes Country Park	Spratsgate Lane	10.00am
Wed	8	Women's Fellowship: village Shop - Marion Beasley	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
		Probus: Offshore Oil Production - Mr John Dutton	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Sat	11	Sue Ryder Care 25th Anniversary Celebration Coffee Morning	Town Hall	9.45am to 12noon
Fri	17	Senior Circle: Tales from a local publican - Johnny Johnson	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	18	Blues Night: Ainsley Lister	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	21	Local History Society AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	22	Probus: Saudi Arabia - Mr Norman Ellis	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Women's Fellowship: Carvery Lunch	Golf Club	12.30pm
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI – talk by Waitrose	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	29	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	1.00pm
Thu	30	Probus: Tewkesbury Abbey and river Trip		
JULY				
Fri	1	Senior Circle Outing to Snowhill Lavender Farm		
Sat	2	Blues Night: Lightning Willie and the Poor Boys	Painswick Centre	8.00pm for 9.00pm
Tue	5	Foundation Hygiene Course - details 813232	Town Hall	tba
		PCMS AGM	Church Rooms	7.15pm
Wed	6	Probus: Edith Cavell - Mrs Dinah Shoebrook	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Women's Fellowship	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Thu	7	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Sat	9	Victorian Costume Ball for info. tel. 01453.833150	Painswick Centre	8.00 to 11.30pm
Fri	15	Senior Circle: Europe - Elizabeth Finsberg	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	16	Dog Show	Recreation Field	tba
		Blues Night: Bad Town Blues (and pig roast)	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Wed	20	Probus: Ladies Lunch at Stroud		
		Women's Fellowship: BBQ at The Latchetts	Kingsmead	7.00pm
Thu	28	Flower Festival (until 31st)	Gloucester Cathedral	
Fri	29	Senior Circle Outing to Gloucester Cathedral Flower Festival		
AUGUST				
Tue	23	Yew Trees WI – Work of County Air Ambulance	Town Hall	7.30pm
SEPTEMBER				
Wed	7	Probus: Atlantic Liners - Mr Fred Jones	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	9	Senior Circle: "Them bones" - Libby Graesser	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	10	Hort.Soc: Annual Show	Painswick Centre	3.00 to 5.00pm
Wed	21	Probus: Eleanor - England's First Queen? - Jim Davies	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	23	Senior Circle: The Bag Man - Hayden Gardener	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	27	Yew Trees WI - Aromatherapy	Town Hall	7.30pm
OCTOBER				
Tue	4	Bird Club: Encounters in the Arctic	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	5	Probus: Talk(s) by Member(s)	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	7	Senior Circle: Outing to Symonds Yat		

THE Village Quiz

The 12th March came, as did twenty-seven full teams of competitors for this annual event, all seated with pencils poised at 7.15pm for 11 rounds of questions, plus a tie-breaker.

The Beacon was impressed with the friendly combination of earnest competition with the realisation that this was to be an evening to be enjoyed by all, and not merely an examination of retentive memory or profound expertise in any one subject. The observations received on the night, and since the event, indicate that it was appreciated by just about everyone - and that is gratifying. All were also appreciative of the efforts of Marion Sadler and her friends for preparing the interval refreshments, and she has been able to make a significant donation to a local charity as a consequence.

Those keen to take part next year may care to pencil in 11th March in their forward diaries, a date soon to be confirmed. We were sorry to have to decline one entry because of the limitations of space, so please note our limit must remain at 27 teams.

We accepted that the answer we had to one particular question about military ranks might be wrong, so it was deleted from the scoring there and then; the correct information is shown below. Also, we realised after the evening was over that we had not announced which mascot most impressed us - and there had been many to choose from, with ingenuity the order of the day. We have a photograph of the multi-coloured one for the Cross Bulls, after it had been put out to graze; a superb effort!

The full results are shown here, together with the three teams with the highest scores receiving their Trophy and bottles of wine from Philip Oakley on our behalf. Indeed, for the first time (we think) the tie-breaker was necessary to separate the top two - an added excitement.

Congratulations, and thanks, to all who took part and entered into the spirit of the occasion.

PCMS	Band of Hope	87	1
PADFAS	Primavera	87	2
Local History Society	The Searchers	84	3
Jenny Gaugain and book club friends	Bookworms	83	4
Painswick Players	Drama Queens	80	5
Jolly Stompers Dance Group	The Coasters	78	=6
Slad Village	The Rosie Four	78	=6
Ancient Society of Painswick Youths	Esmeraldas	75	=8
Painswick Conservatives	Bluebottles	75	=8
Painswick Probus Club	Procrastinators	75	=8
Dog Walking friends	Four Wags	74	=11
Painswick Music Society	Key Notes	74	=11
Badminton Club	The Shuttles	70	=13
Conservation Society	The Conservators	70	=13
Ancient Society of Painswick Youths	Quasimodos	68	15
Orchard Mead and Stamages Lane friends	Cuckoos	67	16
Harescombe Village	Millers and Farmers	66	=17
Painswick Bird Club	The Aviators	66	=17
Horticultural Society	Pauline's Bloomers	64	19
Gunton and friends	Ha'penny People	63	20
Susie Oakley and friends	Village Idiots	62	21
Mrs Cartwright-Taylor	New Painswickians	61	22
Short Mat Bowling Club	Natty Matty Bowlers	60	23
Bulls Cross friends	Cross Bulls	59	24
Tourist Information Office	The Ticklers	56	25
Mrs Cartwright-Taylor	Desperandum	50	=26
Pitchcombe friends	Limited Company	50	=26



Runners up - PADFAS



A pretty Cross Bull



Third place Local History Society

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The correct sequence is, of course

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Lieutenant-General
Major-General
Brigadier
Colonel
Lieutenant-Colonel
Major
Captain
Lieutenant
Second-Lieutenant

It serves us right for relying upon a seemingly authoritative book!

General blunder

In the quiz we gave the wrong answer to a question about the top three ranks with 'General' status in the army and, as a consequence, withdrew the question from the scoring.

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Odd Couple gets odder

Oh! The power of the Beacon! I mentioned last month that we had the odd problem in getting kosher New York accents out of a couple of our limey cast for our next production, *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon (28th – 30th April at the Painswick Centre). And I put out a plea for a local Uncle Sam to help out. Well guys, whaddyer know? We got one in the shape of Tom Parsons, a genu-wine Noo Yorker, living right here in liddle ole downtown Painswick. So that dealt with that odd little problem.

So why was Kevin Parker, our director, looking like a man still with the odd problem when I met him a couple of weeks ago? 'We-ell,' he confided, 'You know that, alongside this monstrous regiment of Manhattan babes, *The Odd Couple* contains an odd couple of Spanish hombres?'

'Yes,' I replied slightly huffily, 'the two brothers, Manolo and Jesus Costazuela, neither of whom - apparently - I was suitable to play.' 'Yes... well... It seems Jesus has had to withdraw and so...'

'So?' I said, displaying a certain aloof disdainful disinterest. I'm quite good at aloof disdainful disinterest.

'So, I was wondering whether you'd like to give Jesus a go...? After all, you've built something of a reputation doing dodgy Mediterranean types with dodgy accents,'

he continued, trying also to display aloof disdainful disinterest. 'Everyone remembers your Franco in *Dead Man's Hand*... and your 'walk-on' part as the Attendant to the Spanish Ambassador in *A Man For All Seasons*...'

Kevin can't do aloof disdainful disinterest. I decided to let him stew in his own juice. I certainly wasn't going to get down on my knees and beg for the part. Certainly not! I let him stew for a good seven seconds.

'OK... I'll do it.'

So now all I need is a bit of Spanish tuition. Is there, I wonder, some sultry eyed señorita or señora or - this on the insistence of The



The full cast of the original 1923 PP production of *As You Like It* on the bowling green at Painswick House.



MOO, who's editing this piece – even a señor who could help me with the Español? Give me a call on 812167 if you'd like to help.

Finally, for this month, here's a picture of some YIPPIes – young Painswick Players – who joined us for a couple of nights of dramatic fun during rehearsals for *The Odd Couple* last month. This was a bit of a 'taster' since the YIPPIes don't really officially start until September. But Leslie Wolowiec (YiPPie-in-chief) tells me that, so successful were they, that she is planning more YiPPie events during the school holidays. Give her a call on 813295 if you'd like to find out more.

Jack Burgess

Painswick Drama and the Awesome Miss Lucy

As six members of Painswick Players arranged themselves in front of the Local History Society audience at its March meeting there was a slight feeling that a performance was in the offing. However, after the opening flourish, we were treated to an excellent chronological account of the past eighty years of drama in Painswick in its various manifestations.

Painswick Players is a rare group (possibly unique) inasmuch as it is one of a very small number of drama societies to have survived for as long as eighty years. This can be attributed largely to the solid foundations laid down and consolidated by Miss Lucy Hyett who, with her sisters, was responsible for starting it all in 1923. From that time forth she was involved in every performance until her death in 1962. She set high standards and was truly the inspiration for the continuing success and survival of the group, even if at times she was a formidable lady. Her scrapbooks and the minutes kept for many years from 1937 by Rose Tranter reveal that all the profits from the twice-

yearly productions went to charity. These and other items from the Players' archive were on display, some for the first time in many years as they are now kept in the County Record Office, so we were indeed privileged.

By the 1930s the Players were well organised and profitable and were able to install more facilities in the Institute for their performances. Early on during the war, the productions took place at the

Gyde Orphanage and after the war the group became highly successful with Miss Hyett very firmly in control. She was the Painswick Players, enormously respected and fondly remembered. After her death there was a period of uncertainty, inevitable after all those years of tight control. The 1970s saw a welcome revival with new blood and this was again followed later by a waning of interest. Changing its name variously from Painswick Players to the Country Players to PADS and finally back to Painswick Players, the society has enjoyed both lean, difficult years and dynamic, successful periods. Throughout, however, there have always been enough stalwarts to keep the flame alive and Painswick has certainly been the richer for that. The facts of the story were interspersed with anecdotes both sad and funny, many recounted by members of the audience. Currently, Painswick Players is happily buoyant and successful, and long may it remain so. The members are certainly very aware of the value of their history and its very important role in the social history of Painswick.

Carol Maxwell



This is of a particularly formidable Lucy Hyett in her 1926 role of Countess Cathleen from the play of the same name.

The Painswick Beacon detailed as far as space permits

THE VILLAGE DIARY

APRIL

Sat	2	Music Society Concert: Orchestra of the Swan With Emma Johnson, clarinet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
		Blues Night: The Thompson Brothers	Painswick Centre	8.00pm for 9.00pm
Sun	3	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Improvers (Sundays)	Painswick Centre	7.30 to 8.30pm
Tue	5	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays)	Christ Church Hall	9.30 to 12.00noon
		PCMS: 'Religious Education in Schools'	Church Rooms	7.45pm
		Bird Club: Finland in Summertime	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	6	Women's Fellowship: Opening Service	Friends Meeting House	7.30pm
Thu	7	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners Experienced beginners	Town Hall	12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
		Tea Dances - now Thursdays see page 13	Painswick Centre	2.00 to 4.30pm
		Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
		Music Appreciation Group: Ralph Vaughan-Williams	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Fri	8	Country Market with coffee available Fridays	Town Hall	10.00am
		Senior Circle: Meeting Cancelled see page 5		
Sat	9	Service of Thanksgiving for Fred Semark	St.Mary's Church	10.30am
Wed	13	Probus: AGM	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Hort.Soc: 'April Showers' flower arranging	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	16	Music Society Concert: Alexis White, piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
		Blues Night: Danny Bryant's Redeyband	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Sun	17	Bird Club Field Trip: Warth Farm in Arlingham	Red Lion Inn	6.00pm
Tue	19	Local History Society Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
		Jazz Evening: Local musicians, no entry fee	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
Wed	20	Coach to Bath: <i>full details on page 9</i>	Stamages Car Park	10.00am
		Women's Fellowship: Living with visual impairment	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
		Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
		History Society: three member's research reports	Croft School	7.30pm
Thu	21	Music Appreciation Group: Members Night	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Fri	22	Senior Circle: 'Falklands War' - Roy Balgobin	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	23	Copy dateline for May to Editorial Team		
		Cotswold Care Spring Coffee Morning - Cakes; Cuttings; Clothes	Town Hall	10.00am to 12noon
		Music Society Concert: Tasmin Little, violin, and Wayne Marshall piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Mon	25	The Painswick Colourists: Exhibition by local artists - until 2nd May	Town Hall	Daily
Tue	26	Yew Trees WI – Role of Magistrates	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	27	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	6.00pm
		Probus: Building the Kariba Dam - Mr David Lemon	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	28	Diary deadline for May to Edwina Buttrey		
		Painswick Players: <i>The Odd Couple</i> - (until 30th)	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Sat	30	Cranham Auction	Cranham Village Hall	12.00noon
MAY				
Mon	2	Hawkwood College: Open Day	Hawkwood College	10.00am – 5.00pm
Wed	4	Bird Club Field Trip: Bakers Mill	Oakridge	9.45am
		Painswick & District Conservation Soc. AGM: Speaker Ben Sang - Severn Wye Energy Conservation Agency	Church Rooms	7.30pm
		Women's Fellowship: The Pyrenees in June - Sue Smith/Sue Dodd	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Thu	5	Local elections – County Council		
		Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	6	Senior Circle: The joys of being a Funeral Director - Chris Weaver	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	7	May issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
		Women's Fellowship coffee Morning	Town Hall	10.00am to 12noon
		Blues Night: Sherman Robertson	Painswick Centre	8.00pm for 9.00pm
Wed	11	Probus: Extreme Machines - Mr Dennis Joynson	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Hort.Soc: The Fun of Gardening + AGM	Town Hall	7.30/8.15pm



Horticultural panic

A surprise greeted members at our March meeting. We all know that not all surprises are for the better, but on this occasion it turned out that way.

Let me explain:- Our scheduled speaker, Mr Hardy was unable to attend. At short notice a Mr Jellyman stepped in to head a panel that included, Philip Berry, Cedric Nielsen and Brenda Dunn. Mr Jellyman, who is a member of the National Rose Society, has bred two roses that are still in production. He is also well known as a judge specialising in vegetables as well as roses.

The meeting developed into a question and answer session concerning vegetables and fruit. These included the life of seeds taken by members, crop rotation, greenhouse management, growing tomatoes and cucumbers, and pests and diseases. As well as getting the definitive answers, members intervened with their own remedies and methods, the blend of which made for a very enjoyable evening.

Next meeting 13th April, when Anne Smith from St. Mary's Flower Guild will be demonstrating Flower Arrangement. Would members please be prepared to enter a raffle to offset costs.

Painswick Horticultural Society



Warblers

Common British Warblers was the topic for our meeting on 17th March. Our speaker was one of our members - Jane Rowe. She covered 15 species of this challenging group. As they tend to hide away or lurk, photographs are hard to come by. However good use was made of overhead projector slides together with sound recordings of their differing songs or warbles.

The AGM followed the talk with 18 members present. The acting chairman thanked Dulcie and Joy for drawing up the programme, and for the support of the members attending the events. He repeated his request from members for suggestions for future events and for new committee members. The meeting was completed in 11 minutes - maintaining the tradition of minimal length!

The next meeting on 5th April will be a return visit of Helen Williams to talk on Finland in Summertime - Birds and Bears. Helen is a first rate photographer and will bring samples of her work to sell. The following meeting will be the first field trip of the new season, to Warth Farm in Arlingham on 17th April.

Painswick Bird Club



Stan Miles

Painswick Bird Club

Malcolm Cooper

PROPERTY REPORT for April by Hamptons International

The shortage of stock has been especially pronounced in Painswick and the Cotswolds where a lack of saleable property has been the case for the past six months. However we have found that realistic pricing remains the key to attracting buyer interest and any overpriced property just does not attract the majority of buyers unless it has something very special to offer.

The Chancellor has increased the threshold for stamp duty from £60,000 to £120,000 to enable first time buyers to enter the market, unfortunately there are very few properties under this threshold in the Painswick area and properties under £250,000 (the next level for stamp duty) remain difficult to sell.

However, the good news is that in the last month there has been a significant increase in buyer activity and also vendors are being tempted to put their properties on the market. A good number of our new instructions in March have already agreed sales within a week of coming to the market with competition coming from a number of proceedable buyers.

We have already agreed sales on Tanger - a period cottage in Vicarage Street; Smilers Cottage in Brimpsfield, a terraced cottage in Upton and Mayfaire - a delightful property in Slad. Other new instructions include Bell Cottage - a charming period cottage in Friday Street; Cherry Tree Cottage with magnificent views in Longridge; Hillview Cottage in

Food Hygiene Course

A one-day foundation course in Food Hygiene will be held on Tuesday 5th July at the Town Hall and places are available to members of the public. Painswick Country Markets has arranged for a specialist in the subject to provide training for its producers of food and preserves. The course leads to a certificate in food hygiene from a recognised professional institution. The course may be of particular interest to food producers and handlers involved in charity, school and/

Painswick Country Market

or club events. The cost, including provision of a certificate, is expected to be about £22. For further details and to reserve a place, telephone 813232.

We appreciate receiving information for the Personal Column, on our back page, and any you can pass on to Rachel Taylor is always welcomed.

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

Butt Green and for restoration Rose Cottage in Cranham, together with a very good family house and a barn conversion in Upton St Leonards.

Recent completions include Greenfield in Kingsmill Lane, Kempsey in Orchard Mead, Norbreck House in Cotswold Mead, Benwell in Hale Lane, 6 Hyett Close; Shiel House at Brookthorpe and Beacon Heights on the Cheltenham Road.

Most of you will have noticed that Richmond Painswick is progressing well with hopefully the first ones available to move into in the summer. If you would like some information on this unique development please do drop into the Hamptons office in Bisley where we will be happy to help you.

Diane Mearns

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Speed oh!

The Painswick Parish Council recently acquired a Variable Speed Monitor which we share with Bisley. This can be moved around the Parish and fixed to a lamp-post or similar and set at say 34 mph and anything going over that speed will activate the monitor and show the speed being attained and say SLOW DOWN. (The Beacon found this same device, shown here, in use at Eastcombe just a week ago.) This is a very effective tool and we plan to use it regularly every other month.

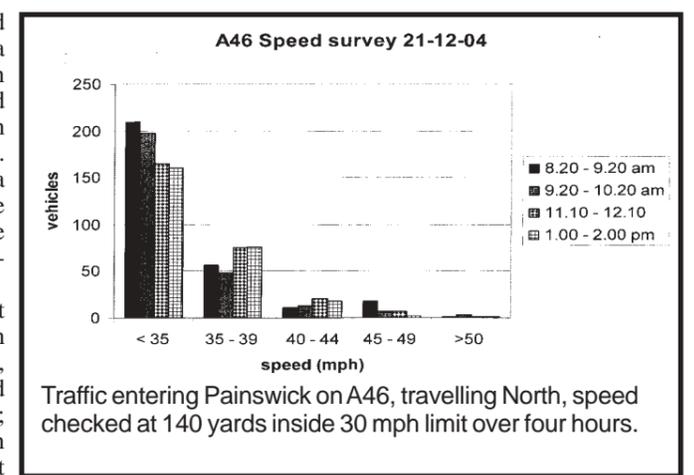
However, where there are danger spots, which we need to monitor, it requires manning, i.e. someone needs to be sitting in a car or standing nearby to record the traffic flow and the number of times the monitor is activated, and to record the speeds. This data is very useful as evidence to the County Council and to get something done to curb speed. The Traffic Committee need volunteers to carry out



this work. It would probably require a couple of hours in the rush hour and then an hour say in an off peak time. Obviously it is a task that can be shared. Please write to the Parish Clerk.

At a recent conference on traffic cameras, it was emphasised that speeding kills; an accident can also cause great

emotional problems to those involved and great expense for the Health and other Social Services. A pedestrian hit by a car travelling at 20mph has a 90% chance of survival; hit by a car travelling at 40mph there is a 90% chance of being killed. Hit by a car travelling at 35 mph he has half as much chance of survival as being hit by a car travelling at 30 mph. In a preliminary survey of the speeds of cars going north up the A46, out of 1060 cars covered, over 9% were exceeding 40



Traffic entering Painswick on A46, travelling North, speed checked at 140 yards inside 30 mph limit over four hours.

miles an hour within the 30 mph limit. Drivers going at this speed into Painswick show a criminal disregard for the safety of the inhabitants. We are sure that most of the offenders are not themselves Painswickians.

The Traffic Committee would be glad to hear from Parishioners of any problems relating to speed in their area or any other traffic-related problems. We will then see what can be done.

Ann Burges Watson
Chairman Traffic Committee

Seniors get their skates on

This month we break from our usual policy of relying on The Beacon Diary to advertise our events in the hope more people will attend, but on 4th March our evening outing to the Everyman Theatre was too good not to share.

The coach left the Stames Lane car park at 4.30pm (a time we are usually returning!!) and we arrived at the Theatre at 5.00pm where we were met by Nick; the House Manager for that evening. We were taken on a back stage tour of the theatre which was fascinating especially as the show we were going to see was Cinderella on Ice. The ice rink was made to fit the stage and filled with a mass of pipes, on top of which 4 tons of ice was brought in from Brixham fish market and spread over the pipes. Two men where then responsible all through the night to spread the ice and make it level, to the depth of 4 inches. All the small pipes where connected to two large pipes which snaked their way out of the theatre to two huge refrigeration units either side of the stage door.

The space back stage was very small where everyone had to wait to come on stage, and in many cases make very quick changes. The costumes looked limp and lifeless just hanging around, and a head for heights was needed for managing the scenery and flying equipment. The skaters we had seen practising and playing computer games all came from Russia. All was very calm, and quiet, and not a prima donna in sight. Supper passed very quickly, and before we knew, it was time to take our seats.

The curtain raised and a lone figure stood (on skates!) on the ice. He was the story teller and as he skated off stage left the whole stage - or rink - was ablaze with lights and music, and the fastest skating you could ever imagine, in such a small space.

The costumes now where full of life and sparkle, and once again we were under the magic of theatre. A truly amazing evening.

If you would like to join us on any of our outings you would be very welcome, all we ask is that you attend at least three meetings a year, as we sponsor our outings, all of which are in The Beacon Diary. Looking forward to meeting you.

Anne Smith



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Easter the procession of witness

Painswick's Good Friday Procession of Christian Witness has been a feature of village life for very many years. The annual procession was begun to enable members of the local churches to unite in a public display of solidarity designed to remind the wider community that this was a day of particular significance for Christians. The procession's route has usually been along the streets in the centre of the village, beginning at St. Mary's and ending at the War Memorial with a short service.

However, in 1985 the church members took turns to carry a cross of natural wood to Painswick Beacon where it was erected on the lower slopes.

This year's procession had an especial poignancy as it was the first occasion many could remember when the leading cross had not been carried by John Thynne Russell. An appreciation of John's life appeared in our March issue.



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Telephone Directory - Stroud

Prompted by a hand-written note we received, without a full name or address of the author, we investigated the information about cost of telephone directories (*letter from Carole Ross last month, page 14*) for adjacent areas; it being said that these cost £10.00.

Living and working, as we do, so close to the edge of a 'directory area', it can be important that we have access to the directory of the adjoining area - in this case Gloucestershire South.

We used 0800.833400 freephone for our enquiry - see page 22 of the current directory - and were advised that while there used to be a charge of £10.00 this was scrapped earlier this year. There is now only a postage and packing charge of £3.95 for anyone ordering a directory.

Canine Partners

Christine Fellows, President of Yew Trees WI, began the evening by reporting on her very enjoyable visit to Cheltenham Town Hall for the Gloucestershire Federation of WIs Annual Council Meeting, attended by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. On her arrival The Princess listened to a talk entitled 'UK Food Culture - what does it all mean?' given by Robert Rees, formerly chef at the Country Elephant here in Painswick. The Princess then thanked Robert Rees for his talk and in her reply urged WI members to press for healthier eating education, to keep learning and to keep promoting education. She also expressed her delight that English Heritage is taking serious issue with the matter of street clutter.

Having given an enthusiastic account of her day in Cheltenham, Christine Fellows then introduced Sarah Harper-Little who gave a fascinating talk on the work of the charity *Canine Partners*. This charity trains dogs, mostly Labradors, Retrievers and Poodles to care for their human owners in such away that many are able to lead independent lives. Sarah's audience was amazed to learn that each dog learns 100 commands which allows them to open train and lift doors, take items off supermarket shelves and operate washing machines. One, on command, even strips its owners bed! Many of the audience went home wishing they could train their human partners to be as obedient and helpful! The talk ended with a moving video that included an interview with a man who explained how after an horrendous accident, his dog had given him the will to live, and had thereafter completely changed his life.

At our next meeting at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall on 26th April Sue Bradley-Jones will talk on *The role of the magistrate*. New members most welcome.

Celia Lougher



Police Report

Painswick - There have been a number of burglaries both in and around the village throughout this period. In most cases unoccupied premises have been entered overnight via either a window or patio doors. Included within those breaks are some shed/garage breaks where padlocks have been cut off, and tools have been taken.

Visitors to Painswick Beacon have been targeted with some property being stolen from secure unoccupied cars left in the carpark. Unusually in one case 2 handbags were stolen from the boot of a car which may suggest that an offender had watched the victims hiding their bags. It is fairly unlikely that someone would risk breaking into a car in broad daylight on the off chance that there might be something in the boot.. A lesson to us all there I think.

Edge - No reported crimes.
Cranham - Unoccupied house burgled, entry via window.

Sheepscombe - Damage to a vehicle reported, which may have been an attempt to steal fuel.

Slad - No reported crimes.

Police and support staff are continuing to provide a high level of regular patrols of all of our areas and a vehicle crime awareness campaign is being planned for the Easter period at Painswick Beacon. Please do call me if you wish to raise any issues or pass on any information on 07799 624643 or leave a message with control room staff on 0845 090 1234 if I am not available. If you wish to pass on any information anonymously please ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. In an emergency ring 999.

Thank you,
PC Seymour 1270
Bussage Police Station

BEACON SUBSCRIBERS latest figures		
@ 20 March	2005-06	2004-05
New, or renewed after lapsing	75	103
Renewed from last year	321	518
Total - including postal	396	621
Painswick village - dwellings	1057	
Subscribing households	281	
Percentage subscribing	27%	

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Georgie National Award Winner

Painswick photographer, Georgie Brocklehurst, has won the David Mathias National Portrait Award for her stunning Black & White portrait photography. She also won the Wella Spotlight Total Image Award and awards for Avant Garde Portraiture and Classic Portraiture.

Competing against 4,000 other photographers from around the world, Georgie was commended by the judges for her portraits were 'the most exciting, fresh and innovative set of photographs that has true feelings of the subjects'.

The National Awards ceremony of the British Institute of Professional Photography was held in Coventry and hosted by the film star Honor Blackman. An annual international event, the ceremony recognises those photographers exhibiting creativity and visual energy. Georgie is a traditional



Black & White photographer. She left Stroud High School to gain an Arts Degree before working in advertising in London and overseas. She has had an abiding interest in photography since she was a child. She has however only turned professional in recent years. She is the holder of many prestigious photographic prizes including the highly acclaimed UK Portrait Award of Excellence 2004. Georgie takes a wide range of commissions, including children, families, actors, writers, artists and musicians. Over half her clients return for children's portraits for their family record. She has an abiding flair for taking natural photographs that capture the essence of her subjects.

You can see some of her winning portraits exhibited at Hobbshouse Bakery in Nailsworth this month of March - April. For further details, please contact Georgie on 812741 or visit the website which will go live in April at www.georgiebrocklehurst.co.uk.

Guide price - £335.16!

Painswick Guides



The Guides collected this amount at a fete held at the Painswick Centre in aid of a school in the Tsunami region. The girls were so excited by the fete. They collected books and bric-a-brac from the area and made some very interesting rock cakes to sell on the day! They were fully aware of the importance of the day and worked really hard but at the same time had such fun.

We then followed this with 'World Thinking Day' and invited some belly dancers to show the girls some dances. The girls then joined in and I have to say almost outshone the dancers!! Great fun had by all.

We have had a short term but much is planned for the Spring term - so watch this space.

We now have our limit of Guides but if you wish to join and are not already on the waiting list, please contact me and I will arrange for you to be added to the list.

Julia Mundell 814748

Year of CM

The Annual Meeting of Painswick Country Market was held on Tuesday 22nd February in the Town Hall. Anne Leoni, Chairman, welcomed the guests, who included Eve Holbrow of Stroud Country Market, and Gloucestershire's Market Adviser, Trevor Morgan.

Painswick Market's Treasurer, Margaret Richards reviewed the Market's accounts for the year. She said it had been an encouraging year, with improved income levels, reversing the worrying downward trend of recent years. Doreen Boon reported that the change of name from WI Market to Country Market, less than a year ago, had gone smoothly. The sale of coffee and cake was

still proving to be a valued and popular service, in addition to the traditional range of locally produced goods for sale. Colourful craft stalls and the large choice of plants and bulbs had also contributed to the better results. Heather Miller, Director of Country Markets Ltd. and Market Adviser, congratulated Painswick's producers and helpers on a busy and more successful year. She stressed the importance of attracting new producers, who could bring fresh ideas on how to improve service to the customers.

The Market's current Committee was re-elected to serve for a further year. After the formal business was finished, over thirty shareholders and invited guests sat down to enjoy a delicious home-cooked lunch. Naomi Dunn proposed a vote of thanks to everyone who had contributed to the Annual Meeting and Lunch, and in particular to Fiona Fletcher and Edie Stockbridge. This was warmly endorsed by all present.

Patricia Davey and Jane Rowe

Painswick Country Market



Flowers in all their glory

On 28th July Gloucester Cathedral will be transformed as 150 parishes take part in a Festival of Flowers representing "Glorious Gloucestershire".

The main building of the Cathedral will have arrangements of flowers representing the many aspects of Gloucestershire that make it Glorious. The Cloisters will be home to every kind of interest in flowers and gardening.

The event is open from 28th July to the 31st July, inclusive, and St. Mary's Flower Guild, and Our Lady and St. Thérèse Catholic Church, will be taking part, so Painswick will be well represented.

Anne Smith writes:

St. Mary's Flower Guild will be responsible for decorating the Quire Nave, which is quite a large area, requiring many many flowers, and we are representing "The Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen". We are looking for "Sponsors" to help us; for instance we will need a lorry to transport all the equipment that will be needed to put on such a display, and a couple of strong men to help us move all this into the Cathedral. This has to be done in the morning of 26th July and removed again on Monday 1st August. So if there is someone able to offer this it would be much appreciated, and your name would be on a list of sponsors on our display. We also need someone who is able to do calligraphy to write our list of Sponsors. But with all these things we also need "Money"

To this end we are having two fund raising events. The first is on 26th April in the Town Hall at 2.30pm when we have been lucky to have Jenny Bennet come to delight us with her very innovative flower arranging. Tickets £8 and will include afternoon tea.

The second event will be on Saturday 18th June at 7.30pm at Castle Godwyn by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Milne, when we will shall have the pleasure of Katherine Kear to demonstrate her exceptional skill as a flower arranger. (Katherine will be responsible for the High Altar display in the Cathedral) This will be followed by a buffet supper. We hope very much that husbands/partners will enjoy this evening. Tickets £15 including a glass of wine, and supper. Tickets for both occasions will be available from Dawn at the Patchwork Mouse, and members of the Flower Guild.



Charlotte Gamman adds: The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Thérèse are supporting the Gloucester Cathedral Flower Festival in July. We would be very grateful for any sponsorship however small. We have been lucky enough to have been allocated the Chapel for Private Prayer and our theme is "Gardens".

We are also looking to borrow small pots of shrubs, topiary and herbs; offers of greenery will be gratefully accepted. Please do your best for us!

Our contacts are: Charlotte Gamman 814621 - Anne Leoni 812521 - Anne Hamill 812445

Our contacts are: Charlotte Gamman 814621 - Anne Leoni 812521 - Anne Hamill 812445

Painswick Parish Council

The Parish Council seeks more volunteer Footpath Inspectors to carry out twice-yearly Footpath Inspections. This is an important role and is needed to maintain our

Parish Footpaths. For more information or to volunteer please contact the Parish Clerk - Roy Balgobin on 01452.812722



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Spotlight on . . .

Ron Lamort



Where shall we start?

I was born in a one up one down, plus mini-attic, cottage in George Court in 1928; I had an older sister and two younger. Mother came from Gorsley in the Forest of Dean to work in the Star Inn, run then by the Bloxhams. She met my father George, who was lodging then in the lower part of Vicarage Street, when he called there one day after playing rugby.

I started school in Painswick when I was four, staying on into the seniors until I was 14. I can clearly remember that we used to practice writing using fine damp sand in shallow trays, with a wooden stylus. As a bit of a chatter-box I was sat near the front of class; we had five rows of five desks. Mr Holister-Short was our teacher and he cutely recognised my habit of looking behind me when he asked me to "Stop talking, boy"; he sat me at the back of the class where the habit was pointless! The first head teacher was a Mr.Slack, but I also remember he was followed by Mr.Harper.

I enjoyed singing, especially before my voice broke, and recall that there was choir practice on Friday afternoons; a mixture of songs such as 'I Wheeled a Wheelbarrow, through streets broad and narrow ...', and hymns. Always keen to 'get involved' I joined other local lads wanting to join the Painswick Silver Band and we went along to a rehearsal and were sat in a corner listening to them practice - never to be asked to join in or even touch an instrument! Goodness knows what happened to their instruments, they had all been paid for by public subscription. Another interest was always in woodwork and for many years I attended the classes Wally Brooks ran in the Town Hall.

One of those outstanding memories was that Christmas did not start until that very day. I clearly remember going to bed on Christmas Eve with the cottage just as it was all year, but awaking to a decorated

cottage and all the fun that day brought. We didn't start thinking about Christmas in September like we have to do now!

And after school days?

While I was still at school Fred Burdock said to me one day that he would put me to any apprenticeship I wanted when I left. Meanwhile George Fryer, who ran a general store, where Central Stores used to be in New Street, offered me work. I was fortunate in the offer of jobs and decided to join Bill West the coal merchant whose yard was where Whitehorse Lane is now, as he thought I was well suited to heavy work; the big attraction for me was that he taught me how to drive and strip down the engine of the lorry for maintenance - I worked for him until I was eighteen.

All my life I have been involved with different kinds of jobs, trying to help people out. I have memories of helping my father harvesting crops and hay rick building. This picture of me on a yew tree in the churchyard about 1954 was after we used to cut them with shears and were paid 6d per tree!



National Service?

Yes, I joined the Royal Army Service Corps, with most of my two years of service being in the Cologne and Dusseldorf areas. Somehow I was drawn into ambulance driving, with many very mixed (some hilarious) experiences. Perhaps my most vivid experiences were as a dog handler, with night patrols with my English born alsatian. Our dogs were trained to attack the right arm of an assailant, while those who had German training seemed to go straight for the throat. Can you imagine the fun and games of a rather smart Lieutenant who admired my efforts and suggested we test out a pair of these dogs on him running away?

The army was rigid about its training of mechanics and insisted that full theory was necessary before one could maintain vehicles. I was never very keen on theory anyway and asked if I could strip an engine down without it. An exasperated NCO let me do it, and admitted he was dumb-

founded when I put it together again. Learning with Bill West had been very worthwhile.

But what about your main career?

I suppose this started after National Service when I had the job of assistant to Frank Price the gardener for five years at St.Mary's Home. There were about 30 residents there and we not only maintained the grounds but grew all the fruit and vegetables they needed. We cut grass with a scythe, a skill which I was to use in many places in my spare time and in the future. We helped out on many general tasks at the Home, this in the days when their laundry was in a separate block down below the house in the garden.

I heard that Gyde House needed someone to cut the grass there and, on two evenings after work at St.Mary's, I cut it all with my scythe. The Matron was pleased with my efforts and enquired whether, as they needed a gardener/handyman, I would care to work for them. This was 1954 and we agreed that I would work for a fortnight's trial, either side deciding then whether I suited the situation. I worked for the Gyde in differing ways for the next 30 years.

I didn't stay as handyman because, after recovering from severe injuries after a fall from a tree I was cutting in 1966, I attended day-release training in child care in Cheltenham and, in due course, was in charge of about 12 children in Ingram, one of the four 'houses' of boys there; the others were Seaton, Cary and Sommerville. Each house was self contained and self-catering too. These were enjoyable years, the more so from working together with my wife Joyce who I met while on leave from my National Service when having tea with my sister, her schoolfriend; I then

walked her home to the Highlands; we were married by Rev.Heal in 1955. Our daughters Julie and Wendy live in the Stroud area and we have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mind you, I was still involved with many local activities - the Operatic Society run by Meredith Cooper and Gilbert and Sullivan, the church choir, and being a sidesman.

And your thoughts about today's Painswick?

It is not the place we knew, days when doors were unlocked or the key was always under the mat. It is a pity so many shops have closed, but times move on.

Another of our series of interviews with people who were born in Painswick, or came here when they were very young.

Rugby

Painswick march on

The month of March has brought success for Painswick in both the Gloucestershire Premier League and the Combination Cup. On Saturday 19th March Painswick played Cirencester in the semi-final of the Stroud Senior Combination Cup at Broadham and won through to the final with a 23 points to 15 victory. The match was one of two halves with Cirencester having the better of the first 40 minutes and leading by 15 points to 3 at the break. In the second period Painswick got their game together with the forwards taking control of the play. The forward domination led to the home side scoring 3 tries from wing-threequarter Dave Evans, scrum half Ewan Craig and stand-off Mark Bragg. Flanker Matt Coombs who along with number 8 Chris Hall had an excellent game, was successful with a conversion and a penalty goal. On the same day Painswick United matched the senior side's success when they beat Smiths Industries Second Fifteen by 34 points to 5 in the first round of the Cheltenham Combination Junior Cup.

Painswick First Fifteen played Aretians in a crucial Gloucestershire Premier League match at Broadham on 12th March. The Cherry and Whites came to the game in good heart after their outstanding victory over Chosen Hill in the previous league match but they knew that victory would be difficult to achieve against Aretians especially as both sides were evenly placed in the Premier Division with the same number of points. Painswick went ahead through a Matt Coombs penalty only to see the visitors level the score also with a penalty. A second Coombs penalty gave Painswick the lead but it was Aretians who were to first cross the try line following good work at the line-out. The try was converted to give the Bristol club a 10 points to 6 lead. The game evenly poised with both teams' defence holding firm when wing-threequarter Aussie Smith made a break from behind his own line before giving the ball to Andy Golledge who crossed the line for the try. Matt Coombs converted. Later Golledge was to get over for another try after considerable Painswick pressure to make the score 18 points to 10 in the home side's favour. There was no further scoring. Painswick' victory had been achieved through a fine forward performance and some excellent tactical kicking by stand-off Martin Hayward. The victory was somewhat blighted by the news that Aussie Smith had sustained a broken jaw. Earlier in the month Painswick were the visitors at nearby rivals Brockworth. The matches are keenly fought and, in appalling conditions, keeping possession of the ball was always going to be difficult. Brockworth scored first with an unconverted try but Painswick began to play to their potential and flanker Chris Hall crossed the home side's line to level the score. Blindside flanker Tom Griffiths then scored his first try for the club. A third unconverted try came through Aussie Smith with number 8 Rob Andrew adding a fourth that was converted by Matt Coombs. The final score was Brockworth First Fifteen 5 Painswick First Fifteen 22. Meanwhile at Broadham the United played the Brockworth Second Fifteen and ran out winners by 39 points to 3. Centre Olly Clewes scored a hat trick of tries while father and son Chris and Will Partridge played particularly well with each scoring a try. The other Painswick scorers were Ash Smith and Ewan Craig with Craig Mayo adding 2 conversions. Altogether a very good month for the Cherry and Whites.

Fixtures [(L) indicates league match]

Sat 2 Apr. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Avonmouth 1st XV. Stow 2nd XV v Painswick United.

Sat 9 Apr. (L) Tewkesbury 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

Sat 16 Apr. Painswick 1st XV v Dursley 1st XV. Gloucester All Blues 2nd XV v Painswick Utd.

Sun 17 Apr. Stroud Junior Combination Cup Final at Stroud RFC ground. Painswick United v Dursley 2nd XV.
Sat 23 Apr. Painswick Utd v Cheltenham Civil Service 2nd XV.
Sun 24 Apr. Stroud Senior Combination Cup Final at Stroud RFC ground. Painswick 1st XV v Stroud Nomads or Fairford.

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Gloucester Airport

While relaxing in the garden on one of the first warm days this year the mind wandered to the small aircraft overhead, and later to the computer and finding one's way into the County Council web site. Within part of a 50-page Economic Strategy report for 2003-2014 we found this section of fairly interesting text:

"The most suitable development strategy for the airport (Section 4)"

Regular passenger services

5. By general consent the Cheltenham and Gloucester area, while well served by the strategic road network, is relatively poorly linked with a number of parts of the country including London. We feel that there would be a significant demand for the development of regular (scheduled) air services to a London airport. This issue is discussed in more detail in Section 6 below.

6. The establishment of similar services to key points such as Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dublin would involve greater financial risk, due to the competitive strength of services to these destinations from Bristol and Birmingham airports. This risk would apply particularly during the initial two years of establishing the service. However, local businesses could be well served in these cases if a regular charter operation could be established, initially for the use of a group of co-operating businesses only. If operations on this basis proved successful over a period of a year or more then there would be a more robust business base on which to launch services available to the wider public.

7. Both a scheduled London service and charter services of the kind described above would be possible within the existing runway length and operating hour restrictions. However, both would benefit from greater operational flexibility, and a wider range of potential aircraft which could be used, if the aspirations contained in the airport's February 2004 Runway Safety and Improvement Options paper for a limited extension to declared runway lengths could be achieved. Similarly, both categories of service would be more attractive if there was a modest extension to current opening hours so as to allow a full working day at the destination.

8. The establishment of such regular services would represent an important benefit to local businesses. They could also result in a modest degree of inward investment/re-location of businesses, particularly if they facilitated links with Europe through a London airport.

Regular freight services

9. The establishment of regular freight services appears difficult, both due to the existing operating hours and to the runway length restrictions. Express parcels operations would only be practical if opening hours were extended to 2300 - 2400. While this would provide a marginal business benefit to the airport it would be unlikely to result in any net benefit to local businesses, since it would be unlikely to result in any improvement in the level of service already received from parcels integrator companies.

10. The airport has importance for the transport of horses, particularly in connection with the National Hunt Festival. We have heard of at least one operator which has in the past used Gloucestershire for the transport of horses but which has abandoned its use because of the operating restrictions imposed by the available runway length. This provides a further reason to explore the possibilities for a reduction in these restrictions, so as to make better use of the existing runway length."

Broadham Summer Ball

The inaugural Broadham Summer Ball will be held at Broadham Fields on Friday 24th June. This promises to be a spectacular night, with cocktails and canapés served at 7.30pm, a three course dinner, and dancing courtesy of Top Cats. Carriages will be at 1.00am. Dress will be black tie.

Tickets are £40 each through to the end of April, and £45 thereafter, from Chris Hall: 814504.

Tables of 10 are also available.

Tennis

New pavilion

As the new pavilion at Broadham Fields is nearing completion the tennis club would like to acknowledge, with thanks, contributions received from the following.

1. Stroud District Council.
2. Painswick Parish Council.
3. Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association.
4. The Notgrove Trust.

The tennis club hopes to have a grand opening when the pavilion is finally ready for use.

Juniors

Parents, children, coaches and members of the junior committee gathered for the presentation of medals and prizes awarded to the three junior teams who won their respective summer league divisions. Our picture shows Club President, John Courts, with some of the players.



League team practice evenings

Ladies' and Men's practice nights have begun at Broadham. The ladies' evening is Wednesday starting at 6.00pm and the men's evening, Friday starting at 7.00pm.

Hockey

Painswick Ladies recently played Blockley at Broadham who before the game were in top table position. Painswick were the first to score through Karen Davis following a cross from Maggie Morse. Blockley then equalised only for Karen Davis to score her second goal and restore Painswick's lead. This was to be the home side's final goal and Blockley ran out winners by 5 goals to 2.

Also at Broadham a few weeks ago Painswick played host to high-flying Bourton Vale. Bourton had a bright start but Sarah Vocking, Nikki Totterdale and Sharon Gillson closed ranks to deflect shots on goal. Nonetheless, Bourton took the lead and made it two before half-time. Painswick responded after the break through a Totterdale strike. Although a loss for Painswick, the close result reflected the hard efforts of all the Painswick players.

Player of the match. Lisa Bircher.

Cricket

The new season is only a few weeks away and the club extends a warm welcome to anyone with an interest in the game whether player or supporter. Net practices have already begun at Broadham on Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm. League matches are played on Saturday afternoons starting at 2.00pm.

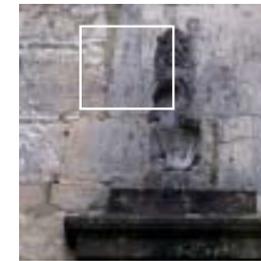
The club has two elevens. The games are of 45 overs per innings duration. There are also mid-week and evening matches with some Sunday fixtures.

It is proposed run both under-13 and under-15 teams and Club Chairman, John Hogg, will be pleased to provide more information about junior cricket. John can be contacted on 812505.

For further details about the club, please get in touch with the Club Secretary, Andrew Wise whose telephone number is 01453.755202.

Architecs

Last month we gave you the inset area (marked) outside St.Mary's Cottage facing into Victoria Square.



And, for this month, where are these?



Coach to BATH

Seats are still available on the coach to Bath on Wednesday 20th April. It leaves Painswick at 10.00am and the return journey is 5.00pm from Bath. Fare £7.

Bookings by cash or cheque payable to "Painswick L & B Outings" may be made with Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, Painswick GL6 6XH. Enquiries to Joan Truman 813965 or Pauline Berry 813227.



H and A Annual Coffee Morning

A very successful and happy event.

Many many thanks to all who helped and contributed in any way and for those who gave so generously.

Our total to date is £740.69 with promises and donations to follow.

Helen Baker and Anne Leoni

Once again we must ask you to help us to help you by noting the datelines and the contacts for copy to get to us, as set out on the back page. With this issue no less than eight items reached us after the closing date and, as a consequence, created significant extra work to completely rebuild the Beacon page by page. The DATELINES ARE IMPORTANT if there is to any assurance of inclusion of what is, to you and to us, news of significance to the whole of our village community.

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Mock trial

The Stroud Mock Trial competition was held recently between sixteen local schools. A team of ten pupils had to enact a court case, using witness statements and sample questions to help them. Every role was taken on by the pupils, including magistrates, prosecuting lawyers, clerk to the court and witnesses. Despite the fact that The Croft has never entered the competition before, the team emerged victorious, narrowly beating Stroud Valley, last year's winners. The Malcolm Reynolds JP Shield was presented in school by Tony Howarth, one of the magistrates involved in the event. The team of ten were all judged on their performance and it was a fantastic achievement.

Mock trials are held in many towns for senior school pupils, but Stroud is the only place that holds the event for primary pupils. Our pupils' composure and quick thinking certainly proved what eleven year olds can do and I believe we may have a few budding lawyers in the school!

Janet Hoyle

On the 1st of March ten pupils from The Croft School went to the Stroud Magistrates Court to re-enact a trial. Before the trial we had a tour round the police cells and magistrates came and spoke to class five in school. We competed against Minchinhampton School. We were judged on the way we spoke to the magistrates, how we handled questions and answers from the other school and how we asked questions. We were faced with some hard questions but we managed to fight back well enough to win!!

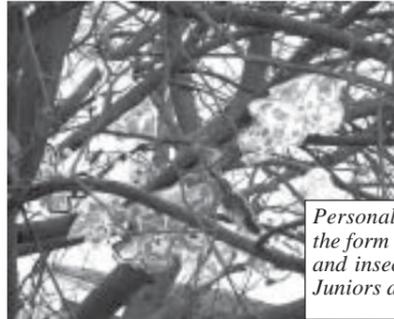
We beat fifteen other schools in the area and we were very proud.

by Kyle Douglass and Rosemary Davies



'Drumcrazy'

On Thursday 17th March the school was pulsing to the beat of up to forty African drums and percussion instruments. Every child in the school took part in workshops organised by the 'Drumcrazy' group, funded by the PTA. The day ended in a whole school performance with everyone, children, staff and parents, involved. A noisy, exciting day, much enjoyed by all!



Personalised decorations in the form of leaves, butterflies and insects from most of the Juniors adorn a tree.

Playgroup news

If you didn't exactly squeal with glee and rush outside when the snow fell in February, I know a group of small children who did. Beaty, our Playgroup leader, helped the children make a delightful snowman which didn't fly off to the North Pole the next day but remained for an amazing eleven days, guarding the entrance to The Croft School.

If it was very cold outside it was warm and cosy inside Playgroup: the topic for this term has been 'Opposites.' Already I can hear my small daughter Millie bringing opposites into the conversation- 'your pudding is bigger than my pudding...'

On a cold Thursday morning this month the children walked down to Painswick Library. Though the excited babble broke the normal Library hush, the Librarian kindly pointed out that the Library is for everyone, even the small and over-excited residents. Another excitement was our visit to see the Postman Pat production at the Everyman in Cheltenham. All the children loved seeing the live Postman Pat and his black and white cat caused even more vociferous enjoyment. With all the fun and frolics available at Playgroup its not surprising that the list is now full with no places available for the near future.

On a sad note however, one of the mainstays of Playgroup for the last seventeen years, Christine Thompson will be leaving to spend more time at her other job in Stroud. We'll all miss her, wish her well and if she comes back on a visit on a snowy day, we'll even let her help with the snowman again.

Gillian Hancock



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Local History Teaser

The photograph this month should set you thinking about lovely summer days not so far off now – or is that just wishful thinking? Be that as it may, the gardening season is certainly upon us and our picture shows a group of willing helpers assisting the Vicar to tidy up the churchyard in 1948 or 1949.

The Vicar, in shirt sleeves and braces, is sitting on the tombstone. Who was he and where was the vicarage at that time? Who is the man on the extreme left, who was the lady standing in the middle of the photograph, where did she live and who is the little girl in the foreground?

Answer in next month's Beacon.



Painswick Local History Society

The answer to last month's teaser: the occasion was the laying of the memorial stone of the restoration of the Congregational

Chapel (Christchurch) by the Mayor of Gloucester on 18th July 1892. There were several eminent people present, many of whom delivered addresses upon subjects such as 'Our Principles', 'Our History' and 'Our Work'. The Chapel was built in 1803 on the site of a former Chapel erected in 1705. The adjoining schoolroom was built in 1844. The Chapel had fallen into a state of disrepair and, after great consideration, it was decided to improve the appearance of the façade and to carry out important internal and external alterations. The estimated cost – about £950.

This month's Local History Society meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th April at the Croft School. The annual research evening, it will feature three members, each presenting the findings of their recent research projects on different topics. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell



The Family Haven

Calling all New Year Resolutioners!

Have you started a spring clean in your home? Have you vowed to give up the dreaded weed or to shed those few extra pounds in 2005?

The Family Haven is appealing for unwanted gifts or items suitable for an auction. The charity which supports local families in Gloucestershire will be holding an auction during the summer to raise vital funds. Any gifts would be gratefully accepted.

The charity is also looking for people who have started a diet or given up smoking for the new year. By getting sponsorship from family and friends you will be able to raise funds for local families at the same time as achieving your goals. Sponsorship forms are available as well as the opportunity to view the facilities on offer at The Family Haven.

For every £5 of sponsorship the centre can provide a child with a hot nourishing meal for a week. Anyone who raises more than £50 will be entered into a draw to win a voucher for a meal for 2 at Hatton Court Hotel, Upton St. Leonards.

To join in the fun or for further information please call me on 01452.528692.

Claire McGrath - Fundraising & Public Relations Manager

Lots - at Cranham

As many readers may know, two auctions are organised a year at Cranham Village Hall, to raise funds in rotation for the Church, the School, the Village Hall, and Cricket Club.

Although the Auction is run by Village Volunteers, and this is perhaps its twentieth year, it is run as a commercial auction, with a small charge as commission taken from the seller. We normally have 300 to 350 Lots, covering a range of items from Furniture, China, Glass and Silverware, Paintings Pictures, through to Books, Children's games, garden equipment etc. (Part of the fun is not knowing what we will get!).

The Spring Auction this year will be on Saturday 30th April, and is being held to aid the Village Hall Funds.

Viewing of Lots will start at 10.30am, and the Auction at 12.00 noon.

Hot and Cold Refreshments will be available throughout.

If any readers have items they would wish to sell at the Auction, entry forms are available from Mrs Jean Garret on 812077. For any further information please contact me on 812816 or by e-mail Gary.J.Mason@btinternet.com

Gary Mason Chairman Cranham Village Hall



Readers are reminded that a direct line to Painswick's PC is **07799 624643** if he is off duty it connects direct to the police Control Room

Readers are reminded that the **Dog Warden** telephone number is **01453 754497**

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More musical jewels...

I have just returned from the sparkling concert given by the Skampa String Quartet in St Mary's Church. This was the first of the four concerts arranged by the Painswick Music Society.

The next one is today (Saturday) when Emma Johnson (violin) and the Orchestra of the Swan are performing. Details were set out in the March issue of the Beacon. Currently, we have limited numbers of tickets available for all the remaining concerts. If there are any spare tickets left on the day of the concert, they will be available on the door – but please book soon if you want to be sure of attending.

Alexis White (see photo), an outstanding young pianist, will give our third concert on Saturday 16th April. Alexis is becoming a much sought after player, and is supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust. She will be playing Haydn's Sonata in A-flat, Trois Preludes pour piano by Dutilleul, Schubert's Impromptu from D946, Rakhmaninov's Etudes-tableaux Op 1 & 9, and Brahms Klavierstucke Op 118. I am looking forward to a most enjoyable afternoon.

Our final concert is a week later on Saturday 23rd April. Tasmin Little (violin) plays with Wayne Marshall (piano). Both are great performers. Tasmin played some beautiful music when she was last here in 1999 – and you may remember that she also had to cope with a broken string! Their programme starts with a truly virtuoso piece by Kreisler, and followed with Bach's Sonata in B minor, Grieg's Sonata in G and



Prokofiev's Sonata in D. Then we have a first for the Society - Wayne Marshall's improvisations on piano. The concert closes with Cole Porter's Begin the Beguine and Gershwin's Medley. Many regard these two composers as the great 'classical' composers of the 20th century. What a brilliant way to end our diamond anniversary season.

As you probably know, each concert takes place at 3.00pm in St Mary's Church. The musicians perform on a raised stage and there is a short interval of about 20 minutes to allow everyone to

stretch their legs. After the concert, you are invited to the Church rooms for a tea and there is usually an opportunity to meet the artists. Tickets can be obtained from Hywel James, Canton House, New Street, Painswick GL6 6XH (812419) or at the Shetland Shop. Tickets for the Alexis White concert cost £10.00, and for the Tasmin Little/Wayne Marshall concert cost £15.00.

Peter Rowe

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Painswick Colourists

Local artists Adèle Lambert, Maryla Ridgwell, Joan Wells and Derek Lambert will be exhibiting in the Town Hall from 25th April to 2nd May.

Diamond start

For the first performance in their Diamond Jubilee Season, on 19th March, the Society were fortunate enough to hear the much sought-after Skampa String Quartet, a young group from Prague. They gave a sparkling performance. Their first piece was Mozart's String Quartet in G, K.156, which was written in Milan, when the composer was only 16.

Their performance was well-balanced and delicate, with a pleasing dialogue between the violins and the viola. Next they played Josef Suk's Meditation on an old Bohemian Chorale, linked to the outbreak of the First World War. Haunting and sad, it was performed with great precision.

There followed a String Quartet (No2 in F) by Prokofiev, in a more modern idiom, with a strong cello input.

The programme concluded with a String Quartet by Smetana, written after he had become deaf and was heading towards a total mental breakdown. The first movement was agitated and gloomy; in the second, one sensed that he was trying to write more brightly, with folkloric tunes in a dance-like tempo.

The third was allegro but also agitato, while the fourth was presto but not much tranquillity. The lively encore was their own arrangement of Moldavian folk-tunes.

Richard Burges Watson

Violin Concertos

On 24th February, Stewart Price gave us a well-orchestrated presentation of the development of the violin concerto, of which the father was Corelli (1653-1713) but which was popularised by Vivaldi (1678-1741). Stewart played for us the opening movement of the Four Seasons, La Primavera, drawing our attention to the twittering of birds and the murmuring of streams in the background. He went on to play Bach's familiar Double Violin Concerto and then Mozart's Turkish Concerto, where Stewart saw parallels with opera.

Beethoven only wrote one violin concerto but typically he transformed this style into a monumental work, taking his audience into the great romantic era. Stewart drew our attention particularly to the cadenza, an opportunity for the soloist to shine on his own. Next came a piece by Paganini, the epitome of the virtuoso violin concerto. Stewart followed with extracts from two well-known concertos, by Brahms and Tchaikowsky, and the even more familiar one by Max Bruch, his main claim to fame. Stewart concluded with the violin concerto by Elgar, which he described as one of the greatest.

Richard Burges Watson

Music appreciation Group

Skylarks

In the February edition there was a short and simple question which was searching in its simplicity yet complex in its answering. Dr. Dick Jarrett asked why skylarks were no longer heard over Dry Knapps Field. Unfortunately there was no reply in the March edition.

The population of skylarks has reduced across Western Europe. The RSPB and BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) called a conference at the University of Southampton in March 1999 and invited experts from Finland, New Zealand (skylarks were introduced there in the second half of the 19th century), Ireland, Switzerland, Great Britain and Germany to present their skylark research papers. Different habitats were covered, high and low land, pasture, arable and coastal. All this material is now available in an excellent publication entitled 'The Ecology and Conservation of Skylarks', edited by PF Donald and JA Vickery, price £17.00 ISBN 1-901930-23-8.



If I offer a summary of the 220-page publication I guess the Beacon editorial board would reject it on length. Perhaps I can whet the interest of local ornithologists? The population size of species is subject to complex influences e.g. availability of food throughout the year or in the breeding season only. Also numbers are influenced by changes in the clutch sizes and the number of clutches per breeding pair; mortality rates in young and adults; availability of surplus individuals to replace the ones lost to death and needed to maintain breeding numbers. Advent of diseases can be important. We can all notice the presence of deformities in the feet of some chaffinches in Painswick due to a virus. Add to this the changes in farming methods, some helpful, like set-aside, and others less so; changes in crops grown, times of harvesting, the leaving of stubble. New Zealand is not influenced by EU farming trends so it is interesting to read about its skylark numbers.

You might enjoy reading the publication to help Dr. Jarrett answer his simple, yet complex, question. Meanwhile Cranham Common is an ideal place still to hear the skylark.

Malcolm Watts

Jackpot!

On 26th February a coffee morning was held by the 'Bingo Ladies' in aid of improvements being made at the Painswick Centre, which will benefit all the users.

£250.20 was raised and we would like to thank everyone who supported us.

Rose Smith

Sustainable energy and affordable warmth

The Annual General Meeting of the Painswick and District Conservation Society will be held on **Wednesday 4th May in St. Mary's Church Rooms**. The doors will open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm and all members are asked to renew their subscriptions when they arrive.

As customary we have invited a guest speaker to follow our refreshments interval.



He is Mr. Ben Sang from the Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA), a registered charity which promotes the use of sustainable energy and affordable warmth in the South West.

In a globally warming world his subject is extremely topical so he will discuss the renewable energy technologies that are currently available, as well as talking about community 'renewable energy' projects.

While it appears that the next general election may (or may not) take place on the 5th May, or thereabouts, we suggest this is an excellent way to forget about political forecasts and party speculation for an hour or so. The meeting is open to existing members but guests and newcomers are very welcome to join at the door as new members.

Douglas Robinson

Wordsearch

This month we have concealed twelve western European countries, two of them twice.

The eighteen fruits concealed last month were:

- BANANA
- APPLE
- PEAR
- ORANGE
- PLUM
- GOOSEBERRY
- BLACKBERRY
- BLACKCURRANT
- LOGANBERRY
- MULBERRY
- PEACH
- QUINCE
- RASPBERRY
- STRAWBERRY
- TAYBERRY
- GRAPE
- LEMON

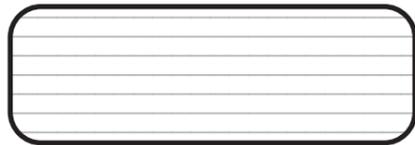
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More about appointments

John Mantell writes

I appear to always be writing with views complementary to those of Peggy Bradshaw (March issue p.15) and in this case the issues are most important.

Three weeks ago my friend and I suffered illness; one heart attack and myself a fractured arm. During the ensuing weeks, and still continuing, the doctors, nurses both surgery and district, and receptionists at the surgery have shown care and attention of the most exemplary standard.

Failure to advise the surgery of inability to keep an appointment involves costs to the surgery and deprives other patients of the possibility of seeing a doctor.

I trust that your publication of these letters will prompt people to act in a responsible fashion. The surgery is the village's most important asset and should not be abused.

Nearly Broadband

Leslie Brotherton notes

I have tried out the much publicised OnSpeed system, which advertises as a low cost alternative to Broadband; in fact £25pa. I gather that the 'trick' is that it compresses files being sent and received.

For what it is worth, receiving a 219Kb photograph attached to an Email took 1 minute 17 seconds, so readers can make their own judgement.

Serious pocket money

Mr and Mrs Barclay write from Croft Edge in Hollyhock Lane

Referring to the item under this heading in the March issue (page 10). We would be interested and very willing to pay for our paper to be collected and delivered on Saturday mornings, if it was on a regular basis.

and an offer made to deliver

by young entrepreneur Benjamin Garbett My name is Benjamin Garbett and I am thirteen years old. I would be prepared to collect and deliver papers and magazines as detailed in the March Beacon. I live at Dover Mews, Vicarage Street, and my telephone number is 812176.



This is not Benjamin's photograph! We note that taking tokens or full cost in cash one week, and collecting papers for the following week, could net about £1 for (say) a set of three deliveries. It need not be at crack of dawn, but reliability would be essential. Any other young people interested elsewhere in the village? Ed.

Car parking

John Davis writes

As someone new to Painswick, and still a novice at the local game of 'find a parking space', I have read with interest discussions and letters in the Painswick Beacon about the parking issues of overcrowded roads in the centre of Painswick, traffic disruptions due to parking on Stroud Road outside the Stamages Lane car park, and the fact that the car park itself seems little used. And it seems to me that there is a simple solution to all these problems: make the Stamages Lane car park free to Painswick residents. This would result in less cars parked in the village centre, no need for cars to park on Stroud Road, a fuller car park, and a resulting improvement in the attractiveness and atmosphere of the village roads.

As it is, I am sure I am not the only person for whom the cost of a season ticket for the car park is prohibitive.

Fun with readings
Christl Mathias has written to say I would like to add a few words to the very nice note in last month's Beacon on the poetry readings by the Painswick Players on the theme of "It's a small world."

It was an afternoon filled with humour and wisdom - readings carefully selected by Pauline Foreman and expertly read by Diana Barclay, Pat Daly, Avril Dorey, Miles Curtis Hayward and Georgina Sutton as well as Pauline herself. The readings ended

with Pauline skilfully weaving one hundred and twenty song titles together to illustrate her part of her journey about the world. What a great deal of effort must have gone into that!

I was also very much impressed by the attractive set, enhanced by lighting and music which Chrissie Stephenson-Oliver and her team gave up their Saturday to create, not to mention the delicious cream tea. It was a day to remember - it turned a cold miserable winters afternoon into a sunny happy trip around the world led by Pauline and her readers. I do so hope it will be repeated next year.

Gill says farewell
Gill Powis writes
By the time you read this I will have left the Pharmacy after 22 years of service.

Mike and I came to the pharmacy in the early eighties and, after divorcing in '99, I stayed on. But now it's time to say goodbye to all my 'friends' that have entered the shop in all those years.

I am going to work with my partner Tony who runs his own coach business near Malmesbury in Wiltshire. Later, once I have sold my house, Emma and I will be moving to Wiltshire.

I have to say a big thank you to my 'girls' in the shop for all their hard work and support over the years. It's been a pleasure to work with you, and to Mike and Rachael congratulations on the birth of their baby in March.

The Beacon enquired as to whether Gill's moving on affected the future of the Pharmacy in any way, and we are pleased to pass on the news that it does not. Ed.

Election
Notice of Election has been posted at the Town Hall for one Councillor to represent UPTON ST LEONARDS, BISLEY & PAINSWICK on Gloucestershire County Council.

Forms of nomination may be obtained at Ebley Mill, Stroud, from the Deputy Returning Officer, to whom they must be delivered no later than noon on Thursday, 7th April 2005.

If any election is contested the poll will take place on Thursday, 5th May 2005.

Amendments or cancellations of existing (long-term) postal votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Ebley Mill, Westward Road, Stroud, Glos, GL5 4UB by 5.00pm on Tuesday, 19th April. All applications to vote by post or proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at that address by 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 26th April.

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Christian Aid Week May 15th - 21st

Christian Aid's 60th anniversary year began with the most appalling reminder of mankind's vulnerability. The response to the tsunami disaster was immediate and overwhelming. Christian Aid has been profuse and humble in its thanks for this generosity; they were already working through partner organisations in Sri Lanka, South India and Indonesia and have been able to redouble their efforts and ensure a long term programme of both physical and emotional help.

But this natural disaster has also brought glaringly to light the man-made disaster of inequality of wealth and opportunity faced by many of the world's poorest nations. In 2005 Britain will host the G8 summit and also hold presidency of the European Union. In September the United Nations will be examining its progress towards reducing world poverty. To maximise these opportunities for influencing policy, Christian Aid has joined with other organisations to launch the Make Poverty History campaign

We make no apology for asking you yet again to support our efforts in Christian Aid week. We are asked to send money raised to the general fund to support the ongoing work in other parts of the world, especially Africa. There will once again be a house-to-house collection in all of our villages and the shop will be open in Gloucester Street, Painswick thanks to the generosity of the Christ Church congregation (more details next month). Any offers of help or donations of plants, books, cakes, antiques or unwanted gifts will be very gratefully received on behalf of the world's most vulnerable people.

Liz Davies
and the Painswick Valleys committee

Cotswold Care

The friends of Cotswold Care are holding their next coffee morning in the Town Hall on Saturday 23rd April between 10.00am and midday.

Cakes, plants and new and nearly new clothes will be among things to be offered for sale.

Paula Woodcock

Flexible bus

We had hoped, many weeks ago, to be publishing in these pages information about the Stroud North Area mini-bus scheme to connect residents throughout the area in which Painswick is the major settlement with any other part on a door-to-door basis. This scheme has been 'fought for' by our Parish Council in close collaboration with that in Bisley.

Sadly, although some £130,000 was obtained by way of grant (some months ago now) to fund the early years of this potentially valuable project, and a suitably adapted vehicle has been ordered and delivered, the County Council has failed to consult as widely as it should prior to introduction of the service. The present position is an overdue realisation that a completely new consultation process must be gone through so that others rendering services which may be affected, such as taxi firms, can contribute ideas and factors which - in turn - may influence the scope and frequency of operation.

The Beacon's latest information is that it could be at least another two months before the service comes into operation.

Watch this space! We are.

Pied Piper just six miles away

The Beacon is pleased to have been asked to remind readers that the new Children's Centre, serving the whole county, has recently been opened at The Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.



This long awaited state of the art facility has replaced the old Victorian wards and also means that fewer children now have to travel out of the county for specialist treatment.

However the work of the Pied Piper charity has not finished and they urgently need a further £500,000 to secure additional medical and child-friendly equipment which the hospital desperately needs but just cannot afford.

They hope you will feel able to support their efforts and we are pleased to include copy of just one option. If further information is required please get in touch with The Pied Piper Appeal Office on 08454.226119 or on mail@piedpiperappeal.co.uk

Dancing for Pleasure

Our regular Tea Dances are set to continue at the Painswick Centre but with a change of days. With effect from the 7th April the dances will now be every Thursday instead of Wednesday and will commence at 2.30pm.

We hope that perhaps a change of day will enable more local dancers to come and enjoy an afternoon of social dancing, meet likewise thinking people and also have tea and biscuits too.

We will of course be closed during July and August when the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen have their annual exhibition, but will finish with our Victorian Costume Ball on Saturday 9th July. This event has grown in popularity since we first started and hopefully this year we will be able to donate even more from the evening towards the restoration of the Centre which is, as you probably know, undergoing an extensive programme of renovation at this time. So why not reserve your tickets early for what should be another great evening of dancing. If you would like any further information or to reserve tickets for the Costume Ball please don't hesitate to call us on the number below.

Geoff & Joy 01453.833150

Line dancing - for pleasure too

The Thursday Line Dance Class, which has been established in the Town Hall for four years, has expanded the time of the class to cater for new beginners.

The class now starts at 12.00 noon and runs until 1.00 pm. for new beginners, and the experienced beginners come in at 12.30 p.m. to dance until 1.30.

So, if you've been wanting to try Line Dancing and felt it would be difficult joining an established class, now is your chance to come and start at the beginning.

For more information, ring Julie on 01453.752480.

A reference from a keen Line Dancer: "Do come - it's a great way to get some exercise and we have such fun!"

Liz Fisher

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