

The Painswick Beacon

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January 2005

FIRE RAISERS!

In the wake of the tragic tsunami disaster in Indonesia, Painswick fire-fighters reacted rapidly with a street collection. As we went to press, Robert Goddard said that the crew had raised an astonishing **£3186.93** in just two off-peak hours from motorists approaching the New Street traffic lights, both south and north-bound.

The Asian earthquake was indeed a grim start to 2005, to be sure. Nevertheless, it is the New Year, a time for hope and positive thinking.



Reasons to be cheerful...

So, here are some...



1

Festival is a financial success

Not only was the first Painswick Festival of the Arts an acclaimed artistic triumph, it was also a remarkable financial success. "I am astonished and overjoyed by what the Festival has achieved!" says the vicar, Revd. John Longuet-Higgins. Including sales of the *Christmas in Painswick Valley* CD, gross income for the Festival has topped £20,000 and, after all expenses, there will be over £10,000 available for charitable distribution.

Discussions as to how the funds will be distributed will take place this month: early indications are that one likely project for support is establishing a junior 'Beacon Choir', drawing from youngsters from all of the churches in Painswick. Another ecumenical suggestion is to provide a laptop computer and projector for use by Churches Together Around Painswick. And, of course, there remains the need to repair the roof of St Peter's Chapel.

2

Businesses are opening in Painswick

Another new business opens in Painswick. Hard on the heels of the re-opening of Chancellors as The Painswick Tearoom, Chris Mercer has renovated the former bakery in New Street and opened it as The Chairman, thus reversing the depressing trend of the last few years for shops to close in Painswick. The Chairman sells an eclectic mix of beautifully crafted stone, pottery, furniture, wooden articles, toys, pictures, rocking horses... and fine restored chairs. In fact, says Chris "I sell anything gorgeous and that I like" The full interview with Chris and more pictures of The Chairman on its opening day appear on page 6.



3

BT Broadband arrives at last.

BT Broadband is going live this week in Painswick. After months of campaigning by the Parish Council and local Web enthusiasts, including the Beacon, BT has confirmed that the Painswick exchange is being upgraded this week. So, from being a mere cart track beside the information super highway twelve months ago, Painswick can now boast no fewer than four rival broadband networks: two microwave wireless networks and a satellite service, as well as the standard BT landline network.

4

Hilda Musty is our Painswickian of The Year

Hilda Musty is a popular choice as Painswickian of the Year. 'Hilda is a real joy', 'a true Village Treasure in every way'. 'She epitomises what we in Painswick feel about being a good neighbour...' '...she is the first to help anyone in difficulties', '...she is totally reliable and always, always working for and thinking of others', '...she really does care about her friends and neighbours', '...willing to do anything for anyone at any time...' These are just some of the quotes from the many Painswickians who nominated her. Helen is interviewed by Carol Maxwell on page 6.



Elsewhere in this issue - **anti-social behaviour**, plea from **CAB**, nearly **bumping cars**, an **odd couple**, birds on **plains**, looking for **the devil**, yes - **Donald did it**, cheers for **the chairman**, a **thousand year walk**, **cheques** at the Post Office, **chilly Cinders**, lots of **hits on the Beacon**, beware **barks and bites**, the **newest club**, a **wedding in Norway**, **thirty years of lunches**, and **Christingle** explained.

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

Richmond Village – Nantwich

Ann Burges Watson and Peter Rowe reported having undertaken a fact-finding visit to the care facilities at Nantwich, emphasising that this had been in a private capacity – not officially on behalf of the Council. They felt that the visit had been valuable with a friendly exchange of information. Mr Cockell indicated that he was looking into the possibility of introducing one element of his intended mini-bus transport at an early date to be of assistance to the local area and the first residents.

Terry Parker welcomed the visit by councillors and suggested that any actions which brought people together were desirable. He went on to suggest that it may be timely to urge the formation of the local liaison group intended from the outset of this scheme and, endorsed by Peter Rowe, it was agreed to firstly obtain the views of the group of four local residents whose actions had led into the project.

Rococo Garden

The committee discussed the planning application made by the trustees of the Rococo Garden, noting that there were three main aspects of the proposals. Upon the intended updating of the condition of the bothy and the creation of a viewing platform and passing place at the actual entrance to the garden the committee was supportive.

However, there were mixed feelings about the intention to create an additional pathway for the disabled, together with an all-weather chair lift. These would, it was suggested, conflict with the overall intention to continue to recreate the gardens as closely as possible in accord with the original layout. The committee decided to await the environmental assessment which is in hand before expressing an opinion.

PARISH COUNCIL

Hampshire legacy - TIC

A letter was received from Terry Causon, in her capacity as coordinator of the volunteers who operate the Tourist Information Office, declining the suggestion that any part of this legacy be used to provide computing back-up or Internet access for the service her team rendered.

Quality Parish Council status

It was noted that no town or parish council had yet achieved this QPC status in Gloucestershire.

One of the requirements is that the clerk to each such council hold a nationally approved and recognised qualification. It was reported that the validation of elements of such courses was in disarray and, therefore, the prospects for QPC recognition were lessened for the immediate future.

Little Fleece – National Trust

The Chairman, Terry Parker, reported that the National Trust officers had indicated their intention of seeking commercial use of the ground floor of these currently vacant premises on a short lease, pending a decision upon use of the whole building. Apparently there are considerable works required to the upper floor and such needed to be corrected before the decisions upon the longer term could be made.

The Trust had, however, welcomed expressions of interest in the future from the local community. Two ideas on the table at present are for a bookshop for children or a museum. The public are urged to express ideas within the next six months if such are to be considered.

National Trust

There is a unique opportunity for the public to make suggestions regarding the long-term use of the property known as The Little Fleece in Bisley Street.

There can be few communities with such an old property right in its midst just waiting for such suggestions.

To help matters along the Beacon will be pleased to list all ideas received by the Parish Council or directly to ourselves in our March issue so that there can be further public debate before the six months allowed expire.

Have you any ideas?

Identity cards for Councillors

There having been occasions when members of the public had requested proof of identity, not least when councillors were walking around sites for which planning applications had been submitted, it was decided that the Clerk should prepare and sign small identity cards. Each such card will bear a sealed photograph of the bearer over-signed by the Clerk.

Snow Wardens

The updating of equipment made available to farmers throughout the county to be used when required to clear snow from strategic roads, and centralised training of operators in its use was behind schedule. Martin Slinger reported that on-site training was under active consideration.

Canton Acre – road widening

The Council expressed its appreciation of the gesture made by resident Edward Lane, in Canton Acre, to make a financial

contribution towards the cost of the requested road widening. The offer, in an unspecified sum, was conditional upon the date for the work to be put in hand being brought forward.

This welcome gesture, in addition to the £1900 already offered by the Parish Council, will be commended to the County Council.

Allowances for Councillors

The Council took note of the significant costs incurred by some members of the Council in discharging their duties and agreed to give closer examination to this matter at its next (January) meeting.

While the expense of travel and subsistence can already be claimed, wrapping these into an annual 'allowance' required further thought and sanction by the appropriate committee of the District Council.

Traffic matters

A lengthy report was received from the Traffic Committee which had undertaken a review of many aspects of highway and traffic matters at its meeting on 8th December. Many matters had been decided, including:

- ◆ · Speeding in Edge Lane at Edge
- ◆ · An interactive bend sign on the A46 at Lullingworth
- ◆ · Extending the 30mph limit further up the A46 northwards
- ◆ · Widening of the Stamages Lane entrance at its junction with the A46 consequent upon the widening of the pavement alongside the St. Mary's development
- ◆ · Seeking police enforcement action where on-pavement parking blocks the passage of wheelchairs and push chairs

◆ · Free movement of emergency vehicles (*see separate report*); social irresponsibility of some car owners

◆ · Possible direct employment of part time Traffic Warden

◆ · Enforcement of existing parking restrictions, especially in Victoria Square

◆ · Discussions regarding the possibility of Painswick Centre car park being used in part by the public

◆ · A traffic and parking survey by the University of the West of England; with expenses only being met by this Council

◆ · Use of the interactive speed sign at the entrance recently constructed to the care centre site

◆ · Consideration of a 20mph speed limit wherever there is a 30mph in Painswick village

◆ · Possible traffic calming at the Lych Gate corner.

Anti-social behaviour

Such was the subject under discussion at the Public Meeting held by the Parish Council on 13th December. Could it be that the general perception of anti-social behaviour hereabouts is that there is little or none with which to be concerned? If the turn-out for the event was a measure of the interest, the answer to the question is “Yes”.

Three members of the public and five Parish Councillors listened attentively to Colin Peake, the intriguingly titled Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator (funded by government through the Home Office) based with the District Council, describe his role in the order of things. No, his job is not to orchestrate such behaviour, but to see to it that the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 is brought to bear by drawing together all agencies which might and should be responsive to ASB wherever it occurs.

Readers may share some surprise that the Act does not define ASB; in essence it is what we perceive it to be. If we reflect a moment upon the differences between acceptable behaviour today, and that of (say) 50 or 100 years ago, we begin to appreciate that the boundaries of acceptability are not readily defined – they tend to move as society moves. From this it follows, as Colin Peake pointed out, that each incident needs to be considered within the context of the views of any complainant/victim, others affected by the conduct/incident, and any existing laws regarding the matter under consideration – if applicable.

All reaction to reported anti-social behaviour is overseen by a multi-disciplinary group with representatives drawn from such as the police, social services, youth and community workers, housing officers, and so on; Mr Peake chairs this group in the Stroud district. As attention is given to reported ASB so the influence of the group and the members with most to contribute to the nature of that behaviour increases. In the worst scenario, if ASB persists despite advice and/or discouragement, the group can bring the matter to the attention of magistrates and an order,

binding in law, can be issued to restrain the activity. Disregard of such an order carries distinct penalties ranging between fines and imprisonment.

ASB orders and the whole of the Act does not discriminate according to age, other than that it is not applicable to those under ten.

In a lively discussion, on the conclusion of Colin Peake’s exposition, those present sought to explore how his good offices might be applied in differing situations. Whether those present were assured of the confidentiality of reports made to him remained open to question. While it was recognised that in some circumstances the person or persons reported upon could not help but know who was the complainant, e.g. where the ‘offence’ was solely against that person, there could be others where the complainant(s) were motivated by their social conscience and anonymity could be guaranteed. The whole process of ASB work does allow for protection of witnesses and that in certain cases he and other professionals can give evidence in court on behalf of the complainant. Where he is personally involved Colin Peake states he treats complaints with discretion, fairness and an explanation of what can be achieved either through legislation or simple lateral thinking. He remains convinced that most problems are cured by early intervention by opening up communication with those causing the problem and ensuring they are fully aware that they should stop such action.

One very firm conclusion drawn was that it is of the greatest importance that reports are firmly lodged with such as the police, or other agency pertinent to the activity. Colin Peake has substantially more grounds to investigate and/or initiate action to counter ASB if there is more than a solitary complainant; so, if you have grounds to prompt action on behalf of yourself, others, or the community, report and make a note of having done so. Meanwhile, encourage others to do likewise.

LWB

Your Citizens Advice Bureau needs YOU!

Did you know that the Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau, to give it its full name, offers free, confidential, independent, impartial advice to the people of Painswick (and everyone else in the Stroud district)? Last year, we helped about 10% of the district’s population and handled over 46,000 enquiries. The range of problems is enormous - debt, welfare benefits, employment, housing, consumer issues, family and legal matters, utility billing and many other subjects. Government forms can be confusing. Our rights and responsibilities are not always clear. Sometimes it is just a simple matter, more often not. Enquiries are handled with professionalism by fully trained advisors using up-to-date information systems.

Painswick gives a lot of help to the Citizens Advice Bureau. Eight people volunteer their time – five as advisors, one as a clerical volunteer, and two as trustees (that’s where I fit in). And the Parish Council generously donates £300 to help with running costs.

You may be surprised to learn that your Citizens Advice Bureau (like all others) is a charity, and depends for most of its funding on its local authority – in our case, Stroud District Council. We are grateful for their support – which has been fixed at £125,000 for four years. Unfortunately, inflation has eroded the real value of this annual donation, and we have to make cuts in the service, despite a growing need. We hope by giving greater emphasis to an improved telephone service (with less ad-hoc drop-in sessions) to continue to help as many people as possible.

To make this work well, we need money to improve the telephone service (for example, we need to increase the number of telephone lines and make changes in how we use our working space). So I would like to invite you to become a “Friend” of our

Citizens Advice Bureau. Friends give us a regular annual donation by standing order – typically £15 - £20 or more – to help with such projects. Or you may prefer to make a one-off donation. Further details are contained in a leaflet now available at the Town Hall and Library or may be found on our website (www.strouddistrictcab.org.uk). If you would like more information or a leaflet sent to you, or are interested in helping in some other way, please don’t hesitate to telephone me (813228) or write to: The Manager, Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau, Unit 8, Brunel Mall, Stroud GL5 2BP.



Peter Rowe

Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau

Opening Hours

If you would like advice, please either:
Telephone 01453 762084
Mondays and Fridays (from 10am – 4pm)
or
Drop-in to the bureau in Stroud
Tuesdays and Thursdays (from 10am – 1pm)
Wednesdays (11am – 2pm).

The bureau is located on first floor, Brunel Mall, London Road, Stroud. We apologise if you have to wait, but we operate on a strict first-come first-served basis.

Fire exercise shows Painswick to be a tight squeeze

Question: What's red, ten feet wide and squeezes through nine foot gaps?

Answer: The Painswick Fire Engine

Last month, Councillors Ann Burges Watson and Peter Rowe accompanied the Painswick Fire Service on a night exercise into deepest Painswick. The objective of the exercise was to test the ability of our volunteer firefighters to reach those parts of the village which large trucks seldom penetrate and to highlight the problems faced by the emergency services when they have to negotiate narrow streets congested with parked vehicles. The Beacon squeezed aboard to see how they got on.

As we started our first circuit down Bisley Street, into Vicarage Street and then up Lower Washwell, driver Paul Luker explained that fire trucks are necessarily bigger than they used to be because they carry so much more equipment. Hence, the cramped streets of Painswick present a real challenge and, even though cars were - for the most part - parked legally, the space available for us to squeeze through looked implausibly narrow. We inched our way through with frequent recourse to the pavement, which - as Paul was quick to point out - was potentially very dangerous. 'Imagine a child in a house hearing the siren and rushing out to see what was going on...

And the Fire Service would carry the liability.'

Somehow we got through, although the thickness of the paintwork often seemed all that came between us and the cars we were passing. Clearly, a high



speed dash to a fire at the bottom of Vicarage Street is out of the question. We then paused briefly to be upbraided by an irate passing pedestrian, who obviously thought the whole exercise a waste of time and an unnecessary annoyance to the inhabitants. He commented that Painswickians had been happily living - and presumably burning - with all this traffic congestion for hundreds of years!

Our second circuit took us down New Street past the Stamages Lane car park. Even here on the main road, it was explained, they often lose vital minutes because of traffic congestion caused by perfectly legal - but surely unnecessary - roadside parking a few yards from the adjacent car park. We continued down Stamages Lane, along Kingsmill Lane, into Knapp Lane and then Kemps Lane.

Here, we finally ground to a halt outside the Painswick Hotel, blocked by a large 4WD vehicle which straddled a parking bay designed for nothing wider than a Mini. This time there was no way through and it took ten minutes to find the driver, who - it should be recorded - was quite cooperative in moving the vehicle.

'People are usually very cooperative and come out to move obstructing vehicles,' said Paul Cooke, one of the volunteer crew. 'Mind you, that's always provided we can find them. If we can't, we just have to

bump the offending vehicle out of the way... by hand, of course! We wouldn't want to scratch our fire engine!'

JRB



PS Sadly, a few nights later (or so we are informed), they did scratch the fire engine - and a couple of cars - whilst trying to squeeze through Bisley Street.

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It's a Small World: The Odd Couple are after More!

During a recent festive gathering, I was cornered by a Painswickian of Note in a discussion of the Painswick Festival in general and our production of *A Man for All Seasons*, in particular. He remarked on the strange coincidence about Sir William Kingston, Thomas More's jailer, actually being buried in St Peter's Chapel, a few feet from where we were staging our production in the church.

'It goes to show,' he concluded, that it's a small World!

I agreed but pointed out an even stranger coincidence: *It's A Small World* just happens to be the title of an afternoon of poetry and prose to be presented by a talented team of PP readers on Saturday 12th February in the Painswick Centre! Conceived and compiled by that fount of worldly wit and wisdom, Pauline Foreman, *It's A Small World* will be followed by a delicious cream tea, all for £4.50! (Call Valerie Dugan on 814482 to reserve your place.)

'The whole world and a cream tea in the Painswick Centre, eh? Sounds a bit of a squeeze!' he chuckled, 'Still, after putting on *A Man for All Seasons* in the Church, I suppose it must be a doddle: I bet you're relieved it's all over!'

I replied that *A Man for All Seasons* had certainly been a challenge, both technically and artistically, but that I was overwhelmed by the response, particularly with a not uncomplimentary review from the Gloucester Drama Association adjudicator (now posted up on our website: www.painswickplayers.org.uk).

'Ye-es' he said thoughtfully, 'I wasn't thinking of that so much as the effect it has had on you and us. I mean, you've had to stay serious for the last six months and we've been spared at least six of those flippantly puerile Beacon articles.'

'Oh, believe me: his potential for pent up puerility is quite undiminished' chipped in The Most Organised One in passing, as she stalked unsuspecting victims to force-feed from The MOO's

infamous (and much feared) mincepie mountain.

Nevertheless, I had to admit that he had a point. It has been very difficult these last few months trying to maintain my hard-won reputation for puerile flippancy in the face of such serious and weighty stuff as the life and times of Sir Thomas More. Indeed, one might suppose that, once exposed to such philosophical gravitas, it would be almost impossible to avoid being permanently affected by it. And, in faith, 'twould almost be true.

Almost, but not quite. You see, I am truly serious about being flippant and I am deeply committed ever to boldly paddle in the intellectual shallows of the inconsequential! Particularly since the next major PP production (28th - 30th April at the Painswick Centre) is to be *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon. This is a closely observed and sharply witty comedy which throws into sharp relief the vital importance of the trivial. It concerns two newly divorced refugees from marital blitz who decide, for convenience, to share a New York apartment and are thereby forced to share each others' very different lifestyles. You may remember the 1968 movie with Walter Mathau and Jack Lemmon as the eponymous Couple.

What makes our Odd Couple a smidgeon odder is that we shall be staging a female version of the play which Neil Simon wrote as a companion piece. This means that Kevin Parker, our director, is even now facing the daunting challenge of first looking for - and then looking after - a cast of no fewer than six feisty females. Mind you, given that in *A Man for All Seasons*, he played King Henry VIII, he should have a head start (so to speak) in knowing how to deal with half a dozen unruly women! Kevin is being determinedly tight lipped about how the auditions are going but I have heard much raucous laughter emanating from the Green Room and the casting couch is oddly warm. Be prepared for more odd news next month.

Jack Burgess



Jack Burgess

Calling all young actors... and young backstage helpers

Painswick Players is hoping to start a youth drama group in Painswick in 2005. It will be run in close association with Painswick Players but will stage its own productions and workshops. This is an exciting project and we hope will be of interest not just to young actors but also to those interested in technical, artistic and production activities, including, lighting, sound, properties, set building, painting, etc..

In order to plan for a launch in September 2005, there will be an interest meeting on Tuesday, January 18th at 7pm in the Painswick Centre. The group will be open to all young people and interested youngsters should bring their parents or guardians along to an informal introduction meeting. I look forward to seeing you all on the 18th January!

Lesley Wolowiec

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Hilda Musty: Our Painswickian of the Year

Hilda Musty is a lovely lady – and so say so many of you. She is our Painswickian of the year and in her self-effacing but gracious manner immediately feels that others are more deserving.

Hilda came to live in Painswick in 1937. She married Reg, a real Bow-wow, in 1943 in Painswick Church and is proud of the fact that their reception was held at Painswick House as Miss Margaret Hyett was Reg's godmother. Theirs was a very happy marriage though sadly Reg died in 1982. "I couldn't have had a better one," she says of him.

Talk with Hilda for just a few minutes and you know why she has been nominated. She makes you feel cherished. This is a caring, positive lady to whom people obviously matter. Your proposals testify strongly to this with expressions such as "...she is the first to help anyone in difficulties", "...she is totally reliable and always, always working for and thinking of others", "...she really does care about her friends and neighbours", "...willing to do anything for anyone at any time".

Hilda is always there, supporting and helping in the background. Her kind deeds are noted by many though she doesn't seek recognition. According to so many of you, this is what makes



her special. "I can't think how she escaped this honour to date," and "...no-one deserves it more" are typical comments.

Her life in Painswick has been busy, happy and eventful. She worked in the school meals service for 23 years, at Painswick

School and the Croft. This she enjoyed very much adding that the children keep you young. She is also active in Painswick social life as a member of Wives Fellowship, the Local History Society, the Puffins, the Bird Club (which she joined when she gave up playing badminton) and the Horticultural Society. St Mary's Church has always been an important part of her life here. "I just love the village," she says "people really matter and I've so many good friends."

Hilda has two daughters and five grandchildren of whom she is immensely proud. One daughter lives in Canada but that does not deter plucky Hilda. Her last visit was undertaken on her own at the age of 82!

Hilda is a real joy, "a true Village Treasure in every way". "She epitomises what we in Painswick feel about being a good neighbour" wrote one person. And true to form, as I was leaving she was about to make a cake for her neighbour's 90th birthday.

Carol Maxwell

Chairs and much much more

Chris Mercer really likes chairs. Of all items of furniture, they hold the most appeal for him. His newly opened shop, The Chairman, in New Street has some very fine examples on display. But that's not all you will find in this veritable treasure trove of fascinating goodies.

Chris has renovated the premises himself and the result is a perfect setting for the beautiful, quality items on sale. There is a mixture of old and new. The new includes beautifully crafted stone, pottery, furniture, wooden articles, toys, pictures, rocking horses, in fact "anything gorgeous and that I like", says Chris. The old is mainly select pieces of furniture much of which he has restored. Whilst Chris was working on the building there was, naturally, much speculation and excitement about another new shop opening. It was quite a little mystery and roused much interest. When the sign eventually went up and the two exquisite rocking horses took pride of place in the windows, there was still some uncertainty. Why The Chairman? Chris explains that he has spent much of the last few years practising his self-taught skills of rushing and caning chairs, taking his inspiration from Paul Spriggs, well-known for making and rushing chairs. This has largely been his occupation for the past six years, working from his shop in Horsley. Finding and converting the shop in Painswick is a dream-come-true for Chris though it wasn't necessarily always such a clear-cut destiny. He grew up fairly locally, attending Wynstones School and then taking a degree in microbiology and genetics at University College, London. He met his partner, Suzanne, whilst there and they stayed in London for another ten years during which

time Chris was in the property business. Eventually they left London and came back to the Stroud area.



Meanwhile, Chris studied furniture restoration for a year at Gloscat and set up the shop in Horsley. "I always wanted to run my own thing", he says. They lived in Eastcombe and latterly their son, Joshua, was attending school in Minchinhampton. It was at this point they decided such an existence was perhaps too disparate and that they needed a closer community life. Painswick has provided exactly that. They live on the premises and Joshua, aged seven, is settling in at the Croft School. Suzanne works in marketing. Daughter Millie, aged four, will join Joshua at the Croft.

Chris says he has been really lucky to find these premises, the old bakery. They still had retail status so he just had to convert the shop section into a suitable form. He has certainly done a beautiful job and people like what he's done. He points out that he has received many compliments and much support from Painswick people and he's very pleased with the restoration.

As for the future, he is open to possibilities. He believes his new Painswick shop will evolve differently from his former business because of the nature of the trade. The restoration side will probably be less predominant partly because he now has little workshop space so will be more limited. Although he loves restoring chairs himself he also likes buying and selling beautiful things and genuinely enthuses about many items in the shop with little prompting.

Painswick is fortunate to have yet another shop of real quality opening in its midst and we welcome Chris and his family. Do go in and have a look. It's a very pleasurable experience.

Carol Maxwell



Spotlight on . . . Queenie Grant



Queenie was born in Painswick on 24th September 1916 at Portlett Cottage, St Mary's Street opposite the stocks. "At the time the Church bells were ringing because it was Church Clipping Day when all the children from Sunday school joined hands, blessed the Church

and sang the hymn, *Daily, daily, sing the praises*"

Firstly, where did you get the name Queenie?

My father returned from the army on the weekend I was born. "Isn't she a little queen?" he said. So, I was christened Queenie May, May being my mother's only sister's name.

Tell me a bit about your family.

My parents, Jillian and Henry Ryland, were also born in Painswick. They lived at Edge before moving to Pullen's Road. I can only remember them working at the Bell pub down Vicarage Street and then at the Painswick Institute (now the Painswick Centre). I had two brothers: Stewart who died when he was 37 and Jimmie who lived until 1998.

Where were you educated?

I went to Painswick School for ten years before changing to Stroud Girls Central School until I was 16. I remember being very interested in sport at that time and played cricket for the Painswick Ladies Team, left handed. I went up to the Beacon quite often to watch the boys play golf, helping them to find their balls, occasionally. I also cheered on the boys rugby team.

What did you do to earn a crust?

My first job was at the Bear at Rodborough Hotel where I lived and worked for nine years, generally doing anything that had to be done. I then moved to Redler's at Dud bridge and only left to take over my parents' house in Pullen's road when they died. After that I worked part-time at the Women's Institute Market and the Croft School, both for over twenty years. We then moved from Pullen's Road to Ashwell where the rent was much higher and I had to help a lady to make ends meet.

How and where did you meet your husband, Albert?

At this point in the interview, Albert took over at Queenie's request:

Let's start at the beginning with how we met. I was chatting to a group of girls - including Joan, Queenie's sister - and Queenie

came over before catching a bus to Painswick. That was it! I had to organise somehow to set up a meeting with Queenie. With the help of Joan, I cycled down to Stroud, met Queenie and arranged our first date at the Bear Hotel. We courted for three years, becoming engaged after two and married at St Mary's Church - no porch in those days - on 6th April 1940. We had a honeymoon with Joan in London.

Four weeks later, I joined the Gloucestershire Regiment, followed by the Artillery and hardly ever saw Queenie for the next six years. My first overseas posting was to North Africa. However Monty and the 8th Army had done such a good job that I went on to Durban in South Africa for nine weeks, before being sent to India. I returned once for three months compassionate leave when Queenie's parents died. Upon returning to India, Germany surrendered, atomic bombs were dropped on Japan and the war was over. But this final visit to India took one year. In total, I spent three years in India visiting the North West Frontier. Our guns were positioned on mountains with views over Russia and down into Afghanistan. I finished up working on the trains in Bombay.

Back to you, Queenie: have you any children?

Yes, we have a daughter, Christine, who is married and has two grown up children. Her daughter, Sarah, is a theatrical agent working for a millionaire; she even asked him to marry her but with no joy. She is presently on holiday in Thailand. We also have a son, Paul, who is not married and lives in Painswick. He works on computers in Stonehouse.

Finally, what are your memories of Painswick?

Unfortunately, my memory is not good these days. I do, however, remember clearly that we were the first home in Pullens Road to get a television set. At the time of the Queen's Coronation, our house was overflowing. Also, when we moved to Ashwell, we overlooked green fields but it's now all built up. But we are very happy here and wouldn't dream of living anywhere else.

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

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Painswick Horticultural Society

The festive spirit was apparent at our December meeting. Members were treated to wine and home-made mince pies as a prerequisite to our annual quiz organised by Gus Gaugain. Questions ranged from the country of origin of bonsai trees to the location of the potato in its natural habitat.

The questions had multiple choice answers which give us all a fighting chance getting a reasonable score. All agreed it was a fun evening - including Gus and Philip's corny jokes. A three way tie between Margaret Richards, Clare Haynes and Hilda Musty was finally decided on a tie breaker with Margaret Richards being the winner.

The next meetings are January 12th (2.30pm - Gardens of South and South West Ireland) and February 9th (2.30pm at the Rococo Gardens. All about Snowdrops).

Stan Miles

Winter Wildfowl at Slimbridge

Club members visited Slimbridge, national headquarters of the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust, on Monday 6th December. Rod Audley, a WWT volunteer, led a guided walk. First stop was the visitor centre's observation tower, which provided a panoramic view of the entire 300 hectare reserve. With binoculars and telescopes, the group then walked to the Holden Tower, with its extensive views westwards across the grazing marsh and the Severn estuary, visiting smaller hides en route. In excellent weather conditions, migratory Bewick's Swans, White-Fronted Geese, and vast flocks of ducks, including Wigeon and Mallard, were closely observed. Spectacular aerial displays of Lapwings, Golden Plovers and Dunlins coincided with the approach at different times of a Buz-



Painswick Bird Club

zard, Peregrine Falcon and Sparrowhawk.

Fortified by lunch, several members visited the South Lake hide, with its views of sea birds, including Cormorants and Herring Gulls. Nearby, a Black Swan briefly left its nest to reveal a clutch of huge eggs, an unexpected highlight of the afternoon. As dusk came, feeding of the birds in the floodlit Rushy Pen was a popular spectacle, a fine end to a splendid day at this reserve of international importance.

Our next event is a talk on "Birds on the flood plain" by Mike Smart, warden of the Ashleworth Ham reserve by the River Severn. The meeting is on Thursday 24th February at 2.30pm in Painswick Town Hall. Please note that this is an afternoon meeting! Everyone welcome.

Bill Boydell

A testing time

Members of the Yew Trees WI had their powers of observation sorely tested when they gathered for their Christmas social evening. The President, Christine Fellows, had persuaded her husband, Ted, to apply his artistic talents to take photographs of local scenes, and paint pictures representing local street and lane names. These were then used to create two puzzles. One was to remember the blanked out wording on buildings and signs we pass nearly every day. The other to decode the names of local streets. The ingenious quizzes, mulled wine,




Yew Trees Women's Institute

delicious refreshments and excellent company made the informal evening one to remember.

Memoirs of Japan is the title of a talk to be given by Marianne Beagley at the next meeting on Tuesday 25th January. Prospective members are encouraged to come along to the Town Hall at 7.30pm to enjoy the talk and meet the friendly people who have already joined Painswick's newest 'club'.

Celia Lougher

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From sublime music - to the 'cor blimey'

On 25th November, Alex Nichols treated the Group to a lovely selection of Bel Canto, beautiful songs, mainly operatic arias. Bel Canto can be said to date from early in the Seventeenth Century, when the Renaissance started to affect music, when the first operas were written, often on classical themes, and singers were required to sing music as it was written, without personal modifications. The first example Alex gave was Purcell's Dido and Aeneas. He drew attention to the great bass accompaniments; and we all appreciated the singing of Janet Baker - as we did of Cecilia Bartoli's tone and control, singing Handel's *lascia ch'io piangio*. Another feature of bel canto is clarity of diction, as illustrated by the Korean, Sumi Jo, singing Mozart's Queen of The Night.

Rossini was one of the first to compose with bel canto in mind. We heard a very early recording of an extract from *An Italian Girl in Algiers*, sung by Matteuzzi, one of the finest bel canto singers, whose spacing and clarity were perfect. Bellini was another such composer, an extract from his *I Puritani* sung with beautiful enunciation by Raul Gimenez. Donizetti was a third, an extract from his *La Favorite* sung by Arthur Endreze, showing that a baritone too could sing bel canto. Verdi also was in the bel canto tradition, as shown in the exquisite *Ave Maria* near the end of *Otello*, with very accurate and unembroidered singing by Felicia Weathers.

The Group were most grateful to Alex for this evening of delights.

Richard Burges Watson

**Music
appreciation
Group**



The Group's Christmas Social took place on 9th December. It was a suitably jolly occasion with a quiz built around a fairytale about two well-known star-struck lovers who decided to attend the wedding of an operatic Spanish girl in a Grieg-inspired Northern kingdom. After a musically chronicled saga of misfortunes, they managed to rekindle love in a motel with a pastoral outlook. On their way to the wedding, their trials of yesterday forgotten, they paused to admire yachts sailing by and were greeted, in pouring rain, by the bride's mother, who said that in Spain, the sun shone on 8 days a week.

The wedding was conducted in the old-fashioned way, the guard of honour carrying sabres and providing a soldierly chorus, while the bridesmaids wore flamingo-coloured dresses. There was a very enjoyable reception, at which the guests could have danced all night.

The audience applauded the conclusion of this story, that life is nothing without music, and went on to enjoy an excellent buffet supper.

Richard Burges Watson

The Post Office

The closure of post offices continues to be a matter of concern in many areas and readers will be aware of recent campaigns to prevent closures in Stroud and Gloucester. Painswick is very fortunate in having a post office that provides a wide range of services, some of which are new. One such is the facility to draw cash where the customer holds an appropriate cashpoint debit card. There is no charge for this service. The next time you visit the post office ask for details of the many services available - you will probably be surprised.

Several residents have noted that current BT phone bills do not make reference to the facility of payment by cheque at the post office. It is important to stress that BT does accept payment at the post office with cheques made payable to "Post Office Limited". The payment of BT bills by cash at the post office also remains an option.

Beacon Directory 2005


Any alterations to the Beacon Directory notified to us will be included in our February issue.

We are sorry that one or two individuals, who made contact and were invited to re-send Emails with information, may have been omitted. An ISP in use at that time went into receivership and it is known that, as a consequence, some messages may not have reached us. It will be extremely helpful if any information can be forwarded, now, to the Beacon's Email address at painswickbeacon@supanet.com

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In the Woods with Elisabeth

At the November meeting of the Painswick Local History Society, Elisabeth Skinner took us on a time walk through the woods – Workman's Wood for a thousand years, to be precise.

Elisabeth probably knows more about Sheepscombe's history than anyone, having studied it in great detail for many years. It was, therefore, not surprising that the information and theories she presented about the development of activities in the woods were precisely and meticulously researched. Using an impressive range of resources including Domesday entries, manorial records, muster rolls, old photographs, old newspapers, letters, local families and books she showed how the woods had been worked over the centuries since Saxon times.

The area in question was formerly known as Ebworth, changing its name only thirty or so years ago. The Workman family had owned and worked it very successfully for a century, providing timber for their sawmills at Woodchester. Prior to that there is evidence of a range of industries such as charcoal burning (forty sites have been found). She also introduced us to processes such as par-buckling.

After a thousand years of what was effectively a centre of much thriving local industry, the future of the woods is very uncertain. It was designated an SSSI in 1954 and was gifted to the National Trust in 1989. Nowadays there is public access for events such as car and motorcycle trials but little or no traditional woodland industry. Many members expressed some considerable dismay and concern about this.

Elisabeth's presentation stimulated much interest in the richness of our local surroundings and we were treated to a wealth of information and ideas about man's relationship with this very beautiful woodland.

The next meeting will take place at the Croft School at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 18 January when David Archard and Helen Briggs will present a Painswick miscellany.

Carol Maxwell



Local History Teaser

Following the success of A Man For All Seasons in St Mary's Church and since we are still in the season of Nativity plays, this month's photograph shows a Nativity scene from the last performance to be staged in the church back in the early 1950s. Can you identify the two kings (number three is nowhere to be seen!), Mary, the Angel Gabriel and the three shepherds? The young ladies in the photograph are not known to us, so if you can identify any of them we would be very pleased.

Answer in next month's Beacon.

The answer to last month's teaser: the winsome pantomime dame was Mr Jim Mills who, with his wife Elsie, lived at The Beehive in New Street for many years. He was a man of many parts, both on and off stage, and was known as Mr Painswick. Joyce Lamort wrote in with the details and noting that she remembered him well.

This month's Local History Society meeting will be held at the Croft School on Tuesday, 18th January when we shall be treated to a Painswick Miscellany – a compilation of barks and bites, a Briggs/Archard production. It starts at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.



Carol Maxwell

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The second of two cuttings provided by Mrs J Hemming of The Park, from the 'Wilts and Glos Standard' in the mid 1960s.



Bus service at Painswick in 1888.

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Wordsearch

This, our 26th in the series, conceals fourteen English counties north of Watford.

Wordsearch, and seasonal quiz, last month's answers

A We invited you to give us the six figure map reference of the location Duccio Leoni was in to take our Christmas cover photograph, and the point of the compass towards which he was pointing.

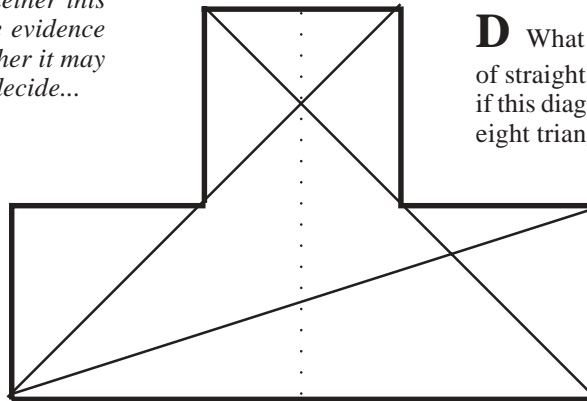
He was standing at SO868092 pointing due North. More prosaically, the picture was taken from the front garden of Painswick Mill Cottage, off Kingsmill Lane, as correctly identified by its current incumbent, Dr P Clarkson. Dr Clarkson also noted that the photograph had been 'flipped' horizontally, which defeated most of our respondents! Whether this 'flipping' reversal was really intended and yet more evidence of the devious mind of he who set the puzzle or whether it may have been an editorial slip, is left for the reader to decide...

B We invited you to find 13 English composers born between 1840 and 1880. Here they are:

HPARRY 1848	JSTAINER 1840
FBRIDGE 1879	ASULLIVAN 1842
EELGAR 1857	FDELIUS 1862
EGERMAN 1862	SCOLERIDGE-TAYLOR 1875
HHARTY 1879	GHOLST 1874
AKETELBEY 1875	RQUILTER 1877
RVAUGHAN-WILLIAMS 1872	

C We also hid 22 seasonal items typically displayed on a Christmas card:

SANTA TOY	TREE SNOW
HOLLY REINDEER	SLEIGH STAR
FAIRY SNOWMAN	ANGEL LIGHTS
CANDLE MISTLETOE	CRIB ROBIN
CHURCH BELLS	CHORISTERS LANTERN
SHEPHERD	CAMEL



D What is the smallest number of straight lines that can be drawn if this diagram is to be divided into eight triangles?

Three straight lines do the trick, drawn as shown here. There is an alternative layout, the long diagonal being moved to the vertical central position (shown dotted).

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LETTERS

IN PRAISE OF PAINSWICK

From Ros Harris:

The interview with David Archard (December Beacon page 7) reveals that he fears Painswick is "losing its soul" – C'mon David, surely not!?

I grew up here in the 50s and 60s and, of course, there have been many changes over time but a glance at the Directory lists an amazing 53 Clubs and Societies, as well as businesses, organisations, services, charities and accommodation – the Pharmacy, Lloyds Bank, Rococo Garden, the Institute, the Town Hall, Londis, the Hairdressers, Hoyland House Surgery, Goddards Garage, Allan Hale butcher, accountants Price Davis, builders, computing services and many more – such as the flourishing Croft School.

The spectrum of religious life within The Churches Together Around Painswick is quite remarkable and there is more to nourish the spirit by involvement in local drama, art, literature, poetry, dancing, gardening, natural history, ornithology etc. The recent Painswick Festival was outstanding and ranged from Acker Bilk (jazz) to the profoundly moving production of 'A Man for All Seasons' in St. Mary's Church.

The walks around the village delight the senses through the beauty and landscape of the Cotswolds and meeting friends along the way provides yet more food for the soul. A visit to the Austerity Lunch, providing a jolly gathering, the Fair Trade stall and supporting charities is typical of Painswick, with its legion of unsung heroes quietly caring and supporting.

There is much to celebrate and cherish about Painswick for which I am profoundly grateful.

WORLD AIDS DAY COFFEE MORNING

From Pat Chase:

Thank you for the wonderful support received during the coffee morning on the 1st December for the children of Esikhawini, Kwa-Zulu, Natal. Below is a break down of the money raised. I am finding it very difficult to find the words to express my thanks to all who came and helped.

PIN PROJECT COFFEE MORNING

	£
• Bric-a-Brac	101.58
• Cakes & Produce	132.20
• Books	79.16
• Clothes	29.35
• Bulbs	193.25
• Plants	42.97
• Coffee & raffle	246.15
• Donations	<u>182.00</u>
• TOTAL	1006.66

THREAT TO THE BEACON

From Jim Hodge:

It is sad to have to write once again about the damage being caused to the Beacon by particular horse riders.

All summer and now into winter, when the ground is soft and prone to damage certain riders have been riding off the brideways, through the hill fort and across the fairways of the golf course. When asked by the golf club green staff to keep to the bridle paths they have responded with foul-mouthed abusive language. Some frustrated golfers have inadvisedly reacted in like manner. The riders in question responded by anonymously phoning the club to threaten to and then to deliberately ride across two of the greens causing serious damage. This situation is unacceptable and in danger of escalation. This wilful damage is clearly anti-social behaviour and could result in civil action to protect the greens and the green staff.

There are maps clearly showing bridle paths and with few exceptions horse riders have over many years lived in harmony with all the other users of the Beacon. This new behaviour is perhaps because newcomers do not understand how this has been achieved so that runners, walkers, dogs, bikers, kite flyers, ornithologists, nature lovers, horse riders and golfers can enjoy in harmony this wonderful stretch of uncultivated limestone pastureland.

The golf club has worked closely with English Nature, English Heritage, The Beacon Preservation Society and Flora and Fauna Experts to preserve this wonderful environment. It is well recognised that without the golf course the pasture would rapidly revert to brambles and undergrowth, conditions not conducive to the many species of wild orchid, flowers and butterflies which are carefully nurtured by appropriate mowing and scrub clearance.

It is manorial land which the golfers have to pay to use as they have done for the last 113 years. Others, including horse riders pay nothing. It is not common land and horses and cyclists are not entitled to ride anywhere they like. Galloping is not permitted on bridle paths and certainly not across the golf fairways. Common sense should inform riders to avoid close mown tees and greens, not to damage the hill fort and of the dangers of galloping when other members of the public use the paths.

All of us are asked to give care and consideration when we encounter horse riders on the roads.

Perhaps the particular horse riders causing the damage would show the same care and consideration in preserving the Beacon for all to enjoy.

ARTFUL THANKS

From Ken Oliver:

As one who organised the Art Exhibition held in the Town Hall, I should like to thank all the artists who took part. With special thanks to Paul Gray and Ian Shearman who helped to set up the exhibition.

In conclusion, I hope that all those who visited will have enjoyed the quality and varied character of the work on show.

PARKING IN PAINSWICK

From Ralph Kenber:

Cllr. Ann Burges Watson, Chairman of our Parish Council's Traffic Committee, deserves to be congratulated. We all know that traffic and parking problems have been with us in Painswick for a long time, apparently incapable of solution. But here we are at last beginning to see action rather than words, with Ann spending an evening recently aboard the village fire engine as it tried to negotiate roads and lanes often clogged with parked cars, thus finding out at first hand about the dangers involved. I believe she has a number of possible solutions in mind, additional parking space being high on the list, with part of the recreation field being favoured by many residents. (You discussed this possibility in a comprehensive article in your last issue). Incidentally, this would render parking on the A 46 from the library down – also dangerous – quite unnecessary.

And just in case there are mutterings like "She's only been here 5 minutes and wants to change our village already....." may I say: "Be grateful for a breath of fresh air!"

PAST TIMES AT THE PLANTATION

From Doreen Hartley (nee Thornton)

I was so interested in seeing the photograph of people at the Plantation (November Beacon), especially of my old employer, Daniel Horne. Fourth from the plaque I think is Mr Hodgson, one time organist at Painswick church; from the left is Mr Strange and Mr Govier: expect I knew them all during my working days at the Garage. Mr Horne was a task master but his tuition certainly prepared me for my future working life. They were a lovely couple and I look back with affection on my eight years working for them.

The Duchess of Gloucester's death also brought back memories of Mrs Horne telling me that she worked for the parents of the Duchess, the 7th Duke of Buccleugh as their still room maid and her life when I presume they did the London season. Mrs Horne had a piece of her wedding cake and I often wonder what happened to it.

The Hornes had an Aga cooker in their kitchen at Stonecroft; little did I realise that I would be working for Aga at shows, Ideal and Building exhibitions at Olympia.

Although it is over 50 years since I left Painswick, I look forward to reading the Beacon.

Day Care

The official opening of The Painswick Day Care Centre took place on 29th November, too late for us to include in our last issue.

The 'live wire' who spotted the need for this service, Jackie Smith, for nearly three years a Community Nursing Sister (better known to many, in days of yore, as District Nurse) hereabouts, can be seen in our picture explaining the motivation she had for creating a day-care centre to serve the Painswick community. Jackie went on to introduce the Chairman of the Steering Group John West.

Tributes were expressed to others, not least the Steering Group members and John Courts who had volunteered his services as a member of ProHelp, a cadre of professionals who assist groups in a range of ways as they develop. John had been instrumental in drafting a 'business plan' for the embryonic group. Others who had been of considerable assistance included the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and the services of their In Touch Adviser Barbara Piranty, and the County Council with whom the local County Councillor Joan Nash had been the primary link.

John West explained that two of the key objectives of the Steering Group had been to "Tackle social exclusion and offer assisted bathing through meeting at a venue such as Ashwell House on a weekly basis". This had, he was pleased to an-

nounce, been achieved in that a regular clientele had attended in the few weeks they had been operating. The funding required was all in place and the work to create a special bathroom at Ashwell should be completed in March this year. The whole enterprise has been envisaged as a not-for-profit group, commercially viable with paid staffing so that its future can be assured.

The next milestone will be in June or July, by which time it is hoped that the average attendance at the Monday meetings will be closer to fifteen.

Watch this space for further news!




Luncheon club Ashwell House



The residents and friends of Ashwell House would like to say an enormous 'Thank You' to Audrey Timpson and Naomi McLaren Jones who retired at the end of December from organising the luncheon club which is held at Ashwell House every Tuesday and Thursday.

Both Audrey and Naomi have been responsible for the smooth running of the luncheon club since it started 30 years ago. Many people have passed through the luncheon club books who have had an enjoyable time twice a week meeting for lunch and enjoying each others company. Without Audrey and Naomi's determination to keep the luncheon club going many people would have missed out on this enjoyable time together. We are indebted to their service over the years and are also thankful for their sterling efforts in recruiting volunteers to help with the luncheon club.

Michelle Elliott, Scheme Manager



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Weather hits sport

Although most people were pleased to see the snow on Christmas Day (except the bookmakers!), the icy conditions meant that the rugby match between a Painswick Over-35 XV and a Painswick Under-35 XV due to be played on Monday 27th December had to be postponed until Sunday 2nd January because of a frozen pitch. Tennis also suffered as the annual mixed doubles tournament scheduled to be played on 27th December had to be postponed until the following day because of ice on the courts.

Rugby

Painswick's match against Southmead at Broadham was always going to be hard fought as both clubs were well aware of their respective positions in the Premier Division of the Gloucestershire League. Defeat for either side would have put even greater pressure on them to achieve sufficient points in the remaining fixtures to ensure their place in the Premier Division next season. An added complication for all clubs is that the league organisers can give no assurance that, even if a team finishes above the final two places, they will not be relegated. This is because it may be necessary to restructure the composition of the divisions if there are changes at the higher level. The game lived up to expectations with both sides evenly matched and the half-time score standing at a penalty goal each. In the second half, Painswick were awarded several penalties but opted to run the ball and it fell to the visitors to succeed with a penalty attempt to take a 3 point lead. "Not much pressure then!" as the home side's spectators might have remarked but they need not have worried as Painswick rose to the occasion and gained the final score some 10 minutes from full-time. The points came about through Painswick flanker, Matt Coombs, who made an excellent break to eventually set up winger, Aussie Smith, for the try which was well converted by centre, Olly Clewes. Today, Painswick have another league game when they meet North Bristol in an away fixture. On 15th January, Painswick are away to Minety in the Stroud Senior Combination Cup.

On 27th November Painswick met old rivals Cainscross at Broadham. The game always has an added incentive for the Cherry and Whites as the teams compete for the Barrie Meadows Cup. Barrie was one of Painswick's great stalwarts having been involved with both the rugby and cricket clubs over many years. Current form suggested that the home side would be victorious and so it proved with Painswick winning the match by the margin of 42 points to 12.

Results [(L) indicates league match]

Sat 27 Nov. Painswick 1st XV 42 Cainscross 1st XV 12. Cainscross 2nd XV 12 Painswick United 12.

Sat 4 Dec. (L) Avonmouth 1st XV 22 Painswick 1st XV 10. Citizen Merit Table. Painswick United 12 Cheltenham Sabres 42.

Sat 11 Dec. (L) Painswick 1st XV 10 Southmead 1st XV 6. Cirencester 2nd XV 38 Painswick Utd 7.

Sat 18 Dec. No official matches. Painswick 1st XV 45 Painswick United 10.

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Fixtures

Sat 8 Jan. (L) North Bristol 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

(L) Cheltenham Saracens 2nd XV v Painswick United.

Sat 15 Jan. Stroud Senior Combination Cup. Minety 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

Sat 22 Jan. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Barton Hill 1st XV.

(L) Painswick United v Cheltenham North 2nd XV.

Sat 29 Jan. (L) Longlevens 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

(L) Chosen Hill 2nd XV v Painswick United.

Tennis

Quiz

The Tennis Club is holding its Annual Quiz at the Broadham Pavilion on Friday 25th February. The start time is 6.30 for 7pm. For further information, please contact Gill Willoughby on 01452 720052

Christmas Break

The Christmas Mixed Doubles Tournament took place on Tuesday 27th December. As always it was an enjoyable event played in the festive spirit. The winners were Richard Willoughby and Ruth Smith. The Winter League matches start again this weekend after the holiday break.

Badminton

Tournaments

The club held 2 Mixed American Tournaments in November. The Monday evening winners were Ron Bridgman and Sharon Hall. The Thursday evening winners were Roy Woodward and Diane Bourne.

Dinner

32 members and their partners attended a very successful dinner at the Painswick Golf Club.

Cricket

Painswick Cricket members will have been interested to read that Alastair Bressington, the former Painswick Rugby and Cricket Club member, has signed a one-year contract with the Frocester Club, following his recent appointment to the Kings School coaching staff.

Christingle Service

On Sunday 19th December a Christingle Service was held in the Church of Our Lady & St Therese. A collection raised £105 for the Children's Society.

A number of local people who were unable to attend the service have expressed an interest in the meaning and origin of the word Christingle. The word probably comes from the German Christkindl meaning Christmas present. Christingle Services were held in the Moravian Church several hundred years ago but the custom is believed to have existed well before then. Christingle Services which were introduced some years after the end of the Second World War in this country are usually held during Advent. The theme of the service is that of help to disadvantaged children. An important part of the service is the presentation of Christingles to the children in the congregation. A Christingle (*pictured here*) is made from a large orange, a piece of red ribbon, a candle, 4 cocktail sticks and some fruit. The orange represents the earth; the sticks the 4 seasons and the fruits of the earth; the red ribbon depicts Christ's blood, and the candle, the light of Christ..



Cinderella on Ice

Painswick Senior Circle

The Senior Circle has arranged a Theatre Visit on Friday 4th March to see Cinderella on Ice at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham. The details are as follows:

- 4.30 pm. Leave Stamages Lane Car Park by coach.
- 5.00 pm. Tour of Theatre, including Back Stage.
- 6.00 pm. Hot Supper
- 7.45 pm. Seat in Stalls for "Cinderella on Ice"
- 10.30 pm (about) Return arrival in Painswick.

The cost for Beacon Readers is £30. If you are interested, contact Ann Williams on 812344

Jane Otway

2500 hits for Beaconline

Beaconline, the Painswick Beacon as published on the Internet, has just received its 2500th 'hit' since the web service was launched one year ago. The web version of the Beacon is published about a week after the regular paper edition and includes the same features and articles, with the added bonus that most pictures are in colour. In recent months, **Beaconline** has been attracting about 250 hits per month and we have received feedback from readers in the USA, Canada, France and Poland, as well as from ex-Painswickians living elsewhere in the UK.

Also now on-line is the up-dated web edition of the 2005 Painswick Directory, which Beacon subscribers should have received last month. **Beaconline** can be found at www.painswickbeacon.org.uk

Parish Council Annual Boxing Day Walk

Because Boxing Day fell on a Sunday, the annual Parish Council walk was postponed until the following day. Monday is also the day when each week a group of Painswick residents meets to walk various footpaths in the area. It was therefore agreed to amalgamate the two groups and on 27th December some 25 adults with 3 dogs left Stamages Lane Car Park for a 2 hour walk. The morning was glorious with the sun shining on the land that was covered by a heavy overnight frost and snow still lying in some places after the Christmas Day fall. The route took the walkers to Sheepphouse, Pincot Lane, Hammonds Farm and Folly Lane before returning to Stamages Lane via Juniper Hill.



Churches together around Painswick

On Sunday 28th November, a Taize Advent Service was held in Painswick Town Hall followed by supper with mulled wine provided by members of CTAP. Quaker, Methodist, Roman Catholic, the United Reform Church and Anglican prayers were offered for two charities, the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and the Africa Mercy Appeal (Mercy Ships). During the service a collection of £270.00 was raised for the two charities - to be equally divided.

Music and singing was provided by church members and choirs-with a variety of hymns and chants familiar to all the communities.

Readings and prayers were offered by representatives of CTAP and the service was brought to a close with the Laudate in candlelight.



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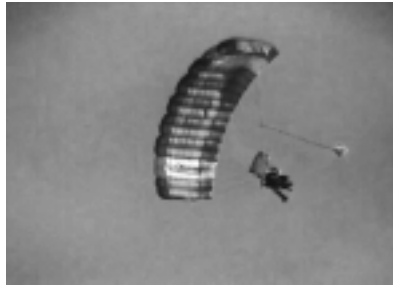


Donald drops in at last...

Donald Merrylees finally – at the third attempt – completed his charity parachute jump at South Cerney on Saturday 11th December. He reports that free-falling from 13,000 to 5,000 feet, accelerating at high speed towards low fleecy clouds was "an interesting experience!" However, the more leisurely manoeuvring under canopy through thin cloud and back to the airfield

was thrilling.

He estimates that he has collected about £2,000 and thanks the people of Painswick for their generous support. The money is to be divided equally between The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and the Gloucestershire Community First Responder Scheme and will go towards the purchase of specialist equipment much needed by both. However, of equal importance is the encouragement this positive and generous support will give to the volunteers in the valuable work they do.



Devilishly interesting!

Gloucester based local historian, Sue Bird-Wood reports that recently she came across a legend about the Devil's Well on Painswick Beacon. Apparently each Halloween, if someone runs three times around the well and then throws their hat in, the Devil will leave his customary occupations (eg uprooting yew trees from the churchyard, editing the Beacon etc) and appear in front of them.

If anyone has further information about the legend or the well's location, Sue would love to hear. So would we! You can contact her via the Beacon or directly at 53 Sandycroft Road, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 1JQ. We would also be interested in any other information about wells in Painswick, devilish or not!

Help yourself to a little Italian

Ann Dorman and Kate Davie are keen to start up a voluntary, free group to learn 'survival' Italian. The idea is to start the group sometime early in 2005, under the guidance of a 'mother-tongue' Italian speaker. Venue, times etc will be decided by the group. If you are interested, contact Ann on 814548 or email annyates@connectfree.co.uk

PROPERTY REPORT for January by Murrays Estate Agents

Welcome to 2005. May we extend our best wishes for a happy and successful New Year and hope you all enjoyed recent festivities. What's going to happen in 2005? you may well ask; good question! If I had a crystal ball, I would tell you, but unfortunately I haven't so you will have to be satisfied with my opinion. Clearly the market has slowed down in the last few months with even a slight drop in prices in December but I believe we are a long way from doom and gloom. I would not be at all surprised to see January take off as it did last year and by Spring prices moving upwards gently once more. Interest rates are still low and not forecast to rise appreciably, employment is strong as is the economy with healthy optimism from the business sector all adding up to a general 'feel good factor'. Put all this together with the fact that the major asset that most of us have, is our home. This must surely add up to property continuing to be a se-

cure and growing investment in the future. However, nothing is guaranteed and being ready to cope with harder times is also important. With well over a century of local experience in property in our team, we believe we are well placed to adjust to changing market conditions. As a local independent business without the controls of a distant head office driven by national issues, we know our market and can react quickly to changing local conditions. We have seen difficult times before and remember when estate agents had a real job to do. To this end we are re-training and improving our service; we realise that our clients will need a higher level of service to give their property the best chance of selling in this changing market. In Painswick activity remains strong with a several new sales arranged and new properties coming to the market. Richmond

Village is really beginning to take shape with interest growing by the day and how welcome it is to see a bright and cheerful new shop in The Old Bakery. We wish them every success and hope their example will bring others to follow. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Clive Murray

BEACON SUBSCRIBERS

16th December

	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
New or ret	102	62	75
Renewed	515	573	580
Totals	617	635	655

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The Painswick Beacon

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

VILLAGE DIARY

JANUARY 2005

Sun	9	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Improvers (Sundays)	Painswick Centre	7.30 to 8.30pm
Tue	11	Dog Training Club	Christ Church Hall	9.30 to 12.00noon
		Juniper Hill scrub clearing, with Cotswold Voluntary Wardens	Triangle at foot of Juniper Hill	9.45am
		Story Time at Painswick Library	Library	3.30 to 4.00 pm
Wed	12	Tea Dances - Wednesdays	Painswick Centre	2.00 to 4.00pm
Wed	12	Hort.Soc: Gardens of South & South-west Ireland	Town Hall	2.30pm
Thu	13	Bristol Uni. Course: Art in C19 Britain...	Church Rooms	10.30 to noon
		Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Experienced beginners	Town Hall	12.30 to 1.30pm
		Music Appreciation Group: My Friend - John Sanders. By Dr Jim Hoyland	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Fri	14	Country Market with coffee available	Town Hall	10.00am
		Blues Night: Mike Sanchez & Al Gare as a duo	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Sat	15	Women's Fellowship pantomime trip: Seats still available - Tel 812587	Pick up at Falcon	1.15pm
Mon	17	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - CTAP	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	18	Local History Society: The development of industrial housing in Painswick - Rowland Veale	Croft School	7.30pm
		Jazz Evening: Local musicians, no entry fee	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
		Painswick Players: Youth group open meeting	Painswick Centre	7.00pm
Wed	19	Probus: Fridjtof Nansen - Mr Nigel Broome	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
		Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	22	Copy dateline for February to Editorial Team		
Sun	23	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing. Contact Pete Bradshaw 814210	Car park adjacent to Popes Wood/Castle End	10.00am
Mon	24	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Horticultural Society	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	25	Yew Trees WI: Memoirs of Japan- Marian Beagley	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	27	Diary deadline for February to Edwina Buttrey		
		Music Appreciation Group: Gustav Holst	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Fri	28	Blues Night: Never the Bride (<i>and Saturday</i>)	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Sat	29	Theatre Club outing to Cheltenham	The Falcon	1.30pm
Mon	31	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Puffins	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm

FEBRUARY

Tue	1	PCMS: 'Marriage Preparation' - Mr & Mrs J Milne	Church Rooms	10.30am
Wed	2	Probus: Trafalgar Campaign - Mr John Barfoot	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
		Women's Fellowship: Pam Tracey - ex Mayor of Gloucester	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Sat	5	February issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
Mon	7	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Catholic Church	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Wed	9	Hort.Soc.: Snowdrops at the Rococo	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	12	Painswick Players: <i>It's a Small World</i> - readings followed by Cream Tea	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
Tue	15	Local History Society: Crickley Hill - R Savage	Croft School	7.30pm
		Music Appreciation Group evening concert visit to Cheltenham Town Hall	Cheltenham	7.30pm
Sat	19	Blues Night: The Paul Rose Band	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI: Letters, Leaves and Flowers	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	24	Bird Club: Birds of the flood plain - talk by Mike Smart, Warden of Ashleworth Ham	Town Hall	2.30pm
		Music Appreciation Group: The Violin Concerto	Painswick Centre	7.30pm

MARCH

Tue	1	PCMS: 'Unfair World Trade' - Mr A Sammon	Church Rooms	7.45pm
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Wed	9	Hort.Soc.: Vegetables and Soft Fruit	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	10	Music Appreciation Group: The Cello	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Sat	12	Village Quiz	Painswick Centre	6.45 for 7.15pm
Thu	17	Music Appreciation Group: Evening concert visit to Colston Hall	Bristol	7.30pm
		Bird Club: Common British Warblers – Jane Rowe	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	19	Music Society Concert: Skampa Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
		Blues Night: The Robin Bibi Band	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI	Town Hall	7.30pm
Mon	28	Easter Monday		
Wed	30	Hort.Soc.: Outings booking morning	Church Rooms	10.00am to noon

APRIL

Sat	2	Music Society Concert: Orchestra of the Swan With Emma Johnson, clarinet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	5	PCMS: 'Religious Education in Schools'	Church Rooms	7.45pm
Thu	7	Music Appreciation Group: Ralph Vaughan-Williams	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Wed	13	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
Thu	21	Music Appreciation Group: Members Night	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Sat	23	Music Society Concert: Tasmin Little, violin, and Wayne Marshall piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	26	Yew Trees WI	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	28 - 30	Painswick Players: <i>The Odd Couple</i>	Painswick Centre	7.30pm

MAY

Wed	11	Hort.Soc.: The Fun of Gardening + AGM	Town Hall	7.30/8.15pm
Sat	14	Blues Night: Sherman Robertson	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Sat	21	Blues Night: Ottis Grand	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI	Town Hall	7.30pm

JUNE

Sat	18	Blues Night: Ainsley Lister	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI	Town Hall	7.30pm

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PLANNING MATTERS

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

NEW APPLICATIONS

DORMER COTTAGE & WOODSEND COTTAGE, BUTT GREEN. Erection of extensions

PAINSWICK ROCOCO GARDEN, FORMER GARDEN BOTHY. Repair/re-use of derelict former garden bothy to form display/study area. Alterations to terracing, retaining wall and new disabled access path & chair lift

PAINSWICK HOUSE, GLOUCESTER ROAD. Extension to shed for use as a stable

BROADHAM FIELDS (PAINSWICK RFC), STROUD ROAD. Erection of 4 permanent floodlight columns

BELL HOUSE, FRIDAY STREET. Demolition of garage & erection of a dwelling

THE SCHOOL HOUSE, SLAD ROAD, SLAD. Erection of a garage with link to existing house. Internal alterations.

Land at MARY'S ACRE, STAMAGES LANE. Erection of dwelling house and garage

HILLVIEW COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET. Conversion & extension of existing domestic outbuilding to form 2-bedroom cottage

HILLVIEW COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET. Construction of new porch to back door ROSE COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET. Demolition of existing side extension. Erection of single storey extensions & refurbishment works

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

Land at STROUD ROAD (CARE CENTRE). Proposed relocation of laundry and maintenance store at level 0, below ground under garden terrace

REVISED PLANS

UNDERLEAF, ORCHARD MEAD. Erection of garages & garden store. Main changes: reduction in size

CONSENT

WOODBINE COTTAGE, THE PARK. Erection of extension and improved access

THE OLD VICARAGE, DAMSELLS MILL LANE, SHEEPSCOMBE. Proposed damp proofing works

THE COACH HOUSE, PARADISE. Replacement door & window units in south elevation

DOZMARY COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET. Installation of roof lights

MOUNT PLEASANT & MOUNT COTTAGE, VICARAGE ST. Provision of concrete steps in lieu of ramp to access Mount Cottage & Mount Pleasant

LAMPHOUSE, VICTORIA STREET. Retrospective application for the erection of replacement fencing

WEAVERS MILL, PINCOTTLANE. Erection of a conservatory

REFUSAL

Land at STROUD ROAD (CARE CENTRE). Works to form additional staff accommodation in roof space store at level 3, relocation of laundry and maintenance store at level 0, under garden terrace/below ground and minor amendments to fenestration/elevations

Land at CORVARA, COTSWOLD MEAD. Outline application for the erection of a dwelling

LAMPHOUSE, VICTORIA STREET. Retrospective application for the installation of imitation sash windows and, 2 velux roof windows

MINI-ADS

Luxury Caravan for hire on North Norfolk Coast - 2 bedrooms. Few minutes walk from the beach at Wells next the Sea. Please contact for brochure: 01327 844554, email dynasty12005@aol.com

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Wanted Dog owner and dog lover, preferably used to handling big dogs, to walk white alsatian 3 - 4 times a week for an agreed fee. Location: Painswick. Call 814763.

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

JSO

Cllr. John Stephenson-Oliver can be contacted on 01452 812284

2005 Village Diary

The new Village Diary is now available at Painswick Woodcrafts. We are open Wednesday to Saturday inclusive, 9.30 to 5.00, 9.30 to 4.30 in January and February.

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The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to JENNY and Dr RHYS EVANS on the birth of a daughter, Kate on 10th December, a sister for Ashley and Lara,

and to FRED and JODY GRAY on the birth of their twin daughters, Tabitha Alice and Scarlett Emily, on 20th December, first grandchildren for Paul Gray and first great-grandchildren for Jean Gray,

and to TINA and ROY BALGOBIN on the birth of a son, Oliver, on 22nd December.

Get well soon

Quite a number of people have had health problems recently. DAVID MANNERING had a cataract operation; NICOLA HAYWARD from the Surgery has been coping with a broken ankle; and EDIE STOCKBRIDGE, DOREEN BIRT, ANGELA CRITCHLEY and SHARON HALL have all been in hospital; also on the sick list have been QUEENIE GRANT, ELIZABETH CAMPBELL and JOHN TIMPSON. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Colonel BOB KEYES, GLADYS ROBERTS, FRED SEMARK, JOAN PALMER and MICHAEL MITCHELL who have all died recently.

Welcome

A belated welcome to SARAH and KEITH KIRBY and sons, Leo and Kit, who have moved to Ha'penny Cottage in Tibbiwell and to KATHARINE and BAZ BULLOCK and their two small sons who have come to live at The Green.

Visitor from America

ANNE LANDON has become a regular visitor staying in Painswick from Arizona, USA over the past few years.

Thank you

Ella Adlam would like to convey her sincere thanks to all friends and neighbours for their prayers, flowers, letters and cards of sympathy following the death of her dear husband and also to thank the organist, choir and all who attended the church service. "Such kindness was a great comfort to me."

Fred Semark

Readers will have been saddened to learn of the death of Fred Semark which occurred on New Year's Day. An article about the work of the Semark Trust appeared in last month's issue of the Beacon. A tribute will be published in the February edition.

Poets corner

Two poems this month, one from each end of the age spectrum. The first is from Eleanor Linsell, aged 12.

Painswick

Trees all around,
Listen to the sound,
Wind in the fields,
Cogs and the wheels,
Of the old Mill,
Under the hill,
Where the rivers flow,
A hundredth Yew Tree grows,
Stand on the Beacon
And what do you hear?

The second, from Verlie Burgess, now 88, was composed twenty years ago on being newly widowed. It was re-discovered last month when she moved house.

Moving on

And when I am low, as often I am,
I'll play my keyboard, pretend it's a grand.
Then as the mood takes me, I'll scribble
the odd line:
I'll think of the moments I must leave behind.
I'll make a new life but that won't be easy.
I'll tend the garden: that'll keep me busy.
Roses will grow alongside the hedge
And a little stone man will sit on a ledge
Apple trees and honeysuckle will climb
up the wall
And there'll be a small wooden seat for
me, to sit and recall.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY 5th FEBRUARY

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

SATURDAY 22nd JANUARY

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

SUNDAY 23rd JANUARY

Business adverts to Dermot Cassidy at 1 Painswick Heights, Yokehouse Lane, Painswick GL6 7QS (see item p19) by

THURSDAY 20th JANUARY

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey, using the Beacon Box

THURSDAY 27th JANUARY

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 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**, the Painswick Beacon web edition
Address for general correspondence
(not items for publication)
Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street GL6 6QN

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