

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 30 Number 5

Sine praeiudicio

August 2007

Water, water everywhere...

First storms, then floods

The storms that hit Painswick on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st July caused flash flooding that submerged properties on both sides of the Painswick Stream, sweeping away road surfaces and leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Particularly affected were the former mill buildings, Painswick Mill, Lovedays Mill and Kings Mill.



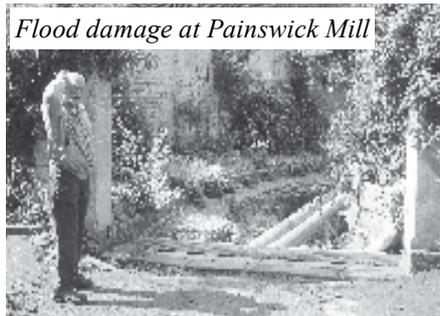
A Gazebo goes under...

So, how much rain fell on Painswick on these two days? Our story last month that the Meteorological Office was unable give accurate rainfall data for Painswick, drew forth responses from no fewer than six local amateur meteorologists, all of whom have rainfall gauges in their gardens. Although we cannot record the absolute total because in each case the gauges reached full capacity or overflowed, we can say that over the two days Painswick recorded



Tibbiwell torrent

between 77mm and over 93mm (nearly four inches in old money!), and that, with one week still to go, some 159mm had been logged so far for July (Stroud average for July is 35mm). Our thanks to Alan Price, Ken French, Paul Moir, David Allot, Ted Fellows and B.A.Kilpatrick for these details.



Flood damage at Painswick Mill

Local heroes

Painswick Firefighters were in the front-line of the battle against the floods. Our local team of retained fire fighters - Mike Powis, Robert Goddard, Paul Luker, George Hodder, Paul Cook, Allan Bullingham, Mark Hancock, Mike Gamble, Andy Robinson and Wayne Lee - have been working 12 hour shifts across the stricken areas of the county.

As the storm hit on Friday 20th July, they were in Gloucester, Cheltenham and Painswick pumping out water, supporting crews from across the county. Over the weekend, they were dealing with flooding in Gloucester including the Sandhurst Lane area. On Monday 23rd July, they joined the heroic - and thankfully - successful struggle to save the Wallham electricity sub-station from flooding, thereby preventing electricity cuts in Painswick. The following day, they were back on duty with a 6.00am to 8.00pm rota providing cover for the whole Gloucester area.

We have already received a nomination for the team to be our Painswickians of the Year: our sincere thanks go out to these local heroes. They, in turn, say they would like to thank all those who "popped in with bags of doughnuts, chocolate and other goodies to keep us going".



... not a drop to drink

Here comes the cavalry...



As we go to press, most Painswickians are about to enter their second week without mains water supplies as a result of the Mythe water treatment works going down, with the prospect of at least another week before supplies are resumed.

It was the morning of Tuesday, 24th July when the top end of Painswick (Gloucestershire, Cheltenham Road, Gyde, Highlands etc) ran out of water in three days, virtually the whole of the Parish Council area was affected.

Severn Trent Water was initially slow to react locally, although the Army began delivering truck loads of bottled drinking water from Cheltenham for distribution at Stamages Lane car park on Thursday 26th July. On the same day, not to be outdone, the RAF delivered an enormous bowser to the same location, with the promise that it would be regularly topped up. Both services expressed their thanks for the hospitality and friendly help received



Water at last!

Bijou des. res. convenient location



Hamptons have installed this portalo outside their offices in Bisley Street. All 'pennies spent' go to The Prince's Trust. Branch Manager, Miranda Harding says that the first customer used it within three minutes of installation and spent a pound for a p...!



The RAF mega-bowser

from many Painswickians during this massive logistical exercise. Doubtless, a naval flotilla will appear on the horizon shortly!

By the following weekend, other bowzers were arriving in Painswick, Cranham, Edge, Slad and Sheepscombe. 'Lateser bowser locations, emergency phone numbers and other watery info are on page 19.

On other pages this month: Fun and SUN(!) for Edge, ditto for show off dogs, Pimms 'n puds, panto polish, St Mary's 98, Cotswolds 88, Blue Streaks, eyesores, un-natural history, Croft cream, WI laps it up, toddlers party hard, and yet more H2O...

For the first time in many years the monthly meeting of the Council was held in Edge Village Hall, complete with coffee and tea on arrival. Contrasting with a recent meeting in Slad, ten local residents were present, with a lively interest in various parts of the proceedings.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

District Council site meetings

In response to a query raised at the previous meeting the Committee received assurances from the District Council that the Parish Council had been invited to be in attendance at such site meetings as had been convened in the last year or so; very few meetings had actually been held. However, the committee remained concerned that SDC convened pre-meeting site visits of which no advance notice or invitation is conveyed to the Parish Council. Barbara Tait, District Councillor, who was attending the meeting, assured councillors that parish councils were always invited to site panel meetings which were called on the recommendation of the Development Control Sub-Committee. Further, when SDC officers regarded a development as 'major' a pre-meeting site visit was arranged to enable a more detailed understanding of the proposal before it was determined by the SDC; the Parish Council would also be invited to such meetings.

Planning White Paper

Chairman David Hudson, who could not attend this meeting, had not been able to complete a draft response to this important document and it was agreed to hold a special meeting of the committee at 7.30pm on 8th August to receive that draft.

Yoke House – stables

The committee received a report from the SDC Enforcement Officer who had investigated the stable erected on skids (see report page 2 February Beacon) to the effect that such did not require planning permission, even if not moved around the site. The committee, on a question raised by Jason Bullingham, agreed to enquire whether permission had been sought/obtained for change of use of the site from agricultural to equestrian purposes.

Dry Knapps Farm – greenhouse
The Parish Council had taken note of a new large greenhouse which had been erected on land to the rear of Dry Knapps Farm in Edge Road. The SDC had confirmed planning permission is required, and appropriate forms have been sent to the owner residing in Vicarage Street.

PARISH COUNCIL

Management of Commons

The Council received a presentation from Paul Hackman of Natural England (previously English Nature) and local Cotswold Site Manager Rob Wolstenholm who spoke about their involvement in such management, and local commons in particular since its designation as an SSSI in 1974. (See separate report on opposite page)

Painswick Post Office

Copy of a letter to David Drew from the Head of Post Office Ltd's Business Development Community Network (Wales & South West) was reported. The Council remained totally dissatisfied that the letter offered no change to the Post Office's policy of insisting upon full time opening of all post offices, with no closure for lunch breaks or half day mid-week. This was regarded as absurd policy bearing in mind that almost all other trading in Painswick ceased for an hour in the middle of each day and use of Post Office services at such a time was absolutely minimal and opening of the premises unsustainable. Mr Drew was scheduled to meet with senior Post Office Ltd officers on 2nd August.

The Chairman, Terry Parker, reported that he would be attending a meeting upon Post Office policy in Swindon the next day when he hoped to have the opportunity of raising the subject.

Criminal incidents in Painswick

The Council received information that the Police would in future distinguish between any reported assaults in this area which were minor in nature and those more serious. Some currently classified as 'assaults' were of a minor domestic nature and their inclusion in statistics published in the Beacon was almost certainly misleading.

Pullens Road – survey of traffic matters
It was reported that this had now been undertaken and that it should be available for comment at a very early date.

Bledisloe Cup

The Chairman reported news received that day that Painswick, for the first time in many years, was not proceeding to the second round of judging for this prestigious cup, this despite extra efforts having been made to ensure the centre of the village was presented in excellent 'condition'.

Calor Village of the Year awards

The Council noted that the results for Gloucestershire were to be announced on 20th July. (The announcement was postponed as a consequence of the weather which prevented the presentation event from taking place).

Parish Plan

The Chairman reported that considerable progress had been made to analyse the Parish Plan and update records of achievements with regard to the 108 recommendations it contained. In response to a question from a member of the public he indicated that no arrangements had been made for involving the public through meetings, or a complete revising process for updating purposes.

Stamages Lane – parking fees

The Council had been invited by SDC to comment upon a review of car parking charges for the Stamages Lane car park, these currently being very low. It was agreed, upon a motion from Ann Daniels, that no increase should be introduced at this time especially as such could be detrimental to the local economy.

Stamages Lane – coach parking

Ann Burges Watson reported local concerns that a waiting time restriction of 30 minutes in the area designated for coach parking was undermining the possibility of visitors/tourists strolling into the centre of the village; this affecting local trading. It was agreed that strong representations be made to the County Council for this restriction to be removed completely.

Reports upon meetings of the Parish Council cannot help but be selective, if only because of space constraints. We try to highlight points of wider interest. The full minutes of Council and committee meetings are available at the Council office and elsewhere.

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Managing the Commons

At its meeting on 18th July the Parish Council received an interesting presentation by Paul Hackman of Natural England (previously English Nature) and the local site manager Rob Wolstenholm.

Rudge Hill

Paul Hackman spoke about their involvement in management of Rudge Hill Common (a SSSI and National Nature Reserve) over the past ten years, since the common was fenced.

Exhaustive yet interesting explanations were given upon the management techniques brought to bear, including fencing of the common but with gates at points which provided access where there are designated footpaths, as well as grazing by 'placid' cattle which would not interact with horse-riders or walkers with dogs on leads. In this regard Mr Hackman was indebted to local farmer, Paul Griffiths from Stockend for his support and assistance. Mr Hackman said that experience has led them to realise that grazing only between September and October is likely to be insufficient to counteract the deepening of scrub, and longer periods will be applied for; he thanked the volunteers who have cut scrub on the common since the early 90s. He drew attention to the proposal to seek renewal of the permission for fencing of this Common, from the Secretary of State and stated there would be a period of public consultation shortly.

Huddinknoll, Edge

A member of the public drew attention to issues of public safety and rights of access in relation to the proposed grazing at Huddinknoll Common, as part of the Cotswolds AONB Grasslands Project.

It was said that there are concerns about possible instances of intimidation by cattle, which may effectively deny access from time to time, for a total period of up to 28 days, to walkers and horse-riders on public rights of way and the common itself, an area dedicated (by legal agreement) for public access. This has come about because there is difficulty with finding suitable placid cattle to graze the common. Concerns expressed by Councillors related to the narrow and restricted site and whether there was public liability insurance.

Painswick Gateway

Not a great deal to report this month, but the 'shadow' trustees are hoping for a strong message for the September Beacon.

They are considering the possibility, if time permits, of publishing a draft 'Prospectus and Business Plan' to trigger public comment, but with a firm time frame of about a month within which those comments must be received. Shortly after publication there could be an open meeting at which any point requiring clarification can be explored directly with the trustees.

While responses will be welcomed from anyone interested in the venture, the trustees will concurrently be inviting the views of any agencies mentioned such as the County Library Service, the Parish Council, and so on.

On the appointed date the trustees would consider all inputs received and possible amendment of their prospectus and publish again together with an invitation for consideration of their recommendations at a formally convened public meeting.

Leslie Brotherton, Manager

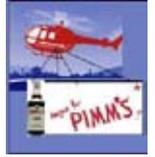
Police Report

Crime figures for June were (*May figures in brackets*):

Criminal damage	2	(1)
Theft from Motor Vehicle	0	(2)
Theft of Motor Vehicle	0	(1)
Assault	3	(1)
Theft	1	(3)
Burglary	0	(1)
Burglary non-dwelling	2	(2)
Other	0	(2)
TOTAL	7	(13)

Paté, Pimms, Puds

On Friday 17th August, Christ Church invites you to an evening of Paté, Pimms and Puddings at 3 The Croft starting at 6.00pm.



The event is in support of their three chosen charities, including the County Air Ambulance and will be transferred to Christ Church Hall if the weather proves uncooperative.

Tickets cost £15.00 each and may be purchased from Meriel Middleton on 814357.

Beacon subscribers

24th July 2007	2007-08	2006-07
New or renewed after lapsing	113	141
Renewed from last year	479	490
Total including postal	592	631
Painswick village dwellings	1057	1057
Subscribing households	419	556
Percentage subscribing	38.6%	52.5%



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Painswick goes to the Dogs!



We had another fine sunny day for Painswick Dog Show and Charity Fun Day held on the Recreation Field in Lower Washwell Lane Painswick. Our chosen charity this year is Canine Partners, an organization which trains assistance dogs for disabled people. We were pleased to welcome from Cheltenham William and Anne French with their canine partner, a yellow Labrador called Zeus.

Judging of the Show classes began at 11.00am and our judge John Dyer had a good entry to go over, particularly in the puppy class. His Best In Show was Mrs. G Hyslop's Irish Setter Jay. Reserve Best In Show was Julie Groves with her Dobermann Cassie and Best Puppy was Mr. Hiam's Pomeranian, Anka.

Novelty and Obedience Classes began at 1.00p.m. Our Novelty Judge, Sandra Saunders had a good entry, the most popular classes being the Most Handsome Dog and Prettiest Bitch. The overall winner of the Novelty classes was Di Gorton with her Parson Russell terrier, Bertie.

The Obedience Classes were judged by Julie Luker and Pam Chandler, who were kept busy all afternoon with 50 entries to judge, a record for our show. The winner of the first class was Ruth Cahill with her German Shepherd Dog, Bud; the second class was won by D Horsfield and German Shorthaired Pointer, Harvey and the winner of the third class was H Woodcock with Border Collie, Nell.



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We would like to thank everyone who helped the show to run smoothly, particularly our willing volunteers at Painswick Dog Training Club. Local organisations and businesses offered very generous Raffle prizes and we would like to thank the Royal William (meal for two), Grandvilles of Cheltenham, Woodlands Veterinary Practice, Essenjay Leather Supplies, Bedding Box Co, the Patchwork Mouse and animal feed suppliers, Gloucester Mixed Feeds, Anthony Burns, James Wellbeloved and Hills.

Thanks to the Trustees of the Recreation Field for allowing us to use the field again and to George, the groundsman, for preparing the field beautifully. All our visitors comment on what a lovely venue it is.

We have raised approximately £620 for Canine Partners and look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Fiona Chapman

Sun shines on Edge Fete

After all the rain of the past few weeks and a not too favourable forecast on the day, we were blessed with a bright, sunny evening for our annual fete. There was an amazing turnout and we were particularly pleased to be supported by friends from the surrounding villages.

The Frampton Silver band played traditional tunes and the bunting flapped gaily in the breeze as the many stalls were gradually emptied of their home produce, bottles and books. Refreshments were eagerly consumed including delicious home-made cakes, traditional hot dogs and this years innovative curry.

Thank you to all those who helped to raise a record total of £1329 for the Church and Village Hall.

Carolyn and John Luke





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The Painswick Centre Centenary Finale

Well, what an Edwardian Evening that was! All those who attended on 14th July had a great time and the only disappointed people were the ones who stayed away! The ages of those attending spanned more than 60 years, yet everyone seemed to have a super time. If Frances Sarah Williams was looking down on the Centenary evening, I'm she would have been very pleased.

The evening started at 7.15pm with Canapés, from our wonderful caterers, Three Counties Catering. As people arrived our 'unofficial' photographer, Val, who came all the way from Florida to be with us, snapped them for posterity. Val has promised to let me have a disk full of the pictures she took. These will be on display at our next event, which is "Amorata", on Saturday, October 27th. You will be welcome to take any of the pictures displayed. Shortly after, the 'official' photographer from "Cotswold Life" arrived and proceeded to take many more pictures. These will be published in a future issue of that magazine, but probably not for a month or two.

Following the main course of salmon, beef, baked ham, hot asparagus quiche and delicious salads, all prepared to Edwardian recipes, the Wassailers performed for our delight. Howard Beard and his team performed a wonderful programme of songs and monologues, describing the opening ceremony of the Centre in 1907, and extolling the virtues of Painswick in a very humorous yet harmonious manner.

After the sweet and coffee, Lindsay Braune, from the Cotswold Auction Company, auctioned items mainly donated by local businesses and clubs, which raised a mammoth £818 for the Darfur appeal by Oxfam. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of those who donated items, and, of course, the successful bidders!

Ian Towers, that one-man musician extraordinaire, then sang and played music for dancing until the 'carriages' arrived at midnight. What an evening! One last thank you to all those people who supported our efforts in marking the centenary of the Painswick Centre by coming along, and a very special big thank you to all of those businesses who sponsored tables and the bar. Without all of you we would be unable to stage events like this. Please, keep on giving us your support.

Ralph Drew



Down in the Forest, something stirred

A select but highly dedicated group of Bird Clubbers, together with two experts and two dogs, met at 9.00pm on Monday 2 July, with the main aim of seeing nightjars and woodcock. Despite some early problems finding our meeting point, Boys Grave Car Park (even I struggled to find it - and I'm an RSPB volunteer!) we all met up safely and were pleased to see a fox going down the path we were due to take - a promising

sign for the evening, we all agreed!

Once our friendly and experienced RSPB guides, Barry and John, had arrived, we set off down the path alongside the birds' heathland haunt. It wasn't long before we were rewarded with the amazing sound of churring nightjars, so we knew they were around - the next step was to see them! One male duly obliged, flying upwards in his classic bat-like manner and then down to the ground, where he was much more difficult to see. However, we had several more glimpses before the rain started, at which point we decided to turn back - and then had even better views of nightjars and of a woodcock - the rain seemed to have worked in our favour! For any of you who remember Bill Oddie waving handkerchiefs like a Morris-dancer to attract nightjars on his 'Birding' television series - the birds are attracted to white and especially to each others' white patches, especially when courting - we could just make out these patches.

An excellent evening with far better views of nightjars than I ever imagined we'd get - and great to see the woodcock too - my first ever! Many thanks to Joy and Bill for organising the evening and to Barry and John for their excellent knowledge and advice throughout. How glad I am that the floods didn't keep us away!

Andrew Watson

Crafty Goings-on at the Town Hall

Valerie Dugan tells us that The Cotswold Craftsmen Painswick show is to be held in the Town Hall from Friday 24th to Monday 27th August, 10.00am till 5.00pm each day, with free admission. On show will be high quality handmade crafts including chair caning, silk scarves, botanical paintings and calligraphy, mosaics, silver bead jewellery, pottery, embroidery, silver jewellery, paintings prints and cards, landscape paintings, ceramics and individually designed bags.

Yoga

Kim Brockett's Yoga classes will resume after the summer break in the week beginning the 10th September. Locations and times are:

- Sheepscombe village hall, 6.30pm and 8.15pm on Monday evenings
- Sheepscombe village hall, 9.30am on Wednesday mornings
- Painswick Centre, 9.30am and 11.15am on Thursday mornings.

Check availability with Kim (on 812623) because, she says, three of the classes are very full. She is also offering a new one-to-one private class option for those who prefer to have a personal class.

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Un-Natural History?

The effects of this years weather on the natural history of Painswick, a personal view.

The mild winter and dry weather of January and February resulted in the early appearance of hibernating butterflies and other insects. It was unusual to see so many Peacocks, Tortoiseshells, Commas and Brimstones, besides Bumble Bees and Wasps. They were able to feed on the early flowering shrubs such as Mahonia, winter flowering Honeysuckle and Verbena to name a few. Blackcaps, Large and Blue Tits spent hours stripping the yellow Mahonia flowers to get at the nectar.

Then came April with its cold spell, which soon put the clock back and most of the early butterflies either retired to shelter or died. By late April the dry weather brought out the Holly Blue and the return of the Brimstone and Comma butterflies besides the other common species. Bumble Bees were again abundant.

As April became warmer and drier the grassland flowers on the Commons slowed down. Early Purple Orchids and many of the species that follow them were late. Cowslips were badly affected by the dry conditions and were unable to grow to their full height. While the yellow Rockrose which has been in decline for many years have done exceptionally well blooming for many weeks on all the Commons. Kidney and Horseshoe Vetches and Thyme have formed carpets in the low grassland. All these plants are the food sources for a number of the Blue Butterfly family.

The Horseshoe Vetch in particular is host to two nationally scarce species, the Adonis Blue and the Chalk Hill Blue. The Adonis Blue became extinct in Gloucestershire about twenty years ago. It was probably reintroduced to Stinchcombe Hill several years ago and has amazed butterfly enthusiasts as it has spread rapidly up the Cotswolds to become a common sight on Rodborough Common and more recently to Edge and Haresfield Commons. This year a few specimens have been reported on Painswick Beacon where there is an abundance of the Horseshoe Vetch.

The dry conditions in late April and early May had a serious effect on the Badgers. Their principle food is earthworms, which had drawn down to the moist soil out of reach. This left the

badgers with young cubs searching for alternative food. Many were killed crossing roads, often deliberately by motorists.

The Orchids have also reacted to the changing weather pattern, for example, the White Helleborine which is found on the edges of scrubland and can often be found along the roadside fence of the road to Whiteshill from Edge. This year they were present in hundreds right up to the roadside. On Painswick Beacon there have been drifts of Spotted Orchids together with Fragrant and later the Pyramidal. This is entirely due to the efforts of the various volunteers who work to keep these grasslands free of scrub and unwanted trees.

For those who look carefully the Bee Orchid can be found scattered over most of the Commons. However, many of these species were much later. The Musk Orchid, a tiny yellow flower is just about hanging on at its known sites on Painswick Beacon and Juniper Hill. It is one of the reasons that these Commons are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSI), and thus protected.

The late flowering Pyramidal Orchid has been very abundant this year. It was with great pleasure that I noticed the man who cuts the road side verges on the A4173 had lifted his cutter to avoid them opposite the Edgemoor. A man who thought and did what was sensible. Within Painswick, the Scarlet Tiger Moth had one of its years of abundance and could be seen on the wing or settled on paths and walls.

The effects of cattle grazing on Edge Common, and very intensive mowing on Cudhill, have brought forth a patchwork of colour as the limestone grassland plants have come back into their full glory.

The wet summer prevented the usual spraying of herbicides on many cereal fields, allowing the resilient Red Poppy to change the colour of these fields. Our best example is Dry Knapps beside the Edge Road in Painswick.

In all, the unpredictable weather has suited some plants and wildlife while severely effecting others. Please go out and enjoy our wildlife, join the walks organised to show you the best, and let us hope that the rest of the summer is more settled.

Cedric Nielsen

Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club

The Field Club can offer you a variety of opportunities: in summer, the club arranges monthly visits by coach to interesting locations as well as evening study walks in the Gloucestershire countryside. In winter invited speakers give a programme of stimulating lectures.

There is an annual Linsdall-Richarson Memorial Lecture at the University of Gloucestershire and social events also take place during the year. Each August or September a longer visit (several days) is undertaken so that members can become more familiar with different areas of the United Kingdom.

To make enquiries or to join the club please contact the Secretary, Mrs Pamela Stewart on 814157.

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Beacon Conservation Group - July events

Last month's wild flower walk (8th July) was enjoyed by 10 members and friends. We saw a surprisingly wide variety of plants including several we would not have noticed without our recorder, Clare Overhill's keen eyes and knowledge. Especially impressive were the many vivid purple pyramidal orchids.

Later in the afternoon 11 members and a crucial, cake-bearing, contingent from the Golf Club met up to extend the areas of strimmed thick grass on the hill fort's Northern ramparts. We started this work a year ago and the areas done in 2006 are much improved and now 'flowery'. A just reward! We'll probably do more one afternoon late in August. The day was blessed with a rarity this summer, - warm sunshine!

Nature's profusion

The recent rainy weather has been a mixed blessing. Flowers have grown in profusion and there have been fine displays of orchids. Nearby Cud Hill Common has had some of the deceptive Bee Orchids. But the cloudy days have discouraged the hoped for midsummer clouds of butterflies. Yet a recent half day of sunshine yielded many newly "hatched" ones with vivid markings. The Adonis Blue was first seen on the golf course's 16th hole's suntrap amphitheatre way back on 24th May and its intense blue colour has delighted enthusiasts and golfers since, both there and in Victoria Quarry. Now it is more likely to be found on Harescombe Beacon where its associated horseshoe vetch matures later.

Nature's resilience

Another product of this growing weather has been a remarkable upsurge of plants in the areas where the wintertime Sunday working parties felled small trees and slashed and burned brambles, ivy and thick tussocky grass that threatened to smother all else. We have been speedily rewarded with orchids, rock roses and other flowers as well as wild raspberries and strawberries. Butterflies and moths soon find the new sources of nectar as Nature re-colonises areas we thought might be pretty well lost. There are already plants and mosses growing on and through the patches of ash where we had very hot fires.

Warm families

Four families will be warmer this winter, having taken up our (May Beacon) offer to come and collect logs. There will be more, later in the year. If you want some, write to me at Lloydstone, Stamages Lane or phone 812624.

David Allott, Chairman

Eyesores

The Beacon has been asked if it would make it known through its pages that we would be willing to publish reports from readers as to aspects of our environment which they consider to be eyesores.

That there are, from time to time, features which offend the eye of some people is not disputed, but we are very much aware of the fact that one person's eyesore may be another person's pride and joy; defining an eyesore is highly subjective. Further, identifying either the author of a criticism or those criticised is an exercise upon which we have resolutely decided not to embark.

50 years of Markets

Country Market that evolved from the W. I. Markets was 50 years of age in May of this year. On Friday the 17th August we are celebrating this anniversary with a special market in the Town Hall.

Even if you do not usually shop with us, why not call in to see what is on offer and enjoy a coffee or tea and a piece of celebration cake.

The Town Hall is the place to be on Friday mornings to buy preservative free Cakes, Savouries and a lovely variety of Jams, Marmalades and Chutneys. We also have Vegetables, Fruit, Crafts, Plants, free range Eggs and occasionally local lamb.

Patricia Davey, Secretary



50 years of Marketing

Blue Streaks of Lightning!

No need to rub your eyes! The blue flashes are the PURRS (Painswick Unrunners) streaking past in their new light blue running vests, designed by local artist, Jennifer Barnett.



As the Unrunners get fitter so the runs get longer and more adventurous. The route setter's notion of distance being a bit vague, some runs have turned out to be rather longer than anticipated. At the end of a recent 5 mile run (in reality nearly 8 miles) she had to run really fast to get away from the following Unrunners who were making strange menacing noises along the lines of: "I'm going to kill you when I catch you!" They were only mollified by being bribed with champagne on a run from the top of Painswick Beacon albeit at 4.48am (Summer Solstice)!

Exciting news to come in September as we up our training for the Stroud half Marathon at the end of October and start our fundraising campaign for The Croft School and The Williams Syndrome charity.

Rosie Sanderson

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In last month's account of the Friday Club's 50th Anniversary celebrations, space limitations precluded the inclusion of Pat Daly's epic and poetic history of the Senior Circle/Friday Club, which he delivered as President. Pat claims inspiration from *On Marrow Down*, one of the *Just Stories* by Rudyard Kipling, to whom (with typically unnecessary modesty) he sends his apologies.

So, for those who missed it and for those who would like to experience it again, here it is:

On the Eve of a Golden Anniversary

There runs a group in Painswick Town
The Friday club today it is,
Two score years ago and ten
The Senior Circle it was then.

The what, The why, The where, The who,
I shall in time explain to you
The War was over, a new age dawned
The Welfare State had just been born.

The infant NHS you see
Was fine for you, was fine for me
Fine for those who could get around
But not so good for the frail housebound

The ailing eyes, ears, aching feet
Must find their way to Friday street
The nurses home here held court
Dispensing help when it was sought.

In Cirencester a self help plan
Was thought might help the Wyck of Pan
So twenty four reps of the active able
Came together around the Town Hall table

And from this pool of determined activity
Emerged a succinct name:
The Painswick Old People's Welfare Committee

This it went on for a year or two
Doing the jobs it set out to do
Gradually the old folk found they could
Help each other by doing good

From out this mixture of moil and pother
A coordinator stepped — Dr Jim's mother.
With her in the saddle it took the bit,
Has never looked back or wanted to quit

The rest is history as is said
And we follow the paths where others have led

So ladies and gentlemen I give you a toast
Long life to the Friday Club
Long may it boast of the good it has done
and the good it will do
For the likes of us all
For me and for you.

WI laps it up



It is not often that one half of the evening's entertainment listens to the speaker while sitting on the lap of a lady in the back row of the audience, but this is what happened when Andy Harris, accompanied by his rescue dog, Amber, came to talk to Yew Trees WI on the work of the Charity RAPID UK! The highly appropriate name being an acronym for 'Rescue and Preparedness in Disasters', which well describes the charity which was formed in 1996 to meet growing international need. Andy's talk was illustrated with horrendous photographs, from all over the world, of buildings having collapsed following earthquakes, mudslides and explosions. Amazingly, volunteers from RAPID UK usually manage to reach these disaster scenes within the first 36 hours, and immediately go to work searching debris for signs of life. It was no surprise to learn that stamina and the ability to work without sleep are two of the many qualities looked for in volunteers.

The ability to work hard was one of the reasons why Amber was chosen as a rescue dog. Sheepdogs are used because they can be highly trained, love work, are lithe and can think for themselves. Amber certainly showed she was no slouch as she spent the evening checking out her audience and surroundings.

The charity puts great emphasis on preparedness, and is involved in training local personnel in disaster prone countries such as Pakistan and Peru - to name but two. Andy's audience left feeling very thankful that there are people like him who are so dedicated that they are prepared to go to such extremes to save the lives of others.

There is no WI Meeting in August but we look forward to Howard Beard giving an illustrated talk on Victorian Stroud on Tuesday 25th September.

Celia Lougher



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Golf Club

Introduction to Golf

Painswick Golf Club Ladies Section is holding an 'Introduction to Golf' morning on Thursday 23rd August from 10am to 11am, for girls and ladies of any age to come up and learn the basics of the game of golf, followed by refreshments in the clubhouse. Don't worry if you do not have golf shoes or clubs, trainers will suffice, and clubs, balls, etc. will be provided. Telephone Sylvia Walker (813141) or Angela Woodward (814302) if you are interested.



Mail on Sunday Team Competition

The mens team from Painswick Golf Club has reached the 7th round of the Mail on Sunday Team Competition. From 5000 initial entries, they have reached the final 32 in the country. The first 6 rounds were all played within Gloucestershire, starting with a bye in the first round, before defeating Brickhampton Court (home), The Worcestershire (home), Evesham (away), Tewkesbury Park (away), and finally Burford (home). I'm sure we would all like to wish the team of Robin Anthony (A. Team captain,) John Slim, Brendan Nunan, Pete Jelf and Club Champion Carl Gyde every success against their next opponents, Wellow Golf Club, from Hampshire. Our team will have the home advantage, with the match being played at Painswick.

Painswick Mixed Open

1st home pair – Angela Woodward & Roy Woodward – 46 points
 1st Visitor pair – Sally Cox & Derek Norman (Minchinhampton New) – 41 points.
 2nd Pair – June Davis & Reg Clarke – 41 points (on count back from 5 other pairs, also with 41 points.)

Mens Club Championships

30 players braved 2 rounds in one day of Painswick Golf Course in the Mens Club Championships on one of the few dry and sunny June Saturdays. Carl Gyde led the field at the half way stage, and pulled ahead even further in the afternoon to take the club championship in some style. After the golf, the somewhat exhausted players, their families and other members enjoyed a BBQ on the balcony. The results were as follows:

Club Champion (Gross) - Carl Gyde 133
 2nd – Martin Angel 143
 Browning Cup (Nett) - Carl Gyde 127
 2nd – Rob Bowden 130



Junior Membership

If any juniors have been inspired by the British Open, Junior Membership is still free up to the end of September. Please contact Angela Woodward on 814302 for further details.



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Tennis Club

Activities over the last month have been somewhat hampered by rain, but the weather held out for the annual summer Tuesday night tournament and BBQ organised by Mike Sanderson which was held on 3rd July at Broadham fields.

Twenty two members participated in the tennis activities whilst savouring the barbecued delights from chef Bob Kelly. After three hours of competitive games, Hamish McLean used his mathematical skills, without the aid of a calculator, to compute everyone's average scores. The winners were Gill Willoughby and Stuart Hall, and the runners up were Debbie Westgate and Danny Ingram.

Whilst the embers of the barbecue smouldered, club member Emile Eptin, who is a professional entertainer, hypnotised members on the patio with his tantalising tricks using eight crystal balls. Events soon heated up when Emile lit several torches and proceeded to eat the fire to loud gasps of amazement. The entertainment continued with juggling of lighted torches, reaching a crescendo when he blew several very impressive huge fireballs from his mouth. Absent members can be rest assured the wooden club house is still intact even if the over-hanging trees are a little singed! Thanks for such a memorable evening go to Mike and his team and, of course, to Emile.



Lady members enjoyed a (dry) morning at the charity tennis tournament on 6th July. Three hours of entertaining matches followed by a sumptuous lunch, it could almost have been summer! Many thanks to Joan Griffiths for organising the event and providing the delicious fare, and congratulations to Sharon Hall for coming out on top in the tournament.

On the morning of 15th July nobody could have imagined that the annual parent child tournament would take place that afternoon, as the rain lashed down over Painswick. But take place it did in what was probably the only couple of dry hours of the day, even if the ensuing barbecue was a little damp. It is always a tricky tournament to arrange given the wide range of ages and abilities of the competitors, but thanks, once again, to Pat Andrew for taking on the challenge. The afternoon was made all the more special with the presence of Jan Bolton, Pete's wife, and their daughter Lesley to witness the first presentation of the Pete Bolton 'High Five' cup. The trophy was presented to James Sidwell (accepted by mum Michele in his absence) for his approach to the game, his enthusiasm and his amiable disposition both on and off the court, qualities which seem to both typify the ethos of the trophy and reflect Pete's own attitude to tennis.

The weather was kinder the day before when the mini tennis and U10 competitions were held. Eight minis and ten U10 children took part, all under the watchful eye of Sharon Hall who organised both events. After a good three hour of battling it out, the eventual winner of the mini competition was Dominic Perris with Lara Fair runner up, while the U10 event produced a thrilling final worthy of Federer and Nadal. Jamie Gordon emerged as the winner with Barnaby Jackson a very worthy runner up.

Please note that there are still places available on the junior summer tennis camps. For more information please contact Lorraine Ristic on 07775606399.

and further afield...

Painswick juniors continue to go from strength to strength within the county and beyond. Painswick U14 girls, U16 boy and U18 boys represented Gloucestershire in the first round of the regional playoffs, winning all their matches.



Dan Omnes and Alicia Barnett competed in the county Road to Wimbledon finals and now play at Wimbledon in the national tournament during August.



Three of the club's U10 players, George MacDuff, Pippa Speed and Caitlin Workman, represented Gloucestershire in the Super G Grand Prix event at Oxstalls on 23rd June competing against players from Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Avon.

Alicia Barnett, Lucy Moir, Annabel Sidwell and Sarah Thomas, all four Painswick players, made up the Stroud High School tennis team which represented the region in the Aberdare Cup. As one of the 465 schools taking part in regional heats, the girls stormed to victory in our region, qualifying them to take part in the Nestle National Schools Championship in July at Queenswood School in Hertfordshire. One of only sixteen girls teams in the finals, the girls played exceptionally well, finishing in sixth place



Badminton Club

The new season for club members will start on Monday 3rd September and Thursday 6th September. Juniors will also start on Thursday 6th September. General Badminton will start on Friday 14th September.

The club does have vacancies for players on both Mondays and Thursdays and anyone wishing to join us would be welcome to come along to a Friday session to meet us, starting at 8pm at the Painswick Centre. Any queries please ring David (812464) or Hilary (812771).



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Cricket

The exceptionally heavy rainfall in July caused the cancellation of the majority of the Painswick Club's matches. Of the games completed the most exciting result came in the 2nd XI's home fixture against Tewkesbury at Broadham when in response to the home side's all out total of 158, the visitors fell just 3 runs short.



Results

All matches league games unless otherwise stated.

Sat 7 July. Painswick 2nd XI 158 Tewkesbury 2nd XI 155.
Frampton 3rd XI 45 Painswick 3rd XI 138.
Sun 8 July. Gloucestershire Senior KO Cup Quarter Finals.
Winterbourne 1st XI 241-5 Painswick 1st XI 176 (A Bressington 45).
Sat 14th July. Stone 1st XI 130 (J Harber 5-39) Painswick 1st XI 115..
Stone 2nd XI 98 Painswick 2nd XI 139.
Sat 21st July. All matches cancelled.
Tue 24th July. Painswick CC 100. Towcestersians CC 101-6.
Sat 28th July. Painswick 1st XI 160 Dumbleton 1st XI 178.
Dumbleton 2nd XI 187-7 Painswick 2nd XI 177.

Fixtures

Sat 4 Aug. Painswick 1st XI v Stroud 1st XI. Stroud 2nd XI v Painswick 2nd XI
Painswick 3rd XI v Woodchester 2nd XI.
Sun 5 Aug. Painswick v Cheltenham Civil Service.
Sat 11 Aug. Bredon 1st XI v Painswick 1st XI. Painswick 2nd XI v Bredon 2nd XI.
Painswick 3rd XI v Frampton 3rd XI.
Sun 12 Aug. Painswick v Frocester.
Sat 18 Aug. Woodmancote 1st XI v Painswick 1st XI. Painswick 2nd XI v Woodmancote 2nd XI.
Uley 2nd XI v Painswick 3rd XI.
Sat 25 Aug. Kingsholm 1st XI v Painswick 1st XI. Painswick 2nd XI v Kingsholm 2nd XI.
Sun 26 Aug. Painswick v Gloucester Badgers.

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Painswick Hotel regenerates as Cotswolds88!

At last, at last – the former Painswick Hotel opens to the public on 2 August after months of feverish activity behind its closed doors. But, believe me, it has been worth the wait. Vision and sheer hard work have breathed new life into this lovely building and the transformation is breathtaking.

Re-named Cotswolds88hotel, it has leapt into the 21st century with great style and panache. Marchella De Angelis has cleverly created a beautiful combination of classical, traditional, modern, funky and fun elements. The result is real harmony and beauty. The architecture of this lovely 18th century building, once the vicarage, is the essence, the core, of Marchella's design. The building has not been changed but its interior has acquired style.

The 19 rooms are all luxuriously and beautifully appointed and command stunning views across the valley. Each room in the main house has its own theme/design with limited edition wallpaper, Jacuzzi bath and deluxe steam shower. The wow factor is everywhere in abundance.

The art work of David Hiscock, renowned photo artist, is present throughout the hotel and reflects in abstract form the exterior grounds. Art work is featured everywhere, some of it specially commissioned and some retrieved and rediscovered from a range



of sources. It will amuse, stimulate, provoke, impress. Above all, it is interesting.

The gardens too have been lovingly restored and Marchella explains that they will be very much a feature of hotel activity. They have been reclaimed to reveal the original foundations.

There is a small spa facility and a range of holistic treatments is offered. The hotel is licensed for civil weddings and will also organize a complete wedding day service. A small but state-of-the-art conference room is available. There will be a programme of events from Feng Shui to nutrition courses. The hotel even has its own signature fragrance, a perfume created exclusively for guests.

The ground floor is occupied in its entirety by the stunning restaurant and bar. The restaurant offers a healthy and mostly organic menu. The food will be locally sourced as far as possible and this is important to Marchella who is keen to highlight good local produce. She is very pleased to have



Amanda Kellar as chef, coming as she does from a top London hotel. These facilities are, of course, open to the public and whether it's a superb lunch or evening meal or a traditional afternoon tea you fancy, you are very welcome.

And what of Marchella? Born in Malaysia, she came to the UK at the age of twelve and is an interior designer by profession. Her career has been based in London but now she has fallen in love with our hotel. "I never fail to be bewildered by it," she says. Never afraid to roll up her own sleeves she has put her "heart, soul and guts" into what has been months of very hard work. "It is a privilege to be able to boast a successful venture in a magical village." She is very enthusiastic about promoting what she regards as the undiscovered spiritual beauty of the valley and this enthusiasm has not waned even after all the hard work. "We should be proud of our heritage, but not leave it in cobwebs. We should show it in its full glory." And to that end, this dynamic, feisty lady, brimming over with positive energy, has created something luxurious, provocative, serene and unexpected. We now have a very stylish hotel of which we can be proud.



Carol Maxwell

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Coaches to Bath and London

A provisional booking has been made for a coach to Bath on Wednesday 19th September. Outward journey is 10.00am from Stamages Car Park and homeward from Bath at 5.00pm.

Fare £10.00. Seats should be booked by cash (or cheque payable to Painswick L&B Outings) with Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, Painswick GL6 6XH. Enquiries to Joan Truman on 813965 or Pauline Berry on 813227.



A coach to London is planned for 17th October. Further details will be given in the September issue of the Beacon.

Joan Truman



Probus

The Probus visit to 'The SS Great Britain' at Bristol is now arranged for Wednesday 24th October 2007



Ian Eastwood



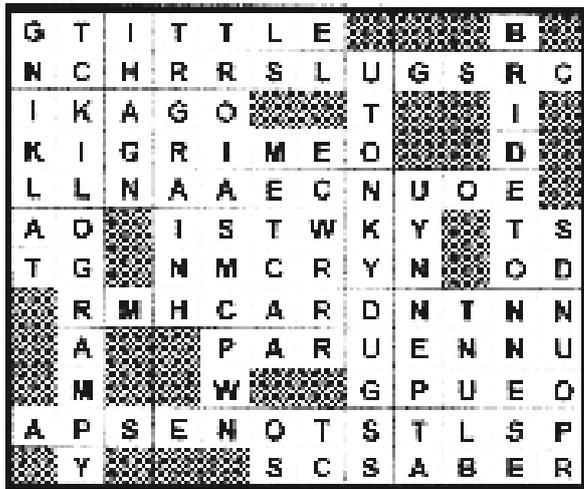
Cranham Feast

Come along and enjoy the famous tradition of the Cranham Feast on Saturday 11th August:

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WORDSEARCH

This month we thought we would give you a weighty problem to solve: can you find 13 units of weight in the grid?



Last month's 17 units of linear measure were:
CENTIMETER, DECIMETER, FATHOM, FOOT, FURLONG, HAND, INCH, KILOMETER, LEAGUE, LINK, METER, MILE, PERCH, POLE, ROD, SPAN, YARD

ArchiTecs

This month we are focussing upon the silhouette pictured left, which is just one part of an object, viewed from the north.

Last month's test was of the lower wrought iron work of the Village Stocks, pictured below.



Local History Teaser

What a fine old Painswick scene ... or is it? Take a closer look. Where was this picture taken in Painswick, what was the occasion and when did it take place? Can you name the lady and gentleman?

Answer in next month's Beacon.

Last month's picture, taken about 1950, was of a truly agricultural scene the like of which we no longer encounter. It shows Ted Wheeler of Park Farm, Paganhill, whose ricks of corn had been threshed by Brunsdons of Ryeford. As for the site, it has changed beyond recognition, now occupied by Archway School with Paganhill Estate to the right and Farmhill Crescent above. Others present in the photograph are Ray Griffiths and Stanley Robinson from Stockend, Albert Weaver from Ruscombe

Farm and Roy Dean, cowman, pigman and Painswick postman. Many thanks to Paul Griffiths for this splendid picture.

If you have a photograph which you think might pose a challenge to readers we would love to hear from you.

Carol Maxwell

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OFSTED Praise for The Croft

Head Teacher, Janet Hoyle, reports that staff and governors are delighted that in its recent Ofsted inspection the school was recognised as good in every aspect of the inspection. A few days after the inspection on 26th June, the school received the results of the KS2 SATs tests. For the first time ever the school achieved 100% level 4+ in every subject, English, Maths and Science, with over half of the children achieving Level 5 in every subject.

'Teachers make lessons fun!'

The inspection report, published on 11th July, commented:

'Good leadership and management are at the heart of the school's success. Despite a track record of consistently high standards in recent years, the school is not complacent. This is shown in its desire to drive up standards further. The school has correctly identified and prioritised areas for improvement such as pupils' skills in writing. Governance is good, with governors being supportive of the school. Achievement is good through the school and, by the end of Year 6, most pupils reach standards in English, mathematics and science that are well above average.'

The report also found that teacher/pupil relationships were very good and lead to classrooms being calm and friendly places in which to work. Teaching assistants gave valuable support to all pupils. As one pupil said, 'Teachers make lessons fun.'

Other positive comments concerned the curriculum (well planned with a good balance between academic development and improving their creative talents, the high take-up of extra-curricular sporting and other activities, pupils' personal development and evidence of very strong pastoral support and care for pupils. The report commented, 'Pupils grow in confidence and maturity as they pass through the school and are well prepared for their future lives. The care, guidance and support of pupils are good. Pupils say they feel safe and secure in school and are looked after well by adults. There are strong links with outside agencies to provide extra support for pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.'

Parents also got ten out of ten for their support of the school and were judged to be rightly proud of its performance. One parental comment captured the views of many: 'There is a well balanced combination of good teaching, underlying discipline and real kindness, coupled with the nurturing of the individual needs of every child.'

The full report is available on the school's website: www.croft.gloucs.sch.uk

Builders after Robin Hood

The school ended the year on a high. The exciting end of year show 'Robin Hood' packed in a full very appreciative capacity audience on both evenings.

As soon as Ofsted departed, builders moved in. A classroom is being extended to provide a new larger room for our youngest class, with an enclosed outdoor classroom area. Most other classrooms are being moved around too, but the hard work of the staff team is meaning that it is all pulling together wonderfully. Janet says, 'I am so proud of the school, our pupils, staff, parents and

Playgroup parties hard

As the term ends in a flurry of parties, trips and frantic fond farewells we take this opportunity to remind ourselves of a year gone by. New faces, pantomime trips, nativity and carols, sledging, Mother's Day cards, Easter, making friends (children and parents), playing on bikes, Fathers Day cards, snack time, sponsored welly walks, duck racing, face painting, trips to Painswick fire station and Cotswold Wildlife Park and a teddy bears picnic. How busy the life of a three year old can be!

We thank the staff, Beaty, Sharron, Sarah and Caroline whose welcoming smiles, nurturing approach and sense of fun has made our children's year very special and helped them prepare as they approach their first days in 'big' school. And we recognise the dedication of Chairperson Jo Weatherall who as a volunteer has worked tirelessly to improve the standards for our children who attend the playgroup with support from Linda, Kim and many other mums and dads too numerous to mention.

It is always sad to say goodbye and pictured here are the 'class of 2007' who are moving on to The Croft, Cranham and other local schools. But also to say welcome to all the children either returning to Playgroup after the holidays or starting for the first time, you will have the most wonderful time.

Emma Bradshaw



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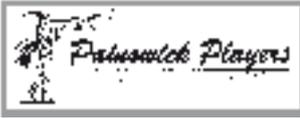
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Painswick Panto goes Polish

Polish Painswickian émigré, Benedict Kolczynski reports the Polish premiere of Jack Burgess's panto *The Dragon's Tale*, originally performed by the Painswick Players in 2002.

How, readers may ask, does a panto from Painswick come to be performed in Poland? Well, in 2004, Benedict and his wife Marta moved from Painswick to Poland's north-eastern region of Warmia-Mazury, where they are now lecturers in English language and British area studies at the Foreign Language Teachers' College in the Mazurian town of Szczytno. (No, we don't know how it's pronounced, either, but it must be worth a bit in Scrabble! – Editor)

Having been an active member of the Painswick Players, and being well aware of the value of theatre in language teaching, Benedict decided to introduce English-language drama workshops as an extra-curricular activity for the students. They started in a small way, with the students writing and performing their own material at a foreign language drama festival, and this academic year decided on a major production.

"We chose *The Dragon's Tale* because it would involve plenty of people and also because the theme of dragon-slaying is well known in Polish mythology," explained Benedict. "Every schoolchild knows the story of King Krak (founder of the city of Kraków) under whose rule a wily shoemaker slew a troublesome dragon."

He said that to make the play more accessible to a Polish audience, some of the place and character names had to be adapted. Thus, the thoroughly Painswickian King Smead in the original became King Krakers (as in biscuits), Prince Lustin became Prince Polo (a type of Polish chocolate wafer) and Princess Fenella became Princess Jogobella (a brand of yoghurt).

The cast were mainly first- and second-year students from the English department. For them the main challenge, apart from learning their parts in a foreign language, lay in clear enunciation and appropriate intonation. The audience consisted of College students and staff, plus learners and teachers of English from schools in the town and beyond.

The College Principal was delighted by the production and declared it to have been "phenomenal". It had also proved a good way of integrating students from different years and revealed a lot of unsuspected acting talent and commitment among them.

Painswick Players AGM

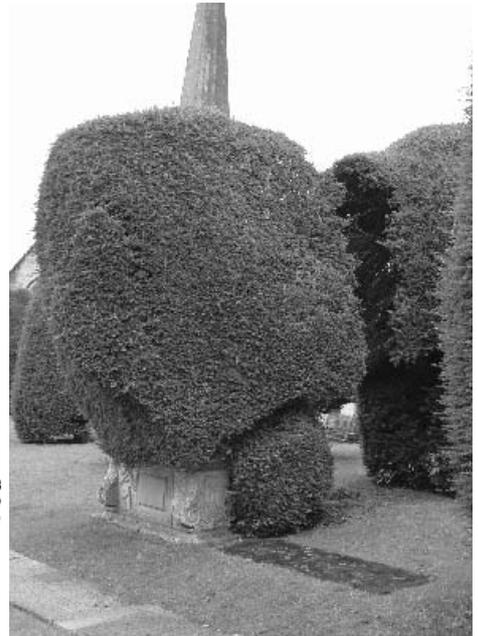
Coming closer to home, that ever popular drama, *The Painswick Players AGM*, will take place on Wednesday 12th September at the Painswick Centre, Cotswold Room at 8.00pm. Rumours are rife of dastardly plots, palace revolutions, plotting in dark corners, ie the usual dramatic stuff of which AmDram AGMs are made. There is even rumour this year that free WATER might be available on the night! Unmissable.

And then there were 98...?

In a clear sign that not all is well in the world, one of our 99 famous yew trees has toppled over.

Sometime during the night of Sunday 22nd July (it really ought to be on the stroke of midnight to do this story full justice), one of five interlinked yews, which form a series of arches close to the St Mary's Street entrance to the churchyard, collapsed. Actually, being a dignified yew of advanced years, it didn't so much collapse as gracefully subside and drape itself over a conveniently adjacent tombstone, where it came to rest at a jaunty angle, roots clearly visible at ground level.

So, can this venerable yew be coaxed back to the vertical and saved? Or is this evidence that Infernal Forces are afoot? Was this really the doomed 100th yew of legend, whose diabolical fate had been somewhat delayed owing to a hellishly overloaded workschedule?



CTAP rescheduled Retreat Day

10am-4pm Thursday 30th August 2007

at Rodborough Tabernacle

How about putting aside a few hours for reflection, consideration and sharing of views just before the busy Autumn season of regular commitments starts again?

Take time out overlooking another of our lovely local Cotswold valleys on the edge of Rodborough Common, or seek God's guidance for His people in our community in the small peaceful chapel which adjoins the Tabernacle. Rev Heather Whyte of Christ Church will lead us in our thoughts on what it means to be Churches together around Painswick both now and into the future.

The day will begin and end with worship together and a light lunch will be provided. The cost for the day is £5 person. More information from leaflets in the churches and by calling CTAP Secretary Rita Bishop on 814205. Please let us know you're coming – we look forward to seeing you!



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Letters

The inclusion of letters in these columns does not imply that the Beacon committee endorses the views expressed.

The Falcon

From Peggy Bradshaw, Ashwell House:
I read Carol Maxwell's glowing report re the Painswick Hotel which was interesting but how about a few lines about the Falcon Hotel which is used by most of Painswick's residents, young or old, everyday? The new owners have made a real difference to the outside approach to the Ostlers Bar with the window boxes and various planters.

They are so welcoming and their staff are so pleasant and willing and make one very welcome. They deserve some mention and praise, don't they?

Flooding calls for bright sparks

From David Allott, Stamages Lane:

Torrential rain has again brought floods, mud and misery to properties in Painswick, especially the old mills along the Painswick stream. Pundits predict that such 'extreme weather events' will occur more often, so we may need a large pipe to convey the excess water safely away? Hopefully it will not be a hideous concrete channel but a hidden pipe with inconspicuous entry spillways. Could the readers with expertise in electricity generation advise whether some of the regular flow (and much of the irregular) could be used in electricity generating turbines that would support Painswick and the National Grid. Or am I just pipe dreaming?

Royal Mail - third class?

From Leslie Brotherton, Edge Lane:

With our daughter celebrating her 50th birthday on the same day - a Tuesday - as her son's 21st, we were very keen to ensure that our cards arrived on time. On the understanding that 98% of First Class mail reaches its destination the following 'working' day, we posted both First Class on the Saturday morning prior to the Tuesday at Salmon Springs, in time for the Saturday collection.

Imagine our disappointment - and that of our daughter and grandson - when neither card arrived in time.

I telephoned Royal Mail customer services, where my complaint was listened to (seemingly) attentively before being told, "We only do our best to deliver First Class mail within *three* working days. So, there is a good chance of your cards arriving by Thursday!"

Such is the Royal Mail's definition of First Class...

PROPERTY REPORT for August from Hamptons

The summer months have arrived without the nice weather and another increase in interest rates! This has dampened the spirits of buyers making them more cautious about paying over the odds for a property, however there is still a shortage of property in all price ranges so properties are selling well. Some of you may have noticed a bubbly new recruit to our team in the Painswick office. Naomi Witcher has joined us as senior negotiator from a London estate agency where she was Manager. She has many years experience of agency and complements our team well to create an enthusiastic and competitive office of five sales negotiators.

The national i-click photographic competition organised by Hamptons was very well received by local schools and we had a number of entrants from both the Sheepscombe and Painswick Primary schools. Amelia Stone from the Croft school won for our Painswick office and Lucien Walters from Minchinhampton Primary won for the Stroud Office both with fabulous photographs. These two children then went up to our Head office in London for the national final and Lucien Walters went on to win the national competition! Well done to all the children who took part.

Hamptons are again proud to sponsor the British Festival of Eventing held at Gatcombe Park on Saturday/Sunday 4/5th August. It is well worth a visit as a family day out with many attractions such as the Gus Dermond Sheep Dog Display and the Shetland Pony Grand National as well as numerous trade stands. Discounted tickets are available on our website www.hamptons.co.uk and please do come and have a drink on our hospitality stand.



Finally, Hamptons are committed to raising large amounts of money for the Princes Trust. Therefore the Painswick team have decided to bake lots of cakes and put on a coffee morning in aid of this charity on Thursday September 27th from 10.00am - 12.00 noon. Please do come into our office and help us raise some money for this good cause.

New instructions include: The Cloth Hall (now under offer), 14 Gyde House: a contemporary apartment, Darkest Peru on Kingsmill Lane: a beautifully refurbished 4 bed property. Kingsmill Lane cottage: a detached 3 bed cottage, Vanbarr in Longridge: a 5 bed family house in 3/4 acre, Marlowe in Edge: a detached family home in 1/2 acre, Coomb House, Friday Street: a mid-terrace 4 bed house with a pretty garden, 2 Lady Down Close and Bowden Hall Farmhouse in Upton St Leonards; Danum Cottage, Chosen Hill: a rural retreat; and Birdlip Farmhouse: a lovely period house in the heart of the Birdlip.

Sold properties are The Tythe Barn at Sheepscombe, Three Owls in Blakewell Mead, Hay Cottage on Vicarage street, Greystoke on Kingsmill Lane and Marden Cottage in Upton St Leonards.

Please do contact me if you would like a free market appraisal on 812354.

Miranda Harding, Branch Manager

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AUGUST

Tue	7	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) Yoga: Beginners welcome – Tuesdays - contact Emma 01453 840395	Christ Church Hall Town Hall	9.30 to 12.00noon 10.00 to 1.15am
Wed	8	Bingo: Wednesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139	Painswick Centre	7.30 to 10.00pm
Thu	9	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners Experienced beginners – Thursdays	Town Hall Town Hall	12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
Fri	10	Country Market with coffee available	Town Hall	10.00am
Sat	11	Country Studio Art Exhibition – daily until 18th	Town Hall	10.00am to 5.00pm
Fri	17	Painswick Country Market Celebrating 50 years	Town Hall	10.00am as usual
Sat	18	Copy dateline for August Beacon		
Sat	25	Cream Teas	Christ Church Hall	2.00 to 5.00pm
Thu	30	CTAP Away-day. £5 incl. lunch. Details to follow	Rodborough Tabernacle	10.00am to 4.00pm

SEPTEMBER

Sat	1	September Issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
Wed	5	Probus: The Silent Service - Mr J Yates Women's Fellowship: Opening service	Shire Rooms, Falcon Friends Meeting House	10.00am 7.30pm
Fri	7	Friday Club: Canine Partners	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	8	Horticultural Society Annual Show	Painswick Centre	2.30pm to 5.30pm
Wed	12	Painswick Players AGM (Cotswold Room)	Painswick Centre	8.00pm
Thu	13	Tea Dances – Thursdays	Painswick Centre	2.30 to 4.30pm
Tue	18	Local History Society: Men Behaving Badly - Ian Mackintosh	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	19	Tying the knot – Life in a Register Office – Mr R Nott Coach to Bath, £10. Enquiries 813965 / 813227 Women's Fellowship: AGM	Shire Rooms, Falcon Stamages Car Park Christ Church Hall	10.00am 10.00am 7.30pm
Fri	21	Friday Club: Where paths met – Pat Daly Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	Town Hall The Falcon	2.30pm 6.30pm
Tue	25	Yew Trees WI: Victorian Stroud – Howard Beard	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	26	Probus trip to SS Great Britain	tba	

OCTOBER

Wed	3	Probus: Changes in China – Mr M Gemmill Women's Fellowship: Recipe Ideas – Heather Whyte	Shire Rooms, Falcon Christ Church Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Fri	5	Friday Club: outing 'Autumn Colours – apple shopping	tba	
Sun	7	Concert by Voskresenije (Resurrection) Choir, St Petersburg. Return visit	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
Tue	9	Bird Club: Illustrated talk: Natural history & conservation of British owls – Chris Sperring MBE – TV presenter	Town Hall	7.30pm
Tue	16	Local History Society: Heritage Protection – effects of new legislation: Deborah Porter, English Heritage	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	17	Probus: Roman Woodchester – Rev John Cull Women's Fellowship Lunch Theatre Club outing to Malvern	Shire Rooms, Falcon Painswick Golf Club The Falcon	10.00am 12.30pm 1.00pm
Fri	19	Friday Club: World Authority on Handcuffs: Alex Nicholls	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	23	Yew Trees WI: Bess of Hardwicke – Gillian White	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	27	Concert by Amorata	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Wed	31	Probus: Robbie Burns & Tam O'Shanter – Mr I Willox Women's Fellowship: Whiteway Colony – Joy Thacker	Shire Rooms, Falcon Christ Church Hall	10.00am 7.30pm

NOVEMBER

Fri	2	Friday Club: AGM and Talk - Experiences of a Town Crier	Town Hall	1.45pm
Sat	10	Sue Ryder Care Coffee Morning	Town Hall	9.45am to 12 noon
Tue	13	Bird Club: Gardening for Wildlife – Helen Williams ARPS - Cards and pictures for sale.	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	14	Probus: Early Ships – Mr Bill Cowie Women's Fellowship: Scrap Booking – Lindsey Davis CTAP AGM	Shire Rooms, Falcon Christ Church Hall Church Rooms	10.00am 7.30pm 7.30pm
Fri	16	Friday Club: outing Filkins Cloth Mill and Burford Garden.. Centre	tba	
Sat	17	Christian Aid Coffee Morning (note amended date)	Town Hall	10.00am to 12noon



Sat	17	Painswick Singers: Trial by Jury (G&S operetta) and other musical items	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Tue	20	Local History Society: Aviation history in the Cotswolds - Graham Pitchfork	Croft School	7.30pm
Sat	24	St Mary's Church Annual Bazaar	Church Rooms	11.00am to 2.00pm
Tue	27	Yew Trees WI: Annual Meeting and talk on Rococo Gardens – Paul Moir	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	28	Probus: Christmas Lunch		
		Women's Fellowship social evening, bring & share supper	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Fri	30	Friday Club: 100 years of life in Painswick; David Archard	Town Hall	2.30pm

DECEMBER

Wed	5	Theatre Club outing to Bath	The Falcon	10.30am
Fri	7	Friday Club: Handbell Ringing – Steve Coleman	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	11	Yew Trees WI: Spicecraft – Katherine Kear	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	12	Probus: Malvern Chase & Battle of Tewkesbury - Mr Bill Gregory	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
		Women's Fellowship Carol Service	Ashwell House	7.30pm
Fri	14	Friday Club: Christmas Lunch		

2008

JANUARY

Wed	9	Probus: Cotswold Canals – Bruce Hall	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Tue	15	Local History Society: A Briggs / Archard production!	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	23	Probus: Building a Medieval Cathedral – Peter Petrie	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am

FEBRUARY

Wed	6	Probus: Air Force Blunders – Norman Brown	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Tue	19	Bird Club: Wildlife encounters in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean – Dr Richard Sale	Town Hall	2.15pm
		Local History Society: Local properties and the work of the National Trust – Paul Rutter	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	20	Probus: More about Wine – John Storer	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am

MARCH

Wed	5	Probus: Architecture of the Mogul Empire – L. Dalton	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Tue	11	Bird Club: Birds of Australia: Ged Cassell & AGM	Town Hall	7.30pm
Tue	18	Local History Society: The Railway that Never Was - Jill Simmons	Croft School	7.30pm

APRIL

Tue	15	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
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MAY

Tue	20	Local History Society: Annual Outing	Croft School	7.30pm
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JUNE

Tue	17	Local History Society: AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
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Please help us help you by letting us have copy of complete programmes of meetings, or single events, as soon as they are known. In this way our forward listing of them all can be of maximum assistance to organisers anxious to avoid clashes of dates. Thank you.

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NEW APPLICATIONS

BARN AT STEANBRIDGE LANE, SLAD. Conversion of barn to holiday let accommodation. (Resubmission following Refusal 06/3030/COU)

1 WORDINGS MOUNT, SHEEPS-COMBE. Kitchen extension to dwelling & pitched roof to garden shed.

HAZEL MILL, SLAD ROAD. Alterations to single storey utility wing to form kitchen, and alterations to bathroom.

APRIL COTTAGE, CLATTERGROVE. Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic.

DAMSELLS MEWS. Erection of coach house.

HILLVIEW, VICARAGE STREET. Proposed demolition of retaining wall within an existing outbuilding and alterations to form a home office & loft store.

LABURNUM COTTAGE, SHEEPS-COMBE. Variation of conditions 4, 5, 6 & 7 of approved application 07/0278/FUL.

TOCKNELLS COURT, CHELTENHAM ROAD. Conversion of outbuilding to boiler house and fuel store.

WASHBROOK MILL, EDGE ROAD, EDGE. 2 storey and single storey extensions.

VERLANDS, VICARAGE STREET. Demolition of existing conservatory & garages and erection of new single storey garden room, garages & carport including alterations & conversion of flat roof to pitched.

REVISED PLAN

1 WORDINGS MOUNT, SHEEPS-COMBE. Kitchen extension to dwelling & pitched roof to garden shed.

Main changes: Corrected Block Plan, Ownership Certificate and full elevations of the existing shed & proposed shed.

CONSENT

BAYTREE HOUSE, 4 STAMAGES LANE. Erection of a conservatory

THE COVERT, SLAD. Erection of a single storey extension.

WYCHWOOD, THE HIGHLANDS. Erection of a single storey timber framed orangery.

BRAESIDE, CHELTENHAM ROAD. Proposed loft conversion.

HAZEL MILL, SLAD ROAD, SLAD WARD. Proposed new parking area and access.

HILLVIEW, VICARAGE STREET. Reconstruction of stone retaining wall.

GREENBANK, THE GREEN, EDGE. Increase depth of porch to create new bedroom & window. Change doorway to window. Resubmission of 06/1922/FUL.

REFUSAL

JENKINS FARM, JENKINS LANE, EDGE. Erection of an extension.

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Locations of bowser are published on the Severn Trent website: www.stwater.co.uk and on Radio Gloucester's website: www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire.

As we went to press, confirmed bowser locations in Painswick were:

- near reservoir Golf Club, Golf Course Rd
- Stamages Lane Car Park,
- Croft School, Churchill Way
- St Marys Church, Victoria St
- Bus stop opposite Falcon, New Street
- The Highlands

and elsewhere locally:

- The Village Hall, Cranham
- The Church, Edge
- Butchers Arms, Sheepscombe
- Woolpack Inn, Slad

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Dangerous stuff, water!

Gloucestershire Primary Health Care Trust have drawn up the following advice for surviving the flooding and the lack of mains water:

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- Avoid using water for anything that is non-vital. Prioritise your usage so that the water you have is used is not wasted. Having water for drinking and cooking is probably more important than having water for washing or cleaning
- Use bottled water or boiled bowser water for drinking, brushing teeth, washing food, cooking and making ice
- For those with babies and small infants: if mixing formula milk, use bowser or bottled water after it has been brought to the boil and cooled. Alternatively, use ready made formula milk
- Flush toilets only for faecal waste. You do not need to flush after urinating
- Previously used water, for example, that from washing, bathing, or cooking can be used to flush toilets. You can also use rainwater (for example, from rainwater butts) to flush toilets. NB rainwater is never suitable for drinking as it may have been contaminated
- If the water company has advised that the domestic water supply is unsafe for drinking it is inadvisable to use this for bathing babies – bowser water or bottled water are safe alternatives
- Baby wipes and antibacterial sprays are a practical alternative to bathing for babies, small children and adults
- People are reminded to keep away from flood water – and children should not play in it. If you have to go into flood wear suitable protection like wellington boots
- Further general health advice in relation to flooding is available on the Health Protection Agency's website www.hpa.org.uk/flooding or contact NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or visit their website www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Plastic Water Bottles recycling

The nearest site for the collection of empty plastic water bottles is Tescos at Stratford Road. The Parish Council has asked the District Council if it will provide a receptacle locally. Further details will be published on Parish Council notice boards.

Roy Balgobin, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to CLARE and LACHLAN BOWER on the birth of their son, Finlay Jack, on 17th July, a brother for Bella and a 14th grandchild for Jane and Jim Hoyland;

also to BOB SHEA JR. and his wife, KIM on the birth of a son, Kael, a brother for Kelsey and Mitchell, and a fifth grandchild for Bob and Marg Shea, who are due to move back to Painswick in September.

Engagements

Congratulations to LOIS KING of Ashwell and DANIEL THOMAS of Chepstow, who announced their engagement recently;

also to GEMMA TOCKNELL and ROGER STANDEN who announced their engagement on 7th July;

also ROGER and VIV BARRETT of Paul Mead, Edge, are pleased to announce the engagement of their son ANDREW to KATIE, daughter of DAVID and MARAID COLLINS of Leicester;

and BRIAN and CAROLYN MUSTY of the Park are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, KATE to BEN, son of Pauline and the late SIMON BEAMISH of Charlton Kings.

Weddings

Congratulations to REBECCA SWANN and DAVID BROWN who were married on 14th July at St John's, Sheepscombe;

also to SIAN DOBSON and JAMIE WYNNE-MORGAN, who were married at St Mary's, Painswick on 14th July;

also to NABEEL SALAMA and HANNAH ROBERTS, who were married at St James, Cranham on 21st July;

Personal Messages

Elizabeth Webster

Elizabeth Webster, a well-known and much-loved local figure, died on 15 June at Gloucester Royal Hospital aged 88 years. She was author of 17 novels, many also published as condensed books by The Readers Digest. She was founder of The Young Arts Centre, Cheltenham (which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary), teacher at Pates Junior, Cheltenham, notable music critic and talented composer. She lived in Painswick for forty-seven years and is survived by three children, twelve grandchildren and six great grandchildren. The funeral was held at St Mary's Church, Painswick on 26th June. Her prodigious energy and lively, engaging personality were an inspiration to many local people and will be sorely missed.



Croft School, 1987 vintage

BEN HINES would be glad to hear from pupils of Croft School who left in 1987, interested in a reunion. Call on 07989-987642.

Ashwell says thanks...

On behalf of the residents of Ashwell House, Michelle Elliott would like to say a big 'thank you' to the many people who offered their help during the current water shortage. Fortunately Stroud District Council arranged for bottled water and containers of water to be delivered before the water was cut off, so they were fully prepared.

...as do Jack and Rose Smith

- who have been overwhelmed by the kindness of the people of Painswick who have phoned or called to see if they had water. "It has been fantastic all the help offered over what has been an unusual event and the interruption of our daily lives. We will now always appreciate just being able to turn a tap on and get water, not to take it so much for granted. Many thanks."

also to CAROLINE SAMSON and JAMES AMATT, who were married at St Mary's, Painswick on 21st July;

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to ARTHUR and KATH PERRINS, who were married 50 years ago on 10th August.

Welcome

We would like to welcome JULIA and ENRICO VERDECCIA, who have moved into Fairlings, Castle Hale.

Farewell

We bid farewell to AUDREY MORELAND, who has moved to Cirencester.

Get well soon

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to LYN STEER, JULIAN REED and TED BURGE.

Congratulations

Well done to RACHEL VARAH, who graduated from Liverpool University with a Degree in Nursing in July. Rachel is Phyl and Bill Varah's eldest grandchild;

also to GRAHAM WARNABY on achieving an MBA with Merit from Bristol Business School. Graham is the son of Lisa and Alex Warnaby.

'Gee', we're sorry!

Our apologies to PAUL and CLARE RANDERSON, recently moved to Gyde House from Bristol, whom we mistakenly welcomed last month as PAUL and CLARE RANGERSON.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication date

SATURDAY

1st SEPTEMBER

Dateline for all copy

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SATURDAY 18th AUGUST

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Rachel Taylor 813402

Diary

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Charles Dorman 814548

Sport

Terry Parker 812191

Rachel Taylor welcomes information for the Personal Column. Space limitations permit only a small amount of text and your assistance in this regard is helpful.