

The Personal Column

Weddings

Best wishes to DANIEL SMITH and JO COOK who are getting married at St.Mary's Painswick on 26th May at 1.00pm,
also to SIMON BRAZIER and HELEN BOYDELL also marrying at St.Mary's on the 26th but at 3.30pm
and ANDREW GRAHAM and ALEXANDRA LOCKHEAD marrying at St.James the Great in Cranham at 11.00am on 26th May. (Is there something we don't know about the 26th?)

Engagement

Congratulations to James Pockett of Cranham and Nicola Dolling of Naphill, Bucks who announced their engagement on April 26th.

90th Birthday

Belated birthday wishes to JOAN WOOD who was 90 on 7th April.

Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to DOREEN BIRT, CICELY BOREHAM and JULIAN REED.

Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of RUBY MORRIS and BERYL GYDE who died recently.

Change of house

JOHN McCABE has moved from 9 Berry Close to 15 Ashwell House

Welcome

We would like to welcome Mr RATCLIFFE to The Old Police House in Pullens Road,
also Mr and Mrs CORONATO to Mirador, Cheltenham Road,
also Mrs DRISCOLL to 9 Brookhouse Mill,
and Mr and Mrs ROWLANDS to The Barn, Washwell,
and to Mr COXON and Miss MARRIOT to Longstones, Pitchcombe.

Farewell

Best wishes for the future to Mrs COOPER who has moved from St.Mary's Mead,
also Mr and Mrs LYONS from Mirador in Cheltenham Road,
and CAROL KEYES from The Barn, Washwell.

Personal messages

Graham Gyde has been in touch to say that Beryl Gyde passed away peacefully on Saturday 21st April at Northfield Residential Home in Stroud. My mother lived in Painswick for over 50 years from 1954 until 2005.

Been there - seen that

The Beacon occasionally receives photographs taken while a reader is touring or on holiday, one which might interest others.

When we have a wee space we might include, if for no other reason than that smiles should be shared.

How about this one taken in the last month "in a visitors car park in the Drakensberg mountains in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa"?



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NEXT ISSUE

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preferably original at 600dpi in JPEG
Hard copy preferably typed
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All copy must include
Author, address and contact telephone number

Beacon Committee

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The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

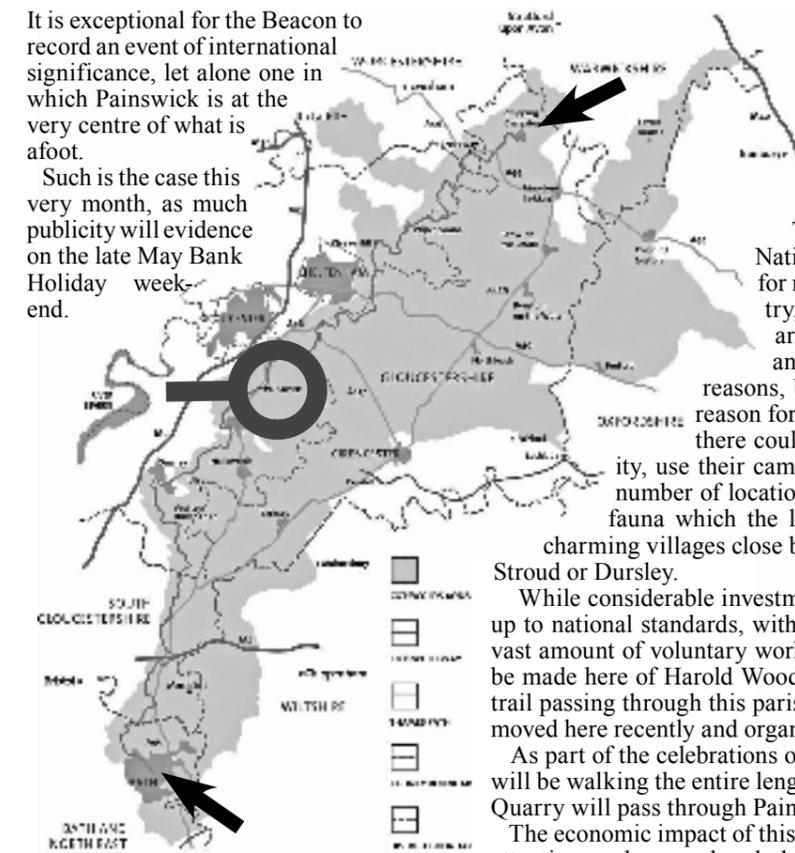
Volume 30 Number 2

May 2007

new National Trail THE COTSWOLD WAY

It is exceptional for the Beacon to record an event of international significance, let alone one in which Painswick is at the very centre of what is afoot.

Such is the case this very month, as much publicity will evidence on the late May Bank Holiday week-end.



Map reproduced by courtesy of the Cotswolds Conservation Board.



The 102-mile Cotswold Way will officially become a National Trail, bringing the total of miles of such routes for ramblers and riders to over 2500 throughout the country, an event to be marked by a number of festivities. We are reminded that more than 40,000 people from near and far access this Cotswold pathway for all sorts of reasons, but with the stunning landscape and views the main reason for all. Those who come from all parts of the world, and there could be many more after this latest and specific publicity, use their cameras to great effect, paint and draw from an infinite number of locations, study or merely admire the exceptional flora and fauna which the local geology and generations of care nurture, visit charming villages close by or the major townships of Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud or Dursley.

While considerable investment has taken place in recent years to bring the route up to national standards, with safety very much in mind, we should not forget the vast amount of voluntary work put in by people in their own locality. Mention can be made here of Harold Wood who has for many years inspected the length of the trail passing through this parish under the title Lengthman, and Royden Hales who moved here recently and organises and leads walks for the Cotswold Wardens.

As part of the celebrations of the official adoption of the Way, Cotswold Wardens will be walking the entire length in relay. The leg from Leonard Stanley to Catbrain Quarry will pass through Painswick on Sunday 20th May.

The economic impact of this publicity and new-found status should not escape our attention, and some already have it in mind. We are, after all, the most significant settlement through which the trail passes - and at the precise centre point.

Witness

Good Friday has again been marked by the Procession of Witness, in which members from all the churches assemble and quietly walk through the centre of the village while remembering the significance of that day over two millennia ago.



On other pages this month: The Library under negotiation, driven barking mad, annual report of the PC, a lot of ado at the Rococo, a wriggly fable from the Croft, ducks away, the wall hangings to relocate awhile, some pups for sale, a fetish for rubber, new book review, new crack-down on parking, Whitehorse rail latest, run up to Christian Aid week, great music.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - by Leslie Brotherton

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.

The meetings were held in the Slad Ward, at Holy Trinity Church, this month in order to take the Council closer to the community it serves. No members of the public attended, however.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Local Development Framework

The Committee took note of the District Council's new Framework document, and compared it with some items it had requested be included.

Upon a request that SDC officers inform the Parish Council of the reasons for making decisions upon planning applications at variance with the opinions of the Parish Council it was noted that such would be forthcoming. A suggestion that planning notices be displayed alongside every property affected, without exception, would not be undertaken on grounds of cost. Where a second set of plans was desired so that the Parish Council always had a set in its office for public scrutiny while the other was in circulation among Parish Councillors; it was pointed out by SDC that copies were freely available to all on their web site.

Light pollution

The committee expressed concern that there were concentrations of seemingly excessive lighting in public places, the area in the vicinity of Ashwell House being mentioned in particular. The Chairman, David Hudson, pointed out that SDC officers intended to take measurements of such within the following few days and may well report on the matter in due course. Members agreed with Peter Rowe's suggestion that there was a need to strike a balance between lighting needs and reduction in CO₂ emissions by over-use, while at the same time meeting the essential needs for security and the health and safety of elderly residents.

Areas of Tranquillity

Chairman David Hudson reported action being taken by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), of which he is Stroud Area Chairman, to secure greater recognition of the significance of preserving areas

of tranquillity in the countryside as well as in urban areas, and that their securing an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons on the subject was regarded as important. The whole of the country has been surveyed by the CPRE and the tranquillity (or lack of it) maps are readily available on the Internet on the CPRE site; the inset here being that for Gloucestershire.

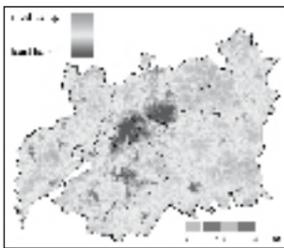
PARISH COUNCIL

Whitehorse Lane - handrail

Not for the first time it can be reported that the SDC have revisited the inclined footpath and steps between Whitehorse Lane and the path alongside Painswick Centre linking to the Recreation Field. It was reported that a handrail along the full length of this pathway will soon be installed.

Policing - including parking

The police representatives attending the Council meeting reported, among other matters, that a scheme to target illegal parking of vehicles was about to be introduced in the Painswick area, this being the first village to feel its impact. Entitled SARA (Searching Analysis Response Assessment) PCSO Linda Dey explained that the police would accumulate information gained first hand by patrolling officers, parking tickets issued, warnings made to drivers, noting indiscriminate parking, and so on. After a few weeks the sum total of this data would be analysed (on the computer, of course) and suggestions made as to how local incidents could be reduced or eliminated by other actions e.g. modification of parking restrictions, maybe suggesting where new restrictions might be appropriate, and so on.



So, some positive action just round the corner.

The Council was informed of a very recent domestic fire which was, fortunately, very quickly

brought under control by the quick reaction of neighbours when a settie was ignited. Had a similar incident have occurred at that particular moment in Vicarage Street the response by the Fire Brigade would have been hampered/delayed by obstructions caused by cars!

Painswick Gateway

The Parish Council had (see report pages 2-3 last month) written to the County Council in support of this project, and seeking formal agreement to their negotiating the sale to independent trustees on behalf of the village. A reply was received that afternoon in which the County Council confirmed its willingness to negotiate in the manner proposed with

independent trustees. Their letter went on to reaffirm the 'continued presence of the library service within the premises' at least until 2009. However the nature and scope of that provision would need to be reviewed/discussed, and that GCC would be unable to meet both rental and running costs.

The Council welcomed this positive response, one upon which the Working Group could also consider its position. If the Group regarded the response as adequate, it would then modify its membership to operate as 'shadow' trustees while negotiations took place and the several other lines of action necessary were pursued. (See also Painswick Gateway report elsewhere in this issue.)

In anticipation of a positive response of this nature the Working Group had written to the Parish Council setting out the key constitutional aims of the intended trustees and inviting it to appoint one of the 'shadow' trustees. The Council decided not to make such an appointment at this stage, pending a more complete understanding of the roles and workload of the trustees. David Hudson, Chairman of the Working Group, had indicated his not wishing to be a trustee; and Peter Rowe, who had been a particularly active member of the Group, felt that such were his other commitments that he too could not accept nomination.

Parish Plan

The Chairman, Terry Parker, reported receipt of useful demographic information from GCC which would be helpful in any updating of the Parish Plan. Four Members agreed to meet to look at the mechanism for updating the Plan; Jackie Woof, Gill Richards, Martin Slinger and Terry Parker.

Council Protocol

It was agreed that protocols within the organisation of the Council were worthy of updating. It was also agreed that in all minutes/documentation elected Members would in future be referred to by their prefix title - e.g. "Councillor Simon Fitzpatrick".



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PLANNING MATTERS A summary of information from the Parish Council.

NEW APPLICATIONS

WICK STREET FARM, WICK STREET Rebuild 2 no. chimneys in stone as exact copies of originals to match existing. (One has been completed satisfactorily.)
LAWN COTTAGE, PAINSWICK COURT, SHEEPSCOMBE Retrospective application for the erection of dog kennel with shed attached.
Telegraph Pole at YOKEHOUSE LANE Installation of an 8m high replica telegraph pole.
BAYTREE HOUSE, 4 STAMAGES LANE Erection of a conservatory.
OAK HOUSE, HAMBUTTS DRIVE. Installation of 3 rooflights.
DAMSELLS FARM Alterations to existing roof & re-roofing works.
ST MICHAEL'S COTTAGE, PARADISE Erection of a two storey extension.
BEARS DEN, CHELTENHAM ROAD Erection of replacement outbuilding.
1 & 2 COURT COTTAGES, BUTT GREEN Division of existing house to form 2 No. two-bed dwellings.
THE LANGET, KEMPS LANE Attic conversion to provide 2 bedrooms & bathroom. Erection of new workshop and garage (Sheds to be demolished).
Stables at JENKINS BARN, JENKINS LANE, EDGE Conversion and change of use of stable to ancillary residential accommodation, part demolition, extension and restoration.
Site for new dwelling adjacent DAMSELLS LODGE Outline application for the erection of a coach house (ancillary occupation to existing dwelling).
Land at rear of GREENAWAY HOUSE, LOWER WASHWELL LANE Reserved matters application for erection of a 1.5 storey detached house and single storey detached garage.

CONSENT

YEW TREE HOUSE, NEW STREET Convert guest annex to a self contained flat.
DAMSELLS FARM, SHEEPSCOMBE LANE, PAINSWICK Refurbishment of ancillary existing building within

the curtilage of the dwelling comprising: re-roofing with stone tiles & conservation rooflights, new hardwood windows & doors, new lath & plaster waterproofed lining internally to walls to create domestic space.
THE OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL, SLAD Erection of 2 storey extension (demolition of existing extension), conversion of roofspace to bedroom/bathroom.
DAMSELLS FARM, SHEEPSCOMBE LANE, PAINSWICK Refurbishment of existing ancillary building for domestic use.
THE LIMES, 6 COURT ORCHARD. Erection of an extension & alterations to dwelling.
10 GLOUCESTER ROAD Erection of a 2 storey extension and replacement garage.
DAMSELLS FARM, SHEEPSCOMBE LANE, PAINSWICK Alterations to roof of farmhouse.
LAMP HOUSE, VICTORIA STREET Re-instatement of house & self contained annexe/flat into single dwelling. Internal alterations & building repairs, insertion of windows.
KENIDJACK, BACK EDGE LANE, EDGE Erection of greenhouse.
ST MICHAEL'S RESTAURANT, VICTORIA STREET Retrospective application for signage at front of building.
LABURNUM COTTAGE, SHEEPSCOMBE Erection of 2 storey extension.
THE OLD HOUSE, SLAD New French doors and wainy-edge timber board cladding to east elevation of old garage, part of existing outbuildings.
THE SCHOOL HOUSE, STROUD ROAD, EDGE Erection of a balcony
BEAMSLEY, CHELTENHAM ROAD Erection of single storey stable block.
GORSELANDS, BACK EDGE LANE, EDGE Re-positioning of glazed screen following permission 06/1853/FUL.
PARK HOUSE, THE PARK 2 storey extension
BLAKEWELL HOUSE, EDGE ROAD Ground & 1st floor extension to provide kitchen and en-suite bathroom.

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Tenerife, Los-Gigantes - Apartment, quiet residential area. Fully equipped, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sleeps four, heated pool, magnificent sea views, sunny terrace all year, satellite TV. £350pw. 813882

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 Dermot Cassidy, 1 Painswick Heights, Yokehouse Lane, GL6 7QS. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to The Painswick Beacon.

STOP PRESS

The Flower Festival planned for July has been postponed until 2008.

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Thu	5	Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Wed	11	Probus: The Magnificent "Seven" – Mr T Picken	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	13	Friday Club: Whiteway Colony – Joy Thacker	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	14	Painswick Companion Dog Show and Charity Fun Day	Recreation Field	From 11.00am
		An Edwardian Evening to Remember	Painswick Centre	7.15 to 11.30pm
Sat	21	Victorian Costume Ball. For info. Tel: 01453 883150	Painswick Centre	8.00 to 11.30pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI: Dundry Nurseries – Chris Evans	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	25	Probus: Ladies Lunch (to be confirmed)		
Thu	26	The Cappella Singers in concert	St. Mary's Church	7.30pm
Fri	27	Friday Club: Working Life on the Severn – Chris Witts	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sun	29	CTAP Cricket Match	Broadham Fields	2.00pm

SEPTEMBER

Wed	5	Probus: The Silent Service - Mr J Yates	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
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	Probus trip to SS Great Britain	tba	
Wed	19	Tying the knot – Life in a Register Office – Mr R Nott	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	21	Friday Club: Where paths met – Pat Daly	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	25	Yew Trees WI: Victorian Stroud – Howard Beard	Town Hall	7.30pm

OCTOBER

Wed	3	Probus: Changes in China – Mr M Gemmil	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	5	Friday Club: outing 'Autumn Colours – apple shopping	tba	
Tue	9	Bird Club: Illustrated talk: Natural history & conservation Of British owls – Chris Sperring MBE – TV presenter	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	17	Probus: Roman Woodchester – Rev John Cull	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
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	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am

NOVEMBER

Fri	2	Friday Club: AGM + Experiences of a Town Crier	Town Hall	1.45pm
Sat	3	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	Town Hall	10.00am to 12noon
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	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	16	Friday Club: outing Filkins Cloth Mill and Burford Garden Centre	tba	
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		
Fri	30	Friday Club: 100 years of life in Painswick; David Archard	Town Hall	2.30pm

DECEMBER

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
Fri	14	Friday Club: Christmas Lunch		

2008

FEBRUARY

Tue	19	Bird Club: Wildlife encounters in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean – Dr Richard Sale	Town Hall	2.15pm
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MARCH

Tue	11	Bird Club: Birds of Australia – Ged Cassell: followed by AGM	Town Hall	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.

Christian Aid Week is 50 years old!

In 1957 £26,000 was raised nationally, this year we hope to make it £15.5 million. Painswick Valley Christian Aid committee is hoping to make this a Golden Year too. We really look forward to the week – 13th to 19th May - it is hard work but a lot of fun and very sociable.

Christian Aid If you have never been to the lunches and shop at Christ Church, Gloucester Street, then this is the year to try it and bring a friend. We always have a fantastic selection of plants, cakes, books, gifts and antiques – all generously donated.

This year we are having a hat stall, (have you got one to offer?), we've been given some beauties! Examples, modelled exclusively for Painswick, already in our safe keeping - ready for the week after next!

The lunches are amazing – here is the choice from Friday last year, all home cooked by our talented chefs:-

**Homemade Tomato Soup and roll
Shepherds Pie
Steak and Kidney Pie
Chicken and Mushroom casserole
Pork and Apples in Cider
Cold Poached Salmon
Vegetarian Lasagne
All main dishes served with new potatoes and vegetables or salad.
Fresh fruit crumble, trifle, treacle tart, chocolate mousse.**

The shop, coffees and lunches are open from 10.00am to 3.00pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 16th to 18th May. Please support us in our efforts; we will be receiving

Christian Aid donated articles at Christ Church on Tuesday 15th from 10.00-12.00am and 2.00-3.00pm. Cakes are welcome any day. Christian Aid is highlighting the need to teach new agricultural methods to take account of climate change, and to plant trees to help slow down the effects of drought. No contribution is too small – we can make a real difference. Thank you in anticipation!

Christian Aid

Liz Davies

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week
Opening Service

Sunday 13th May
6.30pm at St Mary's
speaker Revd. Nigel Graham

Plant emporium

I have agreed to coordinate the plant sale again this year, and request any local gardeners to offer any vegetable, flower or shrub plants. This is a popular sale and I am asking for additional growers in order to maintain our high quality and good value.

I am looking forward to hearing from existing and new growers, together with any offers of help from "sales assistants" *John Todd 812016 jm.todd@tiscali.co.uk*

Thank you!

Painswick Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who supported their Coffee morning on Saturday 31st March.

£302.00 was raised in aid of Stroud and District Mencap Homes Foundation. Many thanks

Gill Gyde

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Town hall on Wednesday 23rd May at 7.30pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

At the meeting, County, District and Parish Councillors will report on the civic year's activities and answer parishioners' questions.



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Cranham Country Show

Cranham Primary School is holding its annual Country show on the afternoon of Saturday 9th June from 2:00pm onwards.

It will take place at the village playing field, situated just behind the church.

There will be plenty to see and do, including:

- The climbing wall
- Pony rides
- Birds of prey display
- Animal corner
- Ferrets
- Country dancing
- Stalls
- Bottle and chocolate tombola

Refreshments will be available.

Entrance £1 for adults and accompanying children free. There will be a 'lucky draw' number on entrance tickets, with a prize for the winning entrant to the show!

So bring along your family and have a fantastic time of fun and entertainment.

For further information, please contact Cranham Primary School on 812660.

Sue Shaw



THE ROCOCO PLAYERS 2007 SUMMER PRODUCTION Much Ado About Nothing

It is 10 years since The Gloucestershire Dramatic Association first performed at the splendid setting of The Rococo Garden in Painswick, and, with the kind permission of the Trustees, the Rococo Players have been proud to continue this tradition.

Much Ado About Nothing was that first production, and we are delighted to be able to reprise this romantic comedy for anyone who has ever been in love.

A 'merry war' between two would-be lovers who won't give in to their feelings for each other. Plots and counter plots, mistaken identities, overheard conversations, all these are here in Shakespeare's popular and evergreen play. Add to this a masked ball and a wedding and the stage is well and truly set for a delicious romantic comedy that is as relevant today as it was in Shakespeare's time.

Written in 1598 this was Charles I's favourite play. He enjoyed the wit and sardonic humour of Beatrice and Benedick, the would-be lovers who just can't admit they are in love despite it being clear to all around them. This is cleverly set against the besotted pair Claudio and Hero. Shakespeare uses each of these relationships to highlight the other. With comic policemen, knockabout comedy and dastardly villains this play has something for everyone.

This year's production will be a grand celebration with a sophisticated party atmosphere. The Rococo Players are pleased that this year's show includes some familiar faces on the local amateur circuit, some of whom were involved with the original production, together with many new faces whom we know will soon feel part of the team.

The production will be on Tuesday 3rd July 2007 to Saturday 7th July 2007 at The Rococo Garden, Painswick and tickets are available by ringing 01452 830958.

Also please check out the website www.rococoplayers.co.uk for more information.

Claire Bridges Production Secretary Rococo Players 01452.712576



Subscriptions 07

We publish the current figures for subscriptions to the Beacon in the form of this chart, most months. It is our hope that you give this a little more than a glance, maybe jogging a few memories to check whether you are one of those who has kindly renewed subscription or started to subscribe this year. Our figures show the corresponding position for last year too.

The opportunity is taken to remind readers that subs can be handed in over the Painswick Post Office counter, where Annie Littler kindly keeps them safe for our collection. If you are keen to post your subscription please remember to put a stamp on the envelope. Several times each year our Subscription Secretary Shirley Clark has to make

a trip to the sorting office at Salmon Springs and part with £1.24 for each un-stamped envelope for the postage and handling charge; all somewhat frustrating, to say the least.

Beacon subscribers

21st April 2007	2007-08	2006-07
New or renewed after lapsing	87	122
Renewed from last year	425	448
Total including postal	512	570
Painswick village dwellings	1057	1057
Subscribing households	371	495
Percentage subscribing	35.5%	47%



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The Painswick Beacon detailed as far as space permits

THE VILLAGE DIARY

MAY

Mon	7	Antiques and Crafts Fair Granny's Attic Sale at The Stone House (page 9)	Painswick Centre St Mary's Street	10.00am to 4.00pm 11.00am to 4.00pm
Tue	8	Probus Westminster Outing Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) Yoga: Beginners welcome - contact 01453 840395	Stamages Car Park Christ Church Hall Town Hall	7.45am 9.30 to 12.00noon 10.00 to 1.15pm
Wed	9	Churches Together around Painswick Retreat Day Bingo: Wednesdays - Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139 Horticultural Society: AGM - followed by Painswick in Bloom - Philip Berry (plant sale)	Rodborough Tabernacle Painswick Centre Town Hall	10.00am to 4.00pm 7.30 to 10.00pm 7.30pm
Thu	10	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners Experienced beginners - Thursdays Tea Dances - Thursdays	Town Hall Town Hall Painswick Centre	12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm 2.30 to 4.30pm
Fri	11	Country Market with coffee available	Town Hall	10.00am
Sat	12	Christian Aid Week begins Horticultural Society: Chairman's Spring Social Event to Buscot Park, supper at Miserden Village Hall Music Society Concert: Rasumovsky Ensemble	dep: Stamages St Mary's Church St Mary's Church	2.30pm 3.00pm 6.30pm
Sun	13	Christian Aid Service: Speaker - Nigel Graham	Christ Church Cranham Village Hall	10.00am & 2.00pm 7.30pm
Tue	15	Receiving goods for Christian Aid Shop (page 3) Music for Fun evening (page 7)	Shire Rooms, Falcon Christ Church Christ Church Hall	10.00am 10.00am to 3.00pm daily
Wed	16	Probus: Early British Computing - Mr M P Coast Christian Aid Shop: Books, Jewellery, Gifts, Hats, Cakes Lunches / Coffee (page 3) also Thursday 17th & Friday 18th	Christ Church Christ Church Hall	10.00am to 3.00pm daily
Fri	18	Friday Club: The History of Tea - Alan Hudson An evening with David Drew MP	Town Hall Town Hall	2.30pm 7.30pm
Sat	19	Copy dateline for June Beacon Concert: Stroud Choral Society	St Mary's Church The Cottage	11.00am to 4.00pm
Sun	20	Garden open and plant sale - £2.00 - Pitchcombe Wildflower walk - Painswick Beacon Conservation Gp Tea and cakes - bring and buy stall (Info. 813687)	Cemetery Car Park Resthaven Home Town Hall	2.30pm 2.00 to 4.00pm 7.30 p.m.
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI: The Village Shop - Marian Beagley	Town Hall	7.30 p.m.
Wed	23	Annual Parish Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	24	Friday Club: Outing to 'Peter Pan on Ice' CTAP: Christian Unity Meeting	Everyman Friends Meeting House	tba 6.30pm
Sat	26	Feast of bell ringing (page 9)	St.Mary's	
Tue	29	Bird Club Field Trip to Cud Hill and Spoonbed	Cud Hill	7.30pm
Wed	30	Probus: How to enjoy a bad memory - Mr A Ward	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am

JUNE

Fri	1	Friday Club: 'Luggage label experiences of an evacuee'	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	2	June Issue of The Painswick Beacon published Daphnis Duo summer soiree (page 13)	St John's Church	7.30pm
Thu	7	Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Sat	9	Cranham Country Show (page 4) Parish Council Footpath Walk (page 12)	Cranham School dep.Stamages car park	2.00pm 6.00pm
Tue	12	Bird Club field trip to Swillbrook Lakes & Nature Reserve	Neigh Bridge car park	10.30am
Wed	13	Probus: Churchill - the last great orator - Mr M Freedman	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	15	Friday Club: Kennet and Avon canal trip		tba
Tue	19	Local History Society: AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
Sun	24	Beacon clear-up	Catbrain Car Park	2.00pm
Tue	26	Yew Trees WI: The work of Rapid UK	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	27	Probus: Wit & Whimsy - Mr M Rafferty	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	29	Friday Club: President's Garden Party Theatre Club outing to Cheltenham Broadham Ball	The Falcon Broadham Field	tba 6.45pm 7.30pm

JULY

Sun	1	Painswick Fete - summer event	Olivers	tba
	3	to 7th Much Ado About Nothing (page 4)	Rococo Garden	



Watch out, there's a . . .

Hanging baskets, troughs and pots filled with flowering plants outside numerous village homes have brought credit to their owners and pleasure to all who see them.



Here is one, in a prominent position, from which every plant was removed one at a time within a day or so of being planted out. A second planting has brought the same result, the first space created being shown here.



Crime figures for March were

Criminal damage 1
Theft from Motor Vehicle 1
Assault 1
Theft 2
Burglary 1
Burglary non-dwelling 1
Other 3
TOTAL 10

Pc 24 Reuben Wyatt Mobile Police Station 07734.068276



Wye Valley birds

Our well-attended meeting in the town Hall on Tuesday 24th April was a real delight. Andy Purcell an enthusiastic naturalist and a keen photographer gave us a memorable presentation of wildlife found along the Wye valley. We saw impressive pictures of many birds and particularly engaging were the baby badgers – our largest wild carnivore!



Poisonous plants

- for good or for bad?

Our April talk proved fascinating and very informative. Plants not only beautify our world, some provide medicines but others are extremely toxic. The seed case of the castor oil plant is deadly poisonous whilst its seed pod gives us castor oil - well known to many of us who endured a daily spoonful in our youth! Michael Leech was a mine of information - all buttercups are poisonous, rhubarb leaves can be composted, but should never be eaten. Elderberries make good wine but don't eat them!

Our AGM is on 9th May at 7.30pm, followed by coffee and biscuits. At 8.15pm Philip Berry will talk about 'Painswick in Bloom'.

We have an excellent programme of outings this year and tickets are selling well. If you want to join us at Tyntesfield, RHS Wisley, Hardwicke Hall, Bristol Botanic Gardens or Buscot Park please ring Gus Gaugain on 812599.

Betty Harris



The next meeting will be a field trip to Wardens Wood, West Down and Cleeve Common; meet at 10.15am - Grid ref. SP010236. Details of this and the whole year's programme can be forwarded; just ring 813094 or 813823. We are always pleased to have visitors.

Watch for posters in the village advertising our meetings.

Joan Cooper

The Working Group set up by the Parish Council to pick up where the Core Group left off last autumn has met for the last time.

As is reported in the Parish Council news (page 2) the County Council has formally agreed to negotiate the sale of its library premises to an independent village trust. Setting up a trust itself takes several weeks and, while this is being formally created, 'shadow' trustees have undertaken to commence the negotiations and undertake the many other tasks requiring attention. There is a complex and indeed formidable range of work to be done, and financial issues too.

In order to focus its work the Group had informed the Parish Council and those others appointing trustees, that it is working with the specific aim set out here and (when revised by those with a legal mind) to be the key section of a trust constitution:

1. Manage, maintain and improve the premises formerly known as Painswick School in Stroud Road Painswick, Gloucestershire, and most recently comprising the Church Rooms of St. Mary's Church together with the library and meeting room of the Gloucestershire County Council, and the curtilages thereof (specified on the plan A attached hereto), and associated premises.

2. In so doing seek to meet the needs of the community of the civil parish of Painswick and the surrounding area for recreation, leisure, educational and religious purposes; and collaborate with others, including those who also maintain public meeting accommodation, in order to most effectively meet public demand and/or generate such demand.

3. Concurrently, through utilization of these premises and other practical means, including commercial enterprises, seek to enhance the economic and social well-being of the community within the village and the surrounding area.

Painswick Gateway

The Working Group has suggested that there five trustees, comprising one each from the Parish Council, Christ Church and St. Mary's Church, and two drawn from a public meeting when a constitution is approved. They will, once that constitution is adopted at a public meeting, and other documentation agreed, be

the custodians of the property and enterprise as an independent body.

At the time of going to press appointments are awaited from the Parish Council, St. Mary's and Christ Church. Two others, Edward Young and Mike Kerton, have agreed to 'shadow' the public nominees. Edward Young has undertaken to be the Chairman. I myself will be standing down.

Leslie Brotherton will, as reported last month, be Manager and the primary point of communications/correspondence. His address is Longhope, Blakewell Mead GL6 6UR; 813101 and mr@lesliebrotherton.com. Outgoing members of the Working Group have volunteered to assist with their expertise and background knowledge, but Leslie will be pleased to hear from any others who can offer specific skills.

Consultation is the 'order of the day' and anyone with a query is urged to make contact. Maybe there are thoughts about these constitutional aims and, if so, do not delay to express them so that the 'shadow' trustees can take them into account - it will be too late in a few month's time!

David Hudson

Edward Young has written:

As we move from the preparatory phase, having ascertained that this development is a real possibility, into the viability phase, where we enter into negotiations with the County Council, and the Working Group hands over to a fully constituted entity, endorsed by the Parish Council, I would like to thank David Hudson, on behalf of the Working Group, for his input and recognise his hard work and contributions on his handing over of the chairman's responsibilities.

PROPERTY REPORT for May from Murrays

CHANGES ARE ON THE HORIZON that will certainly affect the property market. First is the imminent rise in interest rates over which we (that is Murrays) have no control. Second, and also imminent, is the introduction on 1st June of the HOME INFORMATION PACK, HIPs as they are "affectionately" known. Here, however, we are in control. Murrays clients can breathe a sigh of relief. Murrays clients whose property is already on the market and also those who put their property on the market before June 1st will not require a HIP until the end of 2007. After June 1st however, HIPs become compulsory, but still don't worry, Murrays have it covered. We at Murrays have decided to include the cost of your HIP in our commission. The main difference will be the requirement for an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) otherwise you will hardly notice the difference. Preparation of a HIP should take no longer than it takes to produce a decent quality brochure.

We hope you have all had a very enjoyable Easter and are making the most of the extraordinarily good weather that we have been experiencing. The warm April weather has helped

to increase sales and has put a spring in peoples step.

Murrays have been going from strength to strength seeing many more new instructions and a whole new host of buyers.

We have received the following new instructions: Mary's Acre and building plot - a very exciting opportunity in the centre of Painswick, Greenaway House and Highfield both with arguably the best views in Painswick, Aarons which is surprisingly spacious on New St, 7 Stroud Road offers smart contemporary living, 13 Gyde House set in its own beautiful surroundings, 7 Churchill Way a 2/3 bed close to the school, Roseleigh a 2 bed close to the centre, Elmbank with its outstanding views and The Fernery a classic Cotswold delight both in Pitchcombe, the intriguingly named Witches Tump, Vermont and the Old Stores all in Cranham, and charming Rance Cottage in Upton St Leonards.

Properties that have sold or are under offer are Dean Rise, 9 Berry Close, Stoneleigh, Byways, Elm Tree Cottage in Pitchcombe and Craythorne on Coopers Hill.

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Cuckoo time

Strangely enough, given seasons not being quite what they were, we did not receive a message about hearing the cuckoo until just before we were going to press.

Fiona and Hugh were sitting in the garden of 5 Juniper Cottages, Wick Street, on 14th April when the distinctive call was heard as the *Cuculus canorus* passed by.



Cars welcome

As one observant reader points out to the Beacon, a very short item in the Daily Telegraph a week or so ago made mention that Painswick's Stamages car park has charges among the lowest three in the country!

Long may that be so if visitors are to be encouraged to stop off hereabouts.

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Daniel de Borah

The second concert of the the Society's 62nd season was given by the young Australian pianist, Daniel de Borah. Daniel is sponsored by The Countess of Munster Trust, which supports promising young musicians.

He started with Chopin's Fantasie-Impromptu in C minor, impressive in the fluidity and control of his playing. He went on to play three other Chopin impromptus, No 1 very fast, No's 2 and 3 at less of a gallop. On a warm and soporific afternoon, some of his audience may have welcomed the challenge of Prokofiev's ballet music "From Romeo and Juliet". This narration of some of the famous scenes was well interpreted by Daniel, young Juliet lively but changeable, a well-paced Masks scene, an even-tempered Friar Lawrence, a very lively Mercutio and a tender balcony scene terminated by two light trills: nightingale versus lark? An adult Peter and the Wolf.

After the interval, Daniel played Kreisleriana by Schumann, about a drunken and depressed pianist. It was a masterly rendering of frequent shifts of mood between the agitated and the tranquil, demanding considerable physical as well as mental agility. His performance was followed by prolonged applause, resulting in a Bach encore which summed up the afternoon, in a shift from adagio to tumultuous to a powerful but balanced finale. We will surely hear more of this accomplished and intelligent pianist.

Richard Burges Watson



Rasumovsky Ensemble comes to Painswick

The final concert of the sixty-second season of the Painswick Music Society will take place in St Mary's Church on Saturday 12 May at 3.00pm. We will welcome the Rasumovsky Ensemble, who comprise free-lance soloists or principal members of major London orchestras, chosen by their director, the Ukrainian-born cellist, Oleg Kogan. The Ensemble invariably earns superb reviews and this concert is expected to be a wonderful way to end our season.

They will be playing Schubert's String Trio in B flat, and two string quintets by Mozart - in G minor (K516) and in C (K515). The Chairman of the Music Society, Peter Jenkins, recently remarked that he is particularly looking forward to this concert as the Mozart pieces are two of his favourites.

There will be a short interval of about 20 minutes to allow everyone to stretch their legs in the middle of the concert, and afterwards you are invited to the Church rooms for a tea and there is usually an opportunity to meet the artists.

At the time of writing this article, there are still tickets available for the concert. If there are any spare tickets left on the day of the concert, they will be available on the door - but please book soon to be sure of a place. Tickets can be obtained from Hywel James, Canton House, New Street, Painswick GL6 6XH 812419 or at "The Chairman" in New Street. Tickets cost £12 or £3 for children and students.

Peter Rowe

From the silver screen

Susan Presley, who chairs the Stroud Valleys Music Club, played to us some of her favourite sound tracks, written or used to accompany films at our 7th April meeting. One track was the Colonel Bogey march in The Bridge on the River Kwai, which has been well described as a classic example of a film which fudges the moral issues it raises; such lively music does no justice to the emaciated men who were forced to build it. Other tracks played to us included musical passages from The Mission; A Room with a View, of which the theme music is from Puccini; The Graduate, with a Simon and Garfunkel soundtrack; Dances with Wolves and The Piano.

In the second half of her talk, Susan played music from Ladies in Lavender and On The Beach. She went into greater detail on two films. One was Dangerous Moonlight (1941) about a Polish fighter pilot and musician who returned to the concert hall to play a fantasy composed for the film, The Warsaw Concerto, which became very popular and eclipsed the film. The second was a French film, Les Choristes, set in an orphanage, about a gifted singing teacher who took a motley class of boys and - against the opposition of a horrid Principal - turned them, into a first class choir. The musical themes are cleverly interwoven into the plot.

We were most grateful to Susan for her agreeable reminder of film music we have known and enjoyed.

Richard Burges Watson



So there is justice after all!

Having suffered extreme inconvenience when the concert in Birmingham was cancelled last February while our coach was nearly marooned on a sheet of ice, those of our Group that returned for a second attempt were rewarded by a magnificent treat on 17th April in the same Symphony Hall venue in the shape of an all-Beethoven concert. They and many others filled the coach to capacity.

The Coriolan Overture was followed by a glorious performance of the violin concerto, beautifully played by the soloist-conductor Joshua Bell, charismatic showman - musician par excellence.

The rousing 7th Symphony saw the Academy of St Martin in the Fields orchestra at their best; leaving us thrilled, impressed and grateful.

Remember to bring a recording for the last night of our season on 10th May.

Ralph Kenber

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Letters

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

Gateway Project
Angela Hudson writes:
Is there really support in the village for the Gateway Project?

I wonder if the inhabitants of Painswick really want the centre of the village to be transferred to the Library Building?

Projects that may be included are possibly a Post Office, a Cyber cafe and even the Parish Council headquarters, as well as the Christ Church centre and the County Library.

Even if the County Council were to offer the building to the village at half the price they are asking, with the repairs needed the sum involved seems to be well over £300,000.

There are many meeting rooms in Painswick which are not fully used, including Christ Church Hall, the Painswick Centre and the Town Hall itself. In addition Broadham offers space for renting out, as does the Golf Club.

There seems to have been little enthusiastic response from villagers about this project.

Perhaps it should be reconsidered.

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Tourist Information Office 2006

Rather a late revue of the office in 2006. Once again we had over 5500 visitors in the seven months that it was open. With a reduced number of volunteers we were not able to open as many hours as usual, but none the less all questions were answered with a smile.

The season ended with a cream tea in the Falcon, kindly given by Mr and Mrs French of Painswick Woodcraft. The volunteers have always appreciated this get together, as it is one of the few times we are all together to talk over our experiences during the past summer.

Due to the uncertainty of the Library building, I have decided it is time for me to retire after 13 years. I have enjoyed the challenge of setting the office up, recruiting the volunteers and having to find out answers to the various questions that have been asked.

I must say a big thank you to all the volunteers past and present, 6 of them having been there from the beginning. I have enjoyed meeting them all over the years and have made many friends.

The tourist area will be open during Library hours, I shall keep all the leaflets up to date and sometimes you may find a friendly volunteer manning it.

Terry Causton

"Silk Route Adventure"

by Claire Burges Watson
is a new book published this week. Gill Richards has been reading it.

Meet Claire with her parents in Painswick and you will find her charming. Read this new book and you will discover she is also remarkable. Eight years ago, finding life as a banker in Hong Kong too predictable, she decided to travel nearly a thousand miles across central Asia by horse and by camel.

Inspired by nineteenth century travellers, she planned to buy horses, hire guides and wherever possible stay with local people. No matter she could barely ride, could not use a compass and spoke none of the local languages. She would soon learn.

Watching her trot off unsteadily at the start of her journey, her father uncharacteristically burst into tears. Knowing her route lay across mountains, deserts, lawless frontier districts and sizeable towns, he was convinced he would never see her again.

And for most of the 16 months she was travelling danger was never far away. Stumbling along precipitous paths, crossing rivers in torrent, finding well after dry well in the desert or simply losing the way - any mishap could quickly turn to disaster.

But there was a greater menace. Drunken Mongolians, drug addicts, bandits, in fact men of all sorts saw a young western woman either as an easy lay or a chance to get rich quick. When drunk, even a trusted guide tried to horse whip her.

But rock bottom moments of terror or despair were more than made up for by new friends, stunning landscapes and unforgettable experiences. Mongolian nomads, in particular, welcomed Claire into their families - a privilege she has since repaid by raising thousands of pounds to support their disappearing culture.

And then there was Jilda - the flea-ridden puppy, who became a white wolf, and both talisman and protector. Claire eventually brought her back to Painswick, but her spirit stayed on the steppe, and the book is dedicated to her memory.

"Silk Route Adventure" is much more than a tale of derring-do. Interwoven with the story of the journey are descriptions of the rich history, culture and politics of Central Asia, and portraits of regional celebrities from Genghiz Khan to the megalomaniac political leader, Turkmenbashi.

After a ghastly yomp through the Turkistan desert, Claire finally reached her destination. Spirit and determination had triumphed over impossible odds, and Claire had joined the ranks of great travellers who first inspired her. Stroud bookshop has this splendid, and surprisingly uplifting, book: buy it!

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Painswick Parish Council – Annual Report 2006-07

Painswick Parish has had another eventful year with a mixture of benefits and losses. One of the losses which provoked most concern was the closure of the LloydsTSB branch. The closure came with the news that the Post Office building was expected to be sold and parishioners were left wondering how to conduct their financial affairs if the Post Office facility were to be lost with the bank no longer in existence. At the time of writing we are grateful that the Post Office is still functioning and the Parish Council continues to ask parishioners to use the facility at every opportunity. Another loss has been that of our butcher's shop following Alan Hale's retirement. A new business we have welcomed is the St Michaels restaurant. The event that gave rise to much interest was the threatened closure of the library and the sale of the building. Following a number of exchanges with Shire Hall, the County Council agreed to allow a group of parishioners to investigate its possible purchase. If successful this would allow the library to remain and a number of other facilities to be located in the building. The group which is called the Gateway Project is now actively engaged in seeking to purchase the building.

Another building in the Parish Council's ownership is the former Rugby Club Pavilion on the Recreation Field. In recent times the building has been used by the Youth Club but sadly the Club has had to close because of lack of support. The good news has been that the Painswick & Stroud Local Ministry Sports Minister, Tim Friend, has been very active with a large group of young people in regular attendance and the Parish Council has been pleased to make the former Rugby Club Pavilion available to Tim for the group's activities.

Policing

We recently welcomed Police and Community Safety Officer Linda Dey. She replaces PCSO Des Moore. The police are seeking volunteers to join a panel of local people who would report concerns to the Safer Community Team for the Stroud District.

Neighbourhood Warden

The District Council has introduced a Neighbourhood Warden scheme which the Parish Council has joined. The Warden who currently is Mr Gerry McGrath has regular liaison meetings with the Parish Council Clerk to discuss matters of concern to residents. If you have a problem which for example could relate to anti-social behaviour, please contact the Clerk who will refer the matter to the Warden. The Warden will then follow-up the matter with the individual(s) concerned.

Parish Council Year

Turning to the Parish Council's year, the members were very disappointed when Johnny Johnston broke the news that he and Hilary were to leave the area and Johnny would have to resign from the council. Johnny's knowledge of the business world was of great benefit to the council. His place has been taken by Gill Richards who has already shown a commendable interest in the council's affairs. Very recently we have learned of the resignation of Jeanne Berry who has been one of the two Slad representatives. Jeanne has been Chairman of the Footpaths Committee and the council has been appreciative of her work with that committee as well as in her role as a ward councillor. The council has introduced quarterly Surgeries which are held in the Town Hall on Saturday mornings from 10a.m. until noon when residents can question councillors about local affairs.

Finance

The Clerk to the Parish Council, Roy Balgobin, is the Council's Responsible Finance Officer working with Martin Slinger who took over the Finance & General Purposes Committee responsibilities following Johnny Johnston's departure in January. Martin reports that this year has been difficult but the finances have been kept under control. Staff costs rose sharply following the implementation of the National Agreement. More organisations have been seeking financial support. In that regard the Council was pleased to respond to the Parochial Church Council's request for a financial contribution towards the cost of resurfacing the St Mary's Churchyard footpaths. The Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2007 is available for inspection at the Parish Council Office.

Planning

Planning continues to be one of the most interesting areas of the Parish Council's work and Planning Committee Chairman David Hudson reports that in the past year the council dealt with 117

planning applications. This calendar year up to 20th April, of the 51 considered by the committee, 17 were opposed, 4 neither opposed nor supported with the remainder recommended for consent. The majority of the applications were for extensions. This follows the same pattern as last year. David comments that the District Council has introduced new planning regulations where by any objection to an application has to be related to the Local Plan or other official planning guidelines.

Traffic

Traffic continues to be the subject which generates most correspondence. Anne Burges Watson, Traffic Committee Chairman, reports the adequate resurfacing of Victoria Street and St Mary's Street and the resurfacing of Tibbiwell about which the council has concerns. Ann comments that the council is continuing to pursue the creation of a 20mph limit through Painswick, a pedestrian crossing by the Chemists, Vehicle Speed Activated Warning Signs, a reduction in the number of signs in Painswick, the problem of parking in Vicarage Street and a review of the speed limit on Golf Course Road.

Cemetery & Parish Maintenance/Town Hall

Martin Slinger reports a busy year keeping a keen eye on the normal workings of the Parish and Town Hall maintenance. The main things, the Committee Chairman says, have been the upkeep and maintenance of the Town Hall which has had a major roof repair during the year as part of an ongoing work programme; keeping the cemetery ship shape with the removal of the scrubs around the outer wall and the repair of the small roof of the chapel. As for the Civil Parish the need has been to keep the grass cut together with general maintenance designed to keep the parish tidy. As more work is generated, the costs increase each year but so far we are keeping them under control. A major expense was the purchase of new play equipment at the Recreation Field.

Footpaths

The Footpath committee normally meets twice a year. The 145 paths within the parish are inspected annually by a team of footpath inspectors who report problems to the Clerk to the Council. The Clerk liaises with the County Council's Public Rights of Way section. An example of the benefit of that liaison was the installation of a footbridge across the Painswick Stream on land at Olivers close to the Painswick/Cranham boundary.

Plantation

Ann Daniels chairs the Plantation Committee. She and the committee have again been grateful for the work carried out by the British Conservation Trust Volunteers who continue to keep the Plantation in good order. The committee is seeking a Woodland Improvement Grant.

Edge Ward (Cllr Martin Slinger)

Traffic movement has been the subject of much discussion with the residents expressing concerns at the Parish and County Councils' proposal to introduce a 20mph zone.

Sheepscombe Ward (Cllrs David Harcup and Dhusy Mahendran)

The Parish Council received a delegation from villagers protesting at the erection of a number of passing place signs along the road between Damsells Cross and the Sheepscombe Village. The villagers believed the signs to be visually intrusive and unnecessary. The signs were removed.

Slad Ward (Cllrs Jeanne Berry and Jackie Woof)

Traffic calming measures have been introduced to help reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the village.

Summary

The Parish Council's four-year term of office ends in May 2008 when elections will be held. I wish to thank the councillors and the co-opted members from the local community for the commitment to the council's workload they have given throughout the year on behalf of the parishioners. That workload tends to increase each year as more responsibilities are given to parish councils. It is one of the main aims of the council to achieve "Quality" status within the next twelve months. That status will not only enhance the council's standing but also attract additional funding. Finally, the council members wish to express their appreciation to the Clerk to the Council, Roy Balgobin, the Assistant Clerk, Liz Fisher and to the Parish Handyman, George Hodder for the considerable contribution they make to the smooth running of the Parish Council.
Terry Parker Chairman



We have a very interesting range of Crafts and Antiques for the Fair to be held at the Centre on Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May. Entrance to the Fair is free and refreshments, with a selection of

home made cakes, will be available.

I am pleased to report that the Centre is being used more frequently now, partly due to fact that the Hall has been re-decorated, which has made it much brighter and lighter. It was used recently for a children's party when we discovered that it is one of the few village halls that can accommodate a Bouncy



Castle and a slide! The photograph shows just how much the children enjoyed themselves.

Two weeks ago the Centre was the venue for a Wedding Reception, and we have another booked for Saturday 2nd June. The photograph shows what an attractive layout can be achieved.

Tickets for the Edwardian Evening to Remember will be on sale from Tuesday 8th May priced £29.50, from The Shetland Shop or from Ralph Drew (814070). There will be just ten tables, each seating 10 people. Why not make up a table while there are still some left, four tables are already spoken for.

Ralph Drew

Tulip with a difference

Tulip (Tulipa) is a genus of about 100 species of flowering plants in the family Liliaceae.

The Corolla is the overall structure of the petals of a flower. Typically the petals are each the same strong colour, but the corolla may be entirely variegated.

No so this year in the front garden of Mike and Eddie Buttrey.

They take great pride in their display of entirely red tulips.

Confusion reigns this year though - one flower head produced part red and part bright yellow petals distinguishing one half of the corolla from the other.

Can anyone give a concise explanation of this phenomenon?



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Come and join us on 15th May in an evening of light-hearted music at the Village Hall 7.30pm

Tickets on the door £5.00 – Children £2.00. And this includes bread and cheese – licensed bar

Tim Cox 814367 Ian Wotherspoon 812387

Cardiomyopathy

Invitation to support the British Cardiomyopathy Association
My name is Richard Twinning I live & work in the area and three friends and I are driving our vintage tractors from John O'Groats to Lands End on the 9th June 2007 to raise awareness and funds for the British Cardiomyopathy Association.

It will take about 12 days to do this as the speed will be approx. 15mph. In addition, we will have no shelter from the weather, as there are no cabs on the tractors, so we hope the weather is kind to us What is Cardiomyopathy? Cardiomyopathy is a serious disease of the muscles of the heart that affects 200,000 people in the UK. It is the leading cause of sudden death in individuals under 30 years of age and is one of the main reasons for heart transplant surgery. The Cardiomyopathy Association is campaigning for action that supports early diagnosis of this disease that robs us so suddenly of our loved ones.

My personal involvement with the Cardiomyopathy Association began four years ago when my niece died suddenly at the age of 18. She had just completed her final school exams and had a bright future ahead of her. Without the help of the Association, our family would not have received the support and understanding we needed to come to terms with our tragic loss.

You can support us by the mile, by the day, or by an over all donation to the British Cardiomyopathy Association! Whichever way you choose to support us be sure the sufferers of Cardiomyopathy and families like mine will be benefit from your generosity. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for any help you may choose to give.

Cheques should be made payable to the Cardiomyopathy Association and sent to me at 7 Acres, The Camp, Stroud GL6 7EU. If you want to find out more about the Cardiomyopathy Association then log on to www.cardiomyopathy.org



Richard Twinning

Barking mad?

One of the Beacon team was approached last week and asked if it was possible to include a small item anonymously. The answer was negative, but we agreed to convey the message - one we have carried in the past.



Could those owners of dogs who also enjoy the fine days of summer in their gardens - including Pullens Road and sections of New Street - please give some thought to their neighbours and their sometimes having to (try and) tolerate long sessions of barking.
Some start very close to dawn!

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

Directory extra

As readers will be aware, we publish a Directory of organisations based within this civic parish in December each year. We are asked by a number of non-Painswick operators to include them, but had to be firm in our rejection because such would lead inevitably to a full book equating to a telephone directory!

However, we sometimes have our attention drawn to particularly useful services not provided by anyone in the parish, but of potential interest to groups or organisations hereabouts.

One reader has written to say "The secretaries and organizers of clubs and groups in Painswick may be interested to know that a small local company, operating under the traditional name of Stroud Omnibus, now provides an excellent private hire, mini-coach service in our area.



This business was set up by Alan Davis who used to drive large buses and coaches for local firms. His 25 seat coach which is always kept in immaculate condition, is available for schools and businesses, clubs and voluntary groups. A journey in Alan's mini-coach is a veritable 'transport of delight'.

His telephone is 01453.756461 or check out www.stroudomnibus.co.uk.

Trevor made Headway at London Marathon

In our April issue we reported that Trevor Smith of Kings Mill Lane was to run in the London Marathon with his chosen charity "The Headway Cotswold Trust". Trevor successfully completed the Marathon in 4hrs 48mins. He would like to thank all those who have supported him. Trevor will let his sponsors know the final total raised as soon as he has all the details. In the meantime anyone still wishing to make a donation may do so by calling Trevor on 813693 or contacting the Charity Manager, Sam Hall on 01452.312713.



Rugby

Painswick will again have to wait to know which division they will be playing in next season as it is expected that there is to be another restructuring of the Gloucestershire league. Thus sides that have finished in positions where relegation was a possibility may well find themselves retaining their place in their present division. Martin Hayward told the Beacon that clubs find this situation unsatisfactory as teams wish to know at the beginning of the season what they have to do to gain promotion or alternatively avoid relegation. Another unsatisfactory happening is the change in the rules governing eligibility for the various combination cups. In the past teams entering those competitions have played at the same league level. Now clubs may enter their first fifteens irrespective of the level at which they play. So it is that Painswick have found themselves competing against teams such as Stroud and Old Patesians first fifteens. This can have a demoralising effect as local teams know that they have very little chance of winning the competition. That said, Painswick played well against the Stroud first fifteen in the Senior Combination Cup and were only down by 17 points to 12 with five minutes remaining. The final score was Stroud 29 Painswick 12. The club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 11th May when no doubt the organisation of the combination cups will be a subject for discussion.

Results [(L) indicates league match. (M) Merit Table].
Sat 7 Apr. (L) Painswick 1st XV 0 Avonmouth OB 1st XV 29. Painswick United 25 Bream 2nd XV 32. Wed 11 Apr. Cheltenham Combination Cup. Painswick 1st XV 0 Old Patesians 1st XV 62. Sat 14 Apr. (L) Painswick 1st XV 10 Widden OB 1st XV 80. Berry Hill 3rd XV 42 Painswick United 15. 26 Apr. Stroud Senior Combination Cup. Painswick 1st XV 12 Stroud 1st XV 29.

Churches Together Cricket

The annual cricket match between Churches Together Around Painswick (CTAP) and Churches Together Around Stroud will be played at Broadham Fields on Sunday 29th July by kind permission of Painswick Cricket Club.

For further information please contact Terry Parker on 812191.

Under Eleven aged cricketers

Painswick Cricket Club Under Elevens coach John Hogg is keen to recruit more players.

If you are a parent with an under eleven aged youngster interested in playing cricket could you please contact John on 812505.

ArchiTecs



Last month we gave you the fragment of a house name, challenging the 'super-vigilant'. Some may have spotted it is of Wee Cot opposite the Post Office in New Street.



And this month, do you know just where the finger sign on the front page is?

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The Daphnis Duo present A Summer Soiree of music for Flute and Harp in St John's Church, Saturday 2nd June at 7.30pm in aid of the Sheepscombe Water/Loo appeal

The Daphnis Duo, Jane Spiers, flute, and Catherine White, harp, will be performing a programme of beautiful and unusual music at this concert. Those of you who have enjoyed Catherine's magical performances on her harp will welcome another opportunity to hear her in action - and for those of you who have not yet experienced this special musical treat, here is your chance! The duo brings together two creative and versatile musicians, who delight in sharing with their audience the possibilities of these exquisite instruments.

The programme will include works by Mozart, Debussy and Fauré, amongst others. In keeping with the spirit of the Water-loo Appeal for St John's, a number of the items on the programme will have a suitably "watery" subject.

Tickets £10 now available from Arthur Lucas 812281 or 'The Chairman' Painswick and on the door.

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PAINSWICK SPORT assembled by Terry Parker

Tennis

Redolent of a week in high summer, this year's Easter junior tennis camps required sunscreen, caps and plenty of water as the sun beat down on Broadham. Eighty 5 - 14 year olds from Painswick and the Stroud area took part over the five days, led by three of the club's coaches. The children enjoyed a mixture of co-ordination exercises, team games and matches with the emphasis very much on having fun. Further junior tennis camps are planned for the summer for which details will follow.

Jillie Speed



Painswick Tennis Club Over 50's Tournament

The finals of the Inaugural Over 50's Tournament were held on Sunday, 15 April 2007 at Broadham Fields.

Players battled not only against their opponents but also with the searing temperature on a glorious Spring afternoon. After fierce battles on court Rob Ruggles beat John Barrus in the Mens Singles and Tonia Robinson beat Debbie Westgate in the Ladies Singles. After a much needed refreshment break play continued with Rob Ruggles and Nigel Barnett coming from behind to beat John Barrus and Malcolm Andrew in the mens doubles whilst Philippa James and Jan Haslam beat Tonia Robinson and Lyndall Spear in the ladies doubles. Finally, after many cries of "MINE" from a well loved character on court, Nigel Barnett and Philippa James beat Chris Jeynes and Ruth Smith in a most entertaining mixed doubles to round off an enjoyable tournament.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who entered and those who supported the finals event.

Rob Ruggles and Gill Willoughby

Broadham Ball – Friday 29th June

Tickets are still available for the Broadham Ball. They are priced at £45 each until 30th May when they will go up to £50.

For further information please contact Chris Hall on 814504 or 07977.176606. Alternatively details can be obtained from Andrew Morgan (814202) or Will Fair (07970. 477657).

Chris may also be contacted by email at chris.hall@portraitssoftware.com

End of Season - Badminton

The Painswick Badminton Club held its end of season tournament finals on Thursday 26th April.

In the first semi-final Delyth Allen and Colin Sims beat Eddie Buttrey and Mike Breeze and in the second semi-final Julia Richardson and Peter Workman overcame Hilary Simpson and Ron Bridgman.

The final was a very close match running to 3 games with Delyth and Colin just emerging as winners in a tight finish.

Although the main season has now finished, Summer Badminton for Adults and Juniors continues until Mid-June on Thursdays.

The Club AGM will be held on Thursday 17th May whilst the social events continue with a golf day and Summer BBQ.

John Barrus

Parish Council Footpath Walk

The Parish Council is organising a footpath walk on Saturday 9th June 6.00pm to 8.00pm. The circular walk will start at Stames Lane Car Park.

The route will follow the Painswick Stream towards Cranham. Dogs are welcome but must be on a lead at all times.

It is planned that the walkers will be accompanied by residents with a knowledge of bird life, flora and fauna.

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On Top of the World

'Inspiring' is the neatest way to sum up the March meeting of Yew Trees WI! Our guest speakers transported us to the far distant world of Nepal and Tibet. They wowed us with the most stunning photographs of scenery ranging from Buddhist temples and Hindu shrines, narrow streets bustling with people, animals and traders of every imaginable kind, to vast empty plateaus, snow-capped mountains, glacial lakes and awesome views of Mount Everest. The photographs alone would have made a fascinating evening but when accompanied by a most thoughtful presentation delivered by three members of Sheepscombe WI it all became so much more tangible.

Carole Holland, Jan van Rensberg and Chris Williams, along with nine others (average age over 60!), spent a month last autumn in Nepal and Tibet. The climax of the trip being a fourteen-day trek deep in the Himalayas to a remote valley where lie the magnificent azure blue Gokyo Lakes. By the end of the evening the intrepid travellers had won our greatest admiration. We marvelled at how they overcame altitude sickness, the delights of Hotel Gigi, strange diets, incredibly rough 'road' trips, lack of any creature comforts and aching limbs to name but a few discomforts yet they (almost!) convinced us that the rewards of such a life-changing trip are so great they are worth the hardships.

On Tuesday 22nd May we are delighted to welcome back to Yew Trees WI, Marian Beagley. Two years ago she gave us a fascinating talk on her memories of Japan and this month her subject is 'The Village Shop'. Ladies, we know she is an excellent and amusing speaker so why not come and join us at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall.

Celia Lougher 812624

Granny's attic

The Grannies have been raiding their capacious attics once more, finding (the Beacon is assured) a store of treasures from yesteryear - and some from this year) for those who delight in such things. The invitation is extended to browse and possibly find something which has always been missing from your own home.

These bargains await you on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May, next Monday, from 11.00am until 4.00pm at the Stone House, opposite the Thai restaurant at the top of Tibbiwell.



No fewer than 27 references to sport were squeezed into our frame last month, with SKI mentioned three times:
BOBSLEIGH
BOWL
CANOE
CRICKET
CYCLE

DISCUS
GOLF
HANG GLIDE
HOCKEY
HURDLE
JAVELIN
MOTOR CYCLE
MOTOR RACE
MOUNTAINEERING
POLO
ROWING

RUGBY
RUN
SAIL
SHOOT
SHOT PUTTING
SKI
SOCCER
SURF
SWIM
TENNIS
WATER SKI

For this month, nineteen sports played indoors.



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News from the Tower

The Ancient Society of Painswick Youths continue to enjoy bell ringing at St.Mary's and are pleased that we still have a number of young ringers (and older ones) who are learning this ancient art. We also welcome Janet Crispin an experienced ringer, who has moved into the area.

We continue to practice on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm and ring for the main Sunday service and weddings. There are already six weddings booked for the summer where bells have been requested. On 26th May there will be a feast of ringing as we have the honour of entertaining the Central Council of Church Bell ringers who will with their President Dr Derek Sibson ring a peal in connection with their annual meeting to be held in Cheltenham, and assist us in ringing for one of the TWO weddings booked for that day.

We know that most residents like to hear our bells but appreciate that it's not to all peoples tastes, and as a band are very sensitive to the amount of ringing that takes place.

We hope that you will enjoy hearing our bells, surely part of village life and if you feel that you would like to learn more about ringing, then drop into the tower on Tuesday evenings. You will be most welcome.

David Ryland - Tower Secretary

Women's Institute Wall Hangings in the Town Hall

The WI National Federation has arranged for a series of exhibitions in venues around the country. Our wall hangings have been included and they will be on tour for a year.

They were designed and embroidered by members of Painswick WI between 1946-1949. The background of each hanging is blackout material of which there was a large supply at the time. In true "make do and mend" style of the Second World War years the appliqued pieces were taken from outgrown garments or leftover pieces from dressmaking and embroidery. They have stood the test of time well.

Audrey Watts

Interesting news from the Beacon

Wild flowers

Our recorder, Clare Overhill, will lead a walk to look at flowers and insects on the Beacon. Assemble at the cemetery car park, beside the entrance to the Golf Club at 2.30 pm on Sunday 20th May. Any queries to Clare on 812709.



Litter

Peter Rowe, Parish Councillor and active member of the Beacon Conservation Group, has advised that the Annual clear-up of Painswick Beacon will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 24th June. Full details will be in the June edition of The Beacon.

Butterflies and more

It is very encouraging to tell you that the 'wildlife corridor' we have been clearing between the Beacon and Cudhill Common is already producing flowers and several species of butterflies. These have been stimulated by recent strong sunshine which now warms areas that two years ago were overgrown and very shaded by excess tree growth. The 1st April working group toiling in that area included 13 volunteers who achieved over 30 man-hours of clearance work that day.

Firewood

During our clearance activities we sometimes fell quite large ash trees. Their logs are popular for the fireplace and we are happy to offer them to readers, by arrangement. If you, or your firewood supplier, are interested, on a 'you collect' basis please write to me at Lloydstone in Stamages Lane.

David Allott, Chairman 812624

Ducks at speed

Painswick Playgroup had the most fantastic weather on Good Friday for their Easter Duck race and activities, the children were joined by friends from The Croft, Sheepscombe and Cranham Schools as well as the local community and bemused passers by!



The afternoon started with two rubber duck races along Painswick Stream just below Tocknells Court, with the children and their families chasing 200 ducks down the stream as they danced along the current, often getting stuck in the vegetation. "We had to poke the ducks with a stick to get them out!" said Alfie Bradshaw, age three and a half.

Then it was back up the hill to Freams Farm, courtesy of Sue Elliott who opened her gardens for Easter activities, that included a nature trail, tractor rides, bouncy castle, face painting, a colouring competition and wonderful Easter Bonnet Parade as well as tea and cake! "The afternoon was a huge success raising money for the playgroup" said Playgroup Chair, Jo Weatherall, "it was a lovely community event with everyone helping by selling tickets, donating raffle prizes or helping out on the day and the children have had a fantastic time. I would also like to thank Barclays Bank for matching the money raised £ for £ through their community fund."



Emma Bradshaw

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Local History Teaser

Our photograph of a group of happy bowlers was taken in the 1960s on the Institute Bowling Green – very appropriate with the onset of another bowling season. The group includes a Painswick farmer, a Painswick postman and a Painswick Police Sergeant. Can you name them? Indeed, can you identify any of the members of the group? Answer in next month's Beacon.

Last month's photograph depicting a delightful tea party in a garden was not, apparently, recognized by anyone as we received no response at all. It therefore remains a mystery!

Carol Maxwell



upbringing in Washwell House he moved to London where he became a prominent member of the LCC from its beginnings and from 1906 a Liberal MP, being an active supporter of women's suffrage. His generation was constantly concerned with the threat of war and he wanted to pursue peaceful solutions to world problems. This became his major work and eventually after many years of endeavour it was he who initiated the first League of Nations, becoming President in 1925. He also worked for world peace through his considerable involvement in the World Council of Churches. He did move back to Washwell House and was made a peer in 1930.

... and the Local History Society

At the April meeting members were privileged to be present at three excellent research talks.

Barbara Blatchley gave a comprehensive and fascinating account of the history of pigeon houses, showing many examples from Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. She related the predominant octagonal design of many to various ancient buildings. Initially they served the purpose of providing fresh meat, the oldest in England dating from the 13th century. However, by the 18th century the gentry had a need for views in their newly designed gardens and pigeon houses were, in effect, vista buildings. Hence, the very fine example standing proudly in the grounds of Painswick House.

Lord Dickinson's account of his grandfather, Willoughby Dickinson, was full of remarkable detail. After an austere



Trevor Radway gave a truly enthusiastic presentation on Painswick's postal history. With the aid of some quite rare examples he took us chronologically from the time when postage involved payment for sheets of paper used and mileage (no envelopes) through to the present day. In 1840 Roland Hill introduced the new system whereby letters were weighed and penny stamps and envelopes came into use. Trevor showed one Painswick example of the Penny Black. For many years all letters were received at The Falcon and in 1935 the service moved into the premises currently occupied by The Chairman. All Painswick mail was marked with the designated Painswick number but nowadays it all comes under Gloucester.

Carol Maxwell

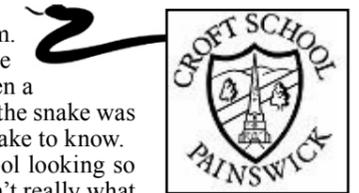
Fable of The Snake

Boys in Class 4 have been writing fables - and we have chosen this one to read, and reflect upon.

Once there was a very popular snake, in fact he was the most popular animal in animal school. Everybody liked him. Every day there were people asking him whether they could play with him in the playground. Everybody did what he did, even if they didn't like what he was doing. He was like the king of the school. And then it all went wrong when a new animal came to this school, a peacock. The whole school was overwhelmed by her beautiful feathers and now the snake was nothing. But his best friends stayed his friends, although some liked peacock just as much, but they didn't want snake to know.

Snake was so annoyed by peacock he just had do something about this. So the next day he stomped into school looking so cross and grumpy. Then he started to hear rumours about peacock having a massive swimming pool and that wasn't really what he needed right now. In the middle of assembly he whispered to his best friend Duck, "Duck, I have a swimming pool bigger than peacock's, pass it on." So duck passed it on until the whole school knew about it.

When animal school had finished everybody rushed to snake's house looking for this massive swimming pool but all they found was bare grass. "There's no swimming pool" shouted people. They all walked out of his garden with their heads down, sad and disappointed. The next day at animal school, snake said "I have a new trampoline, bigger than peacock's, pass it on and I really have this time." So after school the whole school rushed to see his massive tram- and again, nothing, just bare grass. They stomped home really cross and irritated now. "Oh came back, at least we can play with my playstation" said snake. "For all we know you haven't got a playstation" said duck. Really he had but they didn't believe him because of all his lies. And now no one believes him, he's lost all his friends and he's the most unpopular person in the school.



Tom Davis Class 4

The moral of this story is:

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