

The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 24 No. 7

October 2001

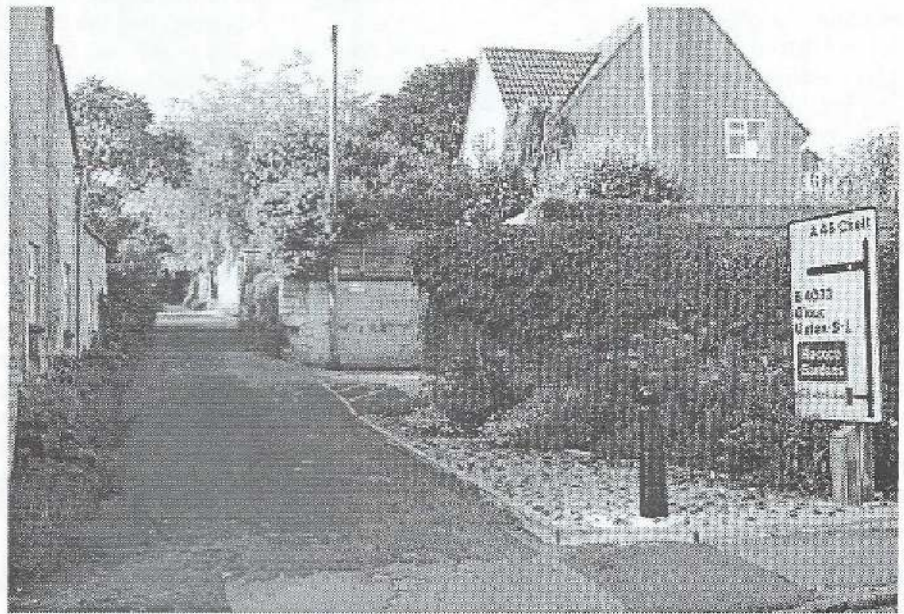
At last, solution to Hollyhock Lane

Residents will be pleased to hear that, after many years, the issue of the surface of Hollyhock Lane has been resolved.

The County Council has told the Parish Council of its intention to add the lane to the Definitive Map of footpaths in Gloucestershire, after no objections were received to the proposal. This follows the Parish Council's application to have the footpath formally recognised.

Since the County Council owns the surface of all Definitive Map footpaths, it has to ensure that the lane's condition meets its own official standard. The Parish Council has agreed to fund the difference between the County Council's basic standard and the surface that the Parish Council believes is necessary to meet the community's needs.

The Parish Council is anxious to progress the work before the onset of winter and expects completion at an early date.



Electoral review prompts change in local councils

All three levels of local government in our area have been the subject of change in recent times. At Shire Hall, the June elections saw the Conservative Group returned as the largest party with 27 of the 63 seats. Labour won 19 seats, the Liberal Democrats 16 and Independents, one. Since 1985, no party has had overall control of the County Council but, because the new Local Government Act requires an administration to be formed, the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups have agreed to fulfil that function.

Like Stroud District Council, the County Council's administration is based on a Cabinet system. The Cabinet consists of nine members plus a leader. Gloucester City Labour member, Peter Clarke, is the Leader, with the Liberal Democrats having five of the Cabinet seats and Labour, four.

This contrasts with the District Council which has a Conservative administration with the support of Independent and Liberal Democrat members. Painswick Conservative members John Stephenson-Oliver and Barbara Tait hold the posts of Cabinet Leader and Deputy Leader respectively.

Although the District Council has had no elections this year, there has been

considerable activity as a result of the decision to hold an electoral review of the Council's 56 wards. The Periodic Electoral Review carried out by the independent Electoral Commission has recently been completed. The outcome is that the number of seats is to be reduced to 51. This change makes it necessary to hold elections in each of the 51 wards on 2nd May, 2002.

Elections will be held in subsequent years, with the councillor polling the fewest votes in a three-seat ward at the 2002 election having to seek re-election the following year. There will be no Painswick Ward District Council election in May 2003 since the ward has only two seats. The period of office for all councillors remains at four years.

The Electoral Review has also affected the Parish Council. Councillors were surprised to learn last week that their current term of office is to be extended by a year. Painswick's Parish Council election was to have taken place in May 2003, but the date has been changed to May 2004 to coincide with the District Council elections, thus considerably reducing the cost of the election to the parish.

Firefighters collect over £1,700 for their colleagues in New York disaster

If you were in and around the village on Saturday, 22nd September, you could not fail to be aware of enthusiastic Painswick firefighters, covering every street in their appeal to aid the New York Firefighters Fund, set up after so many died in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre, and on the Pentagon in Washington.

In just three hours, the phenomenal sum of £1,712.34 was raised.

No doubt it would have been more, but the collecting was cut short for them to respond to a fire call.

Sub-officer Mike Powis would like to thank all those who helped and contributed.

Another village response to the US tragedy was the Book of Condolence, opened at the Post Office by Heather and Ray Appleby. There are already scores of messages of sympathy, prayers, hope and fortitude from residents, some themselves American, and visitors. Perhaps the most poignant were the spontaneous ones from youngsters at Croft School.

If you are in the Post Office, the Book is well worth perusing.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Council meeting on 19th September

Reported by Iris McCormick

Book of Condolence

It was reported that a Book of Condolence had been opened at the Post Office following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on 11th September.

Tackling Vandalism

Stroud District Council has submitted an expression of interest to the Home Office for a Street Warden scheme. The purpose of the wardens is to patrol the parish in order to prevent and tackle vandalism, deter anti-social behaviour and help to reduce crime. A letter has been received from the SDC community safety officer, offering Painswick the opportunity to join this scheme. Fifty percent of the funding for the scheme would come directly from Government, with the remaining half being shared between the District Council and Parish Council.

Traffic Problems

There have been some letters from residents in Pullens Road, complaining about a Renault truck causing difficulties in Pullens Road. The letters complained of how the truck caused damage to the pavement on which it was often parked, as well as making it difficult for people to get past both on foot and by car.

The complaints were sent in following a letter from Mr Rhodes, published in the Beacon last month, suggesting traffic calming measures for Painswick. The Parish Council had written to Mr Rhodes in response to his letter about the traffic-calming measures, and also in response to the complaints received from

parishioners. Mr Rhodes replied, complaining of the way he was treated by the Parish Council. Alan Shearer suggested that the issue of parking should be dealt with separately from the issue of traffic-calming.

David Hudson said he had visited Mr Rhodes to discuss the complaints received from local residents in regard to the Renault truck. Mr Rhodes told him that he had difficulties finding a place to park his truck. He explained that the vehicle had been vandalised in the past and that for security reasons he did not want to park it at his yard in Stroud. He explained that he thought the vehicle was too wide to park on the A46, a short distance from his home. He said he had advertised several times for parking in the village without success. David Hudson still believed the truck might be safely parked on the A46 and would like to pursue this option.

Mr Lane, a resident of Pullens Road, came to the meeting to make a complaint in person about the truck. He explained that there were sometimes up to four vehicles from the same family parked on the road, and that an electrical cable was sometimes seen running from the truck across the road to the house.

Terry Parker agreed to write again to Mr Rhodes, taking into consideration the various points raised at the meeting.

The Youth Club

The working party, comprising Malcolm Watts, David Hudson, Martin Slinger and Johnny Johnston, reported on the future of the pavilion adjacent to the recreation ground, that is currently home to the Youth Club. At present, around 17 youngsters use the Youth Club regularly. The cost of renovation is thought to amount to between £8,000 and £10,000. Malcolm Watts believed that due to the high cost of renovation, the evident apathy, in his view, of youngsters at the club, and the availability of many other potentially suitable venues, the Parish Council should consider closing the pavilion with a view to selling it or simply demolishing it.

David Hudson believed the Youth Club should be kept going. He suggested finding people in the village who might like to use the pavilion facilities outside the Youth Club hours, perhaps as an art studio. Martin Slinger suggested that the large space beneath the pavilion could be used as a store to provide additional revenue towards the maintenance. Johnny Johnston pointed out that much of the work associated with repairing the pavilion would have to be done in any case. Painswick Centre is to be sounded out as a possible venue for the Youth Club.

Most councillors agreed that the Youth Club was a valuable asset to the village, and that the building was a good venue for youngsters, as it provided an informal setting, club facilities like the snooker table, and direct access to the recreation field. They were also keen to point out

that the present, quite dilapidated, condition of the building was not the result of misuse by youngsters. However, the cost of repairing and maintaining the building would be high, and detailed quotes for the work must be sought prior to a decision.

Stamages Lane Car Park

David Hudson proposed that the hours for parking charges at Stamages Lane Car Park be changed from 9am - 6pm to 10am - 4pm because he believed that many parking problems in the village could be alleviated if more residents used the main car park. Councillors agreed, and a letter would be sent to SDC with this request.

Rural Transport Grant

Terry Parker announced that around £10,000 is to be made available for rural transport schemes. He suggested looking at ways in which outlying villages in the parish could be provided with a minibus service to bring people to Painswick in time to catch the regular buses going to Cheltenham and Stroud.

David Hudson suggested that a sign should be erected on the A46 near Goddards Garage, indicating to traffic the parking facilities at Stamages Lane. It would cost around £150 to erect the sign. This was unanimously approved.

Village Design Statement



Terry Parker reported that the first draft had been reworked to incorporate further amendments, and it would be submitted to the District Council for a technical appraisal. It was agreed that on its return from SDC the Parish Council would call a special meeting to discuss it. Terry Parker said many other Parish Councils were keen to see the final draft.

Hollyhock Lane

The chairman announced good news for users of Hollyhock Lane. The lengthy procedural consultations with the county council had resulted in the county finally agreeing to adopt the lane.

The Parish Council would make an added contribution to improve the surface further. There was some discussion about what improvements should be made. Terry Parker suggested a combination of

Continued on Page 3



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From Page 2

tarmac and stone that would provide a good footing even in icy weather. The footpaths committee was asked to propose the type of improvements.

Council Meeting format

A working committee, comprising Cllrs Hudson, Crook, Harcup and Watts, was set up to propose ways to make Parish Council meetings more efficient. On the chairman's suggestion, it was agreed to write to the County Councillor, District Councillors and the Police, asking each to make a report to keep parish councillors in touch with relevant events on a monthly or two-monthly basis. It was further suggested that a Parishioners Question Time, for a limited period at the start of a meeting, might encourage people to come to meetings.

St Mary's Church

Closed circuit television cameras have been installed at St Mary's Church to deter vandals. It is hoped that the camera system will allow the church to remain open during the day. This scheme had cost the church over £10,000, and the church was asking for a contribution towards the cost.

Affordable Housing

The Gyde Charity trustees had written to say no decision had been made on the council's offer for the strip of land between the Painswick Surgery and the A46 for affordable housing.

Miscellaneous

The District Council had written to confirm that it would no longer be responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of more than one public convenience, and therefore the Parish Council would take over the cleaning contract for St Mary's Street conveniences from 1st October. It will cost the parish just over £3,000 a year.

John Stephenson-Oliver reported that the financial situation at the Painswick Centre was improving, and that they were keen to develop a 'One Stop Shop' advice centre for various community services.

The Woolpack Inn at Slad had recently undergone changes. Formerly, Daniel Chadwick, the current manager, held the licence with Rhoda Thomas. Rhoda was leaving and Richard Bolton was taking her place as licensee.

£2,600 for the Cobalt Unit



Helpers' lineup (from left to right): Charlie Davis, Daniel Christmas, Julie Davis, Vivien Newman, Alan Coates, Helen Fletcher, Suzie Archer, Ann Kennitt, Sis Carson, Jean Ryland, Eileen Cook and Joyce Williams. Also Rosie Smith, Roger Daw and Helen Kilmister who couldn't make the photo call

This is the third year that a team of volunteers has held a garden party in the grounds of 8 and 9 Upper Washwell in aid of the Crack Cancer Campaign. As is fast becoming the tradition, it was a beautiful afternoon.

Under the trees and around the garden trestle tables were groaning with produce - all of it incredibly good value and in support of a good cause. What better way to spend an hour or two on a Saturday afternoon? Homegrown plants and jam made from the Beacon blackberries, face-painting and delicious cream teas.

The organisers would like to thank all

those who gave so willingly of their time, who raided their cupboards and emptied their wallets. You can continue to place orders for marmalade and mince pies for Christmas.

One raffle prize was uncollected, number 396, Kath Bradshaw. Please telephone to arrange collection of your chocolates on 812505.

Earlier in the year, the coffee morning raised £321, the Bingo Evening another £400, and together with the £1761.77 raised at the Garden Party, the grand total this year comes to £2482.77, towards the special scanning machine at the Cobalt Unit of Cheltenham Hospital.

Note: There will be a stall at Rencombe College on 1st and 2nd November. Christmas Bingo date to be decided.

Seats on the coach to Cribbs Causeway

If anyone wants to do some Christmas shopping at Cribbs Causeway, you are welcome to join the Senior Circle coach on Thursday, 6th December. The cost is £4. The coach leaves Stamages Lane at 10am, and returns from Cribbs Causeway at 3pm. Large purchases can be put in the luggage compartment.

Contact me at 9 Berry Close, or on 813125, or see me when you come to our meetings.

John McCabe

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SCHOOL NEWS

From the Autumn Newsletter

A number of activities have been going on over the summer break; the swimming pool area has been extended and suitably enclosed. It's now possible to take your children swimming and read the Sunday paper at the same time.

The infant climbing frame is now finished and the children are enjoying this new facility. The Trim Trail for junior children is almost complete, and looks as if it will be great fun. For all these initiatives, we undoubtedly owe thanks to the governing body and the PTA. Thank you for your continued support.

Roger Harding

Some examples of the pupils' work

Describe a character in order to make the reader feel sorry for him

Sam has big red hair and it's curly. This makes him feel different. He always gets in fights, so people think he's tough and cool but he usually loses them. He also smells because his family is poor and can't afford to take showers and change his clothes. Whenever there is a craze, he would be the last person to get one, and

still his one won't be very good compared to the others kid's ones, even though he had to do loads of jobs like sweeping the streets to get it and his dad would usually take ninety percent to feed the family.

By Dominic Gray

Describe a character in order to make the reader feel curious

I don't know what she was like but she looked disturbed in some way. I wasn't quite sure though. This is only the second time I've seen her. The first one was when I was shopping in a local store with my Mum and I bumped into her. Her appearance was strange and in some ways spooky because she wore black. I would guess she is about seventy years old and I think she is upset because she might have lost her husband in some way.

By Michael Goddard

I walked into the church and sat down. Then I looked back at the entrance, and suddenly saw a mysterious looking lady peering round the corner of the door, she walked in and went and stood at the back of the church. She was wearing an old

plain black dress, her hair was the same colour tied up in a bun with chopsticks going through it. I heard some ladies talking about her "Is that Mrs Tyne? What is she doing here? She is never seen out of her house!" I figured she was a very peculiar person.

By Lucy Speed

My Poem by Kitty Ratcliffe

On a summer's day

The children

Come and play in me

Having lots of fun

Doing handstands

Up from the bottom.

On a winter's day,

Not an animal at the bottom

And children come and skate on me

And never fall through

To the frozen water.

On an autumn day,

All the ducks come and dance

And glide through the weed

Whilst people walk by me

Walking their dog,

What am I?

Round the world on a sofa

Roll up your flying carpet, turn off that box in the corner, sit comfortably on your sofa and meet the world.

Is this the latest virtual experience brought to us by Microsoft? No, this is real live person-to-person contact, good old-fashioned getting-to-know-you, on a small but international scale.

Did you know that in universities and colleges across the UK there are many thousands of international students who would love to meet some of the inhabitants of these islands, and chat about the differences in our culture and lifestyles?

Rather than be tourists, they would prefer to see the country in the company of the people who live here. Rather than stay on campus, with colleagues who speak their own language, they would value the chance to spend a weekend practising English with the locals. Rather than spend Christmas alone in a deserted hall of residence, they would love to join in with the celebrations and find out what's going on.

Could you offer a weekend or Christmas invitation to your home, to one or two students, once or twice a year? You would be giving them an experience that would stand out in their memories, and might change their perceptions for ever.

Your own life would be enriched by friendship with adults from all over the world, and you would be doing your bit for international relations. If your sofa is

big enough for two (and you have a spare bed), you might like more information about volunteering with the HOST scheme. HOST is a national charity, founded by the British Council and the Foreign Office.

You can visit HOST at www.hostuk.org or call Anne Kenber on 813259, or contact the regional organiser, Kay Lewis, 7 Riversley Road, Gloucester GL2 0QU. Tel 418024.

THE PATCHWORK MOUSE

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE STARTS
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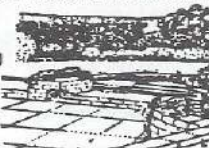


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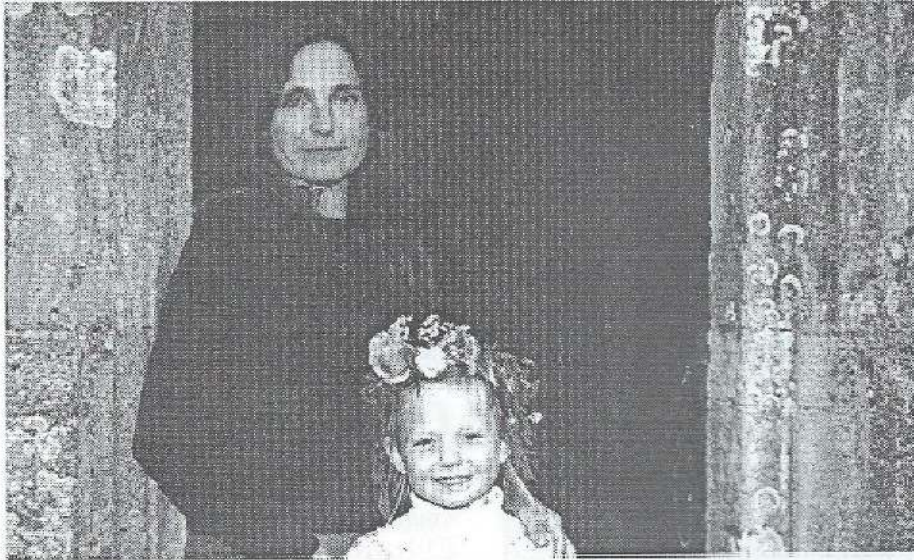
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Traditional Clipping service



The annual Clipping Service took place on Sunday, 23rd September at the parish church in cold but dry weather. Fortunately, the rain held off until the service had ended and the children were being given their traditional buns inside

the church. The Archdeacon of Gloucester, the Venerable Geoffrey Sidaway, who presided, followed tradition in giving the address from the belfry steps. Above, garlanded Sophie Barnett with her mother, Jennifer, after the service.

No coffee morning for Save the Children

There will be no Coffee Morning this year for the sale of Christmas goods for Save the Children.

Instead, there will be an SCF stall at the Charities Bazaar at Christ Church on Saturday, 3rd November. Christmas cards and other goods for SCF will be on sale there, and we hope that will be well supported. I have copies of the catalogue if anyone would like to order in advance.

Eileen Cottle, 813165

Pre-Christmas coffee morning at Ashwell House

Age Concern will again be holding their pre-Christmas coffee morning on Friday, 9th November between 10am and 11.30am in the lounge of Ashwell House. We are indebted to Michelle Elliott for allowing us to use this lovely venue. There will be an excellent home produce stall, good quality bric a brac, a raffle and more.

The members and helpers at the Day Centre look forward to your support for this deserving cause.

Pam Bailey

On with the tea dances at Painswick Centre

The series of Old Time Dance sessions is having limited success at the Painswick Centre, and we are going to continue with Wednesday Tea Dances and hope that we can attract more experienced dancers now that we have become established.

Come and enjoy a sociable afternoon. New dances are introduced regularly.

One reason for starting Old Time dancing is so that next July the Victorian

Market day can finish with a Victorian Costume Ball. These can be quite spectacular, with gentlemen in evening dress or military uniform and ladies in ball gowns. These can be hired or made up, of course.

Dance dates for October are: 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. And for November: 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. From 2pm - 4pm.

Geoff and Joy Codd, 01453 833150

POLICE REPORT

It seems we have been targeted this month by travelling criminals, in particular burglars. Forced entry was made to unattended dwellings and electrical items and cash were stolen. I am sure you are already aware of the importance of home security.

Non-dwelling burglaries have been from sheds, garages and outbuildings, where mowers and other garden machinery have been taken. Apart from keeping garden machinery secure, it is worth remembering to etch your details and postcode on to your equipment. Once this has been done, there is a chance that it can be recovered, and the value to the criminal is vastly reduced. On plastic items, your details can be carefully etched with a piece of hot wire or a soldering iron.

A postcode marking kit can be obtained from PC John Breakwell, 01453 882224.

House burglaries: Painswick 3, Cranham 1, Pitchcombe 1, Harescombe 1.

Other burglaries: Painswick 1, Cranham 2, Harescombe 3.

Motor vehicle thefts: Painswick 8, Cranham 1.

Other incidents: Theft of stone ornaments - Slad 1, Edge 1, Sheepscombe 1. Arson - Painswick 2. Disorder at Four-mile House.

John Breakwell and Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators

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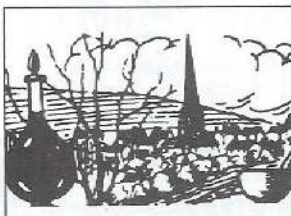
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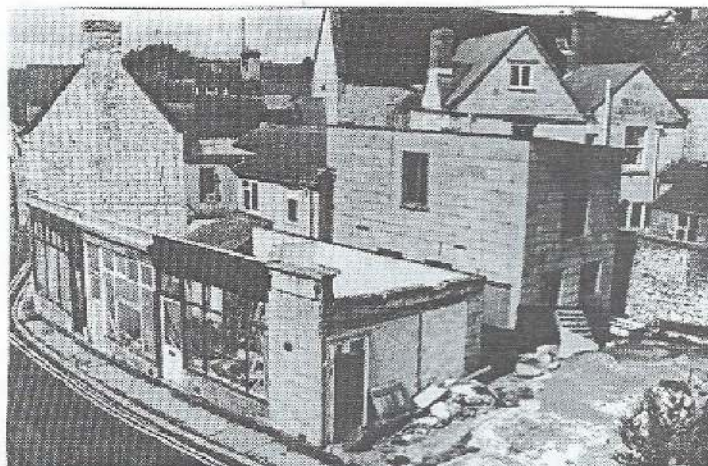
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Before...

Further to the item in last month's Painswick Beacon, entitled 'From The Beacon Ten Years Ago,' I am enclosing two photographs of the property mentioned that may be of interest to Beacon readers (Re-produced above).

The conversion, known as The Old Bakery, was eventually undertaken in

...and after

LETTERS

1996/7 after much comment and discussion by Major John Sutton, the then chairman of Painswick Conservation Society; there were many meetings and some

battles! He little thought that his widow would purchase The Old Bakery in July 2001, and add the final touches.

Hopefully, it is no longer an "eyesore in a key part of the village," as it was described then.

Reigh Sutton

The Old Bakery, Cheltenham Road

More consideration, please

Further to your article "The hills are alive . . .", I am appalled at the levity with which Mr Drew treats his invasion of other people's peace and quiet.

Does Mr Drew not realise that the loud voices, with odd screaming and squealing that are also part of these parties, is even more intrusive than the music.

Also, if every one in the Painswick Valley were to indulge in this anti-social behaviour just once a year, what an intolerable place it would be to live.

I do not want to be a complete killjoy and am not sure at what time Mr Drew's party finished, but this last weekend (1st - 2nd August) there was a party below

Longridge, with loud music and accompanying loud voices until 5 o'clock in the morning.

This must surely be beyond any reasonable behaviour.

There is a growing trend among the new young rich entering the area to indulge in loud parties and midnight firework displays.

Established residents, young sleeping children and pets deserve more consideration.

At least some notice could be provided, perhaps via The Beacon?

John Holmes

Vanbarr, Longridge

Here are your dates for Christmas mail

Would readers please note the following recommended last posting dates for Christmas mail:

Surface Mail.

All destinations outside Europe, except Canada, Far East, Middle East, Hong Kong, South Africa and the United States - 2nd October.

Middle East and Far East, 16th October; Canada, Hong Kong, South Africa and USA, 30th October.

Eastern Europe and Cyprus, 19th November.

Malta, Turkey, Greece and Iceland, 26th November.

Western Europe, 3rd December.

Air Mail:

Outside Europe, 7th December.

Eastern Europe, 10th December.

Western Europe, 14th December.

Second class UK, 18th December.

First class UK, 21st December.

Ray Appleby

Painswick Post Office

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Recommended last posting
dates are shown above right

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Happy memories but bleak prospects

At the first meeting of the new season, Local History Society members heard from Martin Slinger, President of Painswick Show, about the history of the Show. In a highly entertaining talk, with frequent interjections of corroborative anecdotes from the floor, Martin took us through the ups and downs, from Jenkins Farm to Painswick House and back again (several times), from 1945 to the present (not forgetting the previous run of Painswick Shows in the 1890s).

For those Painswickians who have lived with the Show for all those years this was clearly an occasion for enjoying many happy memories. For the newcomers it was an eye-opener - I for one had not realised how many famous names in show

Painswick Local History Society

jumping have been associated with our event.

There was a note of sadness as well. Martin exhibited the Permanent Challenge cup for Jersey cattle, no longer competed for because there are no longer any Jersey cattle in the district. In any case, as Martin pointed out, increasing regulation on top of the decline in dairying means we are unlikely to see cattle again at shows like ours. Increasing regulation and escalating costs were a recurring theme of the evening, and the pertinent question of the

future of the Show was raised. Although he did not say it explicitly, Martin indicated that unless a new venue can be found, and unless more people come forward to help the dwindling number of stalwarts in running the Show, its future is bleak indeed. David Archard, himself a past President of the Show, expressed the thanks of the Society to Martin for a most interesting evening.

At the next meeting, on 16th October, Carolyn Heighway will talk about Anglo-Saxon Gloucestershire. A special meeting will be held on 13th November at 7.30pm (venue to be announced) to launch the Society's proposed Landscape History Project.

Mark Bowden

Painswick Hotel wins prestigious award

The Good Hotel Guide 2002 has awarded the Painswick Hotel a Cesar for Country House Hotel of the Year.

Named after the world's most eminent hotelier, Cesar Ritz, the awards are highly coveted throughout Great Britain and Ireland and are considered one of the most prestigious hotel honours.

The Good Hotel Guide said: "Helen and Gareth Pugh run the Painswick Hotel without stuffy rules. They welcome all-comers, including children, providing a delightful decor and excellent food of an unpretentious nature."

Helen told The Beacon: "We are absolutely thrilled to have won such an eminent award. Our success is very much due to our team who have helped us achieve our dream of becoming one of the UK's top hotels. We look forward to building on this success."

Blood donor sessions

Blood donor sessions will be held at the Painswick Centre on 17th October from 1.30pm to 3.15pm and from 5pm until 7.15pm. As well as the regulars, new donors are especially welcome.

CENTRELINE



SPECIALIST STONEMASONS
& STONE CARVERS

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EURO NEWS FROM THE POST OFFICE

The changes to the Post Office system continue, and the latest to affect customers came into effect on 1st October. From that date all cheques should be made payable to Post Office Ltd. [not Post Office Counters Ltd as at present].

On 1st January 2002, the Euro will become the official currency of 12 European countries. Euro notes and coins will be introduced in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Ireland and Spain.

For a limited time, the national currencies will be used alongside the Euro, but eventually the Euro will become the only legal tender in these countries. So, if you have any leftover notes, don't forget to change them into sterling before they become worthless. This can be done at Painswick Post Office.

Euro Travellers' Cheques can be purchased from us now, commission free, and from January 2002, you will also be able to purchase Euro notes, commission free.

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The Italian Job by the Conservatives

Here's an early date for your diary. It seemed that everyone at the Conservative Autumn event last year thoroughly enjoyed themselves, so we plan to go one better this year by holding 'An Italian Evening' in the Painswick Centre on Friday, 7th December at 7.30pm.

The evening will start with tasting Italian wines, both white and red, with the opportunity of buying anything you particularly enjoy.

The theme will continue throughout the evening, especially during dinner. We hope you will come and enjoy yourselves - even if you are not particularly Conservative!

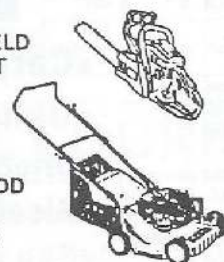
Tickets are £12.50 each, available from Alan Shearer 813815, John Stephenson-Oliver 812232, Brian Wilson 812156 and Ralph Kenber 813259. If you have any queries, please contact me on the above number.

Alan Shearer

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Slight hitch to First XV's great start

Painswick First Fifteen's excellent start to the new rugby season suffered a slight setback when they lost to Old Cryptians last Saturday (29th September) with the home side going over for a try in the last minute of the game. Painswick had been 20 points to 8 down at half-time, but played well after the break to take a four point lead with just three minutes remaining.

Immediately following Alastair Bressington's conversion, Old Cryptians were awarded a penalty which led to their winning try at the death. Harry Waller and Simon Stewart scored Painswick's tries with Alastair Bressington kicking four penalty goals, plus the conversion.

Coach Wayne Lee told the Beacon that, whilst there was disappointment with the result, the team were confident that they had the ability to have a very successful season as no side in their division gave them undue concern.

Wayne said that a number of players had joined the club this season and he was particularly pleased with the United's performance against the Old Cryptians Second Fifteen, their having won by 60 points to 3. The United has a balanced side of young and older players, a position which, said Wayne, boded well for the club's future.

Previously, Painswick had achieved convincing victories in the first round of the Tetley Bitter Vase national competition and in their opening Gloucestershire First Division match against Frampton Cotterell. Painswick's opponents in the Tetley competition were the Kingswood club from Bristol and, in front of a good crowd at Broadham, the home side soon established a superiority they were never to relinquish. With their forwards



Alastair carefully prepares for his kick

controlling the play, the Cherry and Whites ran in a total of nine tries.

Crossing the line for Painswick were: Martin Hayward, Rob Hussey, Ben Pollard, Chris Hall, Steve King, Stuart Smith, Lee Howgate, John Sangiovani and Alex Richardson. Wayne Lee was successful with five conversion attempts.

In their first friendly match,

traditionally against Gloucestershire Police, Painswick overcame strong opposition to win by 24 points to 14. Painswick's scorers were: Alex Richardson (2), Lee Howgate (2) with Wayne Lee adding two conversions. The match against Frampton Cotterell again produced some fine open rugby with the home supporters having much to cheer as their team scored six tries.

Alastair Bressington had an outstanding game for Painswick, scoring four tries, four conversions and one penalty to return a total of 31 points. It was Alastair's deceptive running out of the home side's 25 that led to Painswick's first try when a well-timed pass to Alex Richardson resulted in a fine run by the wing-threequarter to hold off the defence and touch down close to the posts. Stuart Smith scored Painswick's other try.

Results [(L) indicates league match]
Wed 5 Sep. Painswick 1st XV 24 Gloucestershire Police 14. Painswick United 0 Drybrook 26.

Sat 15 Sep. Tetley Vase. Painswick 1st XV 55 Kingswood 5. Painswick United 3 Swindon College 35.

Sat 22 Sep. (L) Painswick 1st XV 41 Frampton Cotterell 1st XV 11. Painswick United 12 Coney Hill 3rd XV 25.

Sat 29 Sep. (L) Old Cryptians 1st XV 25 Painswick 1st XV 24. Painswick United 60 Old Cryptians 2nd XV 3.

Like to try your hand at Duplicate Bridge?

The new season for Sheepscombe Duplicate Bridge Club has started. Meetings are every other Thursday in the Upper Room of Sheepscombe Village Hall, 7.15pm for 7.30pm prompt start, to finish by 10.30pm.

Dates up to Christmas are: 18th October, 1st, 15th and 29th November and 20th December.

The standard at the club varies, so there is no need to feel nervous. If you would like to play, you will be made most welcome, and if you need a partner, please telephone me or Joy Edwards on 812588, and we will try to match you with someone. We will be trying to arrange a couple

of introductory sessions to duplicate the rubber bridge players; the first is likely to be next month. Please phone me if you are interested.

Barry Edwards

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Police Band at the Centre

As mentioned in September's Beacon, here are details of the concert being given by the Band of the Gloucestershire Constabulary. The concert, arranged by the Painswick Centre management committee, will be held in the main hall of the Painswick Centre, on Saturday, 20th October, at 7.30pm.

Tickets can be obtained in advance from the Post Office or the Shetland Shop, at £6 each. To add to your enjoyment of the evening, wine and soft drinks will be available before the concert and during the interval.

The band recently returned from a tour of Belgium and Holland, and has performed in Painswick on previous occasions, although not for several years. Those of you that have already been to one of their concerts will know what an enjoyable evening's entertainment they provide. Their repertoire covers a range of music, from classical to popular, light numbers, played to a very high standard.

The committee hope that this concert will attract as large an audience as the Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir concert earlier this year; that was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everybody who attended.

Maggie Drake

London coach seats

A few seats are still available on the coach to London on Wednesday, 17th October, leaving Stamages Lane car park at 8.30am, returning from Trafalgar Square at 6.30pm. The fare is £9.

Due to Joan Truman's recent accident, all enquiries and bookings should be made with me at Highfield Farm, Painswick, GL6 6RF. Tel 813227.

Pauline Berry

Beacon subscribers - at 25th September		
	2001-02	2000-01
New (or returned)	75	91
Renewed	544	542
to date	619	633



Mixed Doubles Handicap winners Joan Griffiths and Nigek Barnett, right, with runners-up Jane Dickenson and Bob Sivyer

BUSY TIME AT TENNIS CLUB



Ladies' Singles winner Philippa James, right, with her opponent, Angela Higgins

Not too many years ago, October was a time when players put away their racquets and turned their attention to other sports. Now, with the advent of floodlighting, the courts are as busy during the winter months as they are in the summer.

This year, Robin Hall is organising the Club's Winter League that will be played between four teams of three pairs. The league matches, which are played on Thursday evenings, begin on 11th October and continue until mid-December.

The Club's AGM was scheduled for Wednesday, 3rd October when, with several committee members not seeking re-election, a number of changes will have taken place. This year is the Club's 40th anniversary and a dinner dance is planned at the Clubhouse on 17th November.

The Club's main tournament was held recently, with the finals played on Sunday, 16th September. Rob Ruggles beat Paul Duncliffe 7-6, 4-6, 6-2 to take the Men's title, while Philippa James was successful in the Ladies event, winning in three sets 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 against Angela Higgins. In the Ladies Doubles, Joan Griffiths and

Angela Higgins beat Juan Haslam and Maggie Slader in straight sets, 6-3, 7-5.

The Mixed Doubles event was won by Pat Andrew and Nigel Barnett against Debbie Westgate and David Haslam. In the Men's Doubles final, Nigel Barnett and Rob Ruggles played Robin Hall and Andy Golding where they won in three sets. Richard Horder and Paul Duncliffe should have been Robin and Andy's opponents in the final, but injury forced Richard to retire from the tournament. The popular August Mixed Doubles handicapped tournament was won by Joan Griffiths and Nigel Barnett with Jane Dickenson and Bob Sivyer runners-up.

On Sunday, 2nd September, many players, both past and present, came to Broadham to mark the dedication of a seat to the memory of Valerie Funnell who died earlier in the year. Club President John Courts paid tribute to Valerie's loyalty to the club over many years, expressing the thoughts of all the club's members when he said how much Valerie would be missed. It was fitting that her seat should be positioned overlooking the courts.

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Directory changes, please

With immediate effect, all correspondence for the Church Rooms should be forwarded to the new Church Rooms Secretary, Mrs Susan Puttick, at the Benefice Office, The Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick, Glos GL6 6UT. (814795). This includes all payment of invoices. Susan Puttick now holds the diary and will make all bookings from now onwards. Therefore, bookings will need to be made via the Benefice Office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9 and 12 noon. Where bookings for the Church

Rooms have already been made, these remain unchanged. Keys will be held by Susan Puttick (814795) and David Harley (813150).

This change is a timely reminder to all organisations that if they have any changes to be made to the Beacon Directory, these should be sent now to Leslie Brotherton at Longhope, Blakewell Mead, Painswick, GL6 6UR, or dropped into the Beacon box, addressed to Leslie.

The Directory will be published in December.

NEWS FROM THE PAINSWICK LIBRARY

New time for Storytime - this will now be on Tuesday afternoons at 3.30pm and will start on 16th October, featuring a guest appearance by Spot the Dog.

We are in need of a further volunteer to collect and take books to one of our housebound readers - please enquire at the library if you are interested.

We currently have a sale of adult fiction books - Fill a Bag for £1.

We have on our reserved shelf some books on the artist Mondrian for a customer who requested them. Unfortunately we have been unable to contact this customer - please pop in if you read this.

A COURSE on Enjoying Poetry, run by the Workers' Educational Association, has already started at the Library Top Room on Wednesday afternoons, from 2pm until 4pm. The course lasts ten weeks and costs £35. Mary Newman is tutor, and there are no exams. Twentieth-century poems are read by the group, and discussed. Please come and enjoy poetry.

John McCabe

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Bazaar in aid of eight charities at Christ Church

On Saturday, 3rd November Christ Church will be hosting a Charity Bazaar in their Church Hall, Gloucester Street, from 10am to 3pm.

There will be stalls supporting Cotswold Care, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, The Haven, the Oncology Unit, Save the Children, Stroud Mencap Homes Foundation, and Christ Church's two Charities of the Year - Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and The Leprosy Mission. Some stalls will have Christmas cards and gifts for sale. There will also be a cake stall and refreshments. Please come and support these charities and perhaps do some early Christmas shopping.

Pamela Bamber

Cotswold Care Autumn Fayre

Painswick Cotswold Care Support Group is changing the format for this year's Autumn Fayre. As well as coffee and refreshments, hot lunches are being provided. This event will be in the Town Hall on Saturday, 27th October, from 10am to 3pm. Lunches will be served between noon and 2pm.

There will be a cake stall, gift stall, bric a brac stall, raffle and flower stall, with fresh and dried flower arrangements on seasonal themes. Donations of cakes, gifts and bric a brac will be gratefully received.

Sylvia Walker

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Received

- *Halebourne, Knapp Lane. Fell Wellingtonia tree.
- *Theydon Cottage, Queens Mead. Erection of conservatory.
- *Land adjacent to Longridge Court, Bulls Cross. Change of use to holiday let accommodation.
- *Windrush, Jack's Green, Sheepscombe. Erection of conservatory.
- *Church House, St Mary's Street. Proposed works to garden shed.
- *10 Pullens Road. Change of use from police station to private house.
- *Skinners Mill Farm, Stepping Stone Lane. Erection of 8m telegraph pole-style mobile phone mast, with equipment cabin.
- *Riflemans, The Vatch, Slad. Demolition of outbuilding/WC. Erection of new conservatory, new windows to rear. Alter vehicle access.

Consents

- *Tullyfield, Longridge. Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling.
- *Segrims, Pincot Lane. Extension, new studio and outbuildings.
- *Barley Mow Cottage, Slad. Reserved matters for erection of dwelling and garage.
- *Detcombe House, Bulls Cross. Erection of double garage with office/studio over.
- *The Cottage, Hale Lane. Renewal for conversion of garage into single bedroom dwelling, and fence.

Refusals

- *The Park. Outline application for three detached houses.
- *The Lamp House, Victoria Street. Retention of gate posts and corner posts to railings.
- *The Gables, Friday Street. Retrospective application for aerial to gable end of garage, and aerial to gable end of tool shed.

Appeals

- Consent: Damsells Mews, The Park. Fell one ash tree.
- Refusal: Damsells Mews, The Park. Fell one field maple tree.



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Painswick in Bloom winners take a bow

Flowers really enhance our village and we thank all those who made an effort to grow plants in the village centre this year. Our judge was Jenny Bailey who has been involved with setting up Stroud in Bloom.

She visited several times to assess the quality of all displays visible to the public in the centre of Painswick.

The results were based on points awarded for healthy plants with no dead flowers, pests or diseases; weed-free containers with no basket liners visible; colour harmony and suitability of plants chosen for the containers and their aspect; contribution to the street scene. She preferred designs with no more than three colours, commenting that single colours can make a big impact.

We have pleasure in announcing the winners, who were presented with the Painswick Horticultural Society silver trophies at the Show last month held in the Painswick Centre.

Business Class

Winner - The Post Office. Congratulations to Heather and Ray Appleby (right), for their excellent display of Busy Lizzies that have been immaculate all season.

Commended - Madison House B & B, Julian and Emma Archard.

Residential Class

Winner - Stonewyck. Congratulations to Gillie and Hugh Jessop (above right), who are new to the village this year. Their well-tended red geraniums and blue lobelia made a lovely splash of colour.

Commended - Golden Heart, Carol Cole.
Naomi Dunn



New venue for flu vaccinations

The Flu Season is almost upon us again. In an attempt to ensure that all our patients who would like to be immunised against the dreaded influenza are covered **before** the bug hits us, we at the surgery would like to try something a little different this year. We hope that our patients will be responsive to this.

Painswick Surgery is organising the influenza vaccination programme for this Autumn. We will be holding a special Flu Day at Ashwell on Friday, 12th October

when we intend to vaccinate as many people as possible on that one day only. If you would like to have a flu vaccination, please telephone the surgery to make an appointment. Patients might be able to help one another by booking appointments with friends and neighbours at the same time, so they can share a car. This would ease traffic congestion.

Please remember- we will be immunising on Friday, 12th October at Ashwell - **NOT** at the surgery. We cannot deal with any other issues at Ashwell, and so if you should need the services of a doctor or nurse for any other reason, please book an appointment in the usual way. Please do not telephone Ashwell to make the appointment, contact the surgery.

Nicola Hayward, Practice Manager

Line dancing has now begun on Sunday evenings from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in the Painswick Centre. Beginners' classes are on Thursdays from 12.30pm to 1.30pm in the Town Hall.

The Cancer Research annual bazaar will be held at Archway School, Stroud, on 3rd November from 10am to 1pm. Nora Regan would be grateful for any contributions to her White Elephant stall. Contact Nora on 813313.

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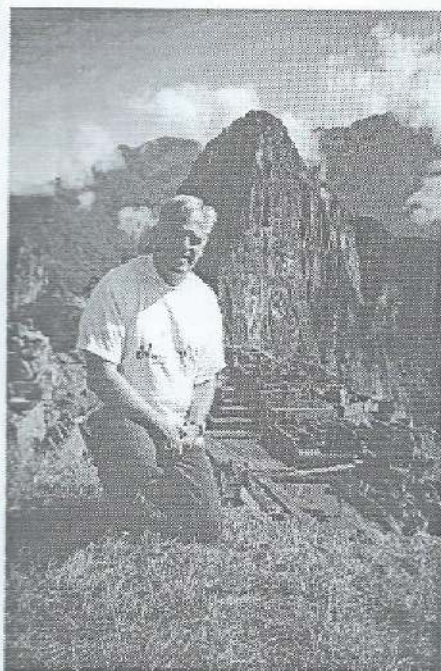
Kevin back from Peruvian challenge with £4,000 for SCOPE

Well, I'm back, and in one piece. For those of you who have forgotten where I have been and why - a short synopsis. Last March, I decided to take on a challenge to raise funds for SCOPE (previously the Spastic Society), to trek 100km in the Andes at over 15,000 feet to the lost city of Macchu Picchu. At the time, this was seen as madness by many who knew me, since I was about 3½ stone overweight, unfit and nearing my 50th birthday.

Spurred by their scorn and scepticism, I trained manfully and, yes, shed all those pounds and raised, with the very generous help of friends, clients and people in the village, almost £4000. There were 80 of us altogether on the hike and together we raised £240,000 for SCOPE.

It certainly was worth it. The Andes are the most beautiful and spiritual place I have visited. If you ever have the chance to go to Macchu Picchu, grab it! On the other hand, unless you get seriously fit, do it by train and coach.

The hike involved five days' trekking, at 12-15 miles a day at altitudes of up to 15,000 feet. This meant being out for seven to nine hours a day. The reason for the slow pace was the climbing, but mostly the altitude. Apart from feeling sick and woozy and having a headache, it is just difficult to breathe. I found walking 25 yards at times was like running 100 yards at speed normally. I just had to spend time admiring the view as much as possible! Although the challenge was tough, what



Made it! Kevin relaxes on the crest with Macchu Picchu below him

kept us going was the thought that those with Cerebral Palsy often face far tougher challenges than this every day just to get by.

Although we were near the equator, the air never became warm. When the sun was out you were hot; when it went behind a cloud you were wrapped in everything you had. At the campsite, when the sun went down, the temperature would drop 15°C in an hour and the tents would be frozen by morning.

It certainly was a challenge but also the experience of a lifetime. It is a wonderful way to engage and motivate people in raising money for charity. SCOPE raised £4million last year through challenges such as these. Cheques are still welcome, payable to SCOPE, and sent to me at Rose Cottage, Vicarage Street.

I'm hooked, and plan to do another next year - climbing North Africa's highest peak (4200m), Toubkal, in a weekend! So look out for my fund-raising activities (Bath half marathon in March and Devon coast to coast cycle in November). If you would like to do something similar, the SCOPE events hotline is 0800 019 1200. If I did it, so could you!

Kevin Parker

CHANGING ROOMS

See the changes made by the BBC's Carol Smillie and her team, when they filmed in two Painswick homes in May. The broadcast goes out at 8pm on Monday, 8th October, on BBC1.

Log on to the virtual bookshelf

'Lack of time' and 'being too busy' are the main reasons why people don't use their local library as often as they would like. But thanks to a new on-line service, you can now use the internet to find a book, music CD, video or book on tape and reserve it without leaving home.

"Just use your PC or laptop to log on to www.findabook.glos.gov and you can access a catalogue of more than one million items on offer at public libraries in Gloucestershire," said Liz Haldon, principal librarian for reader services. "When you find the item you want, you can even select the library from which to collect it." The service costs 50p per item, payable on collection.

The Reading Room is a site where you can find out what other people in the county are reading, prize-winning books, book of the month, favourite authors, or use an exciting tool called Forager.

Forager is an easy way to find the kind of read you want. Using a sliding scale, you indicate how much romance, sex, or violence you want in the book, or its length, whether it is funny or serious, optimistic or bleak, or has a happy or sad ending. Forager will then recommend a suitable book.

Shopping early with Christian Aid

Christmas cards, wrapping paper, Advent calendars and gift tags, in aid of Christian Aid, will be on sale at the home of Joyce Taylor, Pilgrims, Churchill Way, on Thursday, 25th and Friday, 26th October, from 10am until noon each day.

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee, as well as choosing your goods.

Frankie Marsh, 812829

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Favourite waltzes, arias mark music group's opening

At the opening meeting of Painswick Music Appreciation Group, a full house heard Chopin waltzes and polonaises, choruses from Nabucco and Don Carlos (a rousing one, that), songs and operatic arias by Schubert, Gounod, Mozart and Puccini, with Kathleen Ferrier and Joan Sutherland outstanding, and Leonora No 2, all selected by Leslie Brotherton, as a foretaste of what is in store for us this season.

A spirited and constructive AGM absorbed the interval, devoted mainly to finding ways of spreading more widely the load of arranging presentations, concert outings and refreshments, at present shouldered by just a few.

A greatly increased number of potential presenters has already come forward, and the committee is busy finalising future involvement and delegation.

By the time this is printed, we will have heard '100 Years of Song,' presented by Alex Nichols. To come in October: Desert Island Discs on 11th, and Frederyk Chopin, to be presented by Richard Farbrother.

Ralph Kenber

WI hear about Denman College

A table loaded with colourful, interesting flower-arranging and gardening books, brought along by members for display, stood in the Town Hall as the WI began its September meeting. President Barbara Thorley began by saying that it was nine days since the terrible events in the United States and she asked members to stand in silence in remembrance of those killed.

Following the singing of Jerusalem, we heard news of workshops at Dundry Nurseries with Christmas in mind; a 'Speaking with Confidence' course at WI House in Gloucester, and a knock-out darts competition - all these in November.

Mrs Barbara Lucas, a member of the WI County Executive Committee, came over from Sheepscombe, where she is a member of the local WI, and told us about Denman College, the WI's residential adult education college near Oxford.

The Air Ministry had requisitioned the lovely Georgian house, then known as Marcham Park, when war began in 1939, and they treated it well. In 1947, it was bought by the WI for £16,000 and opened as Denman College in 1948. The college can accommodate 72 students at any one time, plus staff. There are 500 courses currently on offer, something for everyone, as Barbara Lucas said.

We saw slides of the interior of the college: the elegant drawing room and the dining room, the grand staircase and the comfortably furnished bedrooms, with two twin-bedded rooms, specially adapted for those with physical disabilities and their carers. There were slides of the teaching block, with its Home Economics Centre that was opened by the Queen.

All bar profits at Denman College go towards renewing the carpets as necessary, so the college is well carpeted!

Dorothy Binns

Prayers for World Peace

The annual Day of Prayer for World Peace is again being held in the Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Therese, Friday Street, as part of the national Week of Prayer for World Peace. The day, Thursday, 18th October, begins with Mass at 9am and ends with prayers at 7pm. Full details of the day's programme are displayed on notice boards in Cranham, Painswick and Sheepscombe.

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to spend some time in the church during the day, when various participating groups will be reflecting on the recent tragic events in the United States.

PROPERTY REPORT - this month from Hamptons Painswick agency

Property movement in and around Painswick continues to be buoyant, despite the recent tragic events in America. Buying property has always proved a good investment, regardless of the state of the financial markets.

New initiatives are proving very successful throughout the Hamptons network of 54 offices in the South of England, including 15 in London.

Open Days, where a property is open for inspection for two hours at a time, is proving very popular both with vendors and applicants; our Virtual Tours that we have offered for the last two years are now

in great demand - if you haven't seen them on our web site, do call into our office for a full demonstration.

Every month, we are running a six-page section in Country Life for small country houses and cottages - an excellent and much cheaper way to feature your home in this fine magazine.

Exchanges in the past month are - in Painswick: Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, 4 Upper Washwell, 8 Churchill Way, the Bunch of Grapes in New Street, and Lavender Down on the Cheltenham Road, that was sold and completed within one month of instruction, also Windsor

Cottage on Upton Hill, and in Brimpsfield, the last of the new houses built by Partridge Homes.

Recent instructions include 8 Canton Acre, already under offer; April Cottage in Clattergrove; a building plot in Slad, and further on down the road, The Hazeling, a charming colonial style bungalow in an acre of garden, and Downfield Cottage at Bulls Cross, a pretty rural cottage, having just been restored.

If you would like details of these and our other properties, or would like an up-to-date market appraisal, please call the Painswick Office on 812354.

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Entries down, but standards high

The Society's 49th Annual Show took place at the Painswick Centre on Saturday, 8th September. Entries were down slightly, particularly in the vegetable section, due mainly to the unfortunate absence through illness of our President, Gordon Gardner, and former Treasurer Keith Crane.

However, standards were high, especially in the Decorative Section, where judge Jean Butt was very impressed with the way members skilfully tackled "a refreshing and demanding" schedule of classes. Maureen Stephenson received the Certificate of Merit for Floral Art for the best exhibit in the section, and the Society's Cup for her inspired interpretation of 'Trick or Treat', a large arrangement in a niche. In contrast, she also took the cup for the best petite exhibit, entitled 'Gentleman's Relish'. Beryl Bailey took Mrs Mannering's special prize for the 'Singular Beauty' arrangement, and Joycelyn Warren demonstrated both skill and imagination to produce a splendid 'Marrow Boat' to win the class of that title.

The Domestic Section proved to be the best supported, and the many mouth-watering exhibits presented judge Dorothy Pearce with a difficult task. She awarded Special Prize for preserves to Betty Wood,

Painswick Horticultural Society

and the Special Prize for baking, in memory of Dorothy Cox, to Beryl Bailey. Mrs Pearce was particularly impressed with the boiled fruit cake, baked by Patrick Daly to win the Men Only class.

Once again, excellent work in the Handicraft Section resulted in Nina Harris taking the Society's Cup for the best exhibit. Entries were very low in the Junior Section, but wonderful work from two 'Shropshire lads,' Ralph and Archie Butler, was very much appreciated. Ralph received the Felicity Sharwood-Smith Junior Cup for best exhibit, no doubt delighting his grandmother, Brenda Dunn, who quite likes winning trophies herself! Six-year-old Archie was the star of the show, being the only person to guess the weight of the cake correctly, and he stepped up proudly to receive it from Joyce Hunt who undertook the President's duty of presenting prizes.

In the Horticultural Section, Brenda Dunn received the E H Chandler Plate for the best collection of vegetables; Philip Berry won the Certificate of Merit for best exhibit of vegetables and fruit; Shirley Purdy took the D T Brown's Cup for her collection of culinary herbs, and her overall success in the show resulted in her receiving the W I Cup for the first time. Mr Gardner's Special Prize for fruit was won by Joan Parfitt, and the D T Brown's Cup for onions went to Stewart Price. Competing in the show for the first time, Stewart made an impressive debut, remarkably sharing the John Chandler Trophy for vegetables with his "mentor" and near neighbour, John Stuart. John, however, won outright the RHS Affiliated Societies Medal for the largest amount of prize money in the Horticultural Section.

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Diploma for Excellence in Horticulture for floral exhibits was won by Beryl Bailey for a single H T Rose. This exhibit also gained Beryl the J S Dent Challenge Cup to complete for her a very successful day.

Pam Bailey won the Felicity Sharwood-Smith Rose Bowl for multi-headed roses, with Betty Wood taking Cedric Nielsen's Special Prize for Best Foliage Pot Plant. Finally, in the very popular class for Decorative Shrubs, Dulcie Brotherton received the Christine Arnold Memorial Prize for her exhibit.

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to plan and prepare the show, and of course to the dedicated helpers on the day. The Society is also most grateful to the Recreation Ground Trustees for permission to park on the Recreation Field, and to Painswick Bowling Club for their help and cooperation with regard to parking for their home fixture with Bulmers. Drinks all round? It should be next year when we stage our 50th show.

Our first meeting of the new season will be on Wednesday, 10th October, at 7.30pm in the Town Hall. We look forward to the return of speaker Barbara Drake who will talk on 'The Care and Cultivation of House Plants.' The Autumn Supper will be on Saturday, 13th October at Painswick Centre. Tickets are still available and the event is now open to non-members. For details, please call me on 813227.

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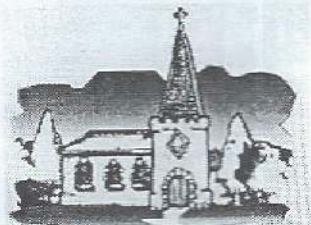
Singers' two concerts

The Painswick Singers are already practising for two concerts this year. The first, on Saturday, 27th October in the Church Rooms at 7.30pm, will be 'Music for an Autumn Evening.' There will be nibbles and a glass of wine. Admission is by programme, obtainable from choir members. On Saturday, 8th December, we shall be giving the Christmas Concert again in Christ Church at 7.30pm.

We are always looking for new members in all voices, so if you would like to join us, please contact Valerie or Arthur on 812400.

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Field Club sees Ireland, ancient and modern

This year's long excursion for Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, more often known as the Field Club, was to Dublin and Wicklow, from 5th to 8th September.

The coach took the party of 49 from Holyhead to Dublin Port, and thence to our comfortable hotel on the sea front at Bray, 12 miles south of Dublin. The strings of coloured lights at night, stretching along the promenade, made this a most attractive base for our expeditions.

For the following four days, we were taken by coach to a variety of great country houses and gardens, including the only surviving 18th century Arcadian garden at Larchill. One of the most fascinating places we visited was New Grange, to explore the passage-tomb, one of the most famous prehistoric monuments in western Europe.

On another occasion, we spent the afternoon at Glendalough Valley, with its two lakes, renowned for its early mediaeval monastic settlement, founded by St Kevin in the sixth century. Slight rain (the only time during our stay) didn't spoil our visit. In fact, the misty atmosphere perhaps served to heighten the feeling of history, as we walked round the remaining buildings and monuments.

Dublin itself, of course, featured on our itinerary, including a sight-seeing tour, viewing the wonderful 18th century State apartments in Dublin Castle, and Trinity College, with the impressive Old Library and the Book of Kells on display.

On Saturday, 8th September, we left on the ferry, Ulysses, the newest and largest of the Irish Ferries, comparable to a mini cruise liner. On our way home, we stopped at Chirk Castle (NT), near Wrexham, for tea and a brief look at the gardens. Sadly, whilst there, one of our members, Joan Truman, had a nasty fall, and was taken to hospital on arrival at Cheltenham, where a fractured pelvis was diagnosed. Fortunately, she is making a good recovery in Stroud Hospital.

Ken Oliver

Nordic memories

With the Beacon deadline just two days after Mair and Pat Daly's talk on their Norwegian holiday – and going away myself that weekend – I invited myself into their home as they sorted photos, programmes, etc. in readiness for their talk on 21st September.

In true Daly hospitable style, and over a piece of Pat's prizewinning boiled cake, it was most enjoyable hearing their spontaneous memories of a happy and memorable voyage.

From Cheltenham by Virgin Railways, they travelled to Newcastle. A stroke of fortune: they were whisked straight to their cabins, not for them the queuing, customs, etc. as for other passengers – MS Narvik was ready and waiting.

Our indefatigable pair in their cabin (with bunks) made a most amusing picture, especially that of Pat (in slippers that had to be stowed under his mattress through lack of space), climbing backwards down the ladder for each necessary nocturnal visit.

Bergen, lovely Geiranger and its fjord, Molde and the coach trip of the eleven

Painswick Senior Circle with Daphne Hudson

hairpin bends, on to Tronso and the Arctic Cathedral with its museum of strange musical instruments. The Lofoten Museum, this time on WW2. On to Kirkenes and the Russian Border, where stands the only memorial to a Russian soldier in Western Europe.

Hammerfest was another memorable place where, after the war, some Germans returned to build a Catholic church as a goodwill gesture. And finally back to Bergen where Mair tells of a most memorable and imaginative Norwegian wedding.

Thirty-six ports of call, and mill pond calm except for the last evening, when Pat's neighbour at dinner turned a nasty shade of green and made a hasty exit with Pat in hot pursuit, all thoughts of food suddenly unacceptable.

A happy hour spent with them both and I look forward to the actual performance.

Tips for preventing crime

It is with particular care that I write my report on Senior Circle's first meeting of the new "term" when our local policeman, John Breakwell, together with PC Penmore (now known as Crime Reduction Officer rather than Crime Prevention Officer), gave us an up-to-date talk on crime locally, quoting figures that have gone down over the last five months.

These statistics are not only interesting but encouraging. New police methods, with helicopter searches, studs on the roads, and modern vehicle design, are gradually foiling car thieves. But the warning about leaving anything on the back seat, and putting your car away, so deterring the opportunist, still applies.

We were assured that although violence is reported at length in the daily papers, it is really more a fear than a reality for the elderly. In the Stroud area, young males and females seem particularly at risk

from drunken groups, especially on a Friday or Saturday night. Domestic violence, too, is mostly drink related, among individuals already in stormy relationships. The gradual breakdown in social behaviour has much to answer for.

Many useful tips were offered on crime prevention in the home, with particular precautions when on holiday. Local problems were well aired at question time, but with fingers crossed, all in all, it seems we are at the moment, pretty fortunate to live here.

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What the Dickens! Imaginary women...?

Question: If you're insane enough to celebrate your 50th birthday 12,000 feet up in the Andes, yomping the Inca Trail, what do you do for an encore?

Answer: Direct Painswick Players in The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol (29th, 30th November and 1st December at The Painswick Centre). Or at least, if your name's cuddly Kevin Parker, you do.

"Oi! Less of the cuddly...!"

I had forgotten that, as I write this article, cud... The Kevin Formerly Known As Cuddly, along with his co-director, Charles Dorman, is looking over my shoulder, checking on what I'm writing. This is all because a few benighted PP members at our recent AGM complained that I ramble on too much in this column without ever getting to the point. Indeed, there was even a small minority who thought that I often digressed so far from the point that I forgot what the point was that I was supposed to be digressing from. As if?

Where was I...? The new slim-line Kevin interjects again: "The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol on 29th, 30th November and 1st December at The Painswick Centre."

He's nothing if not persistent. Sticking doggedly to the point, Charles chips in to

WI Christmas market

A variety of Christmas fare will be available at this year's WI Market: Christmas cakes, puddings, mince pies, chocolate logs, mincemeat and Christmas chutneys, as well as Christmas cards, and the regular goodies, vegetables, preserves, plants and eggs. Place your order early to avoid disappointment.

The last market will be on Friday, 21st December, from 10am in the Town Hall, reopening on Friday, 11th January 2002.

A parcel of WI Market produce can be sent through another WI Market to friends away from Painswick. Enquiries to Doreen Boon on 813850, or at our Friday market.

Painswick Players

tell me how the production is shaping up.

"We've had the auditions, which were very well supported with lots of new faces, and we've got a really strong cast."

"And the new faces, did they include these Farnsdale Avenue women?" I am determined to get to the bottom of this Farnsdale Avenue woman mystery. "Who are they exactly? Where did they spring from?"

"The Farnsdale Avenue women are imaginary," says Charles, by way of explanation. "The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society is an imaginary group of would-be thespians who put on a really hilarious, calamitous production of A Christmas Carol."

"So, you've got an imaginary cast, then? That sounds like an interesting approach..."

"Let me make it crystal clear for you," says Kevin wearily. "You have to imagine that it's amateurs playing amateurs playing

A Christmas Carol, not amateurs playing A Christmas Carol, if you see what I mean."

Charles continues: "It's a satire, a spoof, a send-up of all that can go wrong with amateur dramatics. For example, Marley's ghost comes in and..." At this point, they both collapse into a quivering mass of mirth, as they try to describe a side-splitting visual gag, which soon has me rolling around the floor clutching my sides with uncontrollable guffaws.

I would like to share all this hilarity with you, but every time I try to type it, the mere thought sets off a fit of chuckles so violent that I can't control my fingers on the keyboard... qwwww-ertyuiopppglkuews... Oh, dear me!

Just take my word for it: this production threatens to be dangerously funny. I'll update you all next month, by which time, hopefully, someone will have thought up a snappier title than The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol.

Jack Burgess

www.geocities.com/painswickdramaticsociety

Austerity lunches restart on Monday

Austerity Lunches start again next Monday, 8th October, in Christ Church Hall, Gloucester Street, from 12.15pm to 1.15pm. Homemade soup, bread, butter and cheese will be served for a minimum contribution of £1.30.

From the 22 lunches held last year, around £1900 was raised, thanks to the generosity of our hosts, hostesses and supporters. This amount was shared by the three charities we support - Christian Aid, Oxfam and Save the Children Fund.

The committee is greatly indebted to Christ Church members for making their hall available to us, and we hope that all former supporters will renew their Monday habit.

We extend a warm welcome to new friends who would like to come.

Fred Semark

MU coffee morning

Home-made cakes and items for your store cupboard will be on sale on the Bring-and-Buy stall at the Mothers' Union coffee morning in the Town Hall today (6th October), from 10am until noon.

There will also be a stall selling goods from the MU Enterprises Department, and a raffle organised by the PCMS. The coffee morning is in aid of the Away-From-It-All project that provides holidays for families in need. Everyone is welcome.

Gwen Welch



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The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER AND FORWARD DATES FOR 2001

October

Sat 6th	Coffee Morning: Mothers' Union/PCMS: in aid of MU Projects	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
7th	PCMS: Service of Rededication	St Mary's Church	6.15pm
8th	Calligraphy for Beginners/Improvers Details: Tel. 01452 611614	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm daily
	University of Bristol Course: Victorian Art & Architecture P Clarkson MA (10 meetings £46) Mondays. Prior enrolment essential: Tel. 0117 928 7844	Library Rooms	10 - 11.30am
	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Parish Church	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
9th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
	Mothers' Union: 'The MU - 20 Questions' - Mrs Gill Young	'Steps', The Highlands	2.30pm
10th	Painswick Probus: The Severn Bore - E Collins	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	WEA Class: Enjoying Poetry - Tutor, Mary Newman (Wednesdays) Contact: Yvonne Penfold, Tel 01453 766219.	Library room	2.30 - 4pm
	Body Conditioning Aerobics (Also 17th & 31st). Call 07990512915. Horticultural Society: House Plants - Care & Cultivation - Miss B Drake	Church Rooms Town Hall	8pm - 9pm 7.30pm
	Wives' Fellowship: Media Matters - Kay Hensley Old Time Tea Dance (Also 17th, 24th & 31st)	Christ Church Hall Painswick Centre	8pm 2pm - 4pm
11th	Theatre club Outing to Cardiff Music Appreciation Group: Desert Island Discs	The Falcon Town Hall	1pm 7.30pm
12th	W.I. Market: Fridays Flu vaccinations. Appointments through the surgery ONLY	Town Hall Ashwell	10am All day
	Painswick Bird Club/Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: Mysteries of Migration - Charles Martin, RSPB. Butterfly Migration - Cedric Nielsen. Open to all; Visitors £2	Town Hall	7.30pm
15th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Mr & Mrs Arthur Lock	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing Bring own cutters and saws - wear warm clothing	Meet at Car Park, Golf Course Road	10am
16th	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
17th	Coach to London: Enquiries to 813965 or 813227	Stamages Lane Car Park	Depart 8.30am
	Blood Donor Sessions:	Painswick Centre	1.30 - 3.15pm & 5 - 7.15pm
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
18th	Day of Prayer for World Peace	Catholic Church	All Day
	W.I.: Water Colour Demonstration by Judi Whitton	Town Hall	2.30pm



19th	Senior Circle: The Squire of Bentley - Tom Goulbourne	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 20th	MENCAP Coffee Morning: Cakes, Stalls etc.	Town Hall	From 10am
	PCMS: GDMS AGM, Followed by illustrated talk about the Organ Gloucestershire Constabulary Band concert	Wotton-u-Edge Church Painswick Centre	2.15pm 7.30pm
21st	COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
22nd	Austerity Lunch: Hostess - Mrs Ann Leoni	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
24th	Painswick Probus: "Hawaii" - Janet Jenkins	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Wives' Fellowship: Painting on Silk - Sue Smith	Christ Church Hall	8pm
25th	DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
	Music Appreciation Group: Richard Farbrother presents music by Frederyk Chopin	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Christian Aid Coffee Mornings: Christmas Cards, etc. (Also on Friday 26th)	Pilgrims, Churchill Way	10am
Sat 27th	Cotswold Care Support Group Autumn Fair; Coffee; Hot Lunches; Stalls etc.	Town Hall	10am - 3pm
	Music for an Autumn Evening - Painswick Singers.	Church Rooms	7.30pm
29th	Austerity Lunch: Hostesses - Mesdames Stuart and Price	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
November			
1st	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting Crack Cancer Campaign stall	Ashwell House Rendcomb College	2.30pm
2nd	Senior Circle: (To be announced) Crack Cancer Campaign stall	Town Hall Rendcomb College	2.30pm
Sat 3rd	November Issue of The Painswick Beacon published Charity Bazaar: Refreshments; Stalls etc.	Christ Church Hall	10am - 3pm
7th	Old Time Tea Dance (Also 14th, 21st & 28th Nov.)	Painswick Centre	2 - 4pm
9th	Coffee Morning of Age Concern Day Centre	Ashwell House Lounge	10 - 11.30am
Sat 10th	Charity Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy, Cakes, etc	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
Sat 17th	Woollen Sale Tennis Club: 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance: Tickets £30.	Town Hall Broadham Club	7.30pm until 1am
22nd	Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	The Falcon	1pm
24th	Annual Mission Bazaar: Cakes; Stalls etc.	Church Rooms	10am - 3pm
29th/30th & 1st Dec	Painswick Players - The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of 'A Christmas Carol'	Painswick Centre	Daily
December			
6th	Senior Circle coach to Cribbs Causeway. All welcome. Call 813125	Stamages Lane CP	10am
7th	Painswick Conservatives Italian Evening. Contact 813815.	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Sat 8th	Sue Ryder Coffee Morning Christmas Concert - Painswick Singers	Town Hall Christ Church	9.45am - 12 noon 7.30pm
12th	Village Carol Service	Christ Church	7pm





Fascinating day at the Birds of Prey centre

Members and friends of Painswick Bird club visited the world's leading centre for Birds of Prey at Newent. Our visit was timed to see the day's first flying demonstration in which Lennon's Falcon, an African Harris Hawk and the Common Buzzard were put through their paces.

Since we were an official group, we had the pleasure of being shown around some of the aviaries by the Education Officer. They are very successful in breeding endangered species but they aim to produce only nuclear stock that can be sent to other centres for display or for breeding, prior to release into the wild.

Our guide made particular efforts to press his enthusiasm for that much maligned bird group – the vultures. He explained their great benefit to the envi-

ronment, keeping down noxious diseases by their scavenging of all types of dead bodies. He told us of the present concern about what appears to be a virus that has caused a 95% drop in numbers of the larger vulture species on the Indian sub-continent. He is personally involved in the investigation of this disaster.

On a lighter note, he informed us that a Griffin Vulture had been recorded soaring to a height of 36,000ft – an illustration of their skills in using thermals and low oxygen levels.

After lunch in the coffee shop, the group was able to see the second demonstration, that included a Burrowing Owl (aged three months), a Harris Hawk, a hybrid falcon and three Black Vultures.

Malcolm Cooper

Beacon Conservation Group seeks more volunteers

Present at the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Committee meeting on 11th September were Malcolm Watts, chairman; Cedric Nielsen, secretary; Gwen Welch, scrub clearance; Dave Little, treasurer; Paul Hackman, English Nature; Duncan McKenzie, publicity.

Malcolm Watts and Cedric Nielsen agreed to consult interested parties, such as Amaury Blow and English Nature, about suitable content for the notice boards and about size and format, prior to manufacture and installation.

The AGM will be held on 12th October in the Town Hall, in conjunction with the Bird Club. The speaker will be Charles Martin of the RSPB who will talk about bird migration. Cedric will follow with a talk on butterfly migration. Non-members are welcome.

Existing committee members agreed to continue.

The work of the group is to conserve this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) where people have been coming for over 2000 years. Anyone walking on the Beacon cannot help but notice the erosion caused by pedestrian access, and scrub and woodland encroachment has destroyed areas of grassland, and obscured views.

The group carries out a regular programme of scrub clearance and co-operates with the Golf Club on selective mowing of grassy areas to preserve important flora such as the bee orchid. It operates in partnership with English Nature on general maintenance. It is also drawing up a plan with Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Department for repairing badly eroded areas. Anyone concerned with environmental matters will be most welcome, and we are looking for new Committee members.

The design for the seat at Catbrain Tump is now with the blacksmith.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) has bought a couple of heavy duty scrub clearing trimmers, and members of the group can use these after training.

The Site Management Statement is ongoing and progress will be reported from time to time in *The Beacon*.

Duncan McKenzie

MINI-ADS

Mother's help wanted to collect two children from school in Painswick and to care for them for an hour or so. Non-smoker preferred. 07712342636.

Logs. Seasoned and split; mostly ash. £60 per ¾ ton delivered. 814311.

Doll's House. Wanted, to buy. Any condition, any age. 813122.

Costa Blanca. Luxury two-bedroom apartment, situated in quiet landscaped gardens, with pools. From £150pw. Winter monthly lets £95pw. Photographs and video available to view. 813755.

Data Transfer Switch, used for short period to switch between two printers, and two 2-metre printer cables 36pin SCSI, bi-directional. £40 ono. 813101.

Canaries. One-bedroom bungalow on quiet beach-front resort, with three pools. Restaurants and shops nearby. From £200pw. Vacancies October onwards. 611873.

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The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to ROSALIND (nee Hemming) and PETER CHANCE of Welcom, The Park, on the birth of their daughter, Esme Hazel Rose, on 14th September (a first grandchild for Jane and Ken Hemming, of La Combelle, The Park);

also to Drs. NINA and IAN of Berry Barn, Paradise, on the birth of their son, Henry Alexander, on 28th August (a brother for Rosanna, a fourth grandchild for Daphne and Keith, and a third grandchild for Elly and Louk);

and to SUSIE BATEMAN and NICK JONES on the birth of their son, William Victor Jones, on 27th August, a brother for George.

Engagements

Kay and George BRAGG are pleased to announce the engagement of their younger daughter, HELEN, to HARVEY GARDNER, son of Jenny and Anthony Gardner, formerly of Hill Farm, Edge.

RACHAEL MAYO of Minsterworth and MIKE POWIS of New Street are pleased to announce their engagement.

Weddings

Congratulations to HELEN SIMPSON and PETER GEORGE who were married at Moreton-in-Marsh on 31st August. The couple live in Maidenhead, Berkshire;

also to ISABELLE BENSON and JOLYON RIDGEWELL who were married at St Peter's Church, Claypole, Lincolnshire, on 8th September;

to TIFFANY ROY and MICHAEL JAGO who were married at St James's, Cranham, on 1st September;

to LAURA SLADER and JEREMY HEYS who were married at Holy Trinity Church, Slad, on 8th September;

and to REBECCA HAWKINS and SIMON JONES who were married at St John's, Sheepscombe, on 8th September.

Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to FRED COX, JOAN TRUMAN, CATH THOMAS, DOROTHY HAYGARTH, PADDY WILDY, DORRIE CHILDS, DOREEN KIRK, FRANK ADLAM, JOY

STANDEN, JUNE CRANE and JOAN BRADLEY.

Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of JOHN WATSON, EVELYN HILLS and COLIN MACLAURIN-JONES who have died recently.

Hail And Farewell

We would like to welcome PATRICIA (Patty) STOTT, her daughter JULIE and four-year-old grandson, RICKY, who have moved into the Bunch of Grapes, Cheltenham Road, from Cape Cod;

Mr and Mrs SPENCER-COX, who are moving to Smalls Mill, Pitchcombe;

Mr and Mrs SYMCOX, who have moved to Springfield, Cranham;

PHILIP and SYLVIA MOODY, who have moved into Castle Lodge, Cheltenham Road;

and Mr and Mrs BRADFORD, who have moved to The Laurels, Slad;

We say goodbye to MIKE OWEN from No 4, Upper Washwell;

and JENNY WELTMAN, who has moved from Smalls Mill.

Change of House

Mr and Mrs TONY COOK, and small daughter Rosemary, have moved to No 4, Upper Washwell;

DERMOT CASSIDY has moved from Highgrove House to 1, Painswick Heights.

Thank You

Enid and Sandra would like to thank family and friends who attended NIGEL WALKLETT's funeral, and sent letters, flowers and cards of condolence. Special thanks to the staff of Ward 14, GRH, for their kindness over the last two years;

RENEE HILL wishes to thank all the many friends in Painswick who have contacted her in all sorts of ways during the last two months - cards, gifts and many acts of kindness. Thank you all;

GLADYS HOBBS wishes to thank all those who sent cards and best wishes on her 90th birthday, and to say how pleased she was to see so many of her friends at her birthday party at Resthaven.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER

Items for publication to Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, by
SUNDAY, 21st OCTOBER

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton, Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by
SUNDAY, 21st OCTOBER

Business adverts: Contact Liz Fisher, Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by
THURSDAY, 18th OCTOBER

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, by
THURSDAY, 25th OCTOBER

Letters and articles for publication are welcomed on computer diskette (returned after use) or by email to: painswickbeacon@supanet.com Items to be published, and other mail for the Beacon Committee, can also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in New Street (next to the telephone kiosk). Please provide your name, address and contact phone number.

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