

The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 28 No.2

May 2005

Shetland Shop to close

After 41 years, The Shetland Shop in St Mary's Street is to close and the premises put on the market. Announcing the decision, owner Paul Gray, said that it was a sad day for him and his partner, Valerie Dugan, but it was forced on them by trading conditions and, in particular, the decline of tourist business in Painswick over the past few years. The Shetland Shop was started in 1964 by Paul's mother, Jean Gray, as a clothes shop and took its name from the range of Shetland knitwear which formed the core of the original business.

Paul took over the shop eleven years ago and evolved the business into selling an eclectic range alongside the clothing, including pictures and picture framing, fossils and semi-precious stones, model boats and aircraft, and other ornamental collectibles. Paul's plan now is to continue to serve some of these niche markets via the Internet and to continue the picture framing business through a new gallery (opening on 19th May) in Minchinhampton, to which Valerie, a talented illustrator and calligrapher, is contributing as a partner.

Both Paul and Valerie, who are very active in the artistic and cultural life of Painswick, plan to remain here and Paul will continue promoting the regular series of Painswick Blues Nights at the Painswick Centre, which have been building a substantial following from across the county. Paul has also recently been appointed part-time Manager of the Painswick Centre.

Prior to closure, there will be a half-price sale, starting in the next couple of weeks.

News of the loss of another shop at the very centre of the village has once again stimulated a debate about Painswick's business community and our stance with regard to tourism. Quite often the Beacon receives letters from visitors to Painswick in which they comment on the impression the village left with them. Most often the comments are very favourable with correspondents frequently remarking on how friendly and vibrant the community is and how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful place.

However, the comments are not always favourable and a recent letter from a visitor, who was himself in a tourism business, carried the criticism that more than one business in the village gave the impression that they tolerated rather than welcomed tourists. Is this criticism justified? Perhaps Beacon readers whose friends visit the village could send us their comments and impressions of how welcoming Painswick is, as a contribution to this continuing debate.

"O would some power the gift to give us to see ourselves as others see us."



Post collections breakthrough

Readers may recall our reporting the suggestion that a post box should be located close to the junction of St.Mary's Street and Friday Street was to be forwarded to the Royal Mail.



In his reply to the Parish Council on 30th March the Collections Support Manager Paul Stinchcombe indicated that he had visited the village but come to the conclusion that 'the Sub Post Office box in the High Street would be considered close enough to serve the area adjacent to St.Mary's Street'.

However (and you heard it here first) he went on to say that he appreciated 'the difficulty elderly and disabled persons experience in these situations' and that he was sure **the Postman delivering items in the morning 'would be quite happy to post mail on behalf of members of your community'**.

Let us hope the Postmen have that off Pat!

Summer is a-coming in...

...and yes! The first cuckoo was heard by Eli Roder in Kingsmill Lane on 19th April... unless, of course, anyone else claims otherwise.



Election? What election?

The Beacon is 100% election free! Our publication schedule this month allows neither the customary opportunity for candidates to make their final pitch for your votes nor, indeed, any news of the result(s) of the local and parliamentary elections. Consequently, the Beacon is a totally election-free publication.

This welcome or sad (depending on your viewpoint) state of affairs will doubtless be rectified next month.

Elsewhere in this issue... **Paradise** calls, an **Odd Couple** of pictures, News of the **loos**, **Fencing** offensive, **Salsa** at the rugby club, **Peggy** gets spotted, **Penny** flies off, **Tamsin** sparkles, **Donald** jumps to a conclusion and **Wayne the Silver Axeman** cometh.

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Sites Panel Meetings – snub to PCs

Historically, where there were complex or large planning applications before the District Council, it has always been the case that its Development Control Committee may decide to seek the views of a group of its members before the matter is determined. Such a group was defined as a Sites Panel, and has invariably included the opportunity for the relevant Ward Councillor to be present, and speak to the Panel; an invitation was also extended to the Parish Council to be represented and speak to its already documented views.

The Panel's views, alongside those of the appropriate Planning Officers, were then considered by the Development Control Committee at its following meeting.

Such a system gave an impression that the full Committee was as well informed as it was possible to be before reaching its decision. Further, it took into account the opinions of the Parish Council – important in that this first tier of local government contains the people most familiar with the local circumstance. All very democratic.

There has been remorseless pressure upon District Councils from HM Government to determine applications in the shortest possible time. Stroud District Council have been so successful in their achievements that they have attracted an 'award' of £339,780 to mark their improved performance.

In a letter dated 4th April the District Council has informed all Parish Councils that the system has now changed; no forewarning, no consultation, no thanks for previous services rendered.

A new procedure has been approved. Where there are 'major applications – i.e. 10 or more houses or development in excess of 1000 square metres of floor space' a pre-committee non-judgemental Sites Panel may be convened (by someone unspecified); such will be without Parish Council representation – or even of its being aware of it taking place. Only if the full Development Control Committee decides it regards the feedback from the informal

(we are told) inconclusive pre-committee Sites Panel will a formal one be convened as in the past.

Readers will possibly be interested to note that this avoidance of contribution of local views did not appeal to the Painswick Parish Council, who resolved to register a protest, not least because it was also difficult to see how this saved any time in the planning process.

Rugby pitch floodlighting

Reports were received of complaints regarding light spillage from the recently installed floodlights for the rugby pitch at Broadham Fields.

It was agreed to investigate, although the lights are rarely brought into use yet because of there being adequate daylight for training during summer time.

Care Centre

The committee noted the objections of the Parish Council which had been conveyed to SDC regarding a resubmitted application to 'form additional staff accommodation in roof space store at level 3, including minor amendments to fenestration and elevations'.

The erection of security fencing alongside properties under construction on this site was noted, with some concern regarding the colouring of its decoration being out of keeping with the locality.

PARISH COUNCIL

Bulls Cross – bus shelter

Members had visited the site and, based upon a suggestion from Johnny Johnson, it was agreed (subject to further consultations) to seek the replacement of the demolished shelter to be a short distance from the cross in Longridge. Funding of £1500 is being sought from the County Council.

St Marys development – wall

As was reported here, it was decided at its last meeting to discontinue representations to Taylor Woodrow regarding this wall alongside Stroud Road. It has now been agreed to accept an offer made by ex-Councillor Alan Shearer to pick up the representations he had previously made to the senior management of the company 'with the support of the Council'.

St Marys – Section 106 funds

It was reported that the District Council had just received a cheque from Taylor Woodrow in full settlement of the planning constraint. It was agreed to receive suggestions regarding use of this 'wind-fall' fund at the next meeting, including the possibility of some of this fund being applied to upgrading of the toilets at the Town Hall/Recreation Field pavilion/St.Marys Street.

Councillor allowances

(See also report March Beacon- page 2) The Council received the decisions of the SDC regarding allowances for Parish Councillors. It was resolved to accept these recommendations, which permit each member of the council to claim up

to £100 per year for incidental expenses incurred, plus travel and/or subsistence at an approved rate, the Chairman being permitted up to £200pa.

Library – review

(See also reports in April Beacon – pages 1 and 2) The Chairman reported upon discussions with Deputy County Librarian Mrs Jo Hand and County Councillor Joan Nash on 31st March to consider the review being undertaken upon library services affecting Painswick. See separate report.

Annual Parish Meeting – format

Having resolved the format for this annual event, scheduled for 25th May, at its last meeting, the Council was precluded under its Standing Orders from further consideration of the matter for six months, it was agreed to suspend those orders and revise the format.

While written reports would still be tabled by chairmen of each of the Council's committees, these will be drawn together to form a single document for publication to all households in the civil parish after the event. At that stage, using a single sheet in the Beacon, and a run-on for the other villages, an annual report will be published – another modest step towards Quality Parish Council status.

Standing Orders

Amendments to the self-imposed orders, for which there are also national guidelines as to the manner in which the Council functions, were agreed.

Bledisloe Cup

It was agreed to enter Painswick village for this award. See separate article.

Painswick Beacon – clean up

The Council agreed with a suggestion from Peter Rowe that an afternoon be set aside in late July for a litter-picking clean up of the Beacon. Further details will appear in this newspaper nearer the time, but it is hoped that walkers, golfers and others will volunteer their services for an hour or two on (say) one Sunday afternoon.

Early interest in volunteering can be made known to the Clerk on 812722 or Peter on 813228.

Post box – St Mary's Street

See separate article on front page.

Town Hall car park

Not for the first time, Councillors expressed their opposition to the 'improper' use of its limited number of Council-owned parking spaces at the rear of the hall. These are clearly signed as being exclusively for the use of users of the premises at all times, and particularly appreciated by the disabled as well as those making deliveries to the building for functions. One neighbouring resident had repeatedly ignored requests to use her own garage for parking.

It was agreed to investigate the possibility of installing a chain to prevent such parking, or collapsible bollards which are key-operated. The Beacon cannot help but note the additional expense, and significant inconvenience such will cause

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Town Hall refurbishment

As grants are available to applicants submitting schemes by 30th June an extraordinary meeting had been held of the committee responsible for the Town Hall to consider works which were either essential or desirable.

- A list was reported including
- Roof repairs to combat several leaks
- Gas fires nearing end of useful life
- Display boards and/or improvements for display of art in the Upper Hall
- Refurbishment throughout the kitchen, including replacement cookers
- Toilet refurbishment and access for the disabled.

It was agreed (with two abstentions) to obtain, at a cost not exceeding £2000, a professional survey of the entire premises with costed estimates so that a submission might be made and, hopefully, tenders invited later in the year

Bledisloe Cup

The Parish Council has decided to enter Painswick in the Bledisloe Cup this year. A defined area in the central parts of the village will, therefore, be 'inspected' by the judges on more than one occasion and they will be particularly interested in the manner in which gardens, frontages and grounds are maintained. In support of this, arrangements have been put in hand to organize a general village 'clean up' on Sunday 29th May. Refuse bags, litter pickers, protective gloves etc are being assembled for a start to be made at 11.00am on that Sunday, commencing at the Town Hall.

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Library review

As we have reported under Parish Council news, discussions have taken place between the Deputy County Librarian Mrs Jo Hand, County Councillor Mrs Joan Nash and Parish Council Chairman Terry Parker to consider the review being undertaken upon library services affecting Painswick. The outcome of the meeting is that **Mrs Hand will be giving a report about the County Council's review of Libraries at about 8.00pm on the evening of the Annual Parish Meeting, 25th May, following the routine business. She will be available to answer questions.** She will stress that her presentation is part of the consultation exercise to obtain the views of parishioners. No decision about the future of Painswick Library has yet been taken. **A further public meeting would be held in late June** by which time Mrs Hand will have had time to consider the views she has received. After the June meeting Mrs Hand will be submitting a report to a meeting of the County Council's Cabinet in September.

Mrs Nash and Mr Parker were very concerned that Mrs Hand should be aware of the impending changes in Painswick's social structure, in particular the opening of the Care Centre where they saw a strong case for a satellite library drawing its books from the main County Library. They also stressed the need to look at the future of the Library building and how it might be put to other uses in addition to its function as a library. Mrs Nash had, for example, referred to the Benefice Office which was in unsuitable premises at the Lychgate, and attention had been drawn to the subject of the "One Stop Shop" approach where electronic access could be provided to residents to contact District and County Council Officers by video link.

Mrs Hand gave assurances that these views would be included in her report. She also enquired about other buildings in the village in which the Library might be housed. She was given a list of the various halls and particular reference was made to the Little Fleece, the future of which The National Trust is currently considering.

That the library is commonly regarded as a very important community resource, with considerable potential for the future, goes without saying. It will be of interest to note whether this estimation is reflected in attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting – a significant opportunity to influence the way ahead.

Welcome to Paradise

An Open Day is being organised for Saturday 11th June and the Beacon is pleased to pass on a warm welcome from The Paradise Community to visit from 2.00pm that afternoon.

They have stalls to tempt the visitor with guessing games, home grown produce, fortune telling, skittles, cards, plants, books, and wonderful raffle prizes.


A variety of musical entertainment will be on offer (they are practising hard) as well as scrumptious cakes, the best ice cream ever, and a sizzling barbecue! Alongside these will be exciting vehicles brought in by the Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Force; maybe with crews sampling the goodies?

All clearly signed, just off the A46 north of Painswick but, if more information is required in advance, please telephone Anne on 813276.

Marathon Man

Congratulations to Paul Lilley of Edge who completed his first London Marathon, which he ran in support of The Meningitis Trust based in Stroud, within his target time of 4 hours. Paul would like to thank all those who helped him to raise £1500 for the Trust.

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A New Publication from Cranham

This month Cranham Local History Society launches its own brand new publication, **Cranham: The History of a Cotswold Village**.

To use journalistic parlance, it is, in many ways, long-awaited. The society decided to write a history of the village in 1995 with the intention of publishing for the Millennium. However, compiling a history is a big project and this book has been worth waiting for. It is produced in hardback and its 320 pages include much anecdotal evidence from local people and over 180 photographs.



The main authors are Kate Searle and Janet Whitton though other members of the society have contributed. It has been paid for by individual subscriptions, a one thousand pound grant from the Parish Council and several fund-raising events.

This very attractive book is remarkably good value at £15 per copy. It will be on sale on 22 May at Cranham Cricket Club and on 29 May at Cranham Village Hall from 2.00-4.00pm on both occasions, and furthermore there will be complimentary refreshments. It can also be purchased direct from Janet Whitton, tel.01452 812417.



Local History Teaser

As we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of V.E. Day, this month's teaser is a real challenge. We have to come clean and admit that we do not know precisely when and where this photograph was taken. The ladies are obviously standing in attention, some are sporting medals and badges and it was the 1940s. We do know the identities of some of the ladies but it really is over to you



now to supply the rest of the information. Can you help? All responses will be welcome.

The answer to last month's teaser: the vicar was the Revd. Jackson and the vicarage was Madison House in New Street. Bert Strange, the proprietor of the Post Office, is on the extreme left, and standing in the middle is Mrs Barnfield who lived in Lychgate Cottage. The little girl sitting in the foreground is Pat Tidmarsh whose parents ran the family butcher's shop in New Street.

Doreen Hartley, who lived in Painswick for many years, has written from Oxfordshire with all the answers and pointing out that the man kneeling front left is her father, Bill Thornton, who used to keep the left-hand side of the path clean and tidy.

This month, the Local History Society has its annual outing. On Tuesday, 17 May Neil Holbrook will take us on a guided tour of Witcombe Villa and the mosaics. Follow the English Heritage signs and meet at 7.00pm at the car park at the top of the hill.

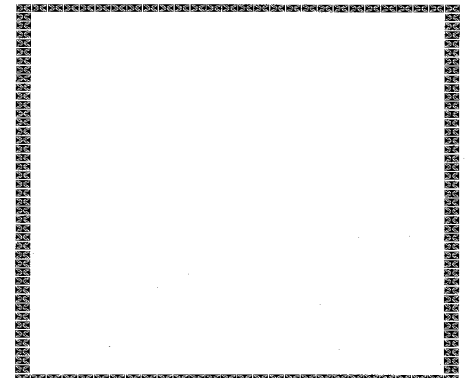
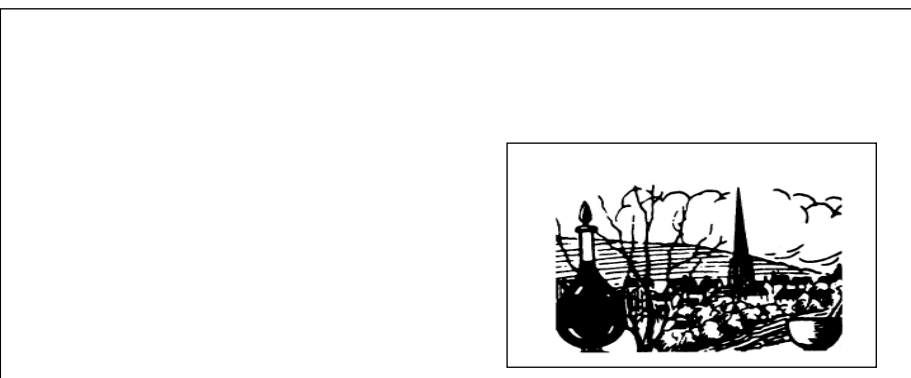
Carol Maxwell



House History Workshop III

The Stroudend Tithing Educational Trust is holding another workshop to encourage local people to find out more about their houses by looking at the architectural clues in the details of the construction. Dr Phil Dixon will once again give us an entertaining as well as informative illustrated talk, this time on 'why houses are where they are'. This will be followed by a practical demonstration of how to look at buildings to gain insight into their architectural history.

The workshop will take place on Saturday June 25th at Greenhouse Court by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. R. Townsend. This house is a fine example of a house which has evolved over the centuries and illustrates a range of building styles. Cost £5.00. Beginning at 10.00am and concluding about 1.00pm, with opportunity for further questions and discussion over lunch (please bring a packed lunch). Contact: Carolyn Luke 01452 814139 or Richard Savage 01452 813958. Pre-booking essential, places will be limited.





Odd Couple flushed with success

The Beacon's publication schedule always seems to be either the odd couple of days too early or the odd couple of days too late for us. So, once again I find myself too late to give *The Odd Couple* one last plug and just a bit too early for the review.

Still, since you all came to see it (didn't you?), you will already know that the show was very warmly received by excellent audiences on all three nights. So, instead of a review of the play, I thought I might review the sparkling new loos conveniently installed in the Painswick Centre (just) in time for curtain up.

Such comfort! Such convenience! The Painswick Centre now really is a performance venue at which we can all truly be flushed with pride. Indeed, so popular were these state-of-the-art superloos, that 'tis even rumoured some of the audience, once in them, refused to leave and actually missed the production. And consequently, for those unhappy few who didn't get to see *The Odd Couple* (and as a reminder to everyone else of what they enjoyed) here are an odd couple of first



night performance pictures...

Jack Burgess, www.painswickplayers.org.uk

Robert's Tour de France Challenge



In mid-July, Robert Goddard will be joining a team of 16 cycling enthusiasts from all over the UK to ride 200 miles over four of the toughest stages of the Tour de France on behalf of the Meningitis Trust. The Challenge includes the notorious Alpe d'Huez stage from Grenoble to Le Bourge D'Osains, 48 tortuous and torturing miles including a nine mile climb with 21 hairpin bends through 1,000 metres to a ski station at the summit. And that's just the first day! Subsequent stages take them to St Michel de Maurienne (50 miles), Feissons-sur-Iserre (45 miles) and finally to Annecy (42 miles). Mercifully, he says, the stages are not ridden on consecutive days (as they are in the Tour de France proper) and the team will have some much needed recuperative rest days in the Alps between stages.

Robert has been a keen cyclist for many years and used to race for the Gloucester City team. Nowadays he says 'It's all just for fun.' Mind you the fun can be pretty serious: in 2002, Robert was one of the Painswick Four who rode the 900 miles

from Land's End to John O'Groats on behalf of the British Heart Foundation.

This time the charity is the Stroud based Meningitis Trust and Robert's immediate aim is to raise at least £1,500 in sponsorship. Actually, he is determined to top £2,000. To this end he is holding a Coffee morning and Bric-a Brac sale on Saturday, 21st May at the

Gyde House and Painswick School reunion

Calling Old Boys and Girls! If you are an old boy, girl or member of staff from Gyde Home or Painswick School you need to know about the reunion to which you are invited on Saturday, 11th June from 12 noon to 5.00pm.

Brian Jubb, Tony Souter, Judy and Sandra Mansell have been busily organising this get-together for some time and are hoping that many old friends will have the chance to meet up for the afternoon. Already they have assembled hundreds of photographs of the Gyde, the school and the village which several generations of old boys and girls will relate to and which will be on display on the day. They would welcome even more and if anyone has any photographs of interest, they would enlarge and copy them to add to the collection.

The last reunion was two years ago and was a very happy occasion with large numbers of folk coming from near and far. The age range was great and in some cases people were meeting up for the first time in many years. Brian and Tony are sure that this year's reunion will be just as successful.

The event will take place in the Ostler Bar at the Falcon Hotel and refreshments will be available at the bar. If you need to know more or would like to contribute in any way you can contact Brian on tel. 0117 9616145 or email b.jubb@virgin.net.

Make sure you come along – it will be a lovely opportunity to meet up with old friends and everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell

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Salsa Evening

Painswick Rugby Club turns into the Latin Quarter for one night! How do you fancy learning, watching and dancing Salsa, having a lot of fun and on top of that helping raise money for a very good cause? Sounds good? Then mark your calendar for the night of Friday 8th July and dust off your dancing shoes! Tickets are £10.00 each and will include a finger buffet and a dancing demonstration and workshop run by Salsa del Sol, a Cheltenham based Latin dance and entertainment company who will endeavour to turn Painswick into the Latin Quarter for a night. They will also run a disco afterwards to enable people to put the newly learnt steps into practice.

In a moment of madness, I decided to take part in The Weekend to Breakthrough Breast Cancer in September. Walking 60 km, sleeping in a tent and having to raise £1500 to be able to take part does seem to be a bit on the foolish side but this year on 29th September my Mum, who died of breast cancer 12 years ago, would have celebrated her 60th birthday so when I saw the leaflet I thought it would be a fantastic way to honour her and the other two members of my family who have bravely fought this terrible illness.

Breakthrough Breast Cancer has been undertaking research into breast cancer for over five years and their research centre now employs 95 leading scientists and clinicians. Fundraising helps Breakthrough Breast Cancer continue its pioneering breast cancer research and education work. Their vision is a future free from breast cancer and I am sure all of us who have lost someone dear to this disease or seen someone we love go through it would love to see this vision come true!!!

I hope the Salsa evening will be great fun for adults of all ages and a chance for everyone in Painswick and their friends to join in and support a cause that I am sure has affected either directly or indirectly many people in the village. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate money in honour of someone you have lost to breast cancer, I will be able to display her or his name (men are also affected) on the card I will be wearing along with my Mum's photograph on the front of my t-shirt on the 60km walk. Tickets are available from Ana at Dalegarth, Cotswold Mead (812860), 'The Chairman' Antiques Shop and the Shetland Shop.

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Police Report

Painswick

We have suffered more house burglaries in the village this month. They have occurred during the day or during the hours of darkness before midnight and on various days. In most cases rear windows have been forced or smashed to gain access. Electrical equipment, garden equipment and tools have been taken. Investigations are ongoing but as yet no one has been arrested. Whoever is responsible for these crimes is moving around the village during broadlight and is probably in a vehicle, so can I ask all residents to be alert for anyone or anything suspicious.

There have also been some car breaks at Painswick Beacon and in the main car park in the village. One person has been arrested in connection with these breaks.

Cranham

A vehicle has been broken into and horse tack stolen during this period.

Sheepscombe

Damage to a car and a house burglary during this period.

Slad

No reported crimes this period.

Edge

Tools taken in burglary.

Several residents have made reports to Police recently regarding suspicious people calling at their doors, usually to read meters. The best advice I can give in these situations is that if you are not sure about somebody's identity who claims to come from a utility company, that you ask them for id. Take the id from them, lock them out, and phone the number on the id card to check the callers validity. A genuine caller will be happy for you to make any checks on them. A fraudulent caller may just be trying to find out if the house is occupied or not. If anyone refuses you id or just leaves then we would like to know. A good description and in particular a vehicle registration number would be most helpful. I want to urge residents to take steps to prevent their homes and cars being broken into. If windows and doors are left unlocked while people are in the garden or while the house is unoccupied then the sneak thief is left with the golden opportunity to snatch property. If you are going away try to make neighbours aware that your house will be empty and if you have an alarm ensure they know how it works.

Similarly car crime is also opportunistic. If people have items in the car which are not needed for the journey, they should remove them: they should certainly not leave anything on view. This applies to items such as sunglasses and loose change as well as the obvious items like laptops and handbags.

PC Seymour, Bussage Police Station.

Delivering the weekend papers

Readers may remember the letter from Benjamin Garbett last month (page 12) offering to deliver weekend papers not too distant from his home in Vicarage Street.

We thought we would enquire whether his offer had drawn much of a response. He told the Beacon that he was pleased with the quite small 'round' he has, both for Saturdays and Sundays, even venturing to the more remote parts of Hollyhock Lane and braving the hazards of Pullens Road!

At the moment Benjamin has the monopoly, even though he has tipped off his friends about the opportunities for them too. If you would want him to include you in his travels, try calling him on 812176.



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Opportunity to join Probus

The Painswick Probus Club is part of an organisation for retired professional and business men usually aged sixty and over. Our club draws members from Painswick and the surrounding district but some from further afield. The purpose is to provide a regular meeting point for those who would appreciate and value social contacts in their retirement with an opportunity to participate in activities of general interest. We meet every two weeks for about two hours on Wednesday mornings (apart from August and around Christmas) in the Ostlers Bar at The Falcon, for coffee and to hear a talk.



This coming year we have a very interesting programme of talks arranged. For example on Amnesty International, Saudi Arabia, Atlantic Liners, Training of Police horses and the Bristol Aeroplane Company. We also have two visits planned: one to Tewkesbury Abbey followed by a river trip and also a visit to Tyntesfield House, Wraxall to which members' ladies and guests, join us. We also have our Ladies Lunch in July as well as our annual Christmas dinner for members, their ladies, and guests.

Our constitution now allows us to have sixty members and there is the opportunity for new members to join us straight away. Our present membership is drawn from a wide variety of previous backgrounds and any newcomer will readily feel at home.

Prospective new members are very welcome to attend a meeting at the invitation of a member. An invitation to come along can also easily be arranged for anyone new to Painswick or who does not know an existing member - simply contact our Secretary, Geoff Archer 813557 or myself. I have just been elected President for the coming year as successor to Dick Purdey. Others committee members are Norman Rampton (Vice President), Nigel Burt (Treasurer), John Watts and Ken Gibson.

Peter Jenkins

Vaughan Williams appreciated... with reservations

Jane Rowe gave a well-researched presentation on the long career of Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958). He was born at Down Ampney and showed his musical talent at Charterhouse. He then went for two years to the Royal College of Music before going up to Cambridge to read Music and History. He made a large collection of English folk-songs, and was very interested in Tudor music, in English poetry and in hymns. He was influenced among others by Elgar, Bruch and Ravel and was a close friend of Hoist.

We heard first excerpts from the Sea Symphony, a choral work based on poems by Walt Whitman (1909), a work which put him on the map; then a Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis, a powerful work. Next came Five Mystical Songs (1911), based on poems by George Herbert, which were performed at the Three Choirs Festival. These were followed by an attractive work in a very different style, the ballad-opera Hugh the Drover, set in the Cotswolds during the Napoleonic Wars. Vaughan Williams' own war-time experiences were reflected in his War Requiem, which predated that of Benjamin Britten. Among other pieces, we heard part of two of his Symphonies, the No 5 in D Major and the No 8 in D Minor, a majestic work but with an undercurrent of gloom and disquiet, and his music for the film Scott of The Antarctic, suitably chilly.

Jane said she had had reservations about the composer, who re-worked music by other people and who was less popular than his reputation might suggest. However, her presentation was very instructive and enjoyable.

Richard Burges Watson



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Painswick Centre

News (and loos)

There has been a new appointment at the Painswick Centre. Paul Gray of the Shetland Shop and Blues Night fame has been appointed part-time Manager of the Centre. Rose Smith will still be handling the keys and bookings with Paul standing in for her whenever necessary. Paul will be responsible for the preparation and presentation of the rooms, health and safety issues, security and routine maintenance both inside and out. Call Rose on 812369 or Paul on 814480 if you would like to see what facilities the Centre offers you and your family. A new dedicated phone number will be installed shortly for all enquiries to the Centre, and the number published in The Beacon.

This is a great step forward for the Centre and is only possible because of the strong level of local support for all the activities provided. We are sure this will improve further the service we provide to all our customers.

The Painswick Centre is also delighted to announce that the new toilets in the Main Hall and Skittle Alley were completed just in time for the Painswick Players production of 'The Odd Couple' at the end of April. Many thanks to all of you who have supported us so generously. Thanks also to those who have stoically put up with the disruption over the past three months. We are sure you will all be delighted with these excellent new facilities.

As a further fling at raising money towards the cost of the new toilets the Painswick Centre is holding a **COUNTRY HOUSE SALE** on **Sunday 29th May** from 10.00 am. to 4.00 pm. Items on sale will be quality collectors' items, small items of furniture, china, glass, textiles, jewellery and more. If you have any clutter in your attic and are interested in selling items and sharing some of the proceeds with the Centre then please phone Jackie

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Spotlight on . .

Peggy Perrins



Where did it all begin?

I was born in 1917, an only child, in the Maternity Home which was next door to The Royal Oak – I'm probably one of the oldest real Painswick people left. In those days, on the first Monday of the month babies were taken to the Institute to be checked and weighed. This was before the NHS and was called Baby Welfare. It was run by Nurse Crichley and Nurse Judd. For many years, they also organised an annual day's outing to Weston-super-Mare and we went in a charabanc that had solid wheels and seats that were so hard. Later the Maternity Home became a nursing home for old people and Laurie Lee's mother lived there. When I was young I had long blond hair and Laurie Lee took a fancy to me. He used to make paper aeroplanes of love letters and throw them over the wall into the girls' playground to me. If I'd kept them they'd be worth a fortune now.

There were several big Painswick families – the Barnfields, Rylands, Mustys, Gydes and us, the Irelands. My grandfather, Maurice Ireland, did a bit of everything from farming to building to running the stables where the bank is now. Then he ran the horse-drawn buses to Stroud and Cheltenham but not to Gloucester as the hills were too steep. He became a wealthy man. My father wanted to motorise the buses but my grandfather refused so Dad went off to Canada. He came back to join up for World War 1 and when he wasn't accepted he started up his first business with a fish shop in Vicarage Street.

What about your schooldays?

I loved my schooldays. First, I went to Painswick School, starting in the infants where the Library is now and then the girls' part above the Town Hall. Then I passed the 11 plus exam and went to the Central School in Stroud. That was in 1927. The Central School was very advanced in its teaching methods and the first of its type outside London.

What do you remember of Painswick be-

fore the War?

It was a self-contained town. There were three working mills, providing employment for many of the people living in Vicarage Street and Tibbiwell. Every morning, old Mr Cook used to go down to raise and lower the gates for the water for the pin mill. Then there was Sewer Dick who was in charge of the sewage works. There were some real characters, like the man who used to drink too much at The Golden Hart and, on leaving the pub, he would throw down his cap which was the sign for his dog to lead him home to Butt Green. You knew everybody.

Nearly everyone kept a pig, for their own consumption. Usually the pigs were killed by having their throats cut in the yard of The Whitehorse Pub in Vicarage Street. My Dad didn't like that and always used a more humane means.

Painswick was really thriving and always busy. It was a working town. There were lots of stores, shops and services and six pubs. A market was held every Monday, first at the Institute and later at the Town Hall.

There were many functions at the Institute and at the Gyde, and on Feast Day we really went to town with all the streets garlanded and the bell ringing competitions going on all day. The Buckley family group of travelling players came every year and put on a pantomime in the Institute. They used to stay at different people's houses whilst they were here. And later in the year a circus came to the recreation ground, moving on to Cranham for Cranham Feast.

And during the War years?

My parents kept a paper shop on the corner opposite what is now Cardynham House. One night, probably on the way back from targeting the aircraft works at Brockworth, they dropped a bomb on Painswick and it destroyed our shop. My mother had just made lots of wine and my Dad was more cross about the loss of that than anything.

My husband, Len, and I were married during the War at Pitchcombe Church. I

chose Pitchcombe because I had spent many happy weekends there as a child with my grandmother. Len worked for Lewis's Electrical shop in Stroud.

We bought the paper shop at The Cross (Cardynham House, where we had a lady ghost) and I ran the shop which suited me especially when we had our three children. The children from the Gyde Home used to come in for sweets. And there was a private school in the Court House for children whose parents were abroad in the Diplomatic Service. Those children used to come in too. Funnily enough, we used to have to keep an eye on both lots of children equally. Sherbert Fountains were the favourites to pinch!

Opposite my shop was the public bathhouse. On Saturday night you had to queue up for the baths. There were two baths downstairs and one upstairs. We all wanted to use the one upstairs as it was warmer.

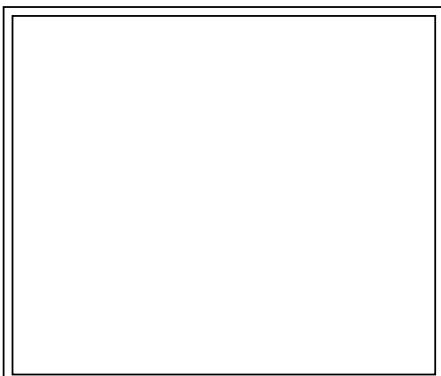
How did Painswick change?

It was the War that changed it. Lots of people came here from the cities to dodge the bombs and some of them stayed. Everyone had known each other and there had been so many children. Now it was different. Fewer people knew each other and families began to be smaller. The mills closed which changed the employment situation. People started to go to Gloucester and Cheltenham to work and so gradually the businesses here have closed down. I sold my shop in the early 1970s. Some good things have happened though. For example, the Croft School is absolutely lovely. Some years ago, I was walking round Painswick with my grandson and stopping to chat to people every now and then. When we got home, he said to me "Gran, you must be famous, everyone knows you."

I've lived and worked here all my life, I'm a real Painswick bow-wow.

Carol Maxwell

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



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Letters

Richard Wells

From Joan Wells:

My late husband, Richard Wells had many clients in Painswick many of whom I did not know. Professional etiquette did not allow him to discuss business with me. A number of people who are clients have approached me to find out what has happened to Wells & Co. The company has now been taken over by Andrew Ewart-James, a very good friend of many years, who Richard always regarded as very honourable. Andrew, along with Nicholas Alexander, is one of the senior partners of an old, well-established, respectable firm from Gloucester called Whitemans. He is keeping the name and all the staff.

I am very pleased as Richard had worked so hard over many years to establish his firm. I have had many, many letters from clients who held Richard in such high regard and hopefully will support the company.

Offensive fence?

From Alan Hudson:

My congratulations to Richmond Homes on the erection of a multi-coloured fence!

Just the thing for a Cotswold village. I do hope that it will be festooned with fairy lights at Christmas. It would also be nice if we could have a rotating neon sign advertising the sauna and pool. I do find

Editorial note:

The sudden appearance on the approach to Painswick from Stroud of this tall and sturdy fence of many colours, alongside the Richmond Care Centre development, has prompted a number of comments from startled Painswickians, such as:

'It's...er... very colourful...What's it for?'

'What are they trying to hide?'

'How long are we having to put up with that monstrosity?'

'Useful for fly-posting...'

'It's nice to have a special wall for graffiti!'

We approached Keith Cockell of Richmond Care for some answers. The primary concern, he explained, was security. As the development moved into its final stages, the site had to be made totally secure prior to fitting out the apartments. The objective was to have the first apartments ready by the end of October, at which time landscaping would be completed and the security

Parking in Painswick all adds up!

From Philip Meigh:

John Davis's letter regarding parking difficulties in Painswick, offers an interesting solution by allowing free parking for Painswick residents in the Stamages Lane Car Park. Unfortunately, this could be considered as penalising residents who already have difficulty in unloading their shopping, etc, quite apart from other problems. I would like to take this a step further, but in another direction. Having lived for many years in the centre of Painswick, with all its parking disadvantages, I have observed the habits of some non resident drivers, who park all day in the centre, thereby depriving many others the opportunity to go about their business for reasonable lengths of time.

Surprisingly, the numbers are very small, no more than six, but this small number can in one day deprive a significant number of visitors the opportunity to park for short periods.

Simple mathematics will confirm the alarming fact that a minimum of eight drivers may be stopped from parking in one day by one person, and when an estimated six do the same, forty eight are barred from parking in one day. When this is converted in one week the numbers would speak for themselves. All stopped by a few.

To return to Mr Davis's letter, these few are those who should be obliged to use the Car Park, preferably without charge.

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 25th May in the Town Hall

7.00pm The Annual Parish Meeting

8.00pm Public meeting concerning the future



fence would be removed to be replaced by a permanent post and rail fence, as well as an environmentally correct 'mixed habitat' hedge.

On the question of the multi-coloured appearance, Mr Cockell said that the plan was to include descriptions of site facilities on the panels, along with Richmond corporate logos etc. These duly appeared a couple of days later and caused yet more residents to express their concern.

The Beacon understands that this form of advertising is permitted during the course of the Care Centre's construction. However, Parish Council Planning Committee Chairman, David Hudson, told the Beacon that he is in contact with the District Council as he believes this form of advertising is inappropriate for a Cotswold village situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."

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Word-

This month, seemingly committed as he may be to ever greater European disunity, Brother Leslie has tossed fifteen central and eastern European countries into his word-whisk with the inevitable chaotic results.

From last month's western European confusion, a fair number of you uncovered:

BELGIUM, HOLLAND, DENMARK, FRANCE, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA and IRELAND.

AUSTRIA and HOLLAND were mentioned twice. Our thanks to those who told us the correct answers.

Architects

Last month, we asked where these chimneys can be found. The answer is on the Library.



And, for this month, where and what is this lamp?



S	L	O	V	A	K	I	A	W	E	T	S
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The Painswick Centre Country House Sale

Sunday 29th May 2005
10am - 4.00 pm
Entrance £1.50

The Painswick Centre is hosting its first **Painswick Country House Sale**. Items on sale will be pieces of furniture, quality collector's items, china, glass, textiles, jewellery and more.

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Penny flies first Merlin mission to Iraq

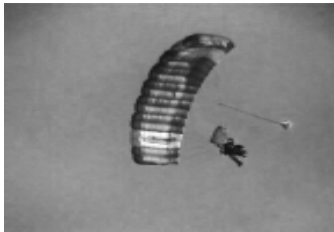
Stephanie Grayson reports that her daughter Penny flew the first RAF Merlin helicopter over four days and 3,500 miles to Basra via Rome, Rhodes and Jordan, leaving the UK in a snow storm, passing through Mediterranean thunder storms and arriving in Basra in glorious sunshine. Stephanie says that Penny is very upbeat about her posting to Iraq which will last about a year. Based at Basra airport, the accommodation, she describes as 'basic' (ie a tent) but the food is 'excellent!'

Penny cannot reveal the exact nature of her work but says that involves a lot of flying. The Merlin's main role is to transport troops hundreds of miles across Iraq's biggest province, Al Muthanna, assisting Iraqi security forces in operations against smugglers and insurgents. She says that when she was young, she wanted to be a vet but realised I couldn't afford the seven years at veterinary college. "So, I joined up and since then all I've ever wanted to do fly."

Jumping to an effective conclusion

Readers may recall the items we were pleased to publish about Donald Merrylees in November and December, the one reporting upon his leaping from an aircraft 10,000 feet above South Cerney on 4th December! He was doing this with sponsors he had sought in order to raise money for two specified charities - and to 'celebrate' his 71st birthday the previous month.

It is a little unusual for the Beacon to then become aware of the precise purpose to which the money raised by such daring (or other) exploits is put, but one of these is an exception.




The Priory Hospitaller of The Order of St. John, Gilbert Hinckley, has written to us to say that the £1048.75 forwarded to their national headquarters has purchased a 'Main Clinic Lenses Set' for sight testing. This will be of considerable value in the clinics of the St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem and its outreach work in the Gaza strip.

Mr. Hinckley goes on to point out that "The election of President Mahmoud Abbas has led to a certain optimism in most quarters. Security nevertheless remains high, however access for patients and staff from the West Bank has been possible and some closed Check Points are re-opening". All concerned must be most appreciative of efforts such as that by Donald, and these doubtless include the 12 full time and 7 part time doctors in the Jerusalem Medical Department.



LWB

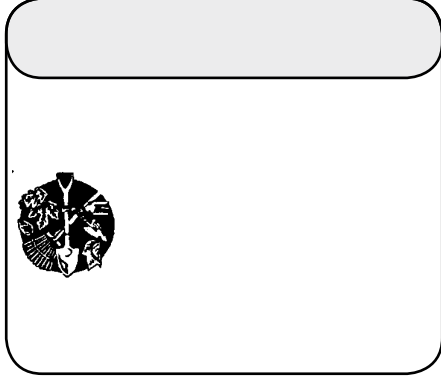
Rachel Taylor welcomes information for the Personal Column, on our back page, Space limitations permit only the minimum amount of text, and your assistance in this regard is helpful.



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COTSWOLD



EYE CALL

A Sparkling Diamond of a Season!

The second concert of the The Society's Diamond Jubilee Season was held in St Mary's Church, Painswick on Sunday, 2 April. Bright sunshine welcomed the Orchestra of The Swan, whose home is Stratford-upon-Avon; this was their third visit; and as before they were accompanied by the star clarinetist, Emma Johnson. A full house heard, first, Haydn's Symphony No 7 in C, written shortly after his arrival in Hungary in 1761. It was conducted by David Curtis, their artistic Director. This was one of Haydn's first symphonies, taking the fast-slow- minuet of the earlier overture style, and adding a fourth allegro movement which included an attractive dialogue between the flute and the orchestra. It was a well-measured and pleasing performance.

The highlight of the concert was Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A. Introducing it, Emma Johnson said that the key instrument was the basset (ie bass) clarinet which she had had specially made for her; this would have been used for the concerto in Mozart's time. It was bigger than normal and had four extra notes added at the bottom, which gave it more depth. This concerto was written at about the same time as The Magic Flute, of which some passages are reminiscent. Although this is a favourite piece which Emma must have played many times, she performed it with great verve, appearing to derive much pleasure from playing it, sometimes dreamily, sometimes in dancing mode, sometimes with quiet humour. The audience loved it.

The final piece was Mozart's symphony No 29 in A. The first movement was led by the violins, playing vigorously; the second movement was more leisurely and reflective; the minuet was a conversation among the strings; the last movement harked back to the first movement, with the violins again taking the lead, but leading to a well- balanced conclusion.

For their third concert of the season, on 16 April in St Mary's Church, the Society welcomed Alexis White, a very accomplished young pianist and musician, who is supported by The Countess of Munster Trust. She started with Haydn's Sonata in A Major. A lively and entertaining first movement was followed by a serene and melodic Adagio. The presto finale swept the listener along, as Alexis put it, in a whirlwind of semi-quavers. Her second piece was Three Preludes by Dutilleux, b 1916,



an influential but neglected composer. The first prelude was mystic and other-worldly, not unlike Messiaen. The third prelude contrasted lively and slow passages. Her third piece was a Schubert dance, Impromptu D.946, highly energetic, which similarly set a galloping rhythm against a slower and more melodic

one. Alexis then played two Etudes by Rachmaninov, the first quite angular and unsettling, the second with an unrelenting martial theme. After the interval, we returned to more familiar territory with a Brahms piano piece No 118. A short but impassioned intermezzo was followed by a lyrical section, then by a very energetic ballade, another restless intermezzo, a melodic romance, and a final searching and tragic intermezzo. The contrast and variety of her pieces enabled us to appreciate the wide range of her talents.



For the last concert in the Diamond Jubilee Season, on 23rd April, the Society were delighted to welcome back the outstanding violinist, Tasmin Little, and the well-known pianist, Wayne Marshall.

With Wayne accompanying her, Tasmin began the programme with the Praeludium and Allegro by Kreisler (1875-1962). After a slow but melodic start, this speeds up to a lively allegro. For the second piece, they chose J S Bach's Sonata in B minor, BWV.1014. This was played with great assurance and delicacy of touch, the violin and the piano accompaniment blending seamlessly. The first part of the programme ended with Grieg's Sonata in G, written in 1862 while he was on his honeymoon. It is one of his more joyous works. Although it starts on a note of slight melancholy it becomes increasingly allegro then vivace. There is a lovely and tranquil second movement followed by an animated allegro with an underlying dance rhythm and hints of Norwegian folk tunes. It concludes with a jolly presto.

The second half started with Prokofiev's Sonata in D, first played by David Oistrakh in 1944. A dreamy moderato is followed by a difficult and very lively scherzo, then a languorous andante, ending, to quote Tasmin, with fun and games. The programme then changed tack with a fluid and rhythmical improvisation by Wayne of Old Man River.

Then followed Tasmin and Wayne's arrangement of Cole Porter's Begin the Beguine and a Gershwin medley, a delightful duet with Wayne playing very danceably and the violin "singing" Summertime, Lady be Good, and Tasmin's favourite, The Man I Love, then an arrangement of tunes by Strauss, greatly enjoyed by the full-house audience and seemingly by the musicians themselves. Rather rashly, their encore was Who Could Ask for Anything More?, the answering applause earning a second encore. Tasmin and Wayne were not only a brilliant but also a charming and friendly duo.

Richard Burges Watson






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Rugby

Painswick safe

Although Painswick lost two league fixtures during April, they had done enough earlier in the season to ensure that they retained their place in the Premier Division of the Gloucestershire league.

On Sunday 24 April Painswick met Stroud Nomads when the teams competed for the Simon Turley Memorial Cup. Painswick won the game with an excellent performance, crossing Stroud's try line six times. At the final whistle the Cherry and Whites had scored 32 points to the Nomads' 14.

Painswick have won ten out of the twelve matches when the cup has been contested. James Golledge scored three of the Painswick tries as well as one conversion. Roger Turley presented the cup to the Painswick captain, Ben Pollard, much to the delight of the many Painswick supporters who had travelled to the Fromehall Park ground for the game. On Sunday 17 April, Painswick United met the Dursley second fifteen in the Stroud Combination Junior Cup Final and went down by 32 points to 10. Last Saturday, the Painswick Club hosted a match against the touring side Sheffield Tigers. The teams consisted of players from first and second fifteens. The Yorkshire side won the match by 43 points to 34.

Anyone visiting the Broadham sports facility recently will have seen the improvements being made to the ground, particularly the surfacing of the access road and car parking areas. Other improvements are planned with the first fifteen pitch being enclosed with a series of panels on which it is hoped to place advertisements. On Saturday 14 May, the Painswick Club is holding a players' presentation day to which all vice presidents and sponsors are being invited: the start time is 3pm. This year the club tour is to Prague over the bank holiday weekend from 27 to 30 May.

Results [(L) indicates league match]

Sat 2 Apr. (L) Painswick 1st XV 10 Avonmouth 1st XV 38.

Sat 9 Apr. (L) Tewkesbury 1st XV 5 Painswick 1st XV 0.

Sun 17 Apr. Junior Cup Final (at Stroud RFC). Dursley 2nd XV 32 Painswick United 10.

Sat 23 Apr. Simon Turley Memorial Cup. Stroud Nomads 14 Painswick 1st XV 32.

Painswick Juniors' successes

The U12's started well with good wins against Kenilworth and Leamington, before coming up against the tournament favourites Wolverhampton.

The strong and vociferous Wolverhampton crowd were silenced in the first minute with a fine try by Andrew Godden, finishing off tremendous driving work from David Marsh. This was closely followed by two further tries, the first a well worked backs move from Troy Gobey, and the second another for Godden. Turning round 3 tries to nil up, Painswick showed tremendous spirit to defend well and win the game 3-1.

The U12's then went on to seal the trophy with wins against Long Buckby 3-1, and a fighting draw against Woodford. This was an excellent squad performance with all members showing well, but particular mention must go to Andrew Godden for his 6 tries, and his front row partners David Marsh and Anton Gabb.

Next week is the club presentations, starting at 11am at Broadham.






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ART EXHIBITION
"A Taste of French Light"

Oil and pastel paintings
by Sally Trueman
Saturday 7th, Sunday 8th May
10.00 am to 4.00 pm at Painswick Town Hall

For further details please call
01452-814877

Cricket

The cricket season began last Sunday when Painswick were at home to Hardwicke. Painswick are looking forward to the arrival of South African wicketkeeper/batsman Simon Savides who has signed to play for the club this season. Simon is 25 years old and has had several years experience of English cricket having played in the London league. Only a few years ago it was a rarity for clubs in the minor leagues to recruit overseas players. That has changed with such recruitment being made comparatively easy through the Internet. It is of course necessary for the host club to arrange employment, accommodation and transport.

This Sunday Painswick begin their quest for the Village Championship with a second round match at home against either Birdlip or Witcombe. Today sees the start of the league season with the first and second elevens having matches against the Haresfield club.

All league matches are played on Saturdays with a 2pm start. The club extends a warm welcome to everyone interested in the game to come to Broadham and support the teams.

Fixtures

- Sat 7 May. 1st XI v Haresfield 1st XI (Home). 2nd XI v Haresfield 2nd XI (Away).
- Sun 8 May. (Village Championship) 1st XI v Birdlip or Witcombe (Home).
- Wed 11 May. (Midweek League) v Rockhampton (Home).
- Sat 14 May. 1st XI v Newent 1st XI (Away). 2nd XI v Bharat (Home).
- Wed 18 May. (Midweek League) v Haresfield (Away).
- Sat 21 May. 1st XI v Arcadians 1st XI (Home). 2nd XI v Hatherley & Reddings (Away).
- Sun 22 May. Village Championship 3rd round.
- Wed 25 May. (Midweek) v Frocester (Home).
- Sat 28 May. 1st XI v Shurdington 1st XI (Away). 2nd XI v Shurdington 2nd XI (Home).
- Sun 29 May. Sunday XI v Kingsholm.

Wed 31 May. (Midweek) v Leonard Stanley (20 over KO 2nd round) (Away).

Junior Cricket

The Under 13s have a series of matches with a 9.45am start on Sunday mornings.

Tennis

Club members were saddened to learn of the death of longstanding member Ann Brown. Ann's funeral was scheduled to be held in St Mary's Church on Thursday 5th May.

Broadham Summer Ball

Don't risk disappointment by delaying buying tickets for the inaugural Broadham Summer Ball which is to be held on Friday 24th June. There has been an excellent response so far to the sale of tickets and the indications are that the evening is one not to be missed. Cocktails and canapés will be served at 7.30pm, followed by a three course dinner, and dancing courtesy of Top Cats. Carriages will be at 1.00am. Dress is black tie. Tickets, available from Chris Hall on 814504, are £45. Tables of 10 are also available.

BEACON SUBSCRIBERS latest figures

@ 26th April	2005-06	2004-05
New, or renewed after lapsing	102	103
Renewed from last year	408	518
Total - including postal	510	621
Painswick village - dwellings	1057	
Subscribing households	357	
Percentage subscribing	33.8%	

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A Member of the British Horological Institute.

Guilty or not guilty?

Is it a more serious crime to steal £450 from a house in which the occupants are asleep in bed or £900 worth of goods from an unoccupied house in the day-time? This is the kind of



problem that members of the Yew Trees WI were asked to consider at their April meeting, when Mrs Sue Bradley-Jones gave a fascinating and thought-provoking talk on *The role of the Magistrate*.

Mrs Bradley-Jones began with a background history of the Magistrate in England and the unique role of the Court; only New Zealand has anything similar, though Magistrates there have nothing like the powers of their English counterparts.

The evening ended with members being divided into threes (just like the Bench) and being given an apparently simple case to consider. It soon became evident that a great deal of careful thought and discussion has to take place before someone is judged to be innocent or guilty. We ended with a great deal of admiration for the work done by this committed band of volunteers, and with Mrs Bradley-Jones urging members to consider applying to become Magistrates, as many more are needed.

Barbara Manzi Fé is to talk about her work as a photographic artist at the next meeting in The Town Hall at 7.30 pm on 24th May.

Celia Lougher

Carol will fit you in!

Carole Pitt has decided to put her years of experience in the clothing business to direct local use by starting an alteration service here in Painswick. Carole, who lives at 10 Canton Acre, points out that, whether for women or men, that "the design of a garment often plays a more important role than whether it will fit well, feel comfortable and flatter the wearer" and the skill of the seamstress can be to make the necessary adjustments to that end. She goes on to point out, for ladies in particular, that it is "amazing that in one store you are a size 12 and in another a disappointing 16, although it really does not matter at all if the mirror says yes. One way out of course is to have your clothes nipped and tucked a little rather than putting that gorgeous dress back on the rail then feeling miserable".

Advice can readily be obtained by telephoning on 812185, and a price list should be ready to forward to anyone who wants to know in advance just what might be involved.

Emphasis is upon the ladies, but men may want modest alterations too, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Carole realises that it may not be possible for all potential clients to beat a path to her door, and she will be pleased to visit by arrangement - with quite a lot of flexibility about timings too.

LWB

Christian Aid Week

May 15th-21st

SERVICE at St Mary's, Painswick

Speaker: Revd. Peter Minall

Sunday May 15th at 6.30pm

SHOP May 18th - 21st

Christ Church Hall, Gloucester Street, Painswick.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 10.00am - 3.00pm

Saturday, 10.00am - 12 noon.

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Goods for sale (NO Bric-a-Brac or jumble) welcomed

2.00pm to 4.00pm on Tuesday, May 11th, and throughout the week.

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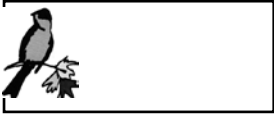
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Birds and bears

Painswick Bird Club were in for a real treat when Helen Williams ARPS came to speak on Birds and Bears in Finland.



Her photographs were superb; she demonstrated the advantages of front and

backlighting to either show clarity or mood of the subject. Finland has 50 000 lakes and at the moment a sparse population so there is plenty of room for wildlife, this includes many water birds, owls, dragonflies and some rather large bears. At the end of the evening a variety of photographs to suit all pockets were for sale.

On Sunday April 17th. in rather inclement weather, a small group of intrepid 'birdies' were guided around Warth Farm, Arlingham by Brian Bailey. It was heartening to see that the farmer was a real wildlife enthusiast. He has built paths, renovated ponds, is managing the vegetation, planting hedges all to encourage wildlife. As a special treat we were invited back to the farmhouse for a drink and conversation.

Join us on Wednesday 4th May at Bakers Mill or Tuesday 7th June at Keynes Country Park Details will be displayed on posters in the village.

Wayne Lee and the Silver Axe

A 'first' for Painswick's retained firemen! Wayne Lee has been awarded the Silver Axe for his outstanding achievements during initial training as a fire fighter. This accolade is probably only the third ever to be obtained among Gloucestershire's retained officers. Our picture shows Wayne proudly holding his certificate: the actual axe with his name engraved on it is held at the combined Somerset, Gloucestershire and Avon training centre at Severn Park, Avonmouth.

Wayne, who will be known to many in this area as a decorator, lives in Abbeydale and arranges his working day so that he can 'cover' during the day here in Painswick.

"Really interesting, and exciting" Wayne told the Beacon, "with far more to learn than I had thought likely". He started his part-time career as a retained fire fighter last November, since when he has attended at our local station two nights each week, plus three weekends and two full weeks at Severn Park. Needless to say, training has included all the obvious aspects of fire and rescue work from use of ladders to hose drill, hydrants to vehicle driving, but Wayne added that "The use of breathing apparatus and the techniques of moving and fighting fumes and smoke in buildings, tactical fire fighting, was the most exciting!"

We enquired about the ages of his fellow trainees and Wayne estimated that they ranged from 19 to about 46. About thirteen are assigned to each course with mixed ethnicity and women enrolled wherever possible. Continuous assessment applies, and there are further tests at 10, 22 and 36 months.

Wayne is, as readers may gather, a highly committed young man and deserving of much praise. However, he was himself full of appreciation for the support colleagues had given him here in Painswick and said "Please mention, in particular, Leading Fire Fighter Paul Luker and Fire Fighter Andy Robinson who gave up so much of their own time to help me".



PROPERTY REPORT for May by Murrays Estate Agents

By the time you read this we will all probably know the result of the general election and we can all begin to get back to normality again, although whatever the result, it is unlikely that we will see any immediate change to the property market. If anything it will boost confidence, bring more property to the market and encourage buyers to get off the fence and be more decisive about their moving plans. Who knows, we might even see cuts to the heavy tax burden on buyers that has dissuaded so many from moving in recent years. Despite these minor interruptions the market showed a marked improvement in April, the first quarter of 2005 having been tougher than we have experienced for many years. The level of enquiries has been strong throughout but buyer confidence has been disappointing, many looking for bargain deals making our job in creating sales that much harder to achieve. However in recent weeks our hard work has been rewarded, a flurry of sales and much better prices, releasing more buyers into the market and causing an unexpected shortage of new instructions to satisfy demand. It's uncanny sometimes how quickly things can turn around. Hopefully now, with the election behind us, sellers will feel more comfortable to test what we believe will be a steadily improving market and buyers too, more active to secure a property before prices inevitably move upwards again. In Painswick we have a strong portfolio of 25 properties seven of which are recently under offer, but we still have gaps where there is strong demand. We have many buyers looking for individual homes at the upper end of the market on the outskirts or in surrounding villages and we always need quality period and modern homes within or near to the village for those needing to move closer to our local amenities. Recent new instructions have not kept up with sales but nevertheless we have some very desirable ones, a superbly situated detached bungalow at Sheepscombe with enlargement potential, a very affordable three bedroomed house in Berry Close, another luxuriously appointed bungalow in Haresfield and a substantial period village family house in the centre of the village with great business potential.

Clive Murray.



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MAY

Sat	7	Art Exhibition: 'A Taste of French Light' - oils & pastels by Sally Trueman (also Sun 8th) Women's Fellowship coffee Morning Blues Night: Sherman Robertson	Town Hall Town Hall Painswick Centre	10.00am to 4.00pm 10.00am to 12noon 8.00pm for 9.00pm
Sun	8	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Improvers (Sundays)	Painswick Centre	7.30 to 8.30pm
Tue	10	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) Storytime at Painswick Library	Christ Church Hall	9.30 to 12.00noon 3.30 -4.00 pm
Wed	11	Probus: Extreme Machines - Mr Dennis Joynson Hort.Soc: The Fun of Gardening + AGM	Ostlers Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 7.30/8.15pm
Thu	12	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners Experienced beginners - Thursdays Tea Dances - Thursdays	Town Hall Painswick Centre	12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm 2.30 to 4.30pm
Fri	13	Country Market with coffee available: Fridays	Town Hall	10.00am
Sat	14	Blues Night: Sherman Robertson	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Sun	15	Christian Aid Week begins Christian Aid Service: Preacher Revd. Peter Minall	St Mary's Church	6.30pm
Tue	17	Local History Society Annual Outing to Witcombe Roman Villa Jazz Evening: Local musicians, no entry fee	Witcombe Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am to 3.00pm 8.30pm
Wed	18	Christian Aid: Garden shop; Cakes; Preserves daily	Christ Church Hall	10.00am to 3.00pm Books; Gifts; Light lunches. Daily until Sat 21st
		Senior Circle May Coffee Morning Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall Town Hall	7.30pm 2.30pm
Fri	20	Senior Circle: Flowers in May - Katherine Kear	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	21	Copy dateline for June to Editorial Team May Ball: a 'first' for Croft School Blues Night: Ottis Grand	tba Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI – Life as a Photographic Artist	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	25	Probus: Amnesty International - Mr Alan Frost Annual Parish Meeting: followed by public meeting about the future of Painswick Library CPRE Event: Talk & Tour of the Rococo Gardens, followed by tea. Tickets : 813250 Women's Fellowship: Community First Responder Scheme - Kevin Dickens	Ostlers Room, Falcon Town Hall Rococo Gardens Christ Church Hall	10.00am 7.00pm 8.00pm 3.00pm 7.30pm
Thu	26	Diary deadline for June to Edwina Buttrey		
Sat	28	Theatre Club Outing to Watermill Theatre, Newbury	The Falcon	10.30am
Sun	29	Country House Sale	Painswick Centre	10.00am to 4.00pm

JUNE

Thu	2	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	3	Senior Circle: Air Ambulance - Ian Nicholls	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	4	June issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
Tue	7	Bird Club field trip to Keynes Country Park	Keynes Country Park	10.00am
Wed	8	Probus: Offshore Oil Production - Mr John Dutton Women's Fellowship: village Shop - Marion Beasley	Ostlers Room, Falcon Christ Church Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Fri	10	Sue Ryder Care 25th Anniversary Coffee Morning	Ashwell House	10.00am
Sat	11	Sue Ryder Care 25th Anniversary Celebration Paradise House Open Day: stalls; home grown produce; pleasant grounds; musical entertainment.	Town Hall Paradise House	9.45am to 12noon 2.00pm
Fri	17	Senior Circle: Tales from a local publican - Johnny Johnson	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	18	Blues Night: Ainsley Lister	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	21	Local History Society AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	22	Probus: Saudi Arabia - Mr Norman Ellis Women's Fellowship: Carvery Lunch	Ostlers Room, Falcon Golf Club	10.00am 12.30pm
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI – talk by Waitrose	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	29	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	1.00pm



Thu 30 Probus: Tewkesbury Abbey and River Trip

JULY

Fri	1	Senior Circle Outing to Snowhill Lavender Farm		
Sat	2	Edge Village Fete	Edge	5.00 to 7.00pm
		Blues Night: Lightning Willie and the Poor Boys	Painswick Centre	8.00pm for 9.00pm
Tue	5	Foundation Hygiene Course - details Tel. 813232	Town Hall	9.30 to 3.30 ?
		PCMS AGM	Church Rooms	7.15pm
Wed	6	Probus: Edith Cavell - Mrs Dinah Shoebrook	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Women's Fellowship	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Thu	7	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	8	Salsa Evening in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer	Rugby Club (Broadham)	8.00pm
Sat	9	Victorian Costume Ball for info. tel. 01453 833150	Painswick Centre	8.00 to 11.30pm
Sun	10	Red Cross Open Gardens	Painswick	2.00 to 6.00pm
Fri	15	Senior Circle: Europe - Elizabeth Finsberg	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	16	Dog Show	Recreation Field	tba
		Blues Night: Bad Town Blues (<i>and pig roast</i>)	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Wed	20	Probus: Ladies Lunch at Stroud		
		Women's Fellowship: BBQ at The Latchetts	Kingsmead	7.00pm
Fri	29	Senior Circle Outing to Gloucester Cathedral Flower Festival		

AUGUST

Tue	23	Yew Trees WI – Work of County Air Ambulance	Town Hall	7.30pm
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SEPTEMBER

Wed	7	Probus: Atlantic Liners - Mr Fred Jones	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	9	Senior Circle: "Them bones" - Libby Graesser	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	10	Hort.Soc: Annual Show	Painswick Centre	3.00 to 5.00pm
Wed	21	Probus: Eleanor - England's First Queen? - Jim Davies	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	23	Senior Circle: The Bag Man - Hayden Gardener	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	27	Yew Trees WI - Aromatherapy	Town Hall	7.30pm

OCTOBER

Wed	5	Probus: Talk(s) by Member(s)	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	7	Senior Circle: Outing to Symonds Yat		
Wed	12	Hort.Soc: A Day with Beth Chatto	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	19	Probus: The Bristol Aeroplane Co. - Mr Walter Gibb	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	21	Senior Circle: Being a Magistrate - Kay Holmes	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	25	Probus: Trip to Tyntesfield House, Wraxall		
		Yew Trees WI	Town Hall	7.30pm

NOVEMBER

Wed	2	Probus: Priors of Gloucester - Mr Philip Moss	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	4	Senior Circle: Mary Kingsley, Explorer Extraordinary - Fred Jones	Town Hall	2.30pm
Fri	11	Senior Circle: Outing to Cribbs Causeway - Shopping		
Sat	12	Sue Ryder Care Coffee Morning	Town Hall	9.45am to 12noon
Wed	16	Senior Circle Coffee Morning	Town Hall	
		Probus: Selection & Training of Police Horses - Mr F S Knight	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	18	Senior Circle AGM followed by Travelling with Peter & Janet Jenkins	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI – talk by Cedric Nielsen	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	30	Probus: Annual Dinner at Stroud		

DECEMBER

Fri	2	Senior Circle: Hand Bell Ringing - Steve Coleman	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	13	Yew Trees WI – Christmas Gathering	Town Hall	7.30pm

Readers are reminded that a
direct line to Painswick's PC is
07799 624643
When off duty, direct to Control Room

Readers are reminded that the
Dog Warden telephone number is

01453 754497

PLANNING MATTERS

A summary of information received from the Parish Council.

NEW APPLICATIONS

LAND AT KINGS MILL LANE (to rear of Stoneleigh), PAINSWICK Erection of a dwelling house

VALPRE, VICARAGE STREET, PAINSWICK Re-pointing stonework front, side and rear elevations

DOVECOT COTTAGE, STEPPING STONE LANE, PAINSWICK Erection of a free standing greenhouse

LAND AT STROUD ROAD (CARE CENTRE), PAINSWICK Works to form additional staff accommodation in roof space store at level 3, including minor amendments to fenestration and elevations. (Resubmission following refusal 04/1494/FUL)

SOLWAY, CHELTENHAM ROAD, PAINSWICK Extension and alterations. Remove garage and utility

Land at STROUD ROAD (CARE CENTRE), PAINSWICK Temporary single sided non illuminated site board describing development

HILL VIEW COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET, PAINSWICK Increase the height of boundary wall

GREY GABLES, CHELTENHAM ROAD, PAINSWICK Two storey extension, single storey rear extension and alterations to roof

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD, NEW STREET, PAINSWICK Repairs to 16 Tombstones/Monuments (Nos: 193, 194(b), 199(b), 199(c), 199(d), 200(c), 203(a), 207(a), 207(e), 208, 290(a), 219(c), 242, 244(a), 244(f), 248(b))

HIGHCROFT, LONGRIDGE, SHEEPS-COMBE. Proposed loft conversion

BEECH CORNER, BEECH LANE, SHEEPS-COMBE. Renewal of permission 00/1234 for erection of an extension.

SWALLOW COTTAGE, SHEEPS-COMBE. Alterations and extensions

THE WOOL BARN, FAR END, SHEEPS-COMBE. Clad walling to extension with stone in same style as original barn walls.

Land at 1 CANTON ACRE. Erection of one dwelling. WELCOM, THE PARK. Internal alterations and erection of an extension

BEECH FARM, SHEEPS-COMBE. Erection of fishing shelter

BEECH FARM, SHEEPS-COMBE. Alterations to barn to provide a new covered yard. HAZELING, THE VATCH, SLAD WARD. Proposed loft conversion of double garage to provide office & workshop.

REVISED PLAN

WAYLAND, COTSWOLD MEAD. Extension to form garage with bedroom over and enlarge utility room. Main changes: Rear dormer on extension removed and 2 velux roof lights substituted.

CONSENT

39 ASHWELL, PAINSWICK Single storey extension and installation of a landing window (resubmission following withdrawn application)

COACH HOUSE at PAINSWICK MILL, KINGS MILL LANE, PAINSWICK Retrospective application for internal & external repairs, installation of an additional roof light and replacement of existing windows & doors

OLD VICARAGE, DAMSELLS MILL LANE, SHEEPS-COMBE Conversion of loft space above existing garage to provide bedroom & ensuite bathroom

5 CLATTERGROVE, PAINSWICK Single storey extension to provide a bedroom & bathroom (resubmission following refusal)

OLD VICARAGE, DAMSELLS MILL LANE, SHEEPS-COMBE Internal & external alterations to facilitate new heating system, electric installation, kitchen & utility

DALEGARTH, COTSWOLD MEAD, PAINSWICK Extension to existing dwelling

LORDS WOOD COTTAGE, THE GROVE, SHEEPS-COMBE Retrospective application for erection of a porch & construction of a retaining wall with handrailing

CHANCELLORS TEA ROOMS, VICTORIA STREET, PAINSWICK Change of use and alterations to annex rooms from tea rooms to office

12 BERRY CLOSE, PAINSWICK Replacing flat roof with pitched roof

BUNNAGE FIELDS FARM, THE CAMP, SHEEPS-COMBE Erection of extension to dwelling

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

MAPLE COTTAGE, SHEEPS-COMBE Demolition of existing summerhouse and

MINI-ADS

Desktop PC - Hewlett Packard Intel Pentium III 600MHz, 128MB RAM, 2xUSB, Windows98SE, Works 2000, Money + many other. Full Norton Antivirus, 17" Monitor, Keyboard/Mouse, DVD-ROM, CD-RW. Boxed £175 ono. Contact 812602 (eve/we).

Cotswold Walling Stone — Approx half a ton of good walling stone surplus to garden requirements. £15 Buyer to collect. Telephone 514360.

Stone Garden Troughs - Small - 25ins x 16ins £40: Small - 22ins x 16ins £40: Smaller - 17ins x 14ins £25: Black Cast Iron Urns 28ins high 15ins diameter - £25 each or £45 the pair. Buyer collects. 810885.

Lock Up - Single garage to let. 1/3 mile level walk from the church. Offers on £75 p.c.m. 814360.

High Chair wanted - Please telephone Caroline on 812625.

Ironing - Do you need help with the ironing? The charge is £5 an hour. If you live within 5 miles of Painswick, please telephone Gilly Padbury on 814470.

Luxury Caravan for hire on North Norfolk Coast - 2 bedrooms. Few minutes walk from the beach at Wells-next-the-Sea. Please contact for brochure

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



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The Personal Column

GYDE

Babies

Congratulations to DIANE and KIRK RAVENHILL on the arrival of their son, Jonty on 4th January, a brother for Lydia and Lucy;

also to MARIE and STEVE BERLIN on the birth of their second son, Marcus Patrick, on 17th March, a brother for Toby;

also to EMMA and MICHAEL WALTERS on the birth of their first son, Rudi James, on 25th March, a fourth grandson for Mo and Wally Walters

ELENA and ANDREW BROTHERTON on the birth of son Gregory on 29th April, a fifth grandchild for Dulcie and Leslie.

Welcome

We would like to welcome ALAN and SARAH WHERETT to the apartment above Painswick Fabrics. Alan and Sarah came from Thrupp, having been married in December;

also to Mr & Mrs HERBERT, who have moved into Queens Mead;

also to TONY and LIZ PRIESTLEY who have moved to Kempside, Orchard Mead from Eastcombe;

also to the two SWANS who have moved into the Painswick Mill Pond, from Prinknash Bird Park. Diane Mearns from Hamptons Estate Agents - who (presumably) handled the transaction - reports that they are enjoying the peace and quiet of their new environment.

Change of house

The BERLIN family have moved from Vicarage Street to Norbreck House, Cotswold Mead.

Farewell

We are sorry to say goodbye to the FORD family who have moved from Norbreck House in Cotswold Mead to Cheltenham,

and to Mr and Mrs PHILLIPS who have moved from Kempside, Orchard Mead.

Ruby Wedding

Congratulations to SUSAN and ALAN SHEARER, who celebrated forty years of married life on 3rd April.

Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to BOB WATKIN, BRIAN WILSON, BRIAN WELCH, JOHN STUART and BERYL

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of KIT HOLLIDAY, GLADYS LUKER, VERA ILLINGWORTH, BARBARA MINETT-SMITH and BETTY

Personal messages

Barbara and David Harley wish to express sincere thanks for the expressions of sympathy, for the prayers and tremendous support offered on the sudden death of their son, Marcus. They have been sustained by the tide of love.

June Privett would like to thank everyone who so kindly sent messages, cards and flowers whilst being unwell. She is pleased to say that she is feeling much better now.



Special plea

A former Painswickian, Yvonne Stanbridge is being sought by an acquaintance, Kathleen Bridge from Nuneaton.

Yvonne was married to William (Bill) Stanbridge who died in hospital in 1978 after an accident. She lived at Swiss Cottages in Kingsmill Lane 1976 to 1979. Yvonne remarried and moved (possibly) to Evesham. Please contact Kathleen directly at 17, Berwyn Way, Nuneaton CV10 8QW if you can help.



NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date

SATURDAY 4th JUNE

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

SATURDAY 21st MAY

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

SUNDAY 22nd MAY

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

THURSDAY 19th MAY

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

THURSDAY 26th MAY

Letters and articles for publication are particularly welcome by Email to **painswickbeacon@supanet.com** or, alternatively, on computer disk.

Items to be published, and other mail for the Beacon Committee, can also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in

New Street - next to the telephone kiosk. Please be sure to provide your name, address and a contact phone number.

The **Beacon's telephone number is 814500**, and can accept short recorded messages: our **fax is 01452.814500**

Our web site is **www.painswickbeacon.org.uk**

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

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