

The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

Volume 29 Number 11

February 2007

Our Library - A Window of Opportunity!

Some 130 Painswickians packed into the Church Rooms on Tuesday 23rd January for the public presentation of the Painswick Gateway Project, an ambitious proposal to develop the Library buildings and Church Rooms into a multi-purpose community centre.

The meeting, co-ordinated by the Parish Council and chaired by Council Chairman, Terry Parker, heard Edward Young - presenting on behalf of the Working Group - appeal to the Painswick community to pledge £120,000 out of the estimated £300,000 needed to buy the Library building from the County Council and carry out essential repairs and maintenance as the essential first stage.

To add a certain frisson to the appeal, sufficient funding by way of individual pledges has to be received by 16th February to meet the County Council's extended deadline of 23rd February for a decision regarding the purchase.

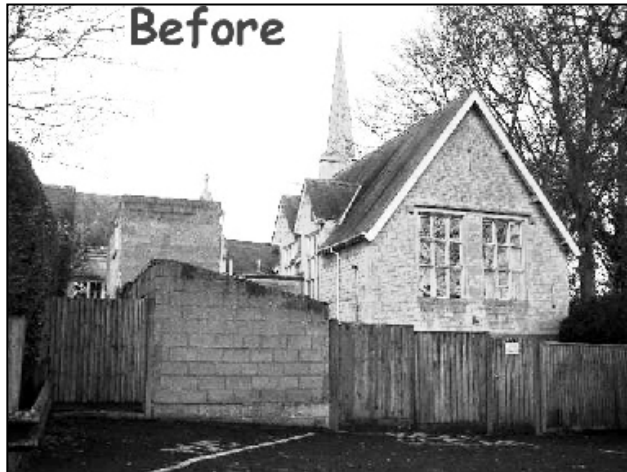
Exceptionally, given the importance of the initiative and the new deadline, a copy of the pledge form has been included with this edition of the Beacon. Additional forms are available from the Post Office, inside St Mary's church and Croft School.

In his presentation, Edward said, "Our library and church rooms provide a wonderful opportunity to develop a multi-purpose community building in an ideal location within Painswick. Our challenge has been to find a way of making this possible within difficult financial and time constraints. This step is just the start."

He also emphasised the importance of finding a project champion to take the initiative to the next stage. He went on to describe in detail the proposals and the background leading to the Painswick Gateway Project. These are reported more fully on pages 4 and 5, including sketch plans of the site and proposed development.

Speaking on behalf of Christ Church, the Revd Heather Whyte delivered a rousing speech in which she envisioned a new "welcoming gateway to the living heart of Painswick." She said "Communities around the country are faced with similar challenges - a decline in facilities and a lack of focus to community life. This project offers a way to reverse the trend and regenerate our way of life in Painswick, at the same time offering improved hospitality to visitors."

She emphasised that although Christ Church and St Mary's were both prepared to back it with significant financial and in-kind resources, this was not a 'church project': it was a genuinely cross-community endeavour which could go a long way towards reversing the perceived commercial decline of Painswick in recent years.



In the lively debate that followed the formal presentations, some scepticism was expressed regarding the feasibility of raising both the initial £120,000 by individual pledges for the initial purchase of the building and raising the much larger sums involved with the Stage 2 development. Others questioned the realism of the cost estimates, particularly bearing in mind the dilapidated state of the building and the statutory requirements when refurbishing a Grade 2 Listed Building.

Nonetheless, there was some optimism regarding the potential for accessing local and national grant aid for such a community development project in a rural area, once the building had been acquired and charitable trust status had been achieved. It was also pointed out that a professional survey of all the buildings had been carried out and that a major proportion of necessary and maintenance could be charged against the Stage 2 capital refurbishment budget.

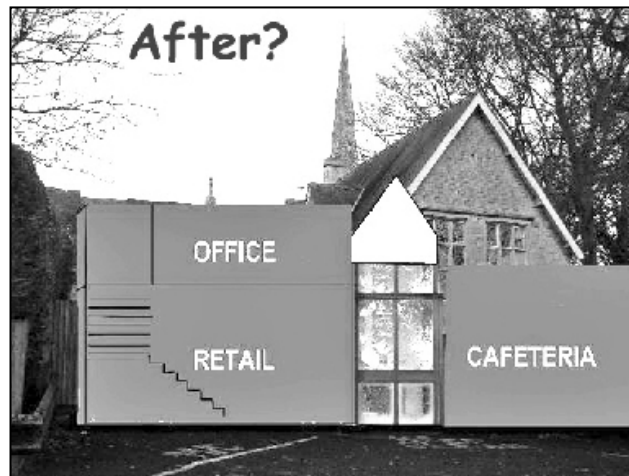
There was general agreement that an act of faith was required and the example of Nailsworth was quoted: ten years ago Nailsworth was very much in decline with a dilapidated centre. One major building refurbishment project had been enough to catalyse a

regeneration which has seen new shops open and created the 'buzz' of a community on the up.

For her part, our County Councillor, Joan Nash expressed her support for the project, provided the local community showed itself in favour. A show of hands indicated that there was - indeed - enthusiastic support from an overwhelming majority of the audience. As one contributor from the floor pointed out, the buildings in question - formerly the Painswick School - were originally built 150 years ago by public subscription. Although some might think the County Council impertinent to ask us to pay for something we've already paid for, nevertheless - if

Painswickians have done it once,

Painswickians can do it again!



On other pages this month: Richmond planning debate heats up, too hot to handle at the Centre, a pledge for the Library, you, me & them at the WI, valentines for toddlers, red lights for the Croft, dramatic confusions, a near miss from a meteorite, Allen's for the chop, decadence in Cranham, not so austere lunches, kids in kathmandu, and some criminal figures...

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - by Leslie Brotherton

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Yoke House

The committee received information that, in response to this Council's request, SDC Enforcement Officers had visited the small stable recently erected alongside Yoke House. They had discerned that a stable had been erected on skids, thereby seemingly not requiring planning approval. They would be revisiting in a few months' time and if it had not been moved a significant distance would consider whether consent was required.

There was also concern expressed that a significant hardstanding had been created formed from road scalplings. This too would be investigated since it implied that the stable would not be moved very far.

Listed buildings – secondary glazing

The committee was informed that the District Council was adhering to its policy of objecting to any form of secondary/double glazing on listed properties.

The committee remained opposed to this policy, not least while conservation of energy is such a concern, a factor of special significance in old listed buildings. It was agreed to make further strong representations on the matter.

Richmond Painswick

The committee noted that a planning application had been received for the 'Erection of 16 one & two bedroom care apartments associated with existing close care retirement community'. A site meeting had taken place that morning to gain a better understanding of the extent of the proposal.

PARISH COUNCIL

Gateway Project

David Hudson, Chairman of the Working Party that has been considering options for the way ahead for retention of a library and utilisation of re-unified old school premises in Stroud Road (now adopting the designation 'Gateway Project'), reported in outline upon the matters he was expecting to be placed before the public on the 23rd January.

The Council discussed the information available because its position might be of significance when that meeting takes place. The Clerk provided information regarding the cost of maintaining and running the Town Hall.

The Council, although no formal resolution was tabled, was supportive of there being a comprehensive report from the Gateway Project to the public meeting. The Council understood that at the meeting there would be an appeal for pledges of financial support to acquire and secure the part of the property owned by the County Council.

(As a separate detailed report is given on these pages upon that meeting no further elaboration of the Council's deliberations appears necessary here.)

Stroud North Bus Link

The Chairman reported discussions having taken place with Karen Jackson of GCC regarding the expiry of funding for this increasingly appreciated service at the end of March. Arrangements had been made with Stroud Ring and Ride to take over responsibility for the service. The new service would operate between

9am and 5pm and the Concessionary Bus Fare Scheme would not apply. Members were told that Government was considering amending the regulations to include voluntary organisations such as Ring and Ride in the Concessionary Scheme. The Chairman reported that a further meeting had been arranged with the GCC to discuss the implications of the proposed changes.

Jason Bullingham reported concerns voiced by several people he knew who were using this service to travel to work (including Thrupp) Monday to Friday leaving Painswick at 6.45am (1¼ hours before the service is publicised as available to the general public). These were concerned that their employment prospects were potentially affected.

Refuse skip - Sheepscombe

The Council received a request from a resident for restoration of a skip on occasional basis for Sheepscombe. The Clerk reported that withdrawal of these skips had been due to their abuse by residents who were depositing forbidden refuse including car batteries.

It was agreed to meet the cost of at least an annual skip from the budget allocation to Sheepscombe if residents undertook to 'police' its use and that it be on site for no more than two hours.

Handrail - link with Whitehorse Lane

The Council received a report upon the 'saga' of several visits by workers to install a handrail as agreed linking the lane up steps to the footway alongside Painswick Centre, culminating in only a very short length being completed.

It was agreed to investigate the District Council's under-achievement in the matter.

PAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL
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TEL : 01452 - 812722

PUBLIC NOTICE
PARISH COUNCIL – SURGERIES
The Parish Council will be holding the first of its quarterly Surgeries on
Saturday 10 February 2007
between 10 a.m. and 12 noon
in the Town Hall.

All parishioners are invited to meet and have an informal chat with Council members.
Tea and Coffee will be provided.
R Balgobin Clerk

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Notice to Electors
PAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

CASUAL VACANCY

Notice is hereby given that due to the resignation of Cllr J Johnston a vacancy exists in the office of Parish Councillor for the parish of Painswick (Painswick Ward). Applications are invited to fill this casual vacancy by co-option to the Parish Council (Painswick Ward). Applicants must be over the age of 21 years. Applicants are requested to apply in writing, including a Curriculum Vitae (CV) to the Parish Clerk, The Town Hall, Painswick, Stroud, Glos. GL6 6QA by noon on Friday 16th February 2007. If you require further information please contact the Parish Clerk on 812722 (office) or 01452 621688 (home).

Roy Balgobin
Clerk to the Council

**PLANNING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING 22nd January
Richmond Painswick**

On Monday last week eight members of the Committee convened specially to give consideration to the planning application submitted for the final phase of this development; 16 care apartments situated below the 105m contour.

About twenty members of the public also attended. Local resident Wally Walters, availed himself of the opportunity to ask a question about a seeming discrepancy between the reported number of existing apartments already sold and the number recorded on that date with the Land Registry.

The Chairman, David Hudson reported receipt of some 20 letters of objection to the application and one in support, and read extracts from several received in the preceding day or two from objectors.

A somewhat stilted meeting ensued, with each member in turn invited to express their assessment of the application. Members expressed views including:

- reference to aspects of the District Council's Local Plan, the desirability of the amenity space offered to the public (under a Section 106 agreement) on the upper slopes of the site, (although one member pointed out that another amenity space already exists - the Recreation Field); questioned from the Chair, Keith Cockell - Managing Director - affirmed that, subject to no nuisance to the operation of the site, the upper meadow area could be legally made available as an amenity area in perpetuity
- the Phase 3 lies within the development area previously supported by the Council (8-1 votes) in 2000,
- impact upon two adjoining properties in Queensmead (the committee being reminded that one had not been built when this overall project was approved),
- the 'freeing up' of a number of under-occupied properties in Painswick - potentially attracting families younger than present occupants,
- questioning whether this Phase 3 accorded with original intentions,
- agreeing that there are demographic indicators that more needs to be done for the ageing population,
- such a proposal would help stimulate local trading,
- concern regarding access to the A46,
- the imposition by the District Council of the 'rectangular' development site, which had caused considerable subsequent problems,
- this Phase 3 being more affordable and a significant number of people had already indicated a desire to move there,



- that the development to date be regarded as already big enough.

After the pooling of these, and associated views, a surprisingly short debate ensued. Key points raised included:

- that whatever decision was reached by the Committee a Section 106 agreement regarding the upper slopes is desirable
- the social implications should be taken into account in making a decision
- the freeing up of existing properties in the Painswick for younger people is significant.

On a proposition from the Chair, seconded by David Harcup, it was resolved, on a vote 5-3, to advise the District Council that the Parish Council opposed the application.

The District Council has been informed as follows: "The Parish Council is opposed to the application for the following reasons:

1. The size scale and density of the development would have an adverse impact upon the surrounding area.
2. The development would have a detrimental effect on the houses in Queens Mead immediately adjoining the site.
3. The development would be contrary to the Local Plan Proposal HN2(Hg26) and 5.835a,f and h.

It is understood that demography points to an increase in the number of elderly who will require accommodation and that Richmond provides such a service. However for the reasons given above it was decided to oppose the application.

It was felt that the Section 106 Agreement offered would not be realistic unless it was legally binding."

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Introducing the Painswick Gateway Project...

The Painswick Gateway Project is an ambitious concept to redevelop the County Council's library buildings, the Church Rooms and grounds into a multi-purpose community-type centre. The new facility would provide community meeting spaces, library, IT area, café, lecture facilities, etc, together with some small businesses, all in a modern venue that people would want to visit. It would create a **gateway** into Painswick - with a new safe pedestrian route between the car park and the famous churchyard, and the centre of Painswick.

Background

In the spring of last year the County Council stated that while a library service in Painswick was assured until 2009, they wished to dispose of their premises within twelve months. They stated that they would be willing to sell to the village if a valid case for community use could be presented, and rent part for library use or relocate elsewhere in the village.

A New Opportunity

Shortly after this a small "core group", drawn from public meetings, set about considering the implications of the community acquiring the premises. An **exciting new opportunity emerged** as the "core group" discovered strong support, notably from St. Mary's and Christ Church by reuniting with the adjoining Church Rooms and drawing on potential financial support from Christ Church in exchange for non-exclusive space for Sunday worship.

The "core group" reported to the community last September (see pages 8-9 of *October Beacon*) and asked the Parish Council to take up the project and investigate its viability and operation through a 'village trust' formed exclusively for the purpose. The Parish Council duly set up a Working Group with this brief to make recommendations to the Parish and County Councils.

The Key Issues

The Working Group tackled four key issues and stated:

- **Necessity** – The view that Painswick is rapidly becoming a dormitory. Against this we have a vibrant community, boasting dozens of clubs and societies, and our own monthly journal. The reality is that while the village won't die, the more relevant shops and services it has, the better life will be. Over recent years we have lost a bakery, a general store, a restaurant, and other shops; we have recently lost Lloyd'sTSB bank and there is now a question mark over the Post Office. Other businesses will find conditions more difficult as fewer people are attracted into the centre of the village; further losses of traders are probable if nothing is done.
- **Possibility** – In acquiring the library building, a new facil-

ity could provide an attractive location for a community meeting place, space for the library and lectures and for business enterprises in a modern, well-integrated centre that people wanted to visit. It could become a gateway into Painswick via a new pedestrian route from Stamages Lane car park to the village centre.

- **Desirability** – A Parish Council petition last February was signed by over 700 people in the village, indicating support for the Library.
- **Viability** - It is one thing to buy the Library Buildings and associate with the Church Rooms, but can they be developed and provide an income stream to support the project for at least 5 years into the future?

The Working Group concluded that it could be viable, but all depended on achieving a certain scale and attracting the right enterprises. It was crucial that a leader comes forward who could take this vision and make it happen.

The Proposition

Two stages are envisaged. Stage 1, budgeted at £300,000; the Parish Council initiate acquisition of the buildings from the County Council anticipating transfer to a village trust. Current library space be re-ordered, releasing considerable floor space for other uses. The income from leasing back the library space to the County Council together with the other income accrued from renting out meeting space should be just enough to cover the basic running costs of the buildings. Any surplus capital would be used to deal with essential maintenance.

In parallel, a village trust will be formed to initiate plans and grant applications. A charitable trust constituted as not-for-profit organisation is essential for a number of reasons:

- The two major contributors to the project, St Mary's (buildings) and Christ Church (funding) will require appropriate recognition and representation in the trust.
- Charitable trusts are eligible to apply for grant funding from a range of sources.
- They can also take advantage of gift-aided tax rebates from the Inland Revenue for funds raised.

Stage 2 comprises three elements and could cost an estimated £500,000:

- Reconstruction and development. The pivotal question over viability of this project rests on whether it can achieve "critical mass" and generate sufficient income to sustain it well into the future. The starting premise is the providing of premises/services that people will want to visit. If this

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...a new chapter for the Library?

is achieved, people will be attracted and business will want to be represented here to service the people's needs.

- Providing a new access to the village centre. One universal benefit would be the forming of a direct access through from the car park to St. Mary's, thus eliminating the danger of having to negotiate the narrow pavement by the Lych Gate.
- Attracting enterprises to lease space and provide goods and services to the community, ie small business units, 150-300 sq ft on commercial rental terms. It is believed that businesses would be attracted by leased lock-up space in Painswick. Businesses could also be attracted by there being an adjoining car park and new access to and from the village, channelling pedestrians right through the centre. There have been discussions with Annie Littler, our present Postmistress and she supports the principle of keeping a Post Office counter in the village, which could be established on this site. It is more likely that we could attract a new Post Master if he/she did not have to buy the current Post Office building. Professionals such as solicitors could also be at-

tracted. There might be consulting rooms – aromatherapy, for example and retail space – possibly a baker or delicatessen. It will certainly be necessary to include a cafeteria to service the businesses as well as other groups who use the meeting room facilities within the complex. An internet cafe could be envisaged. The Tourist Information Office could be reinforced.

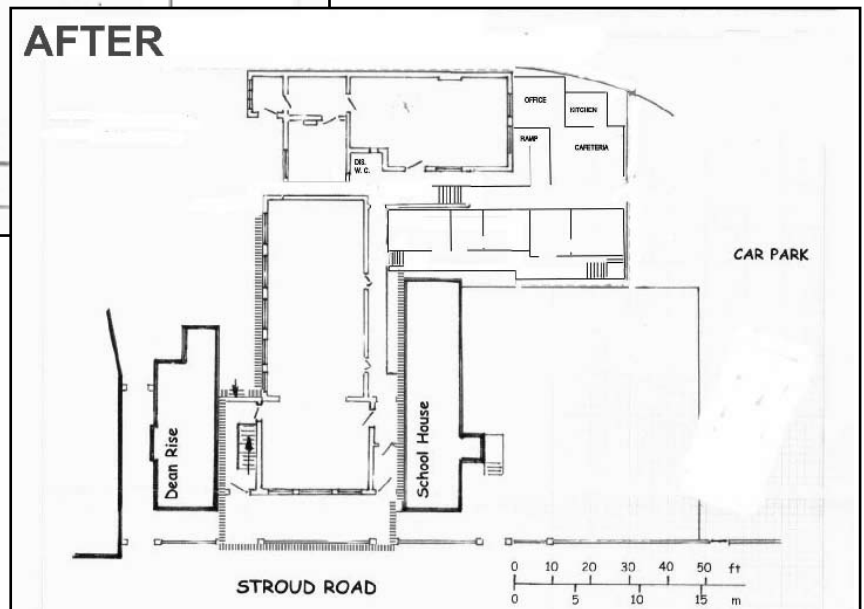
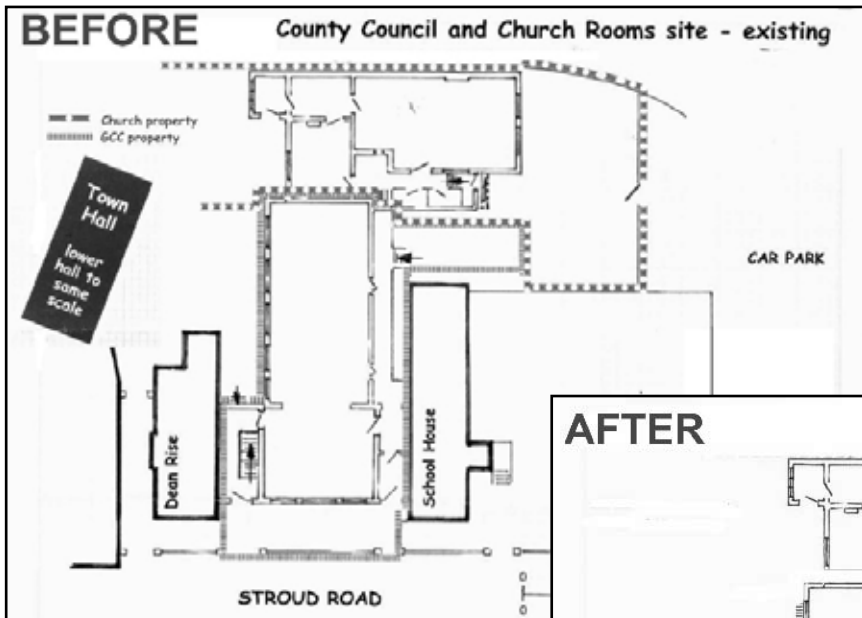
The Working Group has copies of business plans from other community projects showing how this can be made to work.

The Next Step

Gloucester County Council has indicated its seeking a figure of £325,000 for the freehold, but is willing to negotiate a discount on the basis of our taking on the buildings for community use. More than half of this amount is already pledged by the Christ Church congregation who are fully in support of this project, subject to their having non-exclusive space for Sunday worship. Some individuals have also come forward and indicated a willingness to commit funds.

The Working Group is not yet able to say exactly what funding is available, as some of the supporters have been waiting for last week's presentation and public response before quantifying their commitment. However, the gap is believed to be about £120,000 to make it possible to buy the buildings and get the project underway.

An appeal for pledges (not cash at this stage) from local residents has been launched, with a closing date of 16th February. A pledge form is included with this edition of The Beacon and additional forms are available from the Post Office, inside St Mary's church, Croft School and from the Painswick Gateway web site www.painswick.info.



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In my report on the Children's Christmas Party I omitted to mention that Falconer Gary Cope brought along his Peregrine Falcon, which proved to be an instant hit with the children. At the Party we also took the older children for Skittles which also proved to be a great success, so much so that

we are wondering whether we might arrange a morning of Skittles one Saturday for 9 to 12 year olds? If anyone is interested then please give me a ring and we'll set it up.

Having cleared the old Lounge Bar, we now have available for rent approximately 1000 sq ft of commercial floor space within the Centre, with adjacent car parking space. While the old Lounge Bar could now be used for virtually any type of business, it is particularly suitable for an internet or similar type of business. If anyone would like further details of this competitively priced space, they should contact me.

For some time now the Trustees have been trying to book the Gloucester Police Choir but, because of their great popularity, there were no dates available in 2007. However, we have been able to arrange for them to come and give a concert in the Hall on Friday 25th April 2008! The last time they sang at the Centre it was to a full house, and I've no doubt that it will be just the same when they return next year.

Bookings for private parties and weddings at the Centre appear to be particularly good for the coming year but, as always, the heaviest bookings are for the summer months. So, if you are thinking of holding your event at the Centre you should get it booked right away. The skittle alley is also now being used to a much greater extent than in the recent past and is a great night out, with a bar provided (if wished). For all bookings please ring Rose on 812369.

Ralph Drew, Trustee



Dramatic confusions, speaking walls, cream teas...and the mystery of the knife

How fleetingly fickle is theatrical fame! The Centenary Music Hall is now no more than a fine collection of photos (take a look on the PP website – www.painswickplayers.org.uk), some fond memories... and a mysterious Swiss army knife. A Swiss army knife? Well, yes: whilst clearing out the debris after the Saturday night performance, we found a Swiss army knife, complete with 832 blades/thingummies. Given that said knife was not found in the back of one of the actors or - for that matter - in the back of the director (which is quite normal and entirely acceptable in AmDram circles), we must assume that it was left behind by one of our audience. Exactly what he/she used it for remains a mystery.

According to our Stage Manager, one of its more useful blades/thingummies could be used for getting actors out of the bar and onto the stage on cue. So, if no-one else claims it, he's nicking it for himself. Give Jacek Wolowiec a call on 813295 if it's yours.

Looking to the future but sticking with the Painswick Centre Centenary theme, on the afternoon (3.00pm) of Saturday 24th February Pauline Foreman will be presenting another of her ever-popular informal afternoons of readings of poetry and prose, reinforced by cream teas. This year, the afternoon is entitled If these walls could speak and focuses on the personalities and events that the Institute/ Centre has witnessed in its 100 years of existence. Tickets cost just £5.00, including the celebrated cream tea, and are available from The Chairman as well as directly from Pauline herself (call 813379).

Finally, confusion surrounds the title of our next production... sorry, I'll try that again. Confusions is the title of our next production on 3rd, 4th and 5th May at the Painswick Centre, To be more precise, we shall be presenting two of the five plays that make up Alan Ayckbourn's Confusions trilogy, which have all the snap, crackle and plot that you would expect from this iconic playwright. Auditions will be held on Monday 5th February in the Cotswold Room at the Painswick Centre. Confusingly, anywhere between five and nine parts are up for grabs - some of the characters overlap between the two plays - with an even male/female split. So if you're a confused split male/female - or even if you're not - here's a great chance for grabbing an overlapping part. Still confused? Come along next Monday and all will come clear ...probably.

Jack Burgess

Hot @ The Centre

Too Hot To Handle are back! If you want another opportunity to relax to some cool jazz and then get rid of some energy on the dance floor with this excellent live band, then 3rd March at the Painswick centre is for you. All in aid of two good causes, Cranham School and Hop Skip and Jump. Tickets cost £15, are available from Penny on 01452 813243. And chicken curry and rice are included in the price! Hot or what?



Bingo!

Did you know that a committed band of Bingo players meet in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre every Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 10.00pm? If you are interested in joining them, call Ann on 813911 or Liz on 813139.

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Dvorak...

For the first talk of 2007, we welcomed back Iain Cooper, who talked about the Chamber, Choral and Operatic works of Antonin Dvorak. A nationalist, Dvorak was much influenced by Czech folklore and Slavonic dances, which he blended into classical musical tradition. Iain played several of Dvorak's chamber pieces, including two for piano and strings. Hugely popular in the UK, he presented Stabat Mater and other choral works here, including Requiem. Elgar thought his work was magical. From 1892-95, Dvorak was in New York, as Head of the National Conservatory, where, he wrote a Te Deum, part of which Iain played: it had us all beating time. In his last years, Dvorak concentrated on opera. Iain beguiled us with Rusalka, a sad story and, musically, like Wagner's Rhine Maidens in a Czech lake!

As we have come to expect, Iain's presentation was interesting and enjoyable.

Painswick
Music
Appreciation
Group



...and all that jazz

Leslie Brotherton's highly enjoyable presentation last year of "Jazz in the 20s" led our largest audience ever to attend his follow up of "Jazz in the 30s" on 25th January. Ragtime and jazz had now interchanged with swing and blues, with massive improvisation, the trend, and we remembered again famous names like Paul Whiteman, Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Glen Miller and many others. Feet tapped everywhere in time with his many recordings: dancing might have kept us even warmer on a very cold night – after all, jazz started as popular American dance music!

Don't forget our programme change: "Two for the price of one" has been moved to 22nd March, and "Variations on a theme of Variations" to 22nd February.

Ralph Kenber.

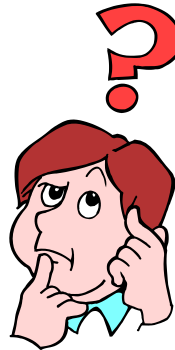
Let's get Quizzical!

We can now confirm that this year's Village Quiz will take place at the Painswick Centre on Saturday 10th March and are delighted that no fewer than ten teams have already entered. The doors will open from 6.45 for a prompt start at 7.15pm.

Last year we had a capacity entry, and nothing would please us more than a 'hat trick' of such three years running. Last year The Coasters - Jolly Stompers Dance Group, achieved the top spot, only one point ahead of Bluebottles, the Painswick Conservatives and three ahead of I Sappiente Ignorante the Italian Group who meet most weeks; will they attempt to better themselves? A reminder that it is not only clubs and societies that can enter; a great deal of good-natured fun comes from rivalry between streets/locations.

The Four Wags dog-walking friends had a great tussle with The Bookends Painswick's Reading Circle as well last year. There is a physical limit to the number of teams that the Painswick Centre can accommodate, so it must be first entered - first served.

We need entries in by Tuesday 20th February, please, so that we can announce entries in the March Beacon and arrangements can be made for refreshments to sustain each team. The entry charge of £16.00 per team of four remains the same as last year, essentially to cover catering costs. The bar will be open at the same time as the doors, from 6.45pm, and we aim to be



reading out the last question about 10.30pm. As we have said before, there is no need to be coy about entering as the answers are a team decision so that the combined brain power in each team is brought to bear on a wide variety of questions.

Please send your team entries to the Beacon (c/o Longhope, Blakewell Mead, Painswick GL6 6UR) with (1) Actual name of the team, and, hopefully, a humorous alternative (2) An address and telephone number for contact purposes (3) A cheque for £16.00 payable to The Painswick Beacon, and lastly (4) An indication of how many in the team are vegetarians.

We hope that teams will enter into the spirit of the occasion by bringing a suitable mascot, and we will be awarding a prize for the one that our 'judge' thinks is the most imaginative. Mobile phones remain a taboo, and 'Ask the audience' may be a no-no!

As we went to press 10 teams had entered!

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DID YOU KNOW?

...that The Painswick Centre is one of the most heavily used centres in the county. On a typical week it is used for badminton no less than four times. The Green Room is used every week for Bingo. There is a Tea Dance in the Hall every Wednesday and the Cotswold Pilates Class meets every Monday morning. The Music Appreciation Group meets in the Cotswold Room every fortnight and the Farmers Skittle team use the alley for their home fixtures every other week. Once a month the Hall is used by Social Services. Every third Saturday of the month Paul Gray organises a Blues Concert in the Hall. On Wednesday mornings there is a French class in the Cotswold Room. At the end of July the Glos. Guild of Craftsmen display their wares in the Hall for some 5 weeks.

On top of this The Centre is used for weddings, private parties and for special sales of garden furniture, china etc. the like. Keeping track of the bookings is almost a full time job and the Trustees rely heavily on skills of Rose Smith to make sure that badminton is not interrupted by a wedding or Music Appreciation by a Blues Concert!



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Valentines for Toddlers?

Painswick Playgroup is delighted to welcome new children; Oscar, Luke, Jack, Alexander and Lydon, who have all started in January.



The topic that the children will be learning this term is the five senses; see, hear, taste, touch and smell and they have already started with touch. As you can see in the pictures different items were placed in bowls covered with a tea towel so the children couldn't see what was hidden. They then had to discover what was hidden by touch - they even had baked beans, yuk! This month the children will also find time to celebrate Chinese New Year, which this year is the 'year of the pig' and Valentines Day too.

The children love going to playgroup and making new friends. There is always something going on and Beaty, Sharron, Sarah and Caroline are always full of fun and smiles. We

often spot a curler or hairgrip in Sharron or Caroline's hair from when they let the children loose playing hairdressing! Mums take it in turns to be on duty and help out with play and snacks, which is lovely as they too make new friends which gives a friendly community feel to the playgroup. On most days the children bring in things from home for 'show time' and sit in small groups taking it in turns to talk about what they have brought in, this builds up the little ones confidence and self esteem. It helps them to play, enjoy, talk and take part in a group.

You know what a good playgroup Painswick has got as it is now full!

Emma Bradshaw



You, me and them

... and the WI

What difference does your personality make to your life experience? Ladies are invited to find out at the next meeting of Yew Trees WI in The Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 27th February. Sally Knowles will lead a Presentation/ Discussion session entitled 'You, Me and Them'. Sally has many years experience helping people find answers to such questions, as well as providing training and development for groups, teams and individuals.

Her many qualifications cover Occupational and Organisational Psychology and Management Coaching. The evening will be both enlightening and fun. New members and visitors (£2) are most welcome.

Our programme for the rest of the year offers more interesting talks on a wide range of topics from adventures in Tibet and Nepal to Fabrics, Horticulture and Victorian Stroud. Ladies, do please consider joining us on the fourth Tuesday in the month.

Celia Lougher

Beacon subscribers

21st January 2007	2006-2007	2005-2006
New or renewed after lapsing	144	116
Renewed from last year	495	483
Total including postal	639	599
Painswick village dwellings	1057	1057
Subscribing households	557	416
Percentage subscribing	53%	40%

Painswick Directory update

Readers are reminded that the on-line Painswick Directory is regularly updated we receive new information. Just visit our web site www.painswick-beacon.org.uk and follow the links.



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Local History Teaser

Our photograph shows a fine group of locals posing in a semi-relaxed style somewhere in Painswick. Do you know who they were and where exactly in the village this picture was taken? If you can provide a date we would be grateful as this is a detail we are unsure about.

Last month's photograph, kindly lent by Paul Griffiths, produced a keen response from Mr Harold Williams who lives in Moreton Valance and who used to bring his shire horses to our Victorian Market Days. He identified the gentleman featured in the picture as his uncle, Victor Beech Williams. He used to collect the milk churns from a wide area hereabouts and take them to Cadbury's in Frampton. This picture, from the early 1950s, was taken opposite the Gloucester House (now Edgemoor Inn) where Stan Slinger's milk was collected. Beech Williams was a very strong man, quite an advantage bearing in mind that he often had to lift the 10-gallon churns from the ground. According to his nephew he had a quaint way of talking and in the circumstances would often say "Farmer, bout time thee's got a milk stand." He was a true local character, known by many.

If you have a photograph you think would pose a suitable challenge to readers, please get in touch.

Carol Maxwell



... and the Local History Society

What did we do with the poor?

The problem of the poor has exercised governments for centuries and on 16 January Helen Timlin from the county Record Office took members of the Local History Society through some fascinating details of the Poor Laws from 1597 to 1948.

Using documents from the Record Office she explained how complicated it often was to implement aspects of these laws, especially as parishes would do anything to absolve themselves of the responsibility for individual cases and indeed it was the responsibility of every parish to look after its poor. Painswick had its own poor- or work-house. She described the situations of many poor souls, illustrating clearly the nature of the poor in bygone days and the sums involved in caring for them.

By the 19th century the plight of paupers was at crisis point and so with the new Poor Law of the 1830s the Union Workhouses were created, a national responsibility. They became the loathsome places feared and dreaded by everyone until the 1930s. Painswick's truly poor found themselves in Stroud Workhouse. By the 1940s what we now recognize as the Welfare State rendered the workhouses invalid and the Poor Law ceased to apply.

The next meeting of the Society will be held at 7.30 on Tuesday, 20th February at the Croft School, when Helen Briggs and David Archard will present one of their very fine local history miscellanies. Everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell



ArchiTecs



This month, Brother Leslie challenges you to find the definite location for the article on the right. He claims it is on prominent public display....

Last month you were asked where the King's initials were clearly visible? The Lych Gate was the obvious answer.

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Red Light for Croft School

On Monday 15th January, pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 were taught the technicalities of how traffic-lights work as part of their IT course. Temporary traffic-lights were supplied by Ermin Plant Hire Services along with a selection of warning signs, and set up as a demonstration road layout. Ian Clapton from Ermin Plant

explained the complex electronics involved in the radar controlled lights and fielded some searching questions from the children.

The pupils then had the chance of trying out the road layout cycling around the course en masse and dutifully obeying the traffic lights. It was the first such school demonstration undertaken by the company and Ian was both surprised and delighted by the lively, intelligent interest shown by the children on a somewhat chilly, drizzly morning. Gareth Lewis, IT co-ordinator at the Croft school, agreed, "They had a whale of a time," he said. "They will be going to look at the traffic-lights in New Street and even making their own smaller models with light sensors over the next



School Council

School Council elections were held on Wednesday 10th January. Congratulations to this term's new councillors:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Year 6 Reserves | Amy Cox and George Pigott
Sophie Barnett and Adam Christmas |
| Year 5 Reserves | Thomas Carlile and Ashleigh Evans
George Dickinson and Pippa Speed |
| Year 4 Reserves | Lara Fair and Reece Morris
Catherine Taylor and George Jones |
| Year 3 Reserves | David Creed and Lara Boon
Daniel Needham and Molly Nicholls |
| Year 2 Reserves | Beth Hiatt and William Robinson
Olivia Holmes and Sasha Retnik |

Student teacher

This term we will be welcoming Miss Foxley, who will be teaching Class 2 during mid January to March, on the final school practice of her degree course. The children in Class 2 had the chance to meet her before Christmas.

Friday creche

We plan to continue to have a crèche during Friday afternoon assemblies. We need two volunteers each week to help. Please consider signing up for a class assembly that does not involve your child, as these can be very crowded. There is a list outside the office.

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Paths to school

Please use the paths to come into the school grounds and in particular don't use the sloped grassy area in front of the Gyde Building. This is getting very slippery and muddy and we would like some grass left for the summer.

Homework

What are your views on the homework we give your child? Although the responses to last summer's parents' questionnaire were generally very positive, there was a significant minority of parents of junior children who felt that homework was not given consistently in each class. If you have a junior child they should have had a short questionnaire for you to fill in and return. We'd like to know whether you feel that we are resolving this issue.

Janet Hoyle

PTA News

It's a new term, and your PTA is back in business. Here are just a few things to look out for in the Spring of 2007.

The Pool

Refurbishing work is due to begin in February, so we are confident that the pool will be in a state to be used by the summer. The Pool sub-committee is looking into a range of further improvements to the pool area and equipment, and has already obtained generous pledges of sponsorship from Hampton's, Murray's, Cotswold Surfaces and Richmond Village.

Contact: David Carlile

Coming Events

Ladies' Evening: 9th March. A time and space for the ladies to do their thing. Bar, chocolate fountain, and many other attractions. Tickets will be £2.50 in advance, or £3 at the door.

*Contact: Wendy Workman
or Suzie Jones*

Quiz Night will be on Friday 30th March at the School. The quiz will be set by David Carlile this year, so we look forward to a new format and fresh challenges! Bring-and-share supper, bar, raffle and lots of fun. Tickets £2. Put it in the diary now!

Contact John Dickinson

Croft School Diary Spring 2007

Thursday 1st February	Barbara Tait, Stroud District Councillor, to visit
Friday 2nd February	Class 4 assembly 2.30pm (with crèche)
Wednesday 7th February	Shell Science workshops for Classes 4 and 5 and Year 1 Class 3 trip to Cheltenham Art Gallery & Everyman Theatre
Friday 9th February	David Drew MP to visit Classes 3, 4 and 5 Musical assembly 2.30pm (with crèche)
Monday 12th February	Year 6 to host the Austerity Lunch at Christchurch
Tuesday 13th February	Dance workshops for all classes
Wednesday 14th February	Year 6 visit to Stroud Magistrates Court
Friday 16th February	Vegetable garden digging day Year 5 and 6 'Free for All' day at Gloucester Cathedral No afternoon assembly
19th – 23rd February	SCHOOL CLOSED
26th February – 3rd March	Book week / Fair Trade week
Tuesday 27th February	Class 2 Aboriginal Art workshop
Thursday 1st March	World Book Day
Friday 2nd March	Fair Trade Coffee Morning Book Week assembly 2.30pm (with crèche)
Tuesday 6th March	Mock Trial, Stroud Magistrate's Court (Year 6)
Thursday 8th March	Country Dance Festival 6.00 – 8.00pm
Friday 9th March	Sponsored Bounce No afternoon assembly No after school clubs
13th – 15th March	Open Evening 5.00 – 7.30pm
Tuesday 13th March	Technology Challenge
Wednesday 14th March	Open Evening 3.30 – 6.00pm
Thursday 15th March	Class 3 assembly 2.30pm (with crèche)
Friday 16th March	Governing Body 7.00pm
Monday 19th March	Miss Foxley's last day in Class 2
Friday 23rd March	Class 2 assembly 2.30pm (with crèche) Class 1 assembly (with crèche)
Friday 30th March	End of term. School closes at 2.00pm
Thursday 5th April	

Volunteer Wanted!

We are looking at the possibility of running a second-hand for sale service. Any one with stuff to sell (some bunk-beds have already been mentioned to me) might offer it for sale through the school. The deal would be that 75% of the sale price would go to the vendor, and 25% to the PTA. To make this work we would need one person who would be willing to administer a noticeboard. Since all offers would be received by e-mail in a prescribed format, it should not be too onerous to run, and over time could result in a valuable income stream. This might be ideal for someone who wants to contribute to the school, but cannot always make themselves available for events.

Contact John Dickinson

Finally, thank you all once again for your support for various PTA events last year. We've just heard that the Bag2School scheme raised £150 for the school, which is fantastic! (I wish someone would pay us to take away our unwanted stuff more often!) A special thank-you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Window competition, and so helped to make the village a little brighter in the dark season. And well done to the Carliles, who were judged to be the winners.

Best wishes to all of you for 2007.

*John Dickinson,
Chair, PTA Committee*

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Letters

Painswickian of the Year

From Michael Buttrey:

I would like to thank all those who very kindly nominated me for this award. I was very surprised to even be nominated for the title, not to mention being elected. I have always believed it was essential that we should try to help each other, particularly through the ups and downs of life, as a believer in the Christian message. I have really enjoyed taking part in the various activities I have supported and through making good friends with people in the various walks of life.

It has been suggested to me, that having been elevated to the ultimate position of honour in the village, I can now put my feet up more often. I have, of course been supported by Eddie in a lot of the work I have been involved with. She was not pleased to hear this suggestion, as I must get round to sorting out the many jobs that need doing in the house and garden, which have not been sorted out since I retired.

I would like to particularly thank all the kind people who sent me cards or letters of congratulation, and those who have stopped me in the village with kind remarks. I have found it quite humbling and hope I can live up to the wonderful people in our community who have been chosen for this honour during the past years. Thank you and best wishes to you all in 2007.

No Parking!

From Trevor Radway, Kingsmill Lane:

How delighted I was to see the Police stick five penalty tickets on cars parked for too long outside the Town Hall this week! How upset I was to see one small (Mini) car persistently parked for over the time on the rest of the week days.

Do we have to let all the tyres down for the inconsiderate person to get the message that the rest of us is inconvenienced by his/her laziness? No doubt the fine was paid by the business anyway!

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

Down to Earth

From Dr RF Jarrett:

I was standing in the garden. It was a quiet afternoon. Suddenly a point of brilliant white light shot down past me into the ground, two metres away, followed by a diminuendo high-pitched wail which faded out after about 2-3 seconds. I was thrilled and scared, sensations that were soon followed by relief at the realisation that I had just had a near-miss from a meteorite.

EU Post Office threat?

From Duncan Richardson,
Randalls Field:

In the Beacon January 2007 we were invited to respond to the Governments Post Office Network Consultation. Before they put pen to paper readers might find it useful to learn that the reorganisation of the Post Office is part of the government's implementation of EU Directive 97/67/EC (Common rules for the development of the internal market of Community postal services).

This fact was curiously omitted from the consultation paper (and I am not aware that it has been acknowledged by anyone in the Labour, Conservative or Liberal Democrat parties).

Beacon readers may conclude that the Post Office would be more secure if the UK was outside the influence of the EU.

Readers are reminded that - as reported in last month's Beacon - the Government Post Office consultation document is available on the web (www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/page36024.html). Responses may be made by individuals or organisations by 8th March. The Beacon will greatly appreciate copies of any such responses with a view to possible publication. - Editor

Shelter caution

From Hilary and David Simpson, Cotswold Mead:

We read the report of the Parish Council Traffic Committee in the current Beacon regarding the installation of bus shelters, and raise this obvious problem. Installation of a bus shelter at Cotswold Mead/Broadham on the A46 would increase the risk of traffic accidents due to restricting the view at an already dangerous junction.

Painswick Show Cups

From Rusty Elvidge,
Painswick house:

I recently purchased two small silver trophy cups (pictured below). One is inscribed 'Painswick Show Society 1954', the other 'Painswick Show Society 1958'.

I wondered if any readers know what they were presented for and who won them.



Thanks for caring

From Alison Osborne, Development Worker, Carers Gloucestershire:


May I, through your newsletter, extend my thanks to Renee Hill and members of the now disbanded, Painswick Carers Support Group. As Renee has now moved away she is no longer able to run the Group but she has kindly donated her Hearing Loop to Carers Gloucestershire. This will be put to very good use during meetings and events provided for Carers.

The Group Treasurer, Miss Denley has kindly forwarded and donated outstanding funds to our charity. Thank you!

Should there be anyone who wishes to reform The Painswick Carers Support Group, I can be contacted on 872240.

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Lent Groups in and around Painswick

CTAP have coordinated information on 10 courses which will run over 5 weeks of Lent. All courses begin in the week starting February 26th.

Intending participants are asked to telephone the contact given in the table. Additional information will be in all churches throughout February.

Day	Start time	Venue	Contact
Monday	afternoon	2.30 PAINSWICK - Woodside, Kingsmill Lane	Rev. David Newell 814772
Monday	evening	7.30 HARESCOMBE - venues to be arranged	Rev. Elizabeth Ward 812188
Tuesday	morning	11.00 PAINSWICK - Whitehall Cotts, Stamages Lane	Rita Bishop 814205
Tuesday	evening	7.30 PITCHCOMBE - venues to be arranged	Mary Morse 813824
Tuesday	evening	8.00 PAINSWICK - Cotswold Mead	Barbara Gay 814110
Wednesday	evening	7.30 PAINSWICK - Croome House, Bisley St.	Frances Watson 812071
Wednesday	evening	7.30 CRANHAM - Sammon's house.	Olive Freeman/ Alistair Sammon 813479
Thursday	morning	10.15 PAINSWICK - various homes	Lindsay Gardiner 814282
Thursday	afternoon	2.30 PAINSWICK - Christ Church Hall, Gloucester St.	Rev. Heather Whyte - 01453-766389
Thursday	after/eve	5.00 SHEEPSCOMBE - various homes	David & Rosemary Swinson 814811

No More Austerity!

Austerity lunches were started many years ago to support and raise awareness of those in need, mainly in third world countries. More recently it has been recognised that the lunches also provide a much-needed opportunity for the people of Painswick to socialise together especially those who live alone or are new to the area. As well as our continuing commitment to Christian Aid we are now also supporting local charities and this year Painswick Pre-School Playgroup has been chosen.

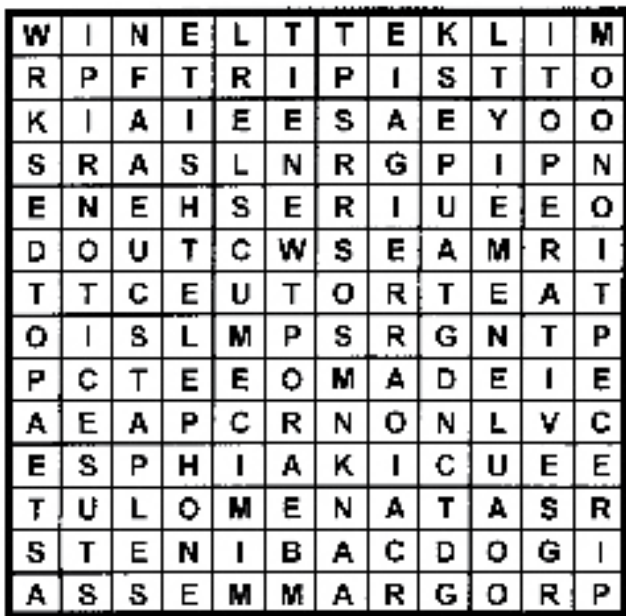
Each week the lunch is hosted by a different group or individual and this session we are pleased to welcome the Croft School and Richmond Homes onto our rota. A simple lunch of home-made soup, bread, butter and cheese is on offer followed by optional tea or coffee.

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent questionnaires as to whether a change of name was appropriate, as we have moved on considerably since those early days. The committee have now collated the results and 59% of people were in favour of change. The name chosen is "Community Lunches", however things will stay as they are until the Autumn of 2007.

Gill Gyde, Co-ordinator



By special request, twenty-three words associated with a typical office - that at the Town Hall being an example.



Results of last month, monarchs since 1066, one of which omitted:

- ANNE
 - CHARLES
 - EDWARD
 - ELIZABETH
- Omitted*

- GEORGE
- HENRY
- JAMES
- JOHN
- MARY
- RICHARD
- STEPHEN
- VICTORIA
- WILLIAM

Parish Council Surgeries

The Parish Council will be holding the first of its quarterly Surgeries on Saturday 10th February between 10.00am and 12 noon in the Town Hall. All parishioners are invited to meet and have an informal discussion with Council members. Tea and coffee will be provided.

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Rugby

Painswick 1st XV 43 Longlevens 1st XV 0

Painswick's clear-cut victory over Longlevens at Broadham Fields on 13th January has given the side a lifeline in the battle to avoid possible relegation. In recent times the restructuring of the Gloucestershire League Divisions has meant that clubs have had to wait to learn which teams would be promoted and those which would be relegated. The options can vary between no change and as many as three teams being promoted/relegated in any one division. Painswick will be concentrating their efforts on the remaining home games of which there are six starting with Avonmouth Old Boys today.

Painswick ran in seven tries against Longlevens, with the first coming some ten minutes into the game right wing three-quarter James Wynn crossed the visitors' line. Will Leicester added the points with the conversion. The next try came through left wing three-quarter Phil Higgins who scored under the posts with Will Leicester again successful with the conversion. Further tries came before half-time through Ed Bressington and Lawrence Drew, the latter score being converted by Leicester. Longlevens began the second-half determined to reduce Painswick's 26 point lead but in spite of a period of pressure they were unable to put points on the board and the initiative once more passed to the Cherry and Whites with Russell Thornton, Drew and Leicester all going over for well taken tries, one of which Leicester converted.

January results

[(L) indicates league match. (M) Merit Table].

Sat 6th. (L) Old Colstonians 1st XV 18 Painswick 1st XV 14.

(M) Painswick United 10 Old Patesians 3rd XV 32.

Sat 13th. (L) Painswick 1st XV 43 Longlevens 1st XV 0.

Sat 20th. Painswick 1st/2nd XV 22 Brockworth 1st/2nd XV 36.

Sat 27th. (L) Drybrook 1st XV 33 Painswick 1st XV 5

(M) Gloucester Old Boys 2nd XV 46 Painswick United 34

February fixtures

Sat 3rd. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Avonmouth Old Boys 1st XV.

(M) Painswick United v Cheltenham Sabres 2nd XV.

Sat 10th. Old Centralians 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

Painswick United v Old Centralians 2nd XV.

Sat 17th. (L) Whitehall 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

(M) Painswick United v Coney Hill 3rd XV.

Sat 24th (L) Painswick 1st XV v Old Richians 1st XV.

(M) Cinderford 3rd XV v Painswick United.

March 3rd. Matson 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

(M) Painswick United v Hucclecote 2nd XV.

Alastair Bressington

Former Painswick RFC full-back Alastair Bressington has been selected for the England Counties rugby squad. Alastair, who is 27 years old has played rugby and cricket for the Painswick clubs in past years along with his brothers Nathan and Edward (Ed). The England Counties XV is restricted to players from Divisions 2 and 3 of the National League. There were 170 nominations from clubs for the squad and that number has been reduced to 22. The first match is against the Ireland Club XV on Friday 22nd February.

Advance Notice: Summer Ball

A reminder that the 2007 "Broadham Ball" will be held at Broadham Fields on the night of Friday 29th June. Organiser Chris Hall will be pleased to provide further information. His telephone number is 814504.

Churches Together Cricket

The annual cricket match between Churches Together Around Painswick (CTAP) and Churches Together Around Stroud will be played at Broadham Fields on Sunday July 29th July. CTAP committee members wish to thank the Painswick Cricket Club for again making their facilities available to the Churches Together teams.


Merry Walks

Pictured right are a merry seasonal bunch of walkers, mid-way through the traditional Painswick Boxing Day Walk. This is positively our last image of Christmas 2006!

Photo: Wally Walters



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For the chop

Sadly, after twelve years in Painswick Alan Hale is to close the Real Meat Company butchers shop in Friday Street 17th February. Alan is keen to thank all those people who have supported the business over those twelve years.

He says that when he and his father came to Painswick in November 1994, they didn't know what to expect. Having been running a business in Stroud which his father opened in 1935, it was with some apprehension that they started the Painswick venture. Falling turnover in Stroud, due to the incursion of the supermarkets coupled with quite a number of Painswickians coming into the shop and saying they needed a butcher in Painswick, set them thinking. So, when the butchers shop started by Jim Saunders became available on his death, they decided to give it a try.

"We need not have worried, as the locals were very friendly and supportive and made our being in Painswick a pleasure."

Alan reckons his time in the village has been interesting, not without its challenges, but rewarding and enjoyable. However, like all good things it has to come to an end, and having reached 65, he feels it is time to call it a day.

"I am sorry that I can't hand it on to any one else, but having tried to sell for the last two years with no result, reluctantly I have to announce that we shall stop trading on Saturday, 17th February"

Although he hasn't been able to sell the shop as a going concern, he has succeeded in transferring the home delivery and catering supplies business to L Taylor & Sons in Minchinhampton, which last year received a 'Real Butcher of the Year' award. The 'other Alan', Alan White, who has worked in the Painswick shop for the last seven years, will be joining Taylor's as part of the deal.

During the final week all stock will be sold at a 20% discount, and if anyone would like to purchase any of the equipment used, there's 'a good deal to be done.' Always a 'glass half full' sort of character, Alan says he's looking forward to retirement, being able



Cranham's decadent pleasures

The Friends of Cranham School offer 'an evening of unabated pleasure' on Monday 5th February at 'Olivers' on the Cheltenham Road, starting at 7.30pm. You are invited to indulge yourself with relaxation massage, beauty therapy, therapeutic oils, unusual gifts, original designed cards, hand-crafted jewellery, edible treats and much more. Organising all this decadence are Penny Lyons and Lou Kemp who said, "If you are prepared to be pampered, dreamy for decadence or would like to run a stall at this fun evening, please give us call."

Lou can be reached on 863638 or by email: loulou.kemp@virgin.net. Penny's email is pennylyons@oliver-estate.co.uk. Tickets cost £5.00 (including a glass of wine). Who could resist?

Painswick Fete

After the success of the Fete last summer - it raised nearly £ 2000 for the tombstone conservation fund despite the summer storm! - Victoria and Rusty Elvidge have decided that they would like to make the Painswick Fete a regular event. However, they say that since they are also involved with a major summer event this year planned by Penny and Kevin Lyons at 'Olivers' on 2nd July, the next Painswick Fete in the Park at Painswick House will have to wait until next year.

Coach to London

It is coach time again!

The first coach in 2007 is booked to go to London on Wednesday 21st March. It will leave Stamages Lane car park at 8.30am and, depending on the traffic, will reach Knightsbridge about 11.15am, and then continue to Northumberland Avenue for Trafalgar Square.

The return journey is from Northumberland Avenue only at 6.30pm. Cost £12.

Bookings with cash or cheque payable to "Painswick L & B Outings" should be made with Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, Painswick, GL6 6XH. Enquiries: Joan Truman, 813965 or Pauline Berry, 813227



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For the kids in Kathmandu

Trekking in the Nepalese Himalayas is a wonderful experience, not only for the fantastic scenery, but also for the contact with it's people, who are a delight to encounter. On each visit I have become more involved with the EPHC (Education, Protection and Help for Children) charity in Kathmandu, which is a refuge for children who would otherwise be begging on the streets.

On Friday 9th March at 7.00pm in Sheepscombe Village Hall there will be a fundraising evening for this charity when trekkers, energetic but mature, will recount, with photos, the travels and adventures of their latest trip to Tibet and Nepal. There will be a bar, raffle and a delicious curry supper.

Tickets are £10 each from Chris and Dick Williams on 813360.

Carole Holland.



Painswick
Horticultural
Society



From the Hanging Gardens...

The Painswick Horticultural Society year started with an interesting talk given by Barbara Drake who used excellent slides to illustrate English Garden History. The earliest records of gardens are Chinese, from 203 BC and most plants were grown for medicinal, food or magic purposes. It was sad to learn that Baghdad was probably the Babylon famed for its' Hanging Gardens. Barbara mentioned many familiar names that portray the historical development of gardens in England from Buckland Abbey, Penshurst Place, Montacute, Westbury Court, Barnsley House, Kew, Stowe and many more, not forgetting our own Rococo Gardens in Painswick! Do you know that many historic gardens can be recognised by the architectural style of their gazebos? Many echo ideas that were brought home from "The Grand Tour" overseas, in Anglo Saxon times laws were made to settle horticultural disputes, particularly over vineyards and not as today over leylandii hedges! The climate was warm enough to grow lots of the fruits introduced from trade routes, figs, cherries, oranges, etc - long before orangeries and greenhouses were introduced

...to Highgrove

Our next meeting on February 4th will feature the Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Harlow Carr and a special evening is being organised for March 2nd (7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Painswick Centre) when David Howard will be with us. David is Head Gardener at Highgrove, the home of The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. He is an entertaining speaker and will include many slides of the garden. His talk will be followed by a question and answer session - related only to the garden of course! It is hoped that there will be a collection of interesting old garden implements to look at as well as a small array of goods, only available from Highgrove, for sale. Tickets price £9 to include a glass of wine will be on sale soon - first come first served! Watch for our posters. Everyone is welcome.



PROPERTY REPORT for February by Hamptons Estate Agents

Stand by for a strong start to the housing market in 2007. According to many property market analysts the great market we saw in 2006 seems unlikely to be sustained for the entire year to come. In the short term there appears to be no change in the fundamental factors that led to a very successful 2006. Those factors were the continued strength of the national economy and the relative shortage of good quality property on the market. This means there will be a lot of momentum from the late 2006 market carried into this year which has rung true with a busier than normal January. I anticipate there will be more properties coming onto the market than we have experienced over the past few years. More choice can be great for buyers but frustrating for sellers. It could stifle the heady prices we have enjoyed over recent years. As I mentioned last year the Home information pack becomes compulsory from June which contains search details and environmental assessments of every home on sale which will cost sellers upfront and may destabilise the market for a few months over the Summer. Therefore the clear message is "if you are thinking of selling this year make the most of the current good market." If you would like a free market appraisal do not hesitate to contact me on 812354.

We are delighted to be offering the following new instructions:

Longstones in Pitchcombe: a chalet bungalow with fabulous views and potential to extend, Lilac Cottage in the Park- a charming semi-detached cottage with potential to extend, Bay Tree Lodge in Gyde House: ideal for those downsizing, Glendale on Vicarage Street: a well presented cotswold stone cottage, Fairings in Castle Close and The Langet on Kemps Lane : great family houses with large gardens, Merrills; a period house in the centre of the village, and Hambutts Barn, Edge Road; a Cotswold Stone detached house on the edge of the village.

Property now sold include: Ambleside at Edge, Hobbs Barton in Orchard Mead, Overdale in Slad, Weavers Cottage in Longridge, 1 Court Cottages in Butt green, Bankside in Kingsmill Lane, 2 Painswick Court in Sheepscombe, The Stone, 2 Yewricks and Gravel Cottage in Cranham, Three Gables, Painswick.

Miranda Harding, Branch Manager

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FEBRUARY

Sun	4	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	5	Austerity Lunch: Hosts Yew Trees WI	Christ Church Hall	12.15pm to 1.15pm
		Painswick Players auditions for Confusions	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Tue	6	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays)	Christ Church Hall	9.30 to 12.00noon
		Yoga: Beginners welcome – Tuesdays - contact Emma 01453 840395	Town Hall	10.00 to 1.15am
Wed	7	Probus: Well, Whatever Next – Mr R Shotter	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	dep. The Falcon	1.00pm
		Bingo: Wednesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139	Painswick Centre	7.30 to 10.00pm
Thu	8	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners	Town Hall	12.00 to 1.00pm
		Experienced beginners – Thursdays	Town Hall	12.30 to 1.30pm
		Tea Dances – Thursdays	Painswick Centre	2.30 to 4.30pm
Fri	9	Country Market with coffee available	Town Hall	10.00am
		Friday Club: Cheese making and tasting	Town Hall	2.30pm
		Music Appreciation Concert (Birmingham)	dep. Stamages	4.30pm
		Tennis Club/Badminton Club Barn Dance with The Downfielders		
Mon	12	Austerity Lunch: Hosts Croft School	Broadham	7.30pm
Wed	14	Horticultural Society: RHS Garden at Harlow Carr	Christ Church Hall	12.15pm to 1.15pm
		Maurice Everett. Plant Sale	Town Hall	2.30pm
		Women's Fellowship: Bee Keeping: Craig & Naomi Dunn	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Fri	16	DEADLINE FOR LIBRARY PROJECT PLEDGES	Town Hall	
Sat	17	Copy dateline for March Beacon		
Mon	19	Austerity Lunch: Hosts – Falcon Bowling Club	Christ Church Hall	12.15pm to 1.15pm
Tue	20	Bird Club: Birds & other wild life of the Forest of Dean, Lesbos and the Galapagos – Terry Wall	Town Hall	2.00pm
		Local History Society: A David Archard/Helen Briggs Production	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	21	Probus: Drug Awareness & Education – Mr A Wood	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	22	Music Appreciation: Variations on a theme of Variations		
			Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Fri	23	Friday Club: Memories of Japan	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sun	25	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance (location check 812709)		
			Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	26	Austerity Lunch: Hosts Conservation Society	Christ Church Hall	12.15pm to 1.15pm
Tue	27	Country Market: Annual Meeting & Lunch	Town Hall	11.00am
Wed	28	Women's Fellowship: Members Evening	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm

MARCH

Thu	1	Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	2	Women's World Day of Prayer	Ashwell House	10.30am
		Horticultural Society Special Event: Evening with David Howard – Head Gardener at Highgrove	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Sat	3	March Issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
		Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	dep. The Falcon	1.30pm
		Cream tea and Poetry Reading	Painswick Centre	
Sun	4	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance (location check 812709)		
			Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	5	Austerity Lunch: Hosts – St Mary's Guild	Christ Church Hall	12.15pm to 1.15pm
Wed	7	Probus: Cider with Rosie Country – Mr J Fern	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	8	Music Appreciation Group: Franz Joseph Haydn	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Fri	9	Friday Club: Snowhill Manor today and yesterday	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	10	Village Quiz	Painswick Centre	6.45 for 7.15pm
Mon	12	Austerity Lunch: Hosts – Horticultural Society	Christ Church Hall	12.15pm to 1.15pm
Wed	14	Horticultural Society: Pruning – Sue Gibson	Town Hall	7.30pm
		Women's Fellowship – Trekking in Nepal: Diana Davis	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Sat	17	Helen & Anne's Annual Coffee Morning – see Beacon for details	Town Hall	9.45am to 12 noon
Mon	19	Austerity Lunch: Hosts – Christian Aid Committee	Christ Church Hall	12.15pm to 1.15pm
Tue	20	Local History Society: Hugh Conway-Jones: Gloucester Docks – Past, Present & Future	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	21	Coach to London £12. Enquiries – 813965/813227	Stamages Car Park	8.30am
		Probus: The Long Bow – Brigadier I Shapter	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	22	Music Appreciation Group: Two for the price of one	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Fri	23	Friday Club: Creative Glass Art	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	24	Music Society Concert: Felicity Lott & Graham Johnson	St Mary's Church	3.00pm

Sun	25	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	26	Austerity Lunch: Hosts – Richmond Homes	Christ Church Hall	12.15pm to 1.15pm
Tue	27	Bird Club: The Wildlife of Trinidad & Tobago - Bob Axworthy	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	28	Horticultural Society: Outings booking morning	Church Rooms	10.00am to 12 noon
		Women's Fellowship: Antiques – Midge Leney	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Sat	31	Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning	Town Hall	10.00am to 12 noon
APRIL				
Sun	1	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Wed	4	Probus: Walking across America – Mr C M O'Brian	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Flower Guild: Cookery demonstration by Rob Rees	tba	tba
Thu	5	Country Market – Easter Market – with coffee available	Town Hall	10.00am
		Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
		Music Appreciation Group: Film Music	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Fri	6	No Country Market		
Wed	11	Horticultural Society: British poisonous plants - Michael Leech. Plant sale	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	14	Music Society Concert: Daniel de Borah	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	17	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	18	Probus: AGM	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	19	Music Appreciation Group: Members Night	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Fri	20	Friday Club: Painswick Tombstones	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	28	Music Society Concert: Kungsbacka Piano Trio	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sun	29	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
MAY				
Thu	3	Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
		Painswick Players: Alan Ackbourn's <i>Confusions</i> (also Fri 4th & Sat 5th)	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Fri	4	Friday Club: 'My Gran's a Gypsy'	Town Hall	2.30pm
Mon	7	Antiques and Crafts Fair	Painswick Centre	10.00am to 4.00pm
Wed	9	Horticultural Society: AGM – followed by Painswick in Bloom – Philip Berry (plant sale)	Town Hall	7.30pm
				8.15pm
Sat	12	Music Society Concert: Rasumovsky Ensemble	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	15	Local History Society: Annual Outing		
Fri	18	Friday Club: The History of Twinning's Tea	Town Hall	2.30pm
Wed	23	Annual Parish Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	24	Friday Club: Outing to 'Peter Pan on Ice'	Everyman	tba
JUNE				
Fri	1	Friday Club: 'Luggage Label Experiences of...'	Town Hall	2.30pm
Thu	7	Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Mon	15	Friday Club: Kennet and Avon canal trip		tba
Tue	16	Local History Society: AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
Fri	29	Friday Club: President's Garden Party		tba
		Broadham Ball	Broadham Fields	7.30pm
JULY				
Thu	5	Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	13	Friday Club: Whiteway colony	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	14	An Edwardian Evening to Remember	Painswick Centre	7.15 to 11.30pm
Thu	26	to 29th Flower Festival	St.Mary's Church	tba
		The Cappella Singers in concert	St.Mary's Church	7.30pm
Fri	27	Friday Club: Working Life on the Severn	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sun	29	CTAP Cricket Match	Broadham Fields	2.00pm

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PLANNING MATTERS A summary of information from the Parish Council.

New Applications

YOKE HOUSE, YOKEHOUSE LANE Erection of an extension to replace existing garage.

YEW TREE HOUSE, NEW STREET Convert guest annex to a self contained flat
CATBRAIN QUARRY Retrospective application for erection of building to house air filtration system

HAZELING, SLAD ROAD, STROUD (SLAD WARD) Erection of an extension

GREEN RIDGES, COTSWOLD MEAD Garage conversion and new balcony

DAMSELLS FARM, SHEEPSCOMBE LANE, Alterations to barn + Refurbishment of existing ancillary building for domestic use.

CARDYNHAM HOUSE, TIBBIWELL, Internal alterations/refurbishment.

Revised plans

GREEN RIDGES, COTSWOLD MEAD, Garage conversion and new balcony. Main changes: Removal of balcony, addition of new ground floor door and side elevations.

Consent

COURT COTTAGE, HALE LANE Replacement windows (Resubmission of 06/1736/LBC)

KINGS MILL HOUSE, KINGS MILL LANE Replace 2 sash windows. Construction of en-suite bathroom

MIRADOR, CHELTENHAM ROAD Resubmission of application 06/1979/FUL for the erection of 1 dwelling to replace existing dwelling.,

ABBEY BARN, SLAD LANE, SLAD Erection of garden shed & green house. Extension of garden

3 ST MARY'S MEAD Remedial works to 2 ash trees

DALEGARTH, COTSWOLD MEAD Erection of an extension

Land at JENKINS FARM, EDGE Erection of an extension.,

GRAVEL HILL HOUSE, SLAD ROAD Erection of a 2 storey extension, replacement of single storey garden room with single storey building & new window to 1st floor playroom.,

LITTLE ACRE, KEMPS LANE Erection of a shed,

Refusal

WELL FARM, WICK STREET Installation of secondary glazing

Plans withdrawn

2 WOODBINE COTTAGE, SLAD Replacement dwelling

CHURCH ORCHARD, FAR END, SHEEPSCOMBE Replacement of existing conservatory, construction of pergola and conversion of existing store into a garden room.,

The Royal Oak

Last month we reported upon changes afoot at The Falcon, the Butcher's Arms and Painswick Hotel, but we were awaiting news upon The Royal Oak.

We enquired of Johnny Johnston and he tells us that there has been a lot of interest shown in this enterprise - indeed far more than he or his agents expected - and that interest is in the process of being translated into contracts which, typical of that type of business, will take several weeks to work their way through the 'system'. No hard news is therefore expected before March, and possibly later.

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Loft Bed – Silver metallic finish complete with ladder. Good condition. For sale £80.00. Telephone 810728.

South of France – Private family villa. Gated domaine. Sleeps eight adults plus cots available. Pool. Four acres wooded garden. 45 minutes west of Nice. Twenty minutes north Ste. Maxime. Contact www.familyhomeinfrance.com or 01452 545238.

Chair Bed – Denim blue cover. Good condition. For sale £70.00. Telephone 810728.

Monaco Scooter – Easily dismantled will fit in almost any car boot. Hardly used: sensible offers. Contact 813544.

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.

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FREE-ADS is a service for recycling unwanted possessions to good new homes, free of charge, but maximum of 30 words - can be placed in the Beacon Post Box in New Street or emailed to painswickbea

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The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to SARAH and RICHARD ALLEN on the birth of their daughter, Lucie Mae, on 20th November (the youngest resident in Paradise, who claims to find the Beacon avid bedtime reading!)

also to TARYN and DAVID CLARK on the birth of a son, Laurie, on 22nd December, a fifth grandson for Harold and Barbara Clark,

also to KRISTINA and PHILIP YOUNG on the birth of their second son, Asher, a brother for Jesse, a second grandson for Karen and Ian Sadler and a second great-grandson for Marion and Peter Sadler.

Welcome

We would like to welcome WAYNE and MANDY LEE, JESSICA and JACOB to 3 Berry Close,

also to SANDRA CARR and ROBERT ALLAN, and Baby MILES to Museum Cottage,

also to Mr and Mrs PETER HEWITT to Willowmead, Upton St Leonards, also to DIANA WALDRON to Apt 10, Richmond Village also to KIRSTY WILLIAMS to Weavers Cottage, Longridge and Mr and Mrs LYALL to The Stone, Cranham.

Change of house

Capt. DAVID MANNERING has moved to Apt 9, Richmond Village, URSULA DAWES has moved to Apt 5, Richmond Village, JOAN GRIFFITH has moved from Chandos, Cranham to Ambleside, Edge.

Belated welcome

We would like to welcome, belatedly, ROBERT and JUDITH STEVENS to Park House, The Park also to IAN and PENNY EASTWOOD to Combe House, The Park.

Get well soon

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to DEREK HODGES, DIANE MEARNES, ANGELA NEWING, JOAN TRUMAN and ANGELA HUDSON.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of BOB GYDE, PEGGY GREVETT and BETTY DANIELS who have died recently.

Engagements

Congratulations to LAURENCE KILBY, son of Mr John and Mrs Hilary Kilby, and FLORA, daughter of Lord Vestey and Kathryn, Lady Vestey, on their recent engagement

also to LUCY BRECKNELL of Painswick and MARK WHITMAN of Cirencester who got engaged on New Year's Eve.

Personal messages

Doreen Boon would like to thank all her friends in Painswick for their Christmas wishes and various "Get Well" messages, which she received, and regrets she was unable to reply to these. Doreen finds it a great comfort to know that so many people have her in their thoughts and prayers.

Crime busted?

Reported crime in Painswick fell from 212 cases in 2005 to 160 last year, a reduction of some 25%.

We wondered if there were any identifiable reasons for the fall - such as better local policing, a few local villains being taken out of circulation or perhaps Painswick becoming a lot more conscious of crime prevention - and we invited our local PC, Reuben Wyatt to comment. We wondered in particular if he could break the figures down to show where the major reductions in reported crime have occurred.

However, he declined the opportunity of claiming any credit himself for the fall or indeed to comment at all on the statistics. He did say that to go through all 160 crimes for the year and break them down would take him ages and if every village wanted the same, it would mean he would not get out of the office. "I prefer to spend the minimum amount of time in the office and the maximum out patrolling the villages I cover."

Amongst the other villages for which he is responsible is Kemble, where crime apparently has gone up by 50%. So, perhaps all our local villains have moved to Kemble! Or, then, again perhaps the whole thing is down to a lucky statistical blip.

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