PAINSWICK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: Lord Dickinson

Editorial

Readers will know that it was our aim to produce a *Painswick Chronicle* every year. We unfortunately missed year 2003 as printing costs had increased so much that Society finances did not allow us to go to print. With this 'gap year' behind us and a revised sales structure we hope now to return to a regular annual publication.

This seventh issue of the *Chronicle* covers a wide variety of interests over a very great time span. We sincerely hope that this will provide something of interest to all members and readers. Any observations or comments on or additions to on the production or content of the *Chronicle* would be appreciated.

Further, we would like to say that we would welcome any article, documents, artifacts or suggestions for immediate or future interest or for consideration in future issues.

The Editor would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made a contribution, great or small, or helped in any way with the production of this *Chronicle*.

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THE PEARSONS AND CHURN COTSWOLD TWEEDS

by

John Bailey

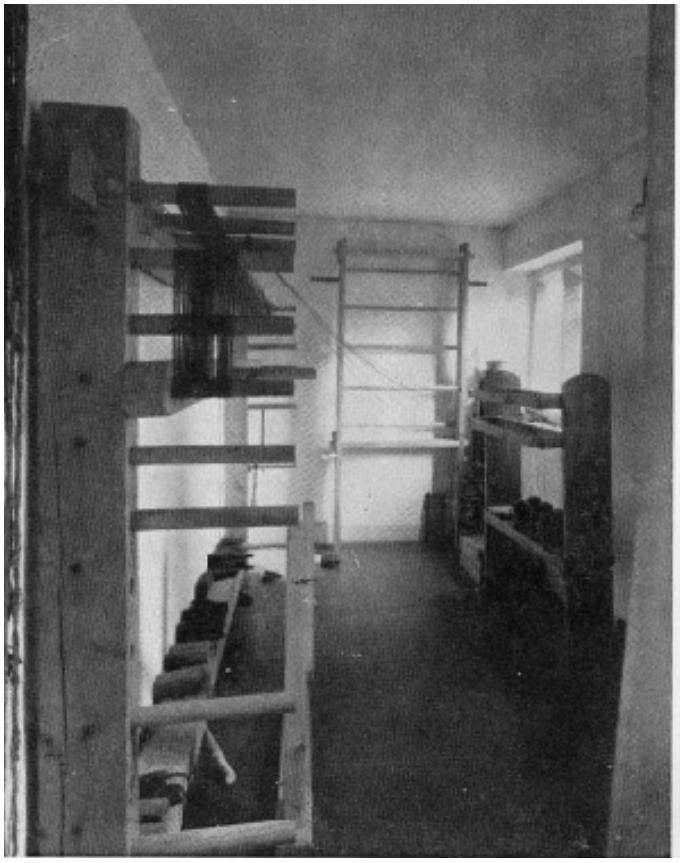
Col Pearson, his wife Avice, and their daughter, also Avice, came to live in Painswick 1926/7 after the Colonel had retired from the army. They lived at The Churn in Hale Lane, Painswick which the Colonel rented from the Spring family for seven years from Christmas 1926.

Peter Rowe, who now owns The Churn, has done some research on the Pearsons [1]

> "Colonel Robert Frederick Pearson was an army man through and through. He was born on 30 May 1868 at Horfield Barracks, Bristol, son of Lt-General Sir Charles Knight Pearson CB KCMG. He was educated at United Services College, Westward Ho! and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He served in the Buffs (as did his father) from 1889 to 1909 and saw active service including in the Boer War, 1902. He served as an instructor at Sandhurst and Woolwich, and retired after the end of the First World War. He married Avice Grogarty, the daughter of an army surgeon in 1902, and they had one daughter, Avice Leybourne Pearson, born in 1905".

On the left is the 17th century house in Friday Street, Painswick
where the Pearsons set up their workshops

Some villagers, from their youth, recall the Colonel and his daughter. One recalls a tall, slim, good looking and distinguished man - another recalls him as the epitome of the typical



The warping room in Friday Street, Painswick

concept of a Colonel - red faced, imposing and rather severe looking.

The daughter, Avice, but known as 'Tuppy', was a tall, elegant and good looking lady but did not enjoy the best of health. One villager says she was at one time engaged to a handsome rugby player, but he broke it off. Another says she was engaged to the son of Mr St Clair Baddeley but he was killed in a flying accident. She never married.

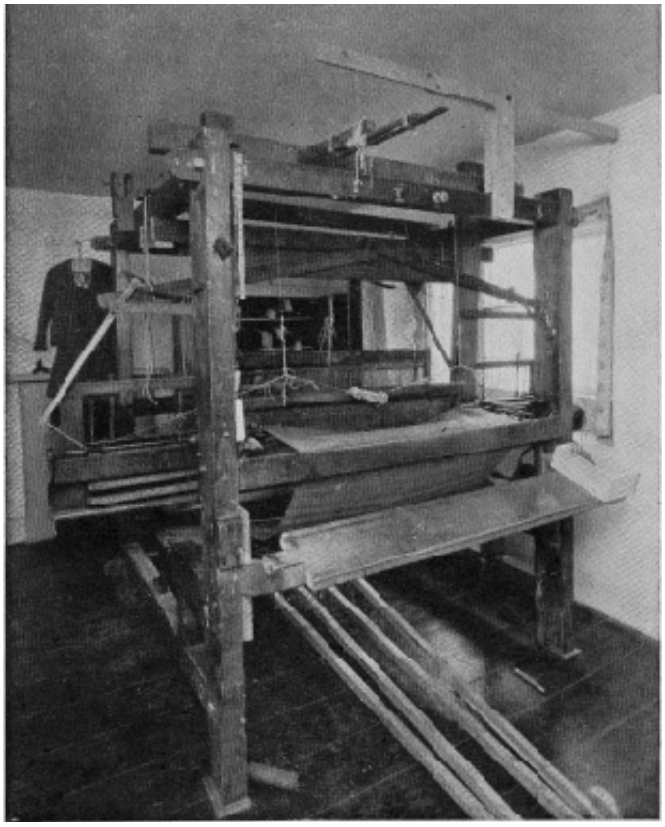
Colonel Pearson first became interested in hand weaving when on service in India and Africa, watching the natives working at their primitive-looking looms. He and his daughter learnt weaving from an old hand-loom weaver in Stroud. The Local History Society has been presented with two scarves which are said to be the Colonel's and Avice's first completed items of hand-weaving; you might say that with these articles they each passed their apprenticeship.

The Colonel acquired as business premises a house in Friday Street formerly used as a weaving shop. The business was called Churn Cotswold Hand-Woven Tweeds and they produced tweeds of high quality and in a beautiful array of colours. The Society has in its keeping samples of their cloth illustrating the variety of colours and patterns that they produced. The weaving shop contained three big looms for lengths of tweed, a small loom for scarves and three tie looms for ties. The looms were bought in the locality and were extremely old, though in first class working condition. The cloth produced was made of best pure wool from Scottish Cheviot and Irish yarns. As was required by law in olden days, the Pearsons had their own weaver's mark. It appears to incorporate the initials of the Colonel 'R(in reverse) F P', 'A L P' (Avice) and 'M' (Miss Makins). The business was very successful in the 1930s but with the advent of war, bringing with it difficult trading conditions and difficulties in obtaining supplies, the business fell into decline.

The Pearsons' weaver's mark

To begin with, the tweeds were sold to friends, and others by recommendation, but as the business expanded, Colonel Pearson used to have a stall at local shows and exhibitions. He

had a stand at The Three Counties Show and exhibited regularly at Badminton Horse Trials where they received Royal Patronage. The Queen Mother always bought a length of tweed, which she wore, when made-up, on her Scottish holidays. During the 1930s Miss Marcia Makins and Miss J C Newman joined the weaving team. Miss Makins was a niece of Colonel Pearson and became a personal friend of Miss Pearson and lived with the Pearsons at The Churn. Indeed she eventually bought The Churn in 1957.



One of the hand looms in the Friday Street weaving room

The business that the Colonel developed in Friday Street was very much in the tradition of the Arts and Crafts Movement and it was through this association that he became a member of the Guild of Gloucestershire Craftsmen. Whilst he was Chairman of the Guild, the annual Guild Exhibition changed its venue and came to Painswick for the first time in 1937. No doubt the choice of venue occurred largely through his influence and, of course, has continued at Painswick for many years since. The catalogue of the first exhibition at Painswick, 31st July to 31st August 1937, shows that Churn Cotswold Tweeds had two stands upon which they exhibited samples of their work. The catalogue, of which the Local History Society has a copy,[2] incidentally, shows that there were some very notable exhibitors at this event, members of the Arts and Crafts Movement - Henry Payne, Phyllis Barron and Dorothy Larcher, Edward Barnsley, Charles Gere, Peter Waals, Edward Payne, William Simmonds and others.

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Colonel Pearson was very active in the community and was involved in movements of diverse interests. First and foremost, however, he was a very active member of St Mary's Church. He was a churchwarden in the early 1930s and a member of the

Parochial Church Council at least up to 1939. For most of this period he was Vice-Chairman of the Council. It was whilst he held this office that at the Annual Meeting on 18th April 1933, he had the task of informing the meeting of the Vicar's - the Rev A M Coode - resignation through ill-health and announced the date of the institution of the Vicar Designate - the Rev Hiram Craven - on Thursday 30th May 1933. The Colonel was also a sidesman for many years.

He was Vice-President of The League of Mercy (Gloucestershire District); also on the Board of Management of Country Cottagers' Community; and he was sometime honorary secretary of the local branch of the British Legion.

In a domestic role he was said to make all the Pearson family's bread. He was a keen gardener and farmer Webb used to supply him with manure for the vegetable garden. A villager recalls that the Pearsons kept a spaniel and also remembers regularly seeing a parrot in its cage in the garden of The Churn.

The Parish Magazine[3] reveals that Miss Pearson was one of seven ladies who performed "a graceful and finished exhibition of Terpsichorean skill" (Marcia Makins was also one of the seven).

The Pearsons are mentioned in the War Book of 1940.[4] The Institute was designated as a rest home for up to 130 people in an emergency - Colonel Pearson was Deputy Marshall. The Institute was used as a canteen during the war and Miss Pearson was one of the supervisors. Mrs Pearson was in the Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

Mrs Pearson died in 1963 and the Colonel in 1967. Miss Pearson continued to live at The Churn with Miss Makins until 1971. The Local History Society Archive has a letter from the City Museum, Bristol dated 26th July 1972 to Miss Pearson accepting a loom previously used in the weaving shop in Painswick, for display in the museum. Miss Pearson died 3rd February 2003 aged 97 at Ashley near Tetbury.

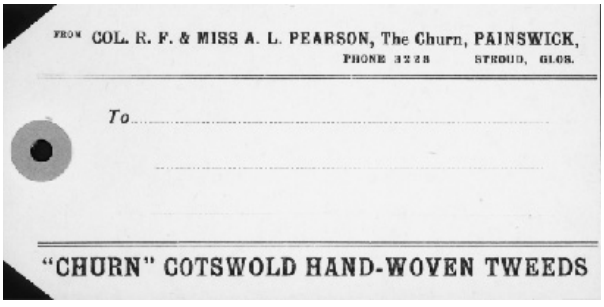
References

1 Peter Rowe — *Painswick Chronicle No 7, The House that Daniel Spring Built*

2 — Exhibitions, PLHS archive - file S.185

3 — *Painswick Parish Magazine,* May 1932

4 — *The War Book*, 1940, PLHS archive - file X3



BROTHER MICHAEL'S STORY - A LIFE OF DEVOTED SERVICE

by

Carol Maxwell

Mrs Muriel Curtis recalled with great clarity and joy the occasion when she was a girl in Brother Michael's Sunday school class in Edge. He had run over time and, on seeing the children's anxiety about this, calmly told them "Don't worry. Just tell your mothers you were with Brother Michael." Apparently this would make everything all right. Mrs Curtis is 92 years old and this incident happened in 1922! What sort of man evokes such clear memories after more than 80 years?

T C Macaulay, 1951

Brother Michael was for more than a quarter of a century a very significant member of the Painswick community. He made a lasting impression on all who came into contact with him and vivid memories of him persist to this day, more than forty years after his death. Yet another incident was related in vivid detail. In the 1940s one of the Gyde children involved in the Clypping Service fell over, grazing his knee. Brother Michael took him back to the Lych Gate, dressed the knee with a huge plaster and gave him half a Chelsea bun. The latter item happened to be very stale and hard, in fact, inedible. However, it was Brother Michael's kind intention that has remained as a clear and affectionate, if slightly amusing, memory. He liked children and apparently remembered the names of all the Gyde residents.

So how did he come to spend so many years of devoted service to the people of Painswick? His is an interesting story and the events and influences of his early and

middle years surely account for the strong and focussed character who made such a memorable impact on so many Painswick people. After his death many of his letters and papers were found in his room in the Lych Gate. They dated back to the 1880s, and these were used to compile a booklet about his life.[1] Much of the information in this article was gleaned from the booklet and those letters and papers now deposited in the Gloucestershire Record Office, together with anecdotal recollections which flow forth so easily from so many in Painswick at the mention of his name.

When he came to live in Painswick permanently Brother Michael was not a well man. In essence, he gave up his home in London to retire through ill health. However, Painswick air must have agreed with him because, having arrived, he devoted himself unreservedly for the next twenty nine years to working for St Mary's Church and the local people. Who was this man?

His name was John Doe. The name Doe is a corruption of the Norman D'Ou and the family came into England in the eleventh century. Born on 12 June 1871 in Yeovil, he was the eldest of four children, having two brothers and a sister. His early years were certainly not involved in any way with the Church of England. His parents were strict nonconformists and the children were not baptised. Their upbringing was evangelical and strongly religious. The Church of England was regarded as an evil organisation by their mother, so much so that the children were taught to look the other way when passing the parish church. A practical approach to life with no ceremony but strong belief was the essence of the Doe family.

When John was about eight the family moved to London and subsequently to Surrey. Financial circumstances meant that the children received only a very elementary education. However, their mother, Matilda Doe, a very practical woman, taught them to lead very upright lives, to know about life and society and to pray. On one occasion later, John was asked by his mother if he read the newspapers. When he replied that he did not do so often, her immediate response was "Then how do you know what to pray for?" In Surrey they started to attend church as services at the nonconformist chapel were infrequent. It was at this stage, the 1880s, that some very powerful influences came to bear on his life and beliefs.

Br Michael's mother - Matilda Doe

The church he and his brothers and sister attended had a strong choir and Sunday school and through this John's Christian beliefs were firmly formed. He learnt that Christianity is more than a personal relationship between man and God, he learnt about the church, but he also had the evangelical teaching he had grown up with at home. He was baptised at the age of fifteen and confirmed the following year.

On leaving school he went into service as a page to the Countess de Morella at Wentworth. In 1889 he took up the post of footman to Mrs Hibbert at Braywick Lodge but became Mrs Hibbert's personal attendant until her death in 1899. During this time his involvement with the church deepened and, despite the simplicity of his earlier upbringing, he had by this stage developed a real interest in the ceremonial ways of the church. This close interest in and the desire to carry out church ritual in a very precise and correct manner stayed with him and affected all those he taught in later years as servers at St Mary's, Painswick. He is remembered with a wary fondness for his attention to detail and his insistence on the same practice in others.


As a footman at Braywick Lodge

By this stage also he felt strongly that he had a religious vocation. However, this was not defined and nor did he have any educational qualifications. Meanwhile, he continued in service, took his brother Harry to Australia for health reasons and, during two years in Portsmouth, became a server and acted as sacristan at St Michael's Church. Here he also enjoyed voluntary work in the active life of a town parish. It was also here that he finally decided to join a brotherhood. Father R M Benson, founder of the Society of St John the Evangelist (an Anglican order of monks, often known as the Cowley Fathers), came to give a series of sermons and John Doe was able to use the opportunity to engage in conversation with him as he attended on him in his role of sacristan. The decision was made to devote his life to God's work.

At first he went to Mildenhall in Suffolk but shortly after he was sent to Cowley, Oxford, the centre of the Society of St John the Evangelist. He was made a postulant on 22 May 1902 and became a novice on 2 September as Brother Michael. At first very opposed to this decision, his mother gradually became reconciled and indeed more and more interested in his work. On a daily basis he worked in the kitchen, not much to his liking, and his religious training was for missionary work, destined, he thought, for Africa. He also helped with pastoral work, Sunday school and the servers. He was professed on 6 July 1907. His experiences as a Cowley Father during the next fifteen years were both formative and invaluable.

He was sent, reluctantly at first, to St Edward's House, Westminster, where he quickly developed a great interest in the Abbey and its associations. He was given much freedom to pursue his activities in his own way, working extensively outside including taking Morning Prayer at the Refuge for Girls for many years. Frequent speaking at meetings brought him to Gloucester for the first time in 1912.

However, it was the First World War which led to the work for which Brother Michael became well known. He took ward services and did pastoral work at St Thomas's Hospital. He also worked with individual servicemen, engaged in correspondence with many soldiers at the front and in military hospitals and wrote letters to the bereaved families of many who had been killed. It was during this period too that the Knights of the Crucifix became established. Early on during the War, requests were made by two men enlisted in the Lincolnshire Regiment for two crucifixes. Brother Michael sent these and decided to keep a few in reserve lest others wanted

> 'to show that they believed and trusted in Christ Crucified, and resolved to walk in the right way'

(from Brother Michael's fourth booklet issued in September 1918). He was right. Soon the requests were coming from near and far, by letter and in person. Brother Michael dealt with all of them, encouraging each soldier or knight to maintain a correspondence so that spiritual support could continue to be given. Altogether, about six thousand finally joined, each one having his name and military details entered in a Roll Book. The Knights of the Crucifix included men of all ranks from the army, navy and air force, from the Home and Overseas forces (Australia, West Indies, Canada, Newfoundland, NewZealand, South Africa), and from all church denominations though the work belonged to the Anglican Church.

As a server and sacristan at St Michael's Church

Each Knight was sent Brother Michael's four booklets which provided practical, instructive thought for the Christian soldier. Doubtless this provided much needed support and succour for men facing the horrors and dangers of that brutal conflict. Many continued to write to him and in later years many sought him out at St Edwards House. After the War he was present in Westminster Abbey at the burial of the Unknown Warrior. The unnamed soldier was added to the list of Knights and a crucifix which had been used at the bedside of sick and dying soldiers at St Thomas's Hospital was placed on the grave.

At this time, however, the end of the War, Brother Michael was beginning to be unsettled. For some years he had worked freely and almost independently in his own way and had become somewhat detached from developments within the Cowley community. He had always struggled with the vow of Obedience and, always conservative in church matters, he hated the changes which were happening. He was eventually released from the Society of St John the Evangelist (1925) though he always regarded it as home and indeed his

twenty or so years as a Cowley Father had given him a training and range of experience which would equip him spiritually and practically for the rest of his life. He remained professed however, bound by the vows of Poverty and Chastity, to the end of his life.

Meanwhile, he left St Edward's House in 1921 to set up and run a hostel where his work with the Knights might be continued in a less ecclesiastical manner. During his years at St Edward's he had developed a friendship with Detmar Blow of Hilles, Painswick, who had lived next door to St Edward's House when he was first married. As the agent for the London estates of the Duke of Westminster, Detmar was now able to provide him with a small house in Graham Street, near Sloane Square, for a peppercorn rent. With help and gifts the house was furnished and opened as the Knights Hostel on 4 November 1921. Its *raison d'etre* was as a centre for spiritual and social activity among the soldiers, and as a meeting place for those who had enjoyed the fellowship of the Knights during the War. As in later life, Brother Michael expected nothing for himself beyond the necessities of life.

Unfortunately, a few weeks later Brother Michael became seriously ill and, after hospitalisation, Detmar Blow arranged for him to stay at a nursing home run by Miss Richmond in Edge. (He notes her death in his diary in June 1951. "I owe her very much kindness during the past 29 years for which God bless her."[2]) As Mrs Curtis's recollection of the Sunday School demonstrates, he quickly became involved in local church life. The Rev Cholmondley, Vicar of Edge, wasted no time in enlisting his help. During this time he hoped the Hostel work would thrive but unfortunately it was not a great success. On his return to London, on Detmar Blow's recommendation he was appointed assistant sacristan and verger at All Hallows', Barking by the Tower. From 1923-1926 he ordered and arranged services, gave addresses, accompanied the Vicar in his outdoor work during the General Strike and was always at hand in the church to greet and inform visitors. From 1927-1929 he was verger at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street.

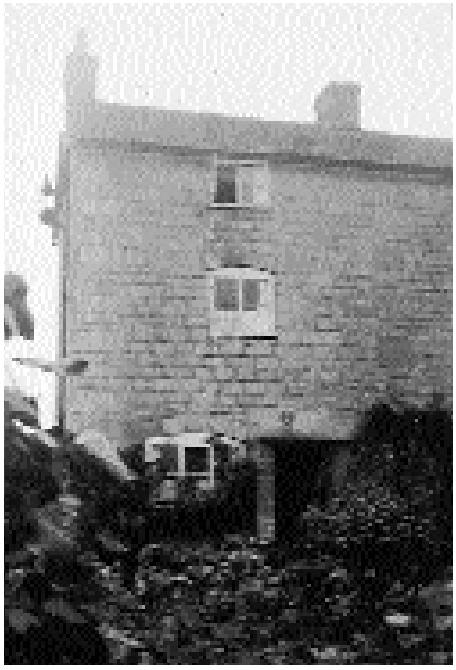
During all this time he made many visits to Gloucestershire, usually staying at Hilles with Detmar Blow and his wife, both of whom were very religious. Each time he became involved in local church life. Both here and in London he was active in Sunday school work and, as a result, a strong new band of Knights of the Church (no longer Knights of the Crucifix) built up.

Further ill health brought him back to the nursing home at Edge in 1929 and, following a period of convalescence, he lived in Beechwood Cottage, Longridge. Here, in August 1930, he organised a strict daily routine for himself in what he called his Chapel of the Holy Spirit.[2] At this point he gave up his home in Graham Street in order, he thought, to retire through poor health. From Longridge he became active in village life and gained membership of the Church Council. Two years later, however, the cottage was required by its owners and Brother Michael, with little or no money, had to live with friends in Wotton-under-Edge from 1932-1933.

It was at this point that the Vicar of St Mary's, Painswick, the Rev Hiram Craven, with the approval of the Bishop of Gloucester, invited Brother Michael to work in Painswick. So this was his retirement.

At first he lived in the upstairs room of Bead's Cot, a cottage in the Park, Painswick, owned by Burdocks, where he stayed until March 1939. He is remembered with great affection during his stay there by Mrs Doreen Hartley.

> "He was such a part of our lives, always about. He had a bedroom made into a little chapel where we children sang hymns. Whenever I sing Christina Rosetti's *In the Bleak Midwinter* I'm transported back to his little chapel. I was in the choir, my brothers were bellringers and my father a server for fifty years. So, Brother Michael was always about in his long clerical gown and skull cap."



Bead's Cot

And Mrs Milsom recalls that in fact he ran a Sunday school in his room for the children living in the Park and that, for some time after he moved out, the cottage was still referred to as Brother Michael's.

Then he moved into the room above the Lych Gate, constructed in 1901-1902 from the old beams of the belfry, hence the bells carved on the barge-boards. This was to be his home for more than twenty years. It was tiny and without amenities - no toilet, no water and, for a while, no electricity. This was not a problem for Brother Michael who had few needs apart from the bare necessities. Water was kindly provided by the occupants of the adjoining cottage and he was allowed to use the toilet at the end of their garden. His whole life to this point had been a useful preparation for what to most now would seem to be such an austere and stark mode of living. Nevertheless, many recall going regularly to his humble abode for tea and a warm welcome.

Brother Michael's life in Painswick was again one of devoted service. It was not marked by any dramatic or outstanding features, yet, in its way was quite remarkable. All who talk of him say that he was always there, working and giving, caring and supporting. As sacristan his reputation for care of the church and its ornaments was unparalleled. For many years he looked after the Sunday school, and also on a weekly basis, he visited and took services for 'the girls' at St Mary's Home, Stamages Lane. Likewise, he took services for and held weekly tea parties in the Lych Gate for the 'old folks' as he called them from the Alms-houses. He ministered throughout with great care to the infirm and underprivileged. Such service was unremarkable but steadfast and dedicated.

The Parish Magazines for various years in the 1940s and 1950s record him as serving on the Painswick Parochial Church Council, serving as a sidesman, being the Sunday School Superintendant and the leader for services at the Alms-houses.

Brother Michael is remembered too as the figure who was usually in the church when the many visitors to Painswick passed through. As sacristan he enjoyed both giving conducted tours of the church and churchyard and engaging in conversation with people

from far and wide. The many cards and letters from such visitors on their return home which he had kept over the years are testimony to the effect he had on people.

Such devoted and unstinting service from a man who asked for and expected nothing in return for so many years quietly touched the lives of scores of Painswick people. There were those who sat in his Sunday school classes, those he ministered to, those he talked with, those he taught to serve at the altar, those he invited into his humble home. Under his guidance many Painswick boys were enrolled in the Order of Knights of the Church up to 1941 and again from 1950. He worked quietly and tirelessly first with Rev Craven, then with Rev Reginald Jackson and finally with Rev (later Canon) Harold Heal. All remember him with immense fondness as a man of pure faith and utterly unselfish devotion.

Those who were boys learning to serve at the altar also add that he was fiercely insistent on absolute correctness when following ritual procedures, often generating in them a tinge of anxiety and even fear - he could on occasions show real loss of patience and demonstrate a truly irascible side to his nature over such matters. This is all the more interesting in the light of his simple upbringing, untrammeled by such rituals. He liked precision and tradition and he disliked change. He was very conservative in church matters. He was even unhappy when two gilded wooden candlesticks were to be incorporated into the improvements made to the sanctuary of the high altar. His diary entry for 23 May 1958 reads "Shall never see the Sanctuary the same again. Life is made up of 'last times'." However, he did write "Sanctuary much improved by the changes." the day after![2]

When he wasn't engaged in his church work his great love was to tend his allotment in Kemps Lane for which he paid two shillings and fourpence rent each six months. He derived immense pleasure from growing vegetables and flowers. He also loved to take long walks through the local countryside, a familiar figure in his long black gown and skull cap and carrying his walking stick. Although he kept a diary only sporadically, most entries include comments on the weather, his gardening activities, services and sermons, Sunday School, the Knights, visitors and, when in season, hearing a cuckoo.

Br Michael on his allotment

Such was his modest and very frugal life in Painswick. Nevertheless, on 15 August 1958 the *Church Times* carried an article on and photograph of him in its 'Portrait of a Personality' series.

> "Slender in build, frail in body, but unconquerable in spirit, Brother Michael has been a quiet driving force in the parish since 1933… [It was proposed] that King George V should grant him a decoration for his services [during World War 1]. This Brother Michael politely but firmly refused, and when asked the reason why, he answered, 'I serve a King who does not grant decorations.' … His days were full and God-centred."[3]

As a consequence, many letters arrived from people from his past who had not realised he was still alive. He had, after all, retired to Painswick twenty five years earlier apparently through ill health.

In fact, there were several newspaper articles, albeit at this late stage in his life, about his life of selfless caring and service to others. The *Bristol Evening Post* on 5 September 1958 quotes the Vicar of Selsley, Rev A B Allen, as saying about Brother Michael,

> "…wonderful example of a true vocation and never failing belief in my own call … there are literally thousands of young people throughout the world who owe their faith in life and Jesus Christ to this quiet, humble figure who has so long graced the beautiful church and township of Painswick."[3]

Later, in July 1960, in a message from Over hospital thanking everyone for their good wishes and gifts on the occasion of his birthday, Brother Michael himself wrote in Painswick Parish Magazine, "In the service of others is found the real happiness of life." And on the occasion of his forced resignation as sacristan in 1960, the vicar, Rev Heal, wrote,

> "What is not so fully appreciated and well-known is that his services to Painswick were entirely honorary, and, except for his lodging over the Lych Gate, that was all he asked of us."[3]

However, by this time Brother Michael was finding it increasingly difficult to pursue all his activities. He was having problems walking and was growing quite frail, though he managed to continue with his church work. In December 1959 he became very unwell and was confined to the Lych Gate for a fortnight. This had been his home for more than twenty years. On 14 December he was admitted to Over Hospital in the hope that, after some attention, he would return. However, it was not to be as tests at Over revealed a cancerous growth in the upper part of the oesophagus. After some treatment and an operation at Frenchay Hospital he returned to Over where, it was decided, he should stay, being unable to live alone.

After some initial intolerance of ward life, inevitable after so many years of living alone, he finally accepted his situation. He was particularly pleased to find out that the hospital stood on land that formerly had been monastic property. Despite a steady deterioration in his condition including loss of eyesight and strength and increasing pain, he said prayers with other patients and did little jobs in the ward. People from Painswick visited him and Mrs Margaret Mercer in particular faithfully visited twice weekly throughout his stay at Over. He was always appreciative and their gifts of flowers gave him special pleasure - he had always loved flowers. In a Christmas message sent to the people of Painswick from Over Hospital he was very pleased to write that "… the Bishop has given me the title of Brother Michael of Painswick."[4]

By autumn 1962 he became very ill, finally losing consciousness on 16 November. He died the following day.

Brother Michael was buried in Painswick cemetery in his cassock and skull cap with his old walking stick by his side. Such is the prevailing image of the man, always there, always in black cassock and skull cap with his stick. His obituary in the *Gloucester Diocesan*

Gazette, February 1963, reads

> "The Church in the diocese has lost a saint. Painswick has lost one of its most faithful servants and a vast number of men and women have lost a very dear and loving friend."[3]

He had become quite widely known. Above all, he had become an institution, a part of Painswick and, according to Mrs Marjorie Barnfield, "an angel, a sincere and special man."

References

1 Taylor, Brian	*Brother Michael*, The British Publishing Company Ltd, 1964
2	Br Michael, GRO D4052/5
3	Br Michael, GRO D4052/6
4	*Painswick Parish Magazine* December 1961

Photographs by courtesy of GRO D4052/4 & 8

EDGE POST OFFICE

by

Rosemary Levett and Sally Hallard

The Sub Post Office was established in Edge in 1857, the Postmaster at the time being Mr Peter King. It was housed in the cottage named Furways, now known as Fiveways, at the top of Edge Lane.

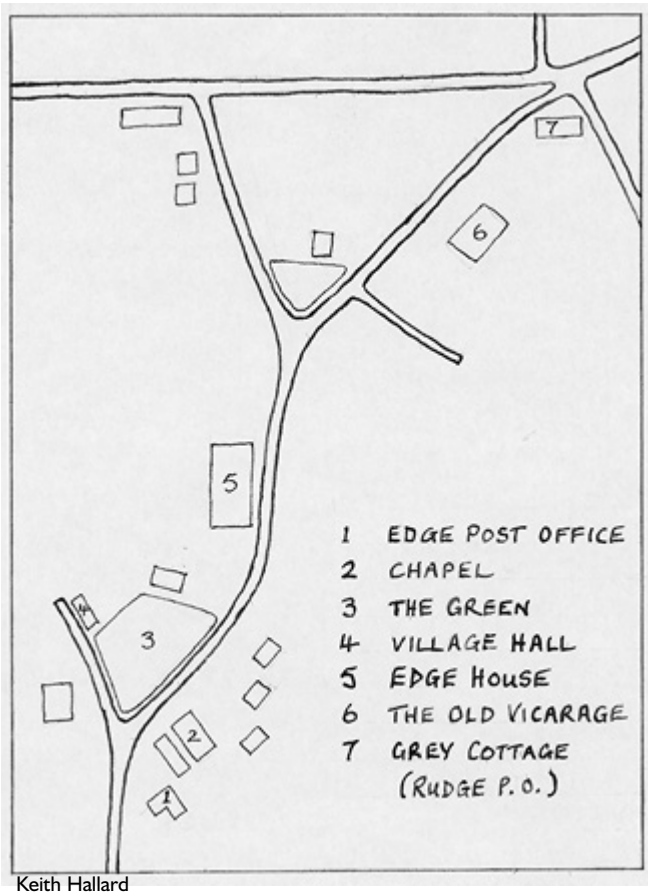
In 1881 the Post Office passed to Mrs Harriet King, who remained in office until 1907. Her daughter Miss Fanny King was the post lady, referred to in the accompanying article *Postwoman of the Cotswolds*.

Mrs Fluck with her sons outside Rudge Post Office

On 1st October 1907 the Post Office was taken over by Mrs William Fluck and moved to the cottage next door, now called Grey Cottage, but then known as Rudge Post Office.Mrs Fluck, who suffered ill-health, was helped by her husband and when their eldest son came out of the Royal Air Force, he also helped in the Post Office.

On 24th November 1926 the post office changed hands again and Mrs Ellen Mills became the Sub Mistress. Once more the Post Office moved location to a site further down Edge Lane, to Mrs Mills cottage situated just passed the Congregational Chapel,

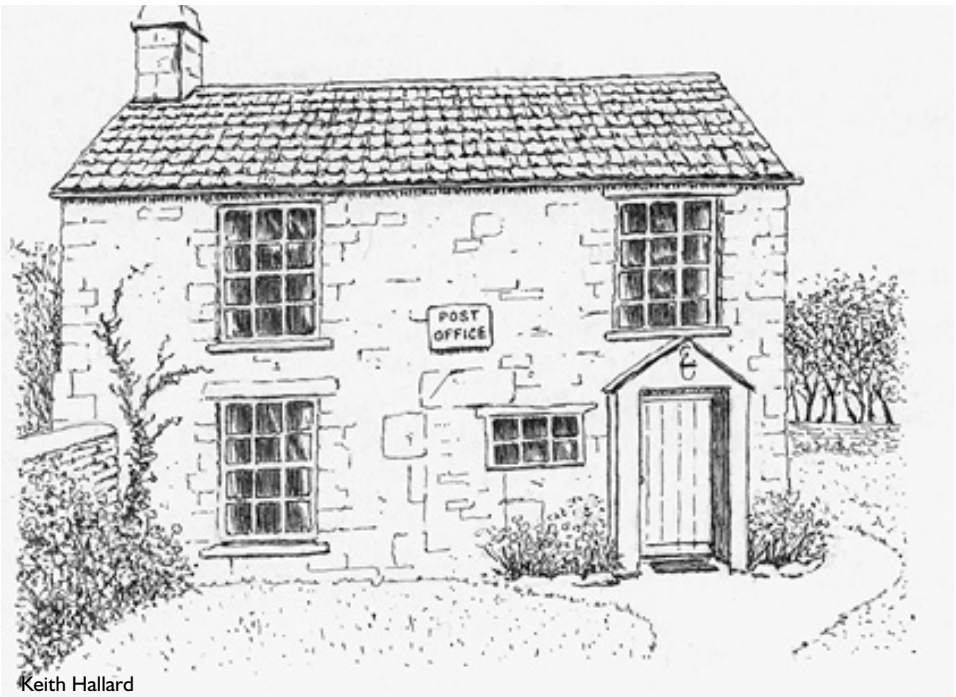
opposite the village green. For forty years Mrs Mills ran the Post Office, during which time she was assisted by her elder daughter Mrs Sybil Ireland. In later years sweets and stationery were also sold. In 1970 her grand daughter Sally Ireland took over but the Post Office eventually closed for good in 1973.



Keith Hallard

The delivery of the mail at this time was made by van which came up from Stroud. A far cry from the days, between the two wars, when the postman, a Mr Aldridge cycled from Stroud with it. He would spend the day in Edge, in a hut on the then allotments, where he plied his trade as a cobbler. At 4 pm he would return to Stroud with the outgoing mail.

When Miss Fanny King eventually retired her place was taken by another lady of character, Mrs Edith Mansell. Mrs Mansell lived in Chapel Cottage next to the Post Office, and like her predecessor she never failed to ensure each house in Edge and its surrounding hamlets received its mail.



Keith Hallard

POSTWOMAN OF THE COTSWOLDS

by

K G Bird

Miss Fanny King, of Edge, Gloucestershire, is one of the few remaining postwomen in England. In spite of her 65 years she tramps nine miles every morning over the lonely countryside delivering letters to isolated farmsteads. It is a rigorous walk necessitating frequent excursions across fields ankle-deep in mud, up the sides of steep hills and precarious descents into low-lying valleys. Many men, half Miss King's age, would quail before such a task, but Edge's intrepid postwoman has faithfully discharged her duties for the past twenty years.

There is romance in our present-day postal system, but it is usually associated with thundering express trains and foreign mail 'planes bound for some far-off country. Yet romance is to be found in the postal delivery of our countryside. Letters from all parts of the world find their way into Miss King's postbag and so make the final stages of their journey in a manner completely divorced from modern modes of travel.

Miss King's grandfather was the first postmaster in Edge, and her father used to do the same round that she does today. He walked it regularly until he retired at the age of 78!

For twenty years Miss King has made her morning round as regularly as clockwork, and she has become a well-known figure in the district. She arrives at the Post Office sharp at 7.45 a.m. wearing wellington boots, a canvas bag slung across her shoulder and an important-looking badge pinned to her coat. Her face is aglow with good health and she walks with a sprightly step. Never without a walking stick, she has worn out two by constant use. A stick is her only companion on the long and lonely journey.

Miss King passes though some of the most beautiful countryside in the Cotswolds. After leaving the charming old-world village of Edge she strikes off across the fields in the direction of Stockend. Stockend consists of a number of grey stone farm-houses and tiny cottages distributed here and there over an area of about four miles. During her walk Miss King is faced with forty different stiles of every shape, size and description. Some

have to be climbed over, others crawled under and yet others simply open. (There are all too few of the latter variety).

In this wild countryside she passes many strange buildings. One is a ruined dwelling-house of which only the two end walls are standing; the interior is piled high with fallen stonework. Ivy hangs in profusion from the walls as though trying to hide the nakedness of the place. The history of this unprepossessing building is a fitting one. Some fifty years ago a man hanged himself in the kitchen, and, as it was generally believed to be haunted by his wailing ghost, no one would buy it. Accordingly it deteriorated into a ruined state.

A few miles farther on there is another house, as strange as it is beautiful. It is known as Concertina Cottage and is circular in shape, surmounted by a cone-shaped thatched roof. The rooms are shaped like the quarters of a hot-cross bun.

On the summit of Haresfield Hill the Holy Well is to be found. It is the well where King Charles is supposed to have quenched his thirst while contemplating the siege of Gloucester. On the shelter over the well the following words are inscribed:-

Deo Gratias
Who'er the bucketful upwindeth,
Let him Bless God who water findeth:
Yet water here but small availeth,
Go seek that well which never faileth.

From the hill a magnificent plain can be seen stretching away to the horizon where a thin border is formed by the Malvern Hills. The twin cities of Gloucester and Cheltenham can be seen nestling 'tween the hills, and truly there is no finer view in Gloucestershire.

It is small wonder that Miss King feels no desire to give up her morning tramp and retire. "I think I should soon die," she said, "if I hadn't my morning delivery."

The above article was contributed by Trevor Radway. He was looking through an auction catalogue from a Huntingdon firm when he noticed reference to the article in *The Post Office Magazine* dated March 1939. The magazine was published primarily for the benifit of Post Office workers but was available to the public at Head Post Offices for the sum of one penny.
As Trevor says "Local history researchers should always expect the unexpected for sources of information"

180 MILLION YEARS OF PAINSWICK GEOLOGY

by

Janet Jenkins

Have you ever paused to consider why the landscape of the Painswick area is so beautiful but complex? We can look out of the window or go for a walk and in the space of a few square kilometres we can see fine panoramas and sweeping views over hill-top summits like Painswick Beacon, steep escarpments, deep valleys, level plateau tops, woodlands, grasslands and flowers, mellow buildings and walls and so much more! How was this diversity of scenery brought about and why does it affect so much of our lives? Undoubtedly much of the answer is to be found in the Geology of the local region.

SOLID GEOLOGY

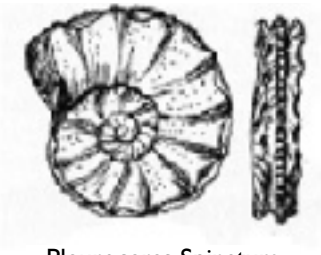
The earth is thought to be over 4,200 million years old but the geological timescale for rocks has only been devised for the most recent 600 million years. This age classification is divided into three eras and the rocks of the Painswick area fall into the middle or Mesozoic era. They are sedimentary rocks that were deposited under water in the shallow, clear, warm seas which covered this part of Gloucestershire in the Jurassic period, between 180 and 135 million years ago. Conditions then would have been very similar to those found in the coral seas between Florida and the Bahamas today.

A neat order of clays, sands, and limestones was laid down on the seabed many times through the series of Jurassic rocks. This is called a rhythmic succession. The most important point to note is that, when various strata are lying one above the other, the older rocks are below and the younger rocks are on top, unless later they are overturned by earth movement. The famous surveyor and civil engineer, William Smith, had observed this simple but profound relationship when working on the cutting of the Somerset canals in the 1790s. Now, bearing this in mind, have a look at the sketch section that I have drawn showing the relative positions of the local rocks described below. [Diagram 1 through Pitchcombe and Photograph 2 and analysis of the Painswick panorama.]

THE MIDDLE LIAS CLAY [G1 on Diagram 1] is the oldest rock and this is found along the bottom of the Painswick valley and on both sides of the Wick stream to Stroud. This grey clay was laid down when the Jurassic Sea was deep and muddy and it has small particles with tiny spaces between them. It becomes waterlogged very easily and it is very heavy to work. I am sure the gardeners who live along Kingsmill Lane will confirm these qualities.

THE MARLSTONE ROCK BED [G2 on Diagram 1] rarely exceeds 5 metres in thickness but it is a persistent and relatively hard, shelly, iron bearing limestone which weathers slowly in comparison with the clays below and above it. It forms a pronounced ledge, known as the Cotswold Sub-Edge, which is very prominent near Wotton-under-Edge and Stinchcombe. The tops of Robin's Wood Hill and Churchdown are made of this Marlstone and it has helped to preserve them as hills when the main escarpment has been eroded and retreated to the east. In Painswick the Marlstone can be seen where the Wick stream cascades over it at Rock Mill.

Fossils can be used in groups or assemblages to help date rocks. Fossils are abundant in the Marlstone and here you might find an ammonite, Pleuroceras Spinatum (ammonites looked like an octopus with a shell round it).

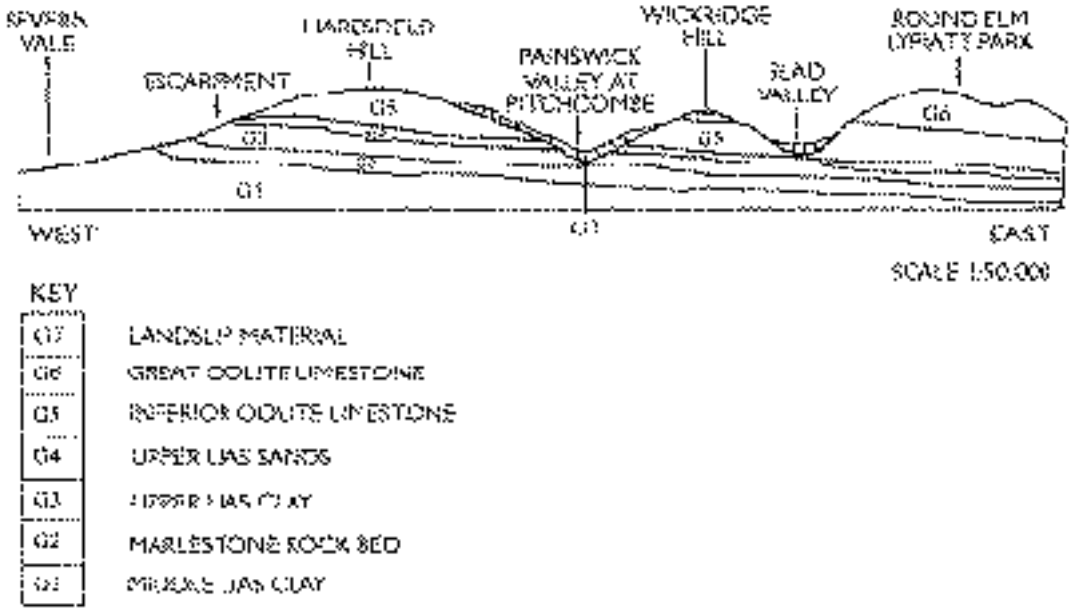


Pleuroceras Spinatum

UPPER LIAS CLAY [G3 on Diagram 1] This is a narrow band of yellow, sandy clay which is to be seen half way down Stamages Lane.

DIAGRAM 1

SKETCH SECTION THROUGH PITCHCOMBE SHOWING THE GENERAL RELATIONS OF THE ROCKS FROM WEST TO EAST



UPPER LIAS SANDS [G4 on Diagram 1] were deposited in a period when the sea was shallower but incoming rivers brought in sands from the surrounding hills. The sand particles are large, gritty and bright orange as they are stained by iron oxides. Water can pass easily between the sand particles and the porous nature of these sands has made a splendid dry site for the village of Painswick. Once the water reaches the impervious, Upper Lias clay beneath the sands it emerges as a spring, like St Tabitha's in Tibbiwell.

INFERIOR OOLITE LIMESTONES [G5 on Diagram 1] lie above the Upper Lias sands and dominate the area of Painswick above 150 metres. The actual junction can be seen in the exposure on the escarpment steeply below the Ordnance Survey Triangulation Point at Haresfield Beacon [Photograph 1]. Also, while you are in this area, look at the section at the side of the road on Haresfield Hill when it passes through the deposits of fossilized ammonite and belemnite shells and you will find the start of the Inferior Oolite. Above this the Inferior Oolite Freestone Limestone has a very distinctive texture. Oolite means 'egg-stone' but quarrymen call it 'roe-stone' because it resembles herring roe. An Oolite is made up of numerous spheres called ooliths, which are usually less than a millimetre in diameter. These

PHOTOGRAPH 1

Haresfield Beacon escarpment showing the junction between the Inferior Oolite limestone, lying above and divided into blocks (X), and the crumbly Upper Lias sands (Y). Note the notch at the base of the limestone where the sands have washed away (Z).

are cemented together by calcite that was deposited in seas saturated with calcium carbonate. Under a microscope the ooliths can be seen to be made of concentric layers around a nucleus, which may consist of a shell fragment or a grain of quartz. The tiny grains were kept in constant motion on the sea floor by currents. Rubbing and jostling made them smooth and spherical. When the limestone eventually dried out, well-defined horizontal bedding planes were formed, together with vertical joint planes. The rock thus divides naturally into massive, durable Freestones suitable for building. These oolitic Freestones are about 30 metres thick at Painswick Beacon and are very easy to see down on the west side in the quarries [Photograph 4]. Water passes through the joints but not through the blocks, making the area very dry. They are sterile so you will not find fossils.

The clay-like Oolitic Marl with its coral bed in the upper Freestone series includes a profusion of organic remains. Coral beds can be seen in the old quarries on Juniper Hill. As the sea became shallower, due to earth movement, oyster beds were established. It is possible to find the oyster Gryphaea Sublobata in this zone.

Gryphaea Sublobata

Finally, Painswick Beacon is capped with Ragstone beds which have been quarried for road stone for many years. Ragstones are close-bedded, hard limestones that are iron bearing, as indicated by the orange colouring on the west side. These break up irregularly and are commonly used for Cotswold stone walls.

In the uppermost division and below the Fuller's Earth is the Clypeus Grit and a typical fossil of this stratum is the sea urchin Clypeus Ploti. Many specimens weigh about one pound and they were used in Stow market as butter weights.


Clypeus Ploti

Between the Inferior and Great Oolite lies Fuller's Earth, a bluish-grey structureless clay, which has the distinctive property of crumbling when mixed with water. It was widely used for fulling or leaching the greasy lanolin from sheep's wool in the woolen industry. Fuller's Earth also acts as an impervious layer beneath the Great Oolite so that springs emerge at the base of the limestone.

GREAT OOLITE LIMESTONE [G6 in Diagram 1] is hard, white, shelly limestone and it covers a wide area of the Mid-Cotswolds. It lies to the east of the Painswick valley and it forms a level plateau towards Brimpsfield and Miserden. This was used by the Romans and in the Middle Ages as a building stone. It can be cut with a saw when it is freshly dug but when it is exposed to the air it hardens.

EARTH MOVEMENT

Thick sediments of clay, sands and limestone were laid down and accumulated in Jurassic times and in subsequent periods. However, rocks do not remain the same forever for they are affected through time by other factors. About 35 million years ago the Alpine earth movement came to a climax as continental drift caused Europe and Africa to collide. Compressive forces crumpled and folded these sediments and uplifted them and the Alps were formed. The degree of folding in the Alps was very complex but the 'outer ripples' of the earth movement produced only gentle flexures in Gloucestershire.

Nevertheless this uplift has contributed to the dramatic, steep escarpment, some 283 metres high at Painswick Beacon, which trends in a general north east/south west direction across the county. From here the strata of sedimentary rocks are tilted down south east to the Oxford Vale forming the dip slope of the Cotswold Plateau [see the section Diagram1]. Minor fold features can be found in the Painswick area with an upfold or anticline at Birdlip and a downfold or syncline at Painswick.

Other strong controls of the geological structure are the numerous faults or fractures along which some movement has taken place due to compression or tension in the earth's crust. These faults are divided into two sets - one trending north west/south east and the other north/south and we will see the influence of these in the next section.

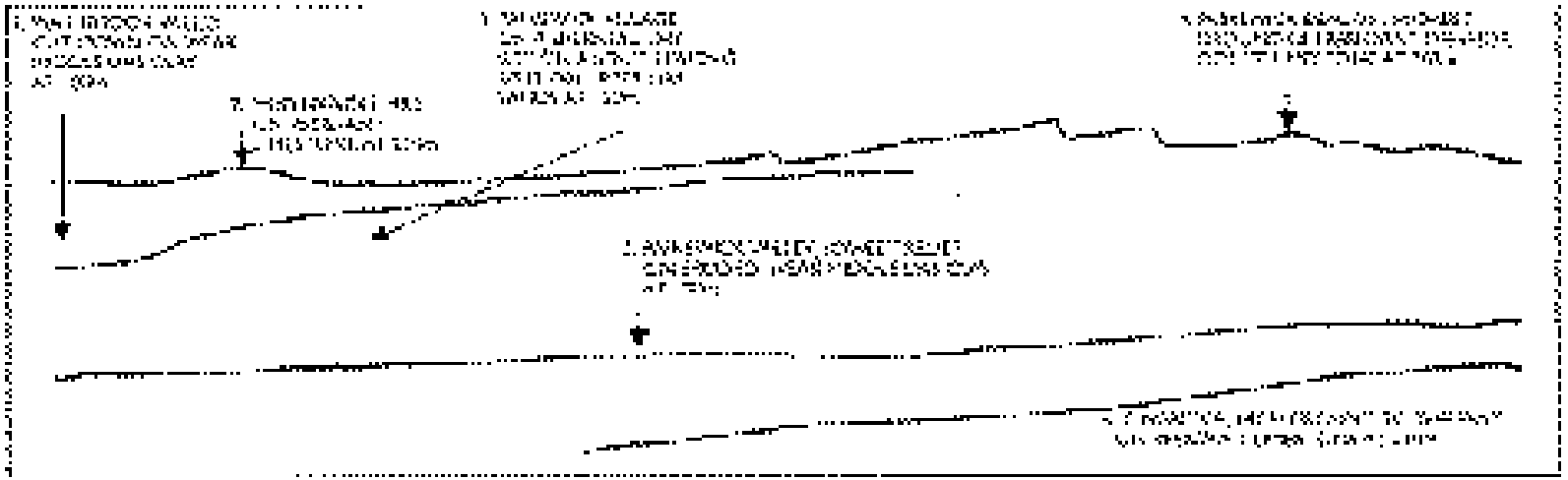
THE SCULPTURING OF PAINSWICK'S SURFACE

So far we have looked at large scale movements in the Painswick area but these structural features undergo constant modification by the combined agencies of weather, biological agents, gravity, slope, running water etc. A landscape is time progressive.

We have seen that local rocks have different properties and therefore they have differing resistance to weathering and a variety of features are formed. The processes working on them are many and varied.

The loosening, decaying and breaking up of rocks is called weathering. Chemical weathering takes place where percolating water contains carbon dioxide that is

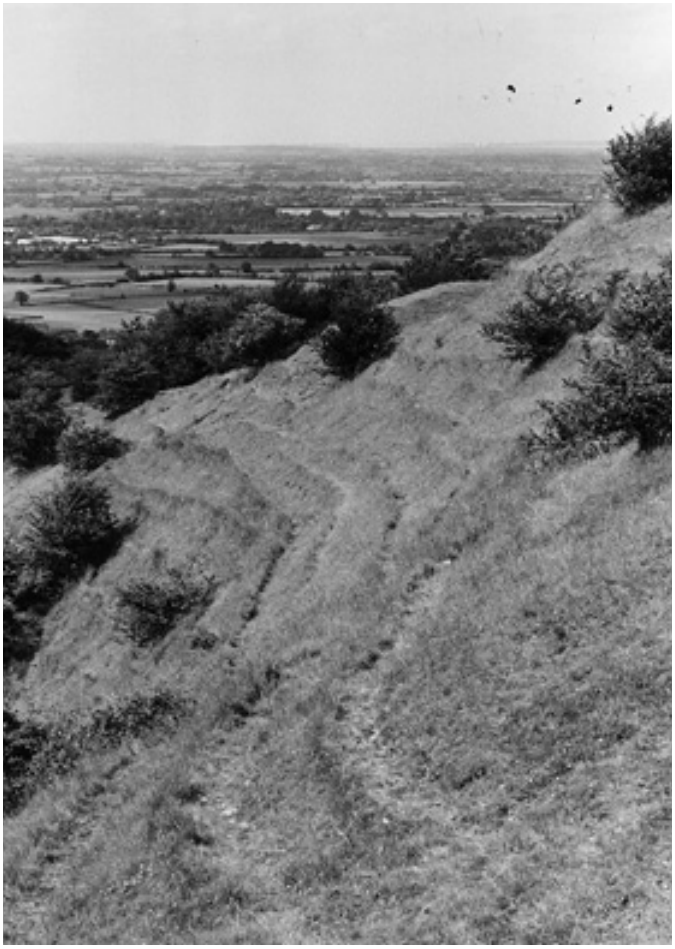
PHOTOGRAPH 2: PANORAMA OF BARNSBACK LOOKING WEST FROM LONGRIDGE SHOWING RECENT MASS GEOLOGY



collected as rain passes through the atmosphere. It forms a dilute acid that acts on limestone and dissolves and removes it in the form of calcium bicarbonate. This process can be seen at work on the tombs in St. Mary's churchyard where the facial features of the cherubs and other carvings have been dissolved. Biological weathering is also very active locally. Algae, moss, lichens and other vegetation retain water on the surface of the rock and organic acids help to decay the rock beneath. Lift up a pad of moss on a wall and you will find a hollow below it. What is happening under the moss on the tiles on our roofs? Mechanical disintegrating effects can be observed where tree roots force open cracks and fissures and burrowing animals such as worms, moles, rabbits, badgers and foxes also loosen rock material. Look in the lower Plantation, opposite the lodge to Painswick House or in the churchyard for undisputed evidence!

PHOTOGRAPH 3

The east side of Haresfield Beacon showing terracettes and turf bulges on the steep limestone escarpment and the lower, flat Severn Vale on sands and clays in the background.



Mass movement occurs when weathered material moves downslope under gravity. This is most effective when it is lubricated by water. Some movements are slow and almost imperceptible. The first signs are tilted posts, fences and trees that then become displaced downhill. A stepped pattern develops across a slope in the form of terracettes; the turf bulges and even rolls up. This is easy to see on the west slope of Painswick Beacon or the east side of Haresfield Beacon [Photograph 3]. Cambering is another slow process that can be seen at Catsbrain Quarry on Painswick Beacon. Here the local dip of the rocks is much greater than the regional dip of one to two degrees and rafts of limestone move downhill as the underlying clay flows downhill.

Rapid movements can lead to slope failure. This is particularly common where a well-jointed limestone overlies clay. The local examples of this have been seen twice on the A46 at Pitchcombe and also below Fiddler's Elbow near Cooper's Hill where the road has collapsed recently. There is often a distinct rotation movement on a curved plane tilting back the block as it moves leaving a scar on the hillside. Some rapid movements occur when the material is dry and a landslide will occur as it has on the west side of Painswick Beacon [Photograph 4]. The steeper the slope the more rapid it will be.

PHOTOGRAPH 4

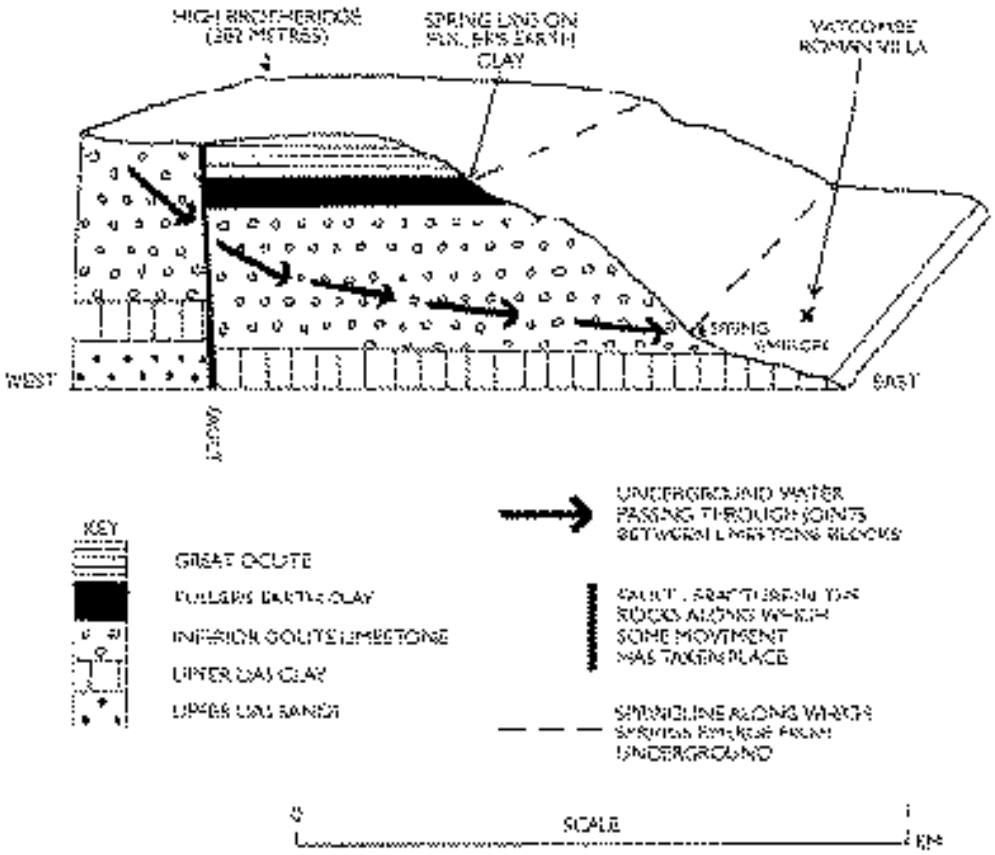
The old Inferior Oolite limstone quarry on the west side of Painswick Beacon. Note the well developed joints dividing it into blocks and the cambering dipping towards the right (west). The Spoonbed Valley is in the middle distance. A landslide of dry material is in the foreground. Edge Common can be seen in the background.

Running water is the most effective agent by which the surface of the land is changed and dissected. However, if you consider the small size of the Painswick stream and the relatively large valley it would suggest that other factors are at work. Certainly the main valley follows a north /south trend picking out the weakness of the strike, which is at right angles to the dip. Also it is a widely held view that the valleys have been cut, at least in part, when the Cotswolds were in the peripheral zone lying just in front of the ice during the Ice Age about 200,000 years ago. The ice itself stopped just north of Gloucester. The area was characterised by deep freezing of soils, sub-soils and even bedrock (permafrost). The limestone in particular had its joints sealed by ice and was thus rendered impermeable. On such rocks run-off and erosion may have been much greater than at present. You may have noticed that the heads of the valleys eg at Paradise and Cranham, are both steep sided and dry and it is possible that they were formed like this. In addition the local downward flow of water through swallow holes, joints and cavities, causes large diminution of water volume in the river channels in contact with limestone in recent times.

Also you may have seen the short valleys and embayments cutting into the Cotswold escarpment. They are called coombes and they have a semi-amphitheatre shape. Many of them follow a line of weakness, such as a fault, resulting in erosion. Again during Periglacial times downhill mass movement carried unsorted gravels down many of these coombes. Often they have springs issuing from the junctions of clay and limestone, as at the Roman villa at Witcombe. These springs wash soils from the head of the valleys and they retreat backwards [Diagram 2].

DIAGRAM 2

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF HIGH BROTHERIDGE AND WITCOMBE SHOWING SPRINGS



GEOLOGY AND PEOPLE

Prior to Roman times, early neolithic and iron age people were affected by the local geology in many ways. They had no tools capable of working the heavy clays of the Severn Vale and other lowlands. Instead they kept to the higher ground of the more resistant limestone, which had many advantages. The soils were lighter and the forest cover was much thinner. The promontory of Painswick Beacon was an excellent defensive site and they only had one major earthwork to build on the north side to make it a safe place to live. Ragstones were easily dug out to form the core of the ramparts.

The elevated site was favourable to signal to other camps such as Cooper's Hill and Churchdown. Thin soils enabled them to grow cereals and water was available at a high level where it was ponded up on top of the Fuller's Earth and stored in the aquifer of the Inferior Oolite limestone. Many of the local Iron Age communities, eg at Leckhampton, buried their dead in 100 BC in tumuli or burial mounds above the surface, as the soils were so thin and unsuitable for deep burials. Tools could also be made from local deposits of iron.

From Roman times onward the local rocks were exploited for building materials. Freestone was used for houses, ragstone for walls, slates for roofs and roadstone for roads. However, this is a whole subject in itself.

In Saxon times people looked around for dry sites for their villages and usually they found them on the Upper Lias sands like Painswick. There were also excellent springs below the village to supply them with water.

Medieval prosperity depended very much on the sheep in the Painswick area. They could graze extensively on the grassland, which was well adapted to local limestone, rendzina soils. It is important to recognise the considerable impact of these rendzina soils on the historical development of the Painswick area. The thin, alkaline soils were unsuitable for the cultivation of crops but they provided suitable grazing for sheep. The wealth derived from the sale of the wool was then spent on enhancing towns and villages and the countryside in our area. What would Painswick be like now if it had not had cottages, houses, mills, churches, tombstones, bridges and dovecotes and statues built in the past from local rocks in harmony with the local landscape?

Even the natural vegetation that we enjoy is affected by the local geology. Oak woodland flourishes on the clays. Ash, Scots pine and hawthorn are on the sands and beech with their shallow roots are found on the limestone areas such as Buckholt Wood at Cranham and the Painswick Plantations. Natural grasslands, with their lime-tolerant flowers such as violets, scabious and orchids, can be found on Cranham and Edge Commons. Painswick Golf Course makes use of the limestone grasslands and so do local dogs, horses and walkers.

Our gardening activities are mainly regulated by the geology. Those working along the bottom of the Wick valley have to work heavy clay soils but these are very productive and the flowers and vegetables are splendid. Higher up on the areas backing onto the Beacon, the thin, dry soils are easier to work but all the nutrients leach out of the soils and they have to be replaced regularly.

Geology dictates farming to a large extent. In general the lower, intractable, clay areas and the higher Fuller's Earth clay produce lush grass and are more suitable for permanent grassland for dairy cows, whilst the high, dry, limestone areas eg near Birdlip are more suitable for sheep and cereals.

Much of our water supply is also regulated by the geology, as witnessed by the high level, covered reservoirs at Churchdown and Painswick and the multitude of springs and wells in the area. Many farms are therefore situated just above a spring line.

High areas are also used for television or radio masts as at Birdlip, Churchdown and Whiteshill. A wind generator is being piloted at Nympsfield and geologists are doing trial bores for oil in the Mid-Cotswolds as the rocks are the right age. Whatever next in this area?

180 million years of geology have contributed to this outstanding legacy of geographical features and to the beauty of the Painswick area. We can enjoy it every day and discerning tourists can share it. In the words of J B Priestley-

> "The Cotswolds know the trick of keeping the lost sunshine of centuries glimmering upon them".

Glossary of terms

Anticline	An arch-shaped fold in sedimentary rocks. An upfold.
Bedding plane	A well defined, planar surface that separates one bed from another in sedimentary rocks. Each plane marks a break in deposition.
Cambering	The dip of strata towards a local valley floor in conflict with the general regional dip.
Dip slope	If strata are tilted, the maximum slope is termed the dip slope at right angles to the strike of the bedding plane.
Flexure	The form of a gentle fold whose inter-limb angles are 120° to 180°.
Freestone	This is found when the bedding planes are far apart and neat rectangular slabs of limestone can be removed from a quarry face.
Fuller's Earth	This is a stratigraphical name of a Jurassic clay formation. It was used in the past to remove grease from wool.
Marl	A calcareous clay with 35-65% soft calcium carbonate.
Oolite	A commonly occurring limestone consisting of ooliths.
Oolith	Sub-spherical, sand-sized carbonate particle that has concentric rings of calcium carbonate surrounding a nucleus of another particle
Periglacial	An area adjacent to a glacier or ice sheet.
Ragstone	A well jointed limestone with bedding planes less than one metre apart.
Rendzina	A brown earth developed over limestone parent material.
Roadstone	Unconsolidated aggregate of strong rock used in the construction of roads.
Solid geology	Rocks which are not covered by 'drift' deposits laid down by water, wind and ice.
Strike	At right angles to the dip of strata.
Syncline	A basin or trough-shaped fold. A downfold.
Joint plane	A discrete, brittle, vertical fracture in limestone caused by desiccation and shrinkage.

Generalised geological timescale for the Lower Juarassic and Middle Jurassic period

ERA	DURATION	PERIOD	STRATA
Mesozoic	The whole Jurassic period began 180 million years ago and ended 135 million years ago		
		Middle Jurassic	Great Oolite series Great Oolite limestone Taynton Stone Fuller's Earth clay Clypeus Grit Trigonia Grit Notgrove Freestone Gryphite Grit Inferior Oolite series Upper Freestone Oolitic Marl Lower Freestone Pea Grit Lower Limestones
		Lower Jurassic	Cotswold Sands Upper Lias Sands Upper Lias Clay Middle Lias Marlstone rockbed Middle Lias Clays and Sands Lower Lias Clay

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JOTTINGS

"Captain T W Gardner, Stroud Fire Brigade, said it afforded him great pleasure, as an old fireman, to find that a town like Painswick should be able to boast of a first-class fire engine and also a fire brigade, and they might congratulate themselves on their success. They would be able to put out any fire if they only had the water".

After dinner speech, Annual Dinner
Stroud News and Journal, Friday, 17th January, 1896

"One farmer… vividly recalls the day when he rose early to drive his bull to market. At the bottom of Upton Hill, however, the bull felt rather tired and lay down in the middle of the road for a rest and all efforts to entice him on to his feet failed. It took little time for a crowd to gather round to gaze at the dozing bull. When, however, the bull considered he had had sufficient rest, he sprang sprightly to his feet and continued his journey, very much to the amazement of the crowd who fled, terrified, in all directions".

Pauline Berry, Some Notes on Farming,
Our Village within Living Memory, 1856-1957
compiled by Painswick W.I., 1957

"Red Riding Hood by Edna Cole, Norah West, Stanley Cole, and two dogs, Robin and Rover, kindly lent by Miss Wemyss. The dogs Robin and Rover performed admirably and received loud applause".

Parish Magazine; 8th February, 1906
Review of Concert performance by A.B.C.Band of Hope

Jennifer Barnett

MY PAINSWICK UPBRINGING

by

John Thynne-Russell

My father was brought up in Gloucester as a foster child in the Russell family. He acquired the 'Thynne' element in virtue of his connection with the family of the Marquis of Bath. My mother came from Malvern, where her father was a solicitor. They met at Sutton Coldfield during the First World War when my mother was in charge of the YMCA there and my father, who had joined the Fifth Gloucester Regiment, was invalided home from the front with an injured foot. My parents were married in Malvern and then came to live in Gloucester. I was born in 1919, baptised at Matson, and soon afterwards the family moved to Painswick.

John Thynne-Russell's father

My father had visited Painswick as a young man and he purchased Woodfield Cottage, the house in which I still live today in Vicarage Street, from a Miss Marris at Severn Cottage, a few doors away. He could remember the days when the journey from Gloucester to Painswick was made by horse bus.

He was a fine water polo player and was very keen on Gloucester rugby which he would go to see each Saturday. My father was a cabinet maker and Cotswold craftsman, who would advertise in local publications as a cabinet maker and french polisher. He was responsible for making coffin plates for burials, painting the inscriptions in black cellulose paint on brass plates. The coffins themselves were made by Burdocks the builders. He would work in a workshop in the garden of Woodfield Cottage which has now gone. I myself remember a burial in Painswick churchyard in about 1930, in a vault near the tower vestry, though the churchyard had been officially closed in 1863.

One of the things he would make were thorn walking sticks, which he cut initially from hedgerows. I still have one today. He would regularly carry out repairs on precious items of furniture which villagers brought to him. He was also a keen walker; he would often go over to Cranham walking along the valley. The paths are all marked up now, but they were not in those days and he would sometimes have to remove obstructions.

My mother would take in paying guests. Woodfield Cottage is a four bedroom house and the two rooms on the middle floor were let to ladies. I was an only child and slept in one of the bedrooms on the top floor; my parents slept in the other.

I had a very happy childhood, starting at Painswick School in Stroud Road, in a building which has now been put to a number of different uses; the main part is now the public library. In those days the girls and boys were taught separately. The girls were in the rooms at the back of the school which have now become the Church Rooms. Mr Slack, the headmaster, would expect silence in a classroom when he entered, such that we could hear the clock ticking. He was a harsh man and the cane was used regularly if we misbehaved. From time to time we would go away for a week's holiday at Weston-super-Mare. We would go from Stroud LMS station and change at Stonehouse [see Note1] Sometimes we would get a through excursion train. After Painswick School I went to Marling School in Stroud, which I left at the age of 16.

In those years between the wars some of the facilities in Painswick were quite advanced while others were quite primitive. The gas works operated in Kings Mill Lane. This provided a supply of gas for the town; we ourselves had gas lamps in the living room which would pop regularly as they burnt. The Lamp itself in Victoria Square was lit by gas and there were street lights which were lit each night by Bob Gyde's father. Many people used gas for cooking. The coke which the gas works made as a by-product was used for firing the church boiler and for use in the school stoves. There had been mains drainage for some years and there was a sewage works in Stamages Lane. Fresh water was more of a problem, however. A number of houses had wells, but many people had to carry water from a spring. Our family got their water from a spring at Verlands.

The working people in Vicarage Street were not well off and employment was in short supply. Many people would work on the land, though this did not provide full time employment. There was mowing and cider making with apples coming from the many orchards that existed in those days; some very good cider came from Damsells Farm. Many farmers made their own cider and the labourers would be given cider to drink during the day when they were engaged in getting the hay in. In those days a man called Mason ran Dell Farm, though he was also a butcher in Bisley Street.

Another source of employment was Burdocks, the builders. In addition to building work the firm also, as I have already mentioned, operated as undertakers and as a fire brigade. There were apprenticeships and there were plumbers, carpenters and others as well as labourers who worked on the roads. When it came to funerals the coffins would be made by the carpenters and some of the employees would put on black suits to act as pall bearers.

The pin mill at the bottom of Tibbiwell provided employment for many of the women, and some of them would be engaged in home work. I remember someone at the top of Vicarage Street having a great heap of hairpins which they would bundle together with the help of scales into two-ounce packages, where one hairpin was stuck into the side to hold the bundle together. I believe that a number of the cottages in Vicarage Street were used in this way. Meat pins for fixing price tags to meat were also made in the mill; they had a little prong with a curly top.

There were a number of large families in Vicarage Street, the Birts, the Smiths, the Barnards, the Smarts, the Millses, the Kilmisters, the Bullinghams. The Swains kept the White Horse Inn, known as 'The Pony', one of the many pubs in Painswick. There are very few members of those old families left in Vicarage Street now. I myself am one of the survivors. Most of the men worked for Burdocks. Colin Gyde was another boy who lived in Vicarage Street. His widow still lives in Canton Acre. He was brought up in Tangier Cottage, where I believe they kept pigs.

But there were better off people too. Verlands, across the road from my cottage, was originally built as a vicarage. One of the vicars who had lived there, Mr Seddon, I believe, built a mission hall at the back of his house, which was attended by many of the people in Vicarage Street, particularly on Sunday evenings; they were reluctant to attend services in the parish church. The mission hall has now been converted into two cottages. My father told me that in his time Lord Gifford lived at Verlands. He had a row with some of the local people and stopped up the tap that provided water. After that came Colonel Sleeman, one of the founders of the Catholic church in Painswick and father of Ursula Usher. He later moved to Gloucester Street and lived in the house called Ludloes. After Colonel Sleeman came Mr Heath, the founder of Permali in Gloucester, a firm that made laminates which were initially manufactured by Mr Heath in Painswick. Before the Second World War there were allotments on either side of Lower Washwell on land that is now occupied by modern houses. My father had the task of collecting the allotment rents for Colonel Sleeman, who made a plot of land available to him for gardening. I believe it was Mr Heath who sold the allotment land for development; it had previously been glebe land.

A Mr Cooke lived at Yew Tree House, which carries the date '1666'. He later lived in Brook House in Greenhouse Lane. He owned much of the property in Vicarage Street. The properties were not in a very good state. Some of the houses had pumps, but most people had to collect their water from springs.

In those years there were many organisations catering for young people, such as Young Britons and Scouts and Guides. As boys we would play in the grounds of Loveday's Mill which was by then closed and in a state of ruin. At the parish church there was a large choir of boys and men, with eight choirboys on either side of the chancel, where in due course I became head chorister. For the Clypping Service each September the vicars of the daughter churches would walk to Painswick with their children to join in the festivities.

Cecil Verey was the vicar from 1917 to 1930. He lived at Gwynfa, now the Painswick Hotel. We would often go there for parties after Sunday School, outings and trips; there was a chapel in the house at the top of the stairs. It was Mr Verey's son, David and his wife who developed the famous gardens at Barnsley. After Mr Verey came Mr Coode, who lived in Belgrave House next to the Bell Hotel in Friday Street. The house was bombed during the war. It was he who prepared me for confirmation.

When the war came things changed a lot, with war work and munitions. Then there were queues of people to get the bus down to Brockworth, to work at Gloster Aircraft.

When I left Marling School I went to work for a chef at Avening, in a household where there were also a footman and a butler. The experience I had there was very helpful as I was later able to look after my parents and cater for myself. But the war was coming and in 1938 I joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, so in 1939 I was immediately called up. I became involved in administration and welfare, but I was also involved with instructing recruits. Then I became an instructor for aircrew and ground staff in aircraft recognition, and I stayed on after the war.

TWO ROMAN COINS FOUND INSIDE KIMSBURY HILLFORT

by

Cedric Nielsen

Two Roman Coins were found at different times in the early 1970s by John and Paul Luker while working for Painswick Golf Club on the greens inside the ramparts of Kimsbury Hillfort on Painswick Beacon.

These coins were lent to me by Paul Luker and taken by me to the Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery, where they were identified as sestertii - the one of the Roman Emperor Vespasian, the other of the Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius.

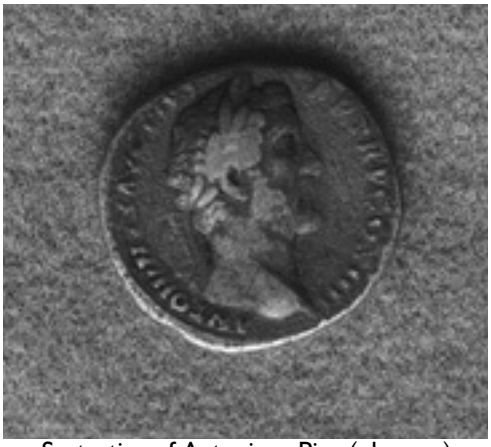
By a coincidence Vespasian had himself been in Britain during the invasion in AD 43, as commander of the Legion II Augusta with which he subdued the Isle of Wight and most of South West Britain. Twenty four years later he was sent to command the army charged with suppressing the Jewish Revolt which had broken out in early AD 66. This task he left half finished for his son Titus to complete, when he set out for Rome to accept the position of Emperor which his troops had won for him by defeating the last of three generals who had fought to succeed Nero.

Could perhaps the loss of one of his coins so near Gloucester have been connected with the conversion of the fortress built to guard the Severn crossing into the Colonia of Glevum (the City of Gloucester) and the construction of the new city's buildings - for which stone may have been quarried from Kimsbury Hill (assuming that a coin of Emperor Vespasian, AD 69 - 79, could have still been in circulation after AD 96, the date of that event? Or could it have been a member of the garrison of the earliest fortress, who strolled up to Kimsbury Hillfort and dropped the coin in long grass while admiring the view? Mere speculation of course.

The coin is bronze and heavily corroded, but sufficient can be seen to identify the Emperor. The portrait shows a strong-willed man with a large nose and jutting chin. The reverse shows a bound man standing beside a palm tree, on the other side of which sits a woman in dejection. This, together with the legend JUDAEA CAPTA, celebrates the suppression of the Jewish Revolt, the capture of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple - events which could be said to cast a shadow that stretches even until today. Beneath the palm are the letters S C which inform the world that the coin was issued with the authorisation of the Senate (Senatus Consulto). The coin can be dated by the events to AD 71.

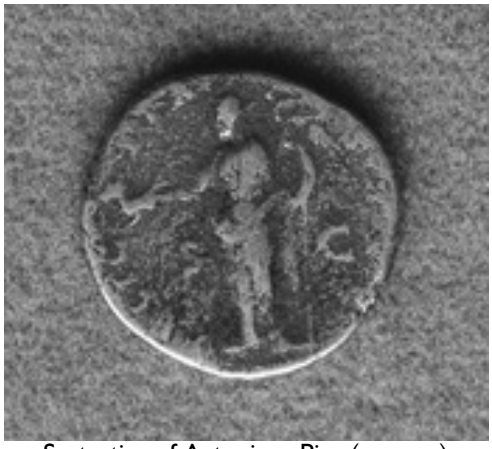
Sestertius of Vespasian (obverse)
AD 69 - 79

The sestertius of Emperor Antoninus Pius, AD 138 - 161, is in good condition. The obverse has the Emperor's portrait and the inscription Antoninus AVG PIVS PP and TRP



Sestertius of Antoninus Pius (obverse)
AD 138 - 161

COS iiii. The letters help to embellish the status of the Emperor. AVG - Majesty, a title assumed by the first Emperor and subsequently taken by his successors. PIVS - Dutiful and PP, Father of his country. TRP - tribunician power, another Republican office held by all Emperors. COS - means Consul, the principal magistracy of the Republic, and still retained under the Empire. iiii indicates the number of consuls; this format was only in use in the period AD 145-161 and used by the mint in Rome. The reverse has FELICITAS AVG SC~ Felicitas, represents happiness (precisely that) and Antoninus seems unique among Roman Emperors in being content to bring happiness through good government to his subjects. He had no ambitions for military triumphs or other forms of glory. He spent his reign in and around Rome and gave his orders from there for the building of the so-called Antonine wall (a turf wall stretching between the Clyde and the Forth), unlike Hadrian who came personally to inspect the progress of his stone-built wall. Antoninus is thought to have been given his extra name, Pius, to commemorate his devotion to his adoptive father and predecessor, Hadrian. The Antonine wall was built because some of the aggressive Caledonian (Scottish) tribes had broken through Hadrian's wall and had had to be driven out. The Antonine Wall was no more successful in containing them and was abandoned some thirty years later.



Sestertius of Antoninus Pius (reverse)
AD 138 - 161

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank John Sharwood Smith for his advice on the Roman Emperors and Sue Byrne form the City of Gloucester Museum and Art Gallery who originally identified the coins and later gave me more information.

CHURCH PEWS

An Introduction

by

Carol Maxwell

As a general rule, there were no seats or benches in churches until the 15th century at the earliest except for stone seats round the wall for the old and infirm (hence the phrase 'the weakest to the wall'). Sometimes a prominent local family wanted benches kept for private use and the name of their house was inscribed on the back of the benches.

Pews appeared on a large scale in the 17th century and quite soon became the subject of status and prestige, and often a good source of income for the clergy who were empowered to hire or sell pews. Some churches had a seating plan showing that each house was allocated a seat which was taxed. The squire usually had his own family pew as did other wealthy families but the right to occupy a specific pew was often attached to a property. In 1707 a dispute was brought before Gloucester Consistory Court to decide whether a pew in Painswick Church went with ownership of Blakewell Farmhouse or with ownership of Cross House, Painswick. Extracts from the court case are given in the accompanying article.

By the 18th century many of these pews had developed into substantial panelled structures, enclosed, often fitted with locks and sometimes given a canopy. They were known as box pews and often filled the nave. Galleries were introduced on a grand scale for the grander families each eager to have its own private gallery,

> "often with its own fireplace and a separate entrance, through which it was not unknown for a liveried servant to enter, with sherry and biscuits, while the parson droned on."[1]

These developments were strongly disapproved of by several prominent dlergymen. In a sermon as early as 1623, Bishop Crobett of Norwich said,

> "Stately pews are now become tabernacles with rings and curtains to them. There wants nothing but beds to hear the word of God on; we have casements, locks, and keys, and cushions. I had almost said bolsters and pillows, and for these we love the church. Will not guess what is done within them, who sits, stands, or lies asleep at prayers, communion, etc., but this I dare say they are either to hide some vice, or to proclaim one …"

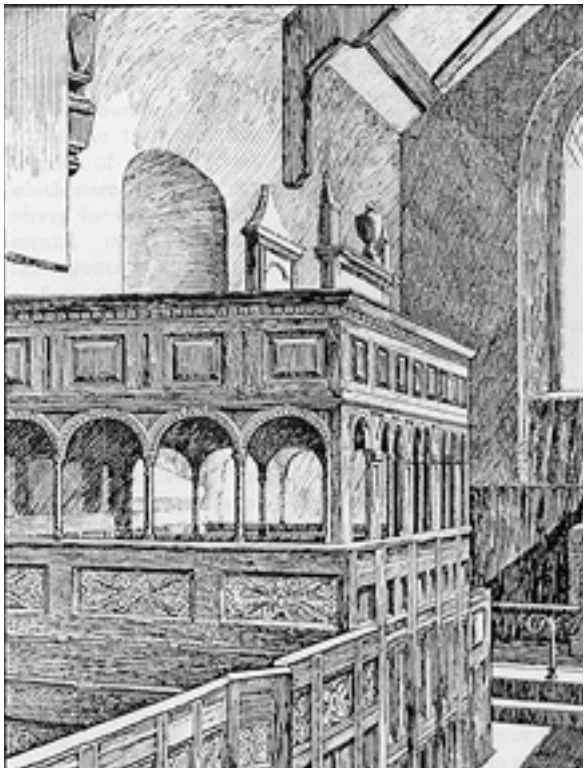
The size of some of these pews and galleries, occasionally even two storeys, was often completely out of proportion to the design of the church but they represented power and prestige locally. Seats could be bought and sold, bequeathed and inherited, bartered for and, as in the case below, even fought over. In Painswick in 1791 a pew was assigned (sold) by Thomas Wilson to Henry Spring for £60.

> "…Thomas Wilson hath granted bargained sold assigned conveyed and sett over … unto the said Henry Spring his heirs and assigns for ever all that seat

or pew situate in the new Ile in the parish Church at Painswick having the seat late of Robert Ball and now of Nickless Webb Esquire on the East side thereof and ye seat of Benjamin Hiett Esquire on the West side thereof, and the Seat late of George Cull on the Back or South side thereof the front facing the pulpit and now in the possession of the said Thomas Wilson his Tenants or under Tenants."[3]

The sermons were long, the churches cold and the population growing. The congregation was definitely divided, both physically and socially. Mr A J Gwinnett, born in 1867, writes:

"…Painswick Church, as I remember it as a boy, it was filled with quaint square box pews, some large, some small, some tall, others oblong shape. There were some with locks on the doors… The Squire's pew I remember was in the south gallery. The boarders from the Court House sat underneath, and I remember Carrier Webb from the far corner of the north gallery looking down upon the scene."[4]



An example of a late 17th century pew

The close resemblance of some of the pews to the elaborate Jacobean tester beds led Swift to satirize them in *Baucis and Philemon*:

"A bedstead of the antique mode,
Compact of timber many a load,
Such as our ancesters did use,
Was metamorphosed into pews;
Which still their ancient nature keep
By lodging folks disposed to sleep."[2]

Towards the middle of the 19th century, the Victorian High Church Movement caused box pews and galleries to be removed from many churches. Today's seating arrangements date from the late 19th century.

The box pews and galleries were removed from Painswick Church in the refurbishment of 1879.

References

1 Clifton-Taylor, Alec — *English Parish Churches as Works of Art*,1974 p.8

2 Cox, J Charles and Harvey, A — *English Church furniture*, 1907, pp 284 & 287

3 — Indenture Wilson/Spring, GRO P244 CW 3/1

4 Gwinnett, A J — *Painswick Chronicle* Number 5, 2001

Blakewell Farmhouse, Cross House and a Gallery Pew of Painswick Church, c.1657-1707

Transcripts by John Rhodes from records of the Gloucester consistory court, Gloucestershire Record Office GDR/B4/1994, by permission of the County and Diocesan Archivist.

In the 1650s John Poole of Randwick, having built a humble farmhouse at Blakewell for his tenant, went on to build the prestigious Blakewell seat in Painswick church for himself. Blakewell later passed to Robert Simons of the Cross House, who occupied the Blakewell seat in the gallery in preference to the Cross House seat in the nave. In 1707 this caused George Jones of the Cross House to claim possession of the Blakewell seat from Anthony Lawrence to whom Blakewell was mortgaged. Between 20th and 25th October a procession of witnesses told the consistory court the recent history of both properties. Judgement was given in Jones's favour on 22nd January 1707/8.

Allegation of Anthony Lawrence.
One John Poole, deceased, being in his lifetime (viz. About 50 yeares agoe) possessor and owner of a certain messuage situate in Paynswick called Blackwell and wanting a suitable seat for himself and family in the parish church there, did at his own proper costs and charges and with the consent of the parish erect and build a seat in the north or east end of the gallery there (being the seat in question), and in recompence or considera-cion of such consent granted him he gave the boards and materialls for the makeing of the back part or side of the whole gallery aforesaid. The seat in question hath ever since the building thereof been reputed to be annexed to and appertaine and belong to the said messuage called Blackwell aforesaid and to the proprietors, owners and inhabitants thereof.

After the death of the said John Poole the said messuage with its appurtenances descended to his daughter, now Mrs Blisse,[1] who sold the same to one Robert Simons,[2] att whose decease the same descended to William Simons his son.[3] The said William Simons, dyeing, left the same to Margaret his relict and widow.[4] The said widow took to husband George Jones, the promovent in this cause, who have sold the same messuage and appurtenances to John Russell, who sold the same to this proponent.

Deposition of William Merriman of Paynswick, aged 70 or thereabouts.
Robert Simons and his family, before they came to have Blackwell's House, usually sate in the body of the church over against the pulpit. That was the place that did then belong to the Cross House in Paynswick.[5]

Deposition of Joseph Russell of Thornbury, aged 30 years or thereabouts.
About 3 yeares ago Mrs Simons of Paynswick surrendered, according to the custom there, a messuage called Blackwell unto John Russell, this deponent's brother, for seavenscore pounds. This deponent was then present and saw paid or accounted £116 or thereabouts of the purchase money. The said John Russell then said that, haveing bought Blackwell with all its appurtenances, the gallery seat did belong to him.

Whereto Mrs Jones (the promovent's wife) replyed that the seat should not goe in the purchase, but if he had a mind to have one in the body of the church in lieu thereof he should have one. To which this deponent's brother answered and said that he had bought the house and appurtenances and therefore the seat was his, and whenever he should marry, his wife and children would sit there. Though afterwards he told the said Mrs Jones that she might sit there unmolested by him, but the right therein he would not part withall.

Deposition of Stephen Page of Paynswick, joiner (faber lignarius), aged 70 years or thereabouts. He well remembers John Poole, and that about 50 years agoe he built the house called Blackwell House where noe house had formerly stood.[6] About two years after, the said Mr Poole gave orders to this deponent and his father, being carpenters, to build the seat now in question. Mr Poole's usuall habitacion was att Standish.[7] After Mr Poole, Robert Simons had the house called Blackwell, after him William Simons and so down to John Russell and now to the producent Anthony Lawrence. He supposeth that John Russell is the owner of Blackwell and that Mr Lawrence hath a mortgage thereof.

Mr Lord, tenant to Robert Simons and inhabiting Blackwell House, usually sat in the seat in question, as did also Robert Simons and also William Simons his successor when he [i.e. Mr Lord] lived in Blackwell House aforesaid. He remembers Mr Lord to sit in the seat, but the rest of the tenants, being mean persons, were not permitted to so high a seat but sat in the body of the church.

He knowes the messuage called Crosse House in Paynswicke. He believes that Robert Simons lived therein when the seat in question was built and after him his relict and his son William, and since Mr George Jones. The said Robert Simons and William Simons were wont to sit in the seat in question, and old Mrs Simons (Robert Simons's relict)[8] was wont and still doth sit in the middle or body of the church. After the said Robert's and William Simons's death he hath seen the said George Jones and his wife sit there.

Notes

1 Anne Blisse (b1640), witness in the case as a widow of Gloucester.

2 d. 1696, chandler and nephew to John Poole: GRO, GDR will 1696/45, cf inventory 1696(220); deposition of Mary Bower of Painswick (born c1647).

3 1656-99: Parish Reg.

4 1651-1737: Bigland,Glos. iii. 974.

5 A dwelling with two hearths in Spoonbed tithing near Painswick Cross: GRO D383, s.v. Robert Simons; deposition on John Harding. Possibly Wickstone in Bisley Street or Cardynham House in Tibbiwell.

6 'On a langet where no dwelling had ever been': deposition of John Harding of Painswick (born c1647).

7 At Oxlinch: deposition of John Harding.

8 Hester Simons (1619-1711): GRO D9125/10010/26.

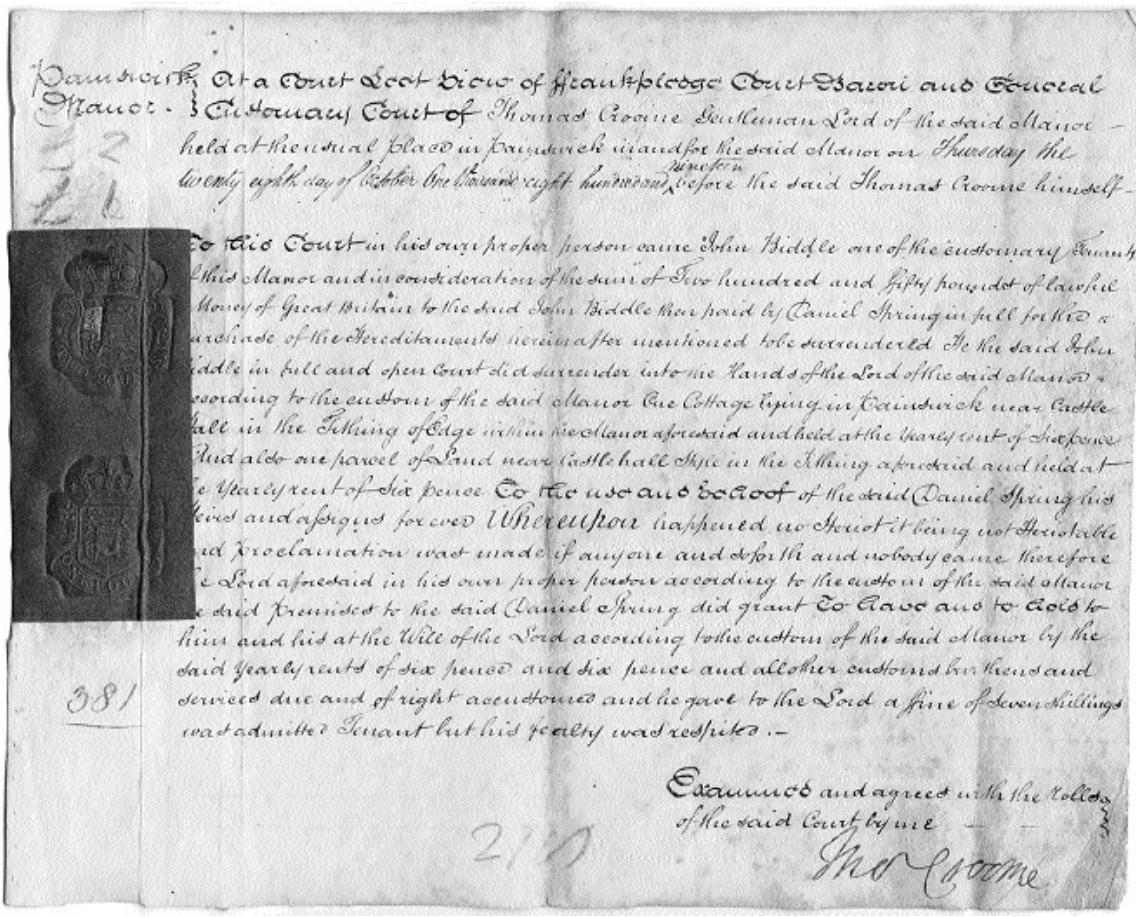
THE HOUSE THAT DANIEL SPRING BUILT

by

Peter M Rowe

Daniel Spring (1775-1860) and his son Henry Thomas Spring (1799-1875) ran a thriving building business in and around the Painswick area. Daniel Spring variously described himself as a builder, timber merchant and land surveyor. In addition to building houses, he worked on the local churches in Painswick, Pitchcombe and Slad. But there is one house that must have been a little special - the house that he built for himself and his family.

At the Painswick manorial court on 28 October 1819, Daniel Spring paid John Biddle £250 for the property on which he was to build his home[1]. The property was copyhold - the name coming from the fact that the purchaser received a hand written copy of the transaction [see below] that was registered in the manorial court records. In taking over the ownership, he also had to pay the Lord of the Manor a fine (i.e. a fee) of seven shillings.



Painswick } At a Court Leet View of Frankpledge Court Baron and Court of
Manor. } Customary Court of Thomas Coome Gentleman Lord of the said Manor
held at the usual place in Painswick in and for the said Manor on Thursday the
twenty eighth day of October One Thousand eight hundred and nineteen before the said Thomas Coome himself

To this Court in his own proper person came John Biddle one of the customary Tenants
of this Manor and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds of lawful
Money of Great Britain to the said John Biddle then paid by Daniel Spring in full for the
purchase of the Hereditaments hereinafter mentioned to be surrendered He the said John
Biddle in full and open Court did surrender into the Hands of the Lord of the said Manor
according to the custom of the said Manor One Cottage lying in Painswick near Castle
Hall in the Tithing of Edge within the Manor aforesaid and held at the Yearly rent of Sixpence
And also one parcel of Land near Castle hall Style in the Tithing aforesaid and held at
the Yearly rent of Six pence To the use and behoof of the said Daniel Spring his
Heirs and Assigns for ever Whereupon happened no Heriot it being not Heriotable
and Proclamation was made if any one and do forth and nobody came therefore
the Lord aforesaid in his own proper person according to the custom of the said Manor
the said premises to the said Daniel Spring did grant To have and to hold to
him and his at the Will of the Lord according to the custom of the said Manor by the
said Yearly rents of Six pence and Six pence and all other customs Services and
Services due and of right accustomed and he gave to the Lord a fine of Seven Shillings
was admitted Tenant but his fealty was respited —

381

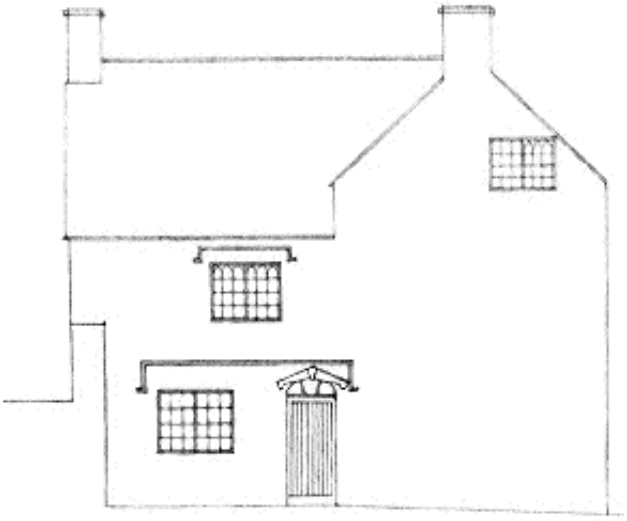
Examined and agrees with the Rolls
of the said Court by me — —
Thos Coome

The property had changed hands through the manorial court many times in the same fashion over the preceding decades if not centuries. Sarah Cooke had inherited it from

her grandfather, Thomas Gardner, in 1760. It had been transferred from Thomas Holder to John Horsley in 1762, then to Richard Biddle in 1772 and to John Smith in 1779. John Biddle had bought the property for £125 from William Biddle in 1817.[1]

Daniel Spring knocked down one cottage, which bordered directly onto what is now Hale Lane.[2] He erected a new house to one side of the old one, a little further up hill and set back from the Lane. Two external walls of the house - those facing the valley and Hale Lane were built using ashlar stone, giving the house its fine facade. The roof was probably tiled in stone tiles, though its pitch is rather less steep than that normally associated with such roofs. Much of the stone from the old cottage would have been incorporated into the new building, as probably were also some older stone mullion windows and large stone lintels over two fireplaces.

The house was built with four rooms on the ground floor, and was essentially square in plan. There were three bedrooms and what was probably an open space at the head of the stairs on the first floor, and further two bedrooms and open space in the attic. All four rooms on the ground floor and two on the first floor had fireplaces. There was a cellar under part of the ground floor. A well, probably outside the previous cottage, was covered over with flagstones in the kitchen of the new house, but was still used through lead pipes and a hand pump. There was some sort of outbuilding or extension beyond the kitchen.



Architect's drawing showing facade facing Hale Lane

In July 1839, Daniel Spring purchased the freehold from Thomas Clutterbuck Croome, the new Lord of the Manor of Painswick, for the sum of £15. This transaction is recorded in two documents [1], which clarify the nature of the property. Previously [as in the document shown above], it had been somewhat misleadingly described as: -

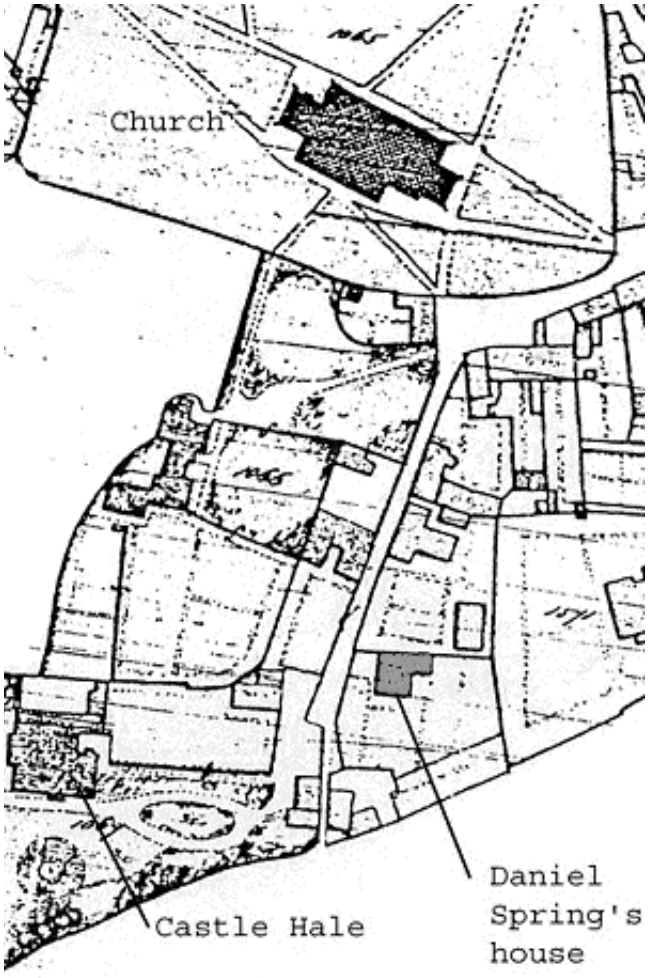
> "One Cottage lying in Painswick near Castle Hale in the tithing of Edge within the manor of Painswick and held at the yearly rent of Six pence and also one parcel of land near Castle Hale Style and held at the yearly rent of Six pence".

The property actually comprised three cottages as indicated in the 1839 documents: -

> "that dwelling house lately erected and built by Daniel Spring … with the stable outbuildings garden courts and yards thereto adjoining and belonging" [now: The Churn];
>
> "and two cottages … with the gardens courts and yards … now in the occupation of Giles Bliss and Nathaniel Birt"

[now: the two cottages have been combined and are known as Churn Cottage; this part of the property also included a ruin that was to be rebuilt in the 1920s and is now known as Hale Bank];

"bounded on the west by the Path leading from the Church to Castle Hale Stile" [now: Hale Lane];
"on the east by premises belonging to Mr Philip Foxwell"
[now: Painswick Hotel];
"on the south by the High way leading from Tibbywell Lane to Castle Hale Stile aforesaid" [now: Kemps Lane];
"on the north by premises of Mr William Henry Jenner Holder".



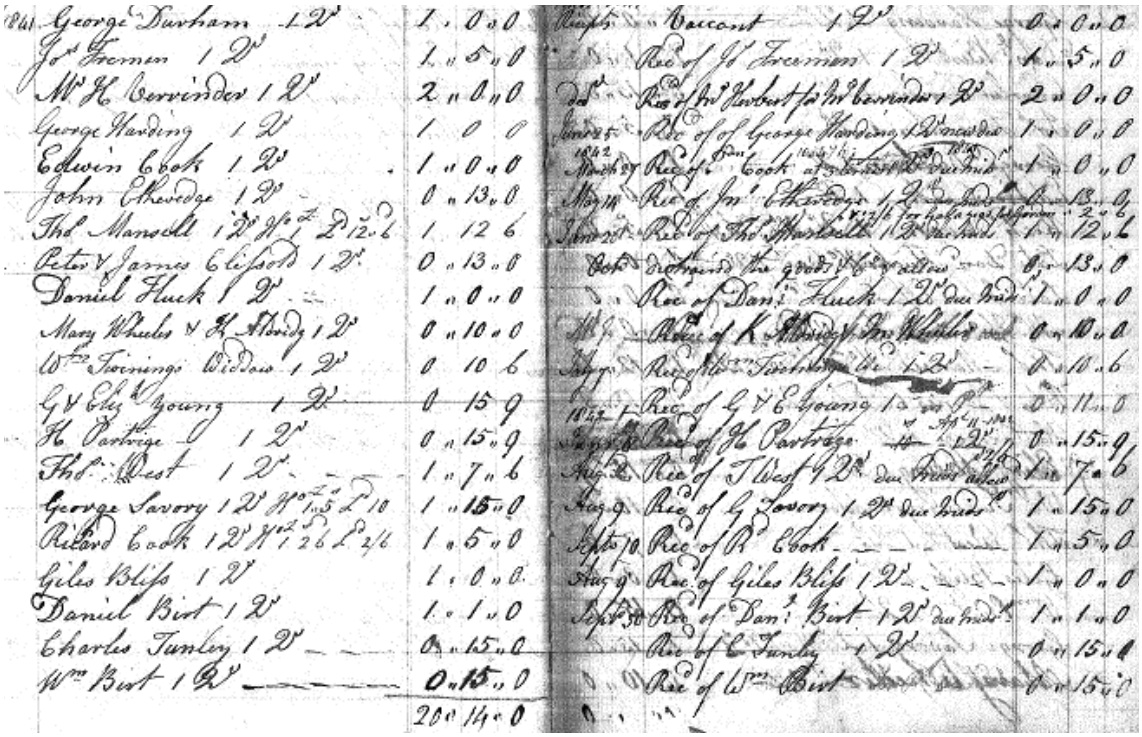
From Tithe Map of Painswick, 1839

In June 1841, Daniel Spring was about 65 years old. He lived in the house with Elizabeth (his second wife), Eliza Thirza and George (two of his children from his first marriage), George Bartlett (a son of Elizabeth from her first marriage) and John Bumpus (a nephew through his first marriage). Henry Thomas Spring (Daniel Spring's eldest son, who worked with him in the building business) and his family lived in New Street, and his sister Eleanor (known as Ellen) Godwin was visiting from Birmingham.[3]

In addition to his building business, Daniel Spring had about twenty properties from which he derived a quarterly rental income of about £20. Half were in Painswick and half elsewhere in the parish. The latter included a few properties close to the corner of Stamages Lane (then called the Old Turnpike Road to Stroud) and Kingsmill Lane - where Spring Cottage, Kings Mill Lane Cottage and Stepping Stone Cottage now lie. Other properties were further down Kingsmill Lane, where Cliffords Orchard and Cherry Tree Cottage now stand. And there were three further away at Cockshoot Hill, including one where The Laurels now stands. Many of these buildings have been significantly extended or modified since.

Being a landlord had its challenges then as now; properties fell vacant; tenants were late or had difficulty paying. Daniel Spring kept a rent book[4] to keep a record of who had paid what and when; the extract below shows rents due on Midsummer's Day 1841 (left

hand page) and receipts (right hand page). Another page shows him accepting an old clock and table in lieu of a quarter's rent from a widow.



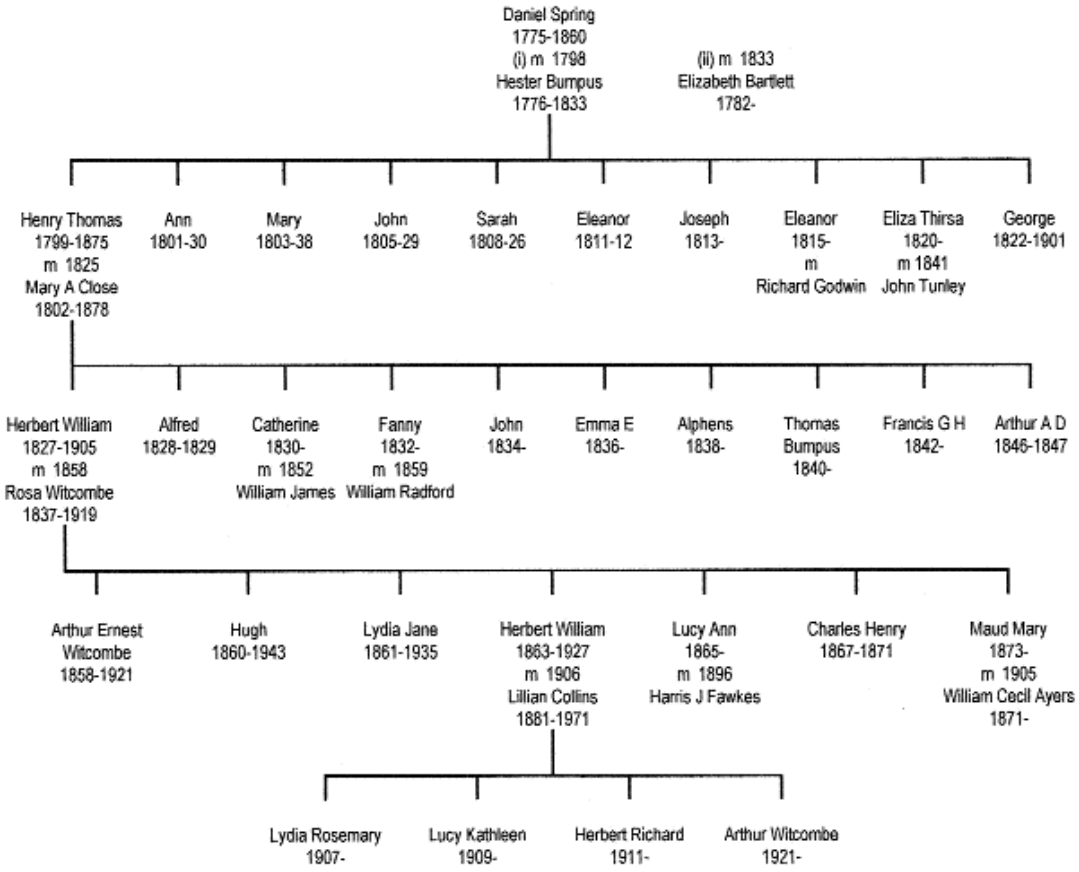
After the death of Daniel Spring in 1860, the house was to remain in the Spring family's possession for another hundred years, passing down the generations. Daniel Spring left his home to his grandson, Herbert William Spring, who with his wife Rosa, lived there for the remainder of their lives. Herbert William Spring was an auctioneer - a leaflet advertising one of his sales (of timber) can be seen today framed inside the Falcon Inn. After briefly being owned by Arthur Ernest Witcombe Spring until his death in 1921, it passed to his brother Herbert William Spring (who ran a grocer's business in Cainscross). His sister, Lydia Jane and his brother Hugh were to occupy Hale Bank. While both Herbert William Spring (the grocer) and his son Herbert Richard Spring owned the house, neither lived there.

During the 1890s, the address of the property was The Hales. By about 1900, the name Haleville starts to appear in formal documents to identify the house - though the name was also used to refer to other properties in the immediate vicinity. The first record of the name The Churn I have found appears in *Kelly's Directory of Gloucestershire* 1931, though references to Churn Cottage to describe the neighbouring cottage can be found more than ten years earlier.

After the death of Arthur Ernest Witcombe Spring in 1921, the house was no longer required by the Spring family for their own accommodation, and it was let out. The first tenant was Vernon Stuart Barnes and his family.[5]

The second tenant was Colonel Robert Frederick Pearson, who took on a seven year lease[1] for £48 per annum starting on Christmas Day 1926. As part of the lease, Colonel Pearson was required to install a bathroom (and at his discretion a toilet). The new bathroom was created in the open area on the first floor, though the new partition wall

met the external wall in the middle of a mullion window. Although rather inelegant, this arrangement did allow external light to both bathroom and landing. A telephone was installed at about the same time - the number being Painswick 128. A second seven-year lease was taken out from 1933 at £52 per annum, and the lease was renewed for twenty-one years from 1940 at £65 per annum.



Colonel Pearson was an army man through and through. He was born on 30 May 1868 at Horfield Barracks, Bristol, son of Lt-General Sir Charles Knight Pearson CB KCMG. He was educated at the United Services College, Westward Ho! and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He served in the Buffs (as did his father) from 1889-1909, and saw active service including in the Boer War. He served as an instructor at Sandhurst and Woolwich, and retired after the end of the First World War.[6] He married Avice Grogarty, the daughter of an army surgeon in 1902, and they had one daughter, Avice Leybourne Pearson, born in 1905. Soon after his arrival in Painswick, he became honorary secretary of the local branch of the British Legion.

Until sometime in the 1940s, like the Spring family before them, Colonel and Mrs Pearson had employed a female domestic servant who lived on the premises. She had a bedroom on the top floor and a tiny 'sitting room' in the extension beyond the kitchen.

In 1957, the house was sold by Herbert Robert Spring to Miss Marcia Evelyn Makins. Miss Makins had lived at The Churn with Colonel Pearson and his family since the early 1930s, and was a similar age to their daughter. The sale prompted a flurry of structural changes to

the house: - the internal layout of the top floor was completely redesigned and extra windows added to create two larger bedrooms and an additional bathroom and toilet. A new kitchen was installed in the extension. A wooden sun lounge (replacing an outbuilding) was added in 1961, and gas central heating installed in 1969. During this period, a partition wall separating two bedrooms on the first floor was removed making a larger room - the same had been done some time before on the ground floor to make a larger living room.

Miss Makins and Miss Pearson continued to live in the house after the deaths of Col Pearson (1967) and his wife (1963). In 1971, the house was sold to Donald and Dorothy Milne, and then in 1996 to my wife and me. Mr and Mrs Milne converted a stable into what is now a garage, and we replaced the kitchen extension and wooden sun lounge with a new kitchen.

In the garden there is an old stone font, whose origins are not entirely clear. W St Clair Baddeley[7] suggested that it was from Painswick Church when the present font displaced it in 1661. H G Williams[8], who conducted a survey of all Anglican church fonts in the Diocese of Gloucester in the late 1970s, commented that it dates from the twelfth century and apparently belonged to the old Church at Pitchcombe before it was demolished in 1819. I favour the latter theory, not least because I can imagine Daniel Spring acquiring it as he carried out his building activities in the early 1820s. In any case, it has been in the garden for many years.

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3	*Census*,1841
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5	*Registers of Electors*, from 1904, Gloucester Library
6	*Who's Who in Cheltenham*, 1911. *Who's Who in Gloucestershire*, 1934.
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A FEW OF MY MEMORIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN PAINSWICK

by

Pauline Berry

My first memory of the War is that I was playing in the garden and when I went indoors, my mother said "sh" because they were listening with solemn faces to what was being broadcast on the wireless. It was Sunday, 3rd September, 1939 when Neville Chamberlain, the prime minister, was telling the nation that war had been declared upon Germany. He was very emotional and when he finished, my mother said "Well, he'll be no use - we shall need Winston Churchill!"

We went to the Institute Hall one evening to collect our gas masks. Straps were adjusted to fit and from then on, we had to carry our gas mask with us everywhere we went.

A quantity of khaki wool arrived, probably through the Women's Institute, as my mother, May Webb, was a member. She made several pairs of socks, and I made a scarf of single rib. A soldier friend of my sister's came to the house when I thought I had nearly finished it, but he told me to make it much longer, as most of the scarves they were issued with were too short, so I had to go on and on, but it was the only one I made.

My mother and aunt, Helen Rogers, joined the St John's Ambulance Brigade which was led in Painswick by Miss Tuck who lived at Ashcroft in Stroud Road. I was often taken to the meetings - to be bandaged!

A Home Guard was formed, and small groups took it in turn to spend the night on watch in a hut on Painswick Beacon. It consisted of a good mixture of villagers, as did the A.R.P [Air Raid Precautions] team. My brother, Cuthbert Webb, was a member of the A.R.P. first aid team. Others that I can remember were Miss Ivy Gibbons, and Miss Bland, who lived at The Garth, on Cheltenham Road. They were on duty at their meeting place, the Church House, part of what used to be the Bell Inn, in Friday Street on the night it was bombed, when their training was put to good use.

A story was told that at one of the practices a group of A.R.P. wardens gathered at the top of Tibbiwell and were told there was an incendiary bomb at the bottom. A certain elderly gentleman eagerly grabbed a bucket of water and ran down the hill, spilling the water as he ran, so that there was none left when he reached the imaginary bomb. What people found puzzling was why take water to a place where that commodity was in such abundance!

On one occasion, there was a grand parade, comprising Brownies, Guides and all the organisations doing their bit for the war effort. There was a band and also a section of young airmen from a nearby Air Station. Their marching was superb, filling one's heart with pride. They were followed by our Home Guard - what a contrast! I'm sure our clapping drowned any little sound of laughter, but we still felt a little proud of them. I expect a church service followed the parade. No wonder we oldies love to watch Dad's Army.

When the Government directed that all iron gates and railings etc had to be given up for making munitions, we had to surrender the railings around the churchyard and the Memorial Ground - we still called it Jumbo's Den. Most people were horrified, but, afterwards agreed that the openness was an improvement, especially as the wire railings inside the churchyard had become very untidy. Also four ugly black iron posts, two each at the St Mary's street entrance and the Stocks entrance, were removed, and I don't think anybody minded losing these.

We listened to the sound of aircraft in the evenings, and could tell by the particular drone which was enemy and which was ours. One evening, this drone lasted for a very long time, and we wondered who was 'getting it'. The next morning, we heard that Coventry had been heavily blitzed, and the cathedral destroyed. How fortunate we were to have been so safe, especially, being so near to the aircraft factories at Brockworth. We heard the sound of the 'ack-ack' firing and watched the searchlights being operated on Brimps, a field on Upton Hill.

People were encouraged to dig up their lawns and flower borders and grow vegetables, officially the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. A group of people, principally Painswick saddler and leather worker John Chandler, Phyllis Barron from Hambutts House, and Sidney Damsell from Blakewell Mead, started a Food Production Society. My mother, a keen gardener, joined, often taking me with her to the meetings. They were very interesting, and at one of them, a gentleman spoke on keeping tame rabbits, the best breed for meat being chinchilla, a large, grey furred rabbit. We were also told how to treat the pelts. Several of the residents around Hambutts, we lived at Butt Cottage [previously known as Butt House], made or acquired hutches and the rabbit production was quite prolific. I remember many lovely meals of roast rabbit with sage and onion stuffing. Dealing with the pelts was a messy job, and we didn't bother, but I recall Gladys Hobbs sporting a smart pair of grey fur gloves, and Dorothy Larcher, the artist, a very pretty grey fur cape. The Food Production Society was the forerunner of our present Painswick Horticultural Society.

Despite rationing we did not go short of food, our father, Fred Webb, being a farmer. There was always plenty of poultry, eggs, bacon and ham from the pigs that we kept. My mother made cheese and sometimes butter, and my parents always grew all their own vegetables and fruit. I rather think a certain amount of black-marketeering went on. Also "anything under the counter?" was often asked in the local shops, and if there were any unrationed extras, word went rapidly around the village.

A canteen serving lunches was operated at the Institute. I think the schoolchildren were served first, but it was open to all who wished to partake of this service. Of course a charge was made. The only person who was employed was the excellent cook, and all the other workers were volunteers. I helped on several occasions during school holidays. It was a great help to many, especially those living alone, or elderly couples, who could afford it, but most families could not.

There was great excitement in the village when the Americans arrived and camped in the Park of Painswick House. They held dances in the Institute Hall, and villagers,

Advertisements from Painswick Parish Magazine - June 1941

especially girls, were invited. It was free, and refreshments were provided. I was then 16½, and was only allowed to go with my older sister, Verona.

The soldiers were all well behaved and eager to talk to and make friends with the villagers. Two, both sergeants, were made welcome to our home by my parents, and came often. Claude, the elder of these two friends was married with two children and was very homesick; whereas Joe, Joseph Maurice Miller junior, from Nashville, Tennessee - was a tall, fine-looking, carefree young man aged 22. He loved our home because it was old, solidly built, cosy and so different from his own very modern home in Nashville. He was beautifully mannered and told us of his father, mother and 'kid-sister', who was my age. On one visit, he asked us if we ever made candy. Not knowing exactly what kind of candy he meant, we said we didn't, so he said when he came next evening, he would bring the ingredients and make some, we just having to provide some rum flavouring. They duly arrived carrying a large tin of sugar, butter and cocoa powder, and the candy was made amid great excitement. The candy was actually what we knew as rum-flavoured chocolate fudge, and was so delicious. Thereafter, my father called him 'Joe Candy'.

They didn't know when they would be leaving, except that it would be at a minute's notice and during the night. Each visit we thought would be the last, and one day we found that the Park had been vacated, and our friends had gone with the others for the D-Day landings.

Before they left, Joe asked me if I would write to him, telling him of all the happenings, and family news. Here is an extract from a letter from Joe, dated 20th March, 1945, and giving his address as "somewhere in Germany" -

> "Claude and I are both fine. Things over here have become quite exciting.
> Too much so, I am afraid. Well perhaps we will get a let up before too long."

That was the last letter from Joe. The next letter was from his mother to my mother, saying that Joe had been killed, and thanking her for her kindness. We felt very sad, and always remembered him - Joe Candy - with great fondness.

We were very anxious for my eldest sister, Desiree Elizabeth (known as Betty). She and her husband were both living and working in the medical profession in the London area and slept in an air raid shelter at night. And we were anxious for my sister Dianna who was in the A.T.S. [Auxillary Territorial Service], stationed in Warwick. From before D-Day and until a long time after, all leave was cancelled, so we didn't see her for a long time.

My mother used to say that, terrible though the war was, especially for those who suffered injury and bereavement, there was a spirit of determination, and hopefulness, that did not exist during the First World War. We always thought that this spirit was so greatly inspired by Winston Churchill, our King and Queen, Monty, and not forgetting Vera Lynn!. The songs of the war such as

> "*We're going to hang out our washing on the Siegfried Line - have you any dirty washing mother dear?*" and "*Run rabbit, run rabbit, run, run, run*"

are examples of that spirit.

Our school, Stroud Girls Central School, was separated from the railway line by just a verge and a hedge, and some of us often, myself included, used to gather at the back of the buildings, taking with us a text book, so that if our dear headmistress should happen to be taking a walk that way, her "beloved senior girls" would seem to be studying. In fact, we were waiting for the train to come along, so that we could wave to the troops. They waved back vigorously. It was obviously just as much a thrill for them as it was for us.

The government ran a scheme whereby well-known musicians visited the senior schools. Those of us at the Downfield schools were privileged to hear such musicians as pianist Cyril Smith (whose wife Phyllis Sellick came with him but did not perform), the oboeist Leon Goosens, and Dr Reginald Jacques who came with part of his string orchestra. The visit I remember so well was by the English Singers Quartet, who sang unaccompanied. I just remember two of their items. One was *Waltzing Matilda*, and the other was what became, and always has been, one of my very favourite pieces of music, the madrigal, *Now is the Month of Maying* - I cherish that memory.

So, all in all, for us children, growing up during the war years in the safety of the countryside, many good things came our way.

A post war clothing ration book

SOCIETY EVENTS IN 2002
by
Gwen Welch

GEORGIAN PLEASURE GARDENS IN CRANHAM

The history of the pleasure gardens of Cranham was recounted by Janet Whitton at the January meeting. In 1821 William Todd, a timber merchant who worked in Cranham, took the lease of land in Buckholt Woods. Paths were made, arbours constructed and seats placed at suitable viewpoints in the woods. Thatched cottages were built in a clearing and other buildings to provide additional attractions for visitors - a ballroom, whose walls were lined with moss, a billiard room and an archery tower. There was also a look-out tree from which to obtain a panoramic view of the gardens. For the citizens of Gloucester and Cheltenham a visit to pleasure gardens of Cranham was a pleasant way of whiling away the time between lunchtime and dinner. Unfortunately, Mr Todd was declared bankrupt in 1825 and the estate sold in 1828. The estate then had a succession of owners and changes were made. The two cottages were made into one and called Cranham Lodge, which in 1899, was taken over as part of Cranham Sanatorium - the subject of Mrs Whitton's talk to the Society in February, 2000.

HOW THE MONKS CAME TO PRINKNASH

In February Father Aelred Baker gave an account of the coming of the monks to Prinknash Abbey. He described how a Protestant order of Benedictine monks was founded in east London by Abbot Aelred Carlyle, a High Anglican eager to restore the Benedictine way of life to the Anglican Church, in 1896. The community moved to Caldey Island, off the Pembrokeshire coast, in 1905 and subsequently converted to Roman Catholicism in 1913. During the 1920s the monks' income became insufficient to support the community; and the island was taken over by a Cistercian community and the Benedictines had to find another home. Fortunately, in 1924, Mr Dyer-Edwardes of Prinknash Park, a convert to Catholicism, offerred his estate to the Caldey community. After some prevarication and legal difficulties the Benedictine monks were finally established at Prinknash in December 1928.

THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF THEIR LIVES?

Memories of school days in Painswick were recounted with affection and humour by members of the Society at the March meeting. Fred Semark attended the boys' school in Stroud Road in the 1920s. Mr Slack, the headmaster, was a strict disciplinarian whose powerful voice could be heard throughout the school. He regularly administered corporal punishment which Fred remembers receiving for having ink blots on his writing book. Fred's abiding memory is of the poverty in the area and of village boys attending school in 'hand-me-down' clothes. In the 1930s, girls joined the boys in the infant school. Helen Briggs described how the children were taught reading and arithmetic and recalls having to learn the poem *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. Scripture tests were taken by the Vicar or Sir Francis Hyett; if the pupils passed the tests an afternoon's holiday was granted. Helen mentioned the daily bottle of milk which had to be drunk during the morning break. David Archard recalled making patterns in trays of sand and moulding plasticine in the 1940s. His class used to listen to nature programmes on the school radio and then go on nature walks and collect frog spawn and tadpoles from the mill ponds. School days from another perspective were described by Derek Hodges, Headmaster 1961-82. These were years of great change when education in the county was reorganised and the Painswick school moved to a new site. Some things, however, remained unchanged. The Stroud Road building had no central heating; there was a stove in each classroom to provide warmth. Each

week the children had to learn a poem, arithmetic tables and 20 new words. When the Stroud Road building began to fall into disrepair, a new Infant school was opened on The Croft in 1973. The Junior school joined the Infants in 1978 and the Stroud Road building was then sold.

FROM "A ROAD THAT NEVER WAS" TO CUD HILL AND BEACON HOUSE

In April three members of the Society described the results of their recent research projects. Peter Minall spoke about 'the road that never was'. In 1832, Charles Baker drew up plans for a new turnpike road which would enable heavy goods to be conveyed from Gloucester to Cirencester via Upton-St-Leonards, avoiding the steep climb up Portway. He had been involved in other successful ventures, such as the Stroud to Cheltenham road. However this proposal failed to attract financial backing, requiring as it did, a lengthy diversion sweeping around Kimsbury House and on through Popes Wood which even the prospect of lovely views could not justify. The planned route can be followed along peaceful footpaths and bridle paths - how different it might have been.

Reg Hargrave spoke about Cud Hill and his subsequent article on this subject was published in *Painswick Chronicle* No.6 2002.

Barbara Blatchley's slides provided a rare opportunity to admire the interior of Beacon House. The house was commissioned in 1759 by John Gardner, a wealthy Painswick clothier. This architectural treasure is a Grade I listed building whose plain classical exterior belies the rococo interior with its remarkable plasterwork. The hall and staircase in particular, are richly decorated with swags of plaster foliage embellished with many kinds of animals and birds, fruits and flowers and musical instruments. These features are modelled in relief by coating shaped wire with plaster, while lower profile features are made in boxwood moulds before being fixed to the wall.

A WET WALK ON THE ANNUAL OUTING

Some 20 stalwart members braved high winds and heavy rain on an evening in May to go on a guided walk on Minchinhampton Common, led by Miss Nicky Smith, a landscape archaeologist with English Heritage. Miss Smith led the group to some of the many humps and bumps in the area and explained their archaeological and historical significance. The purpose of several of the larger earthworks is not known; they may have been defensive ramparts or banks enclosing areas of pasture land. One earthwork - a long, deep trench - was built as an anti-tank defence in the Second World War. In the area near to the Old Lodge Inn are several small, rounded humps; these are pillow mounds, constructed in the 16th and 17th centuries for keeping rabbits. The Old Lodge Inn was the home of the warrener, who looked after the rabbits. Some of the many depressions on the common are the sites of former quarries, which supplied stone for the building of Gloucester Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament as well as local needs.

THE STORY OF THE WHITEWAY COLONY

After the Annual General Meeting in June, Joy Thacker, author of *The Whiteway Colony*, gave an account of the community. Whiteway was set up in 1898 by a group who believed in Tolstoy's principle of equality among all men and who sought to bring about a complete social transformation of Victorian society. With a donation of £500 a cottage and land was purchased beside the road between Foston's Ash and Miserden. All land was held in common ownership and settlers in the colony had to live and work on the land they had been allocated. The colony attracted people of different backgrounds, talents and opinions. They dressed and lived simply and believed in free union. Their beliefs, dress and communal way of life were so different from

contemporary Victorian society that many stories grew up about the colony, including one that claimed that the inhabitants went around naked! The wooden houses built by the original settlers were gradually extended and improved and further buildings erected for communal use. The colony continued to grow and today there are 69 houses and 160 residents.

THE CLOTH INDUSTRY OF THE STROUD VALLEYS

The September talk recounted the origin, growth and decline of the cloth industry in the Stroud valleys and was given by Lionel Walrond, late curator of the Stroud Museum for 37 years. Cloth was first produced in the area in Roman times, initially by a cottage industry and then, by the time of the Domesday survey, in water driven mills. A document of 1185 contains the first written reference to a fulling mill, where a felt-like cloth was produced by applying a lubricant, water and pressure. From the 14th century onwards, the mills in the Stroud area gained a wide reputation for producing fine cloth. In the late 18th century improvements in the design of waterwheels and in the methods of controlling the water flow led to a massive programme of erecting new mills and rebuilding existing ones. At the beginning of the 19th century there were 200 mills in the Stroud valleys. However, by the time the building activity had been completed, the industry was in decline. There was insufficient water to adequately support the increase in the number of mills, production fell and clothiers were unable to fulfil their contracts. Difficulties increased in the 1870s, when the patterned worsted cloth produced by Yorkshire mills became popular and the plain Stroudwater cloth fell out of fashion. The decline continued until there are now only two working cloth mills in the area - Lodgemoor Mill and Cam Mill.

DRAMA AT THE HISTORY SOCIETY

A slightly ageing Sunday School class were put through their paces at the October meeting. Five willing victims donned mop caps and shawls to experience Sunday School life in the 18th century when Eileen Fry and Rosemary Harvey told the Society about Agnes Neville of Sheepscombe and Robert Raikes, founder of the Sunday School movement. The emphasis was on reading, memorising Biblical tracts and on personal cleanliness. This spontaneous little drama provided an entertaining diversion from the usual style of Society meetings. However, the central theme of the talk was more serious, namely that Agnes Neville had a very significant influence on Sheepscombe's development in the early 19th century. Her relatively short life was one of tireless endeavour, inspiration and achievement, and amongst other things, resulted in the building of the Sheepscombe Church in 1820.

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The ways in which aerial photography can reveal evidence of previous human activity on the ground was explained by Dr Robert Bewley at the November meeting. Dr Bewley, Head of Aerial Archaeology at English Heritage, gave a brief history of aerial archaeology, from its beginnings in 1906, when a camera was attached to an Army balloon, to the 35mm cameras and infra-red equipment used today aerial surveys are now taken throughout the year as different features are revealed in the different seasons. Surveys show crop marks, not obvious at ground level, which may then be investigated by excavation. A stretch of bright green vegetation may indicate the site of a deep ditch; yellow vegetation may show the location of walls. The pattern of shadows thrown by uneven ground may show the presence of mediaeval field workings or field boundaries. Dr Bewley's slides illustrated how aerial photography has revealed archaeological sites from Neolithic times through to features of World War II and how aerial archaeology can help us to understand the landscape of today.