

PAINSWICK CHRONICLE



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Painswick Local History Society

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Painswick Chronicle is published by Painswick Local History Society. It aims to present articles on a wide range of aspects of Painswick's history. All contributions, including letters and comments, are welcome and should be sent to:

Mr J Bailey
Thistledown
Randalls Field
Kings Mill Lane
Painswick
GL6 6SA

Copies of the *Chronicle* are available from officers of the Society.

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We are grateful to Jennifer Barnett for the illustration of William Palling in the Jottings

Painswick Local History Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month between September and June at the Croft School, Painswick. The annual subscription is currently £10.00 per person or £15.00 per couple. Membership application should be made to the Membership Secretary:

Mr P Rowe
The Churn
Painswick
GL6 6QF

Website
www.painswickhistory.org.uk

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PAINSWICK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: Lord Dickinson

We reproduce below an aerial photograph of Painswick from September 1929 that was recently given to the Society.



As usual any comments, suggestions on the Chronicle or articles for consideration for future publication will be welcome.

The Editor would like to thank all who have contributed in any way to this – the ninth issue – of the *Painswick Chronicle*.

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Drama in Painswick... an Incomplete History</i> Andrew Leach	3
<i>A Walk around Stroudend Tithing</i> Carolyn Luke	12
<i>Jottings</i>	21
<i>100 Years of Telephones in Painswick</i> Peter Rowe	22
<i>John Wilfred Seddon - Pioneer Aviator</i> John Bailey	26
<i>A Limestone Sphere</i> Cedric Nielsen & Carolyn Luke	37
<i>The Painswick Book Society</i> Carol Maxwell	40
<i>Painswick Gloucestershire 1791</i>	52
<i>Society Events in 2005</i>	53
<i>The Llanthony Connection - References</i> Cedric Nielsen	56

DRAMA IN PAINSWICK... - AN INCOMPLETE HISTORY

Compiled by Andrew Leach

from Miss Hyett's Scrapbook, Minute Books
and the memories of the members

IN THE BEGINNING

Was there any drama in Painswick before Painswick Players began? Only a few references can be found and perhaps it is significant that these all lead to the Hyett family of Painswick House. Sir Francis Hyett refers to a Mummers' Play coming to Painswick House in *Glimpses of the History of Painswick*. There are also reports of late 19th and early 20th century charity events which included dramatic interludes, usually by Miss Lucy Hyett, her sisters Margaret and Ida and friends. While it is possible that there were other earlier dramatic events not encouraged and inspired by the Hyett family, it does seem that Painswick was fortunate that their talents were available in this community just at the time when society (or parts of it) was gaining more leisure time and finding ways to fill it.

It was at one of the charity events that the Painswick Players name was born. In 1922, Miss Lucy and Miss Margaret and two friends, Miss Boger and Mrs Foord performed excerpts from *As You Like It* and from *The Way of the World* at Swainswick, near Bath as part of a charity event for the Nursing Association. They were introduced by the Association's Secretary, Miss Alice Watson, as The Painswick Players. Miss Hyett includes this in her scrapbook as the origin of the name. It seems that an idea was born and in the following year Painswick Players performed a fuller version of *As You Like It* in the grounds of Painswick House as their first production, with Miss Hyett producing and again taking the part of Orlando.



Lucy Hyett as Orlando

The review of this production stated:

“.....of the Players more details are necessary. They consist of a clever band of amateurs, trained by Miss Lucy Hyett...and should have a very successful future before them. The audience was riveted by the pageantry enacted in a truly natural manner.”

EARLY DAYS

At first, each production seems to have been an individual event rather than a production by an ongoing organisation. There is no trace at this stage that the Players kept any formal or financial records (other than Miss Hyett's scrapbook of productions) and all profits were distributed to charity after each production. Probably Miss Hyett just gathered a group together when she had an idea for a play, although a pattern of summer productions at Painswick House and winter events at the Institute began to emerge during the 1920s.

The first indications of formal structure are emerging by 1930 when the Players were collecting subscriptions totalling £5-4s-0d and had total funds of £23-6s-1d. As the group grew, and it became obvious that it would continue, plans seem to have been made to



1926 Falstaff in Henry IV

improve facilities at the Institute (still a part of the Players' aims today!). It was probably the need to finance these plans which made them put the group on a more formal footing. In common with today, financial success of productions varied widely. *Everyman*, produced at the Institute in 1934 with Miss Hyett in the title role produced a profit of £3-12s-0d, while the following year *Macbeth* at Painswick House (Miss Lucy playing Lady M.) yielded £35-15s -3d.

The first recorded A G M was held at Painswick House on 27th January with Lucy Hyett in the Chair and six members attending. The records provide a clear picture of the society's position. Miss Hyett reported that the first electric stage lighting had been installed at the Institute, consisting of two large floodlights and two spotlights at a cost of £65-16s-0d and a wooden proscenium installed to replace the previous canvas one. (In the last couple of years, our current technical team, working up at roof level, became aware that above the beams, the original canvas is still in place.) There was obviously considerable interest by other village groups in using the new facilities, as Miss Hyett proposed a 10/- charge be made.



1930 Costume designs for King John

The 1936 open-air production of *She Stoops to Conquer* had taken over £47 and, after expenses and tax, the net profit was £35-5s-7d. Two further items in the report indicate a growing sense of permanence in the Players. A bank account had been opened with Lloyds Bank in August 1936 and Miss Hyett proposed that from now on minutes and records of the Players activities should be kept. Rose Tranter was appointed as



1935 Lucy Hyett as Lady Macbeth in the sleep walking scene,
in front of The Red House, Rococo Gardens

Secretary and Treasurer to assist Miss Hyett – a position she was to continue to hold until the original Players wound up their activities on Miss Hyett's death in 1962.

The 1938 A G M, held on 15th March that year, gives us an idea of the risks involved with open air productions. The previous summer's play, *The Shoemaker's Holiday*, was apparently hard work for only one performance, as the first scheduled performance had been cancelled due to bad weather. However the one night did attract an audience of 200, and a profit of £12-17s-8d was made.

THE WAR YEARS

The outbreak of World War II brought changes for the Players, not least the lack of male performers, with many of the usual actors called up for military service, but there never seems to have been any thought of suspending activities. Indeed the minutes of the first wartime committee meeting record that Miss Hyett had received a letter from the British Drama League encouraging "the continuance of amateur drama in wartime". For the Players this was going to present some difficulties as the Institute had been requisitioned. All scenery, lighting and properties had been removed to Painswick House for storage.

Difficulties, however, were there to be conquered as far as Miss Hyett was concerned and the December 1939 production took place at the Gyde Orphanage. It consisted of two one act plays; *The Poetasters of Ispahan* and *They wanted a Tragedy*; and an audience of 100 was recorded.

By March 1940, the Institute had been released by the Government and the scenery was returned to the Hall. The minutes do not make clear why the Institute was requisitioned and then released. One possibility is that in the early days of the war, invasion was expected and so halls, such as the Institute, may have been kept ready to serve as emergency hospital facilities. On its release, the Players installed window darkeners, which were available for hire by other groups at 1/- a time. These however proved

troublesome, so later in the year blackout curtains and fixings were purchased for the Institute Hall, again at the Players' expense.

In January 1941 an entertainment of one-act plays was given at the Institute. The Gyde Orphanage performed *The Jackdaw of Rheims*. Then the Players followed with *Acid Drops*, two scenes from *Romeo and Juliet* and *All Night Service*. Performances commenced at 5.30pm "in view of the black-out and possible air raids." There were three grades of seating, priced at 3/6, 2/- and 1/-, and a profit of £14-1s-10d was made. All wartime Painswick Players posters carried the warning "National Emergencies permitting".

Evening productions of one-act plays continued throughout the war and included Julian Slade's first stage appearance in *The Lady from Abroad* in 1944. A glance at the list of productions shows that many titles were repeated from pre-war years, presumably because the scripts were still in the Players' records. New scripts were scarce as paper was rationed. Inevitably, plays with casts of women and children were predominant.

AFTER THE WAR

With the end of the war, productions resumed their old pattern of winter plays at the Institute and summer productions at Painswick House. Indeed no time was lost as the first post-war production *The Prince Who was a Piper* took place in the Painswick House gardens on 15th and 16th August 1945. The ticket price included entry to the Gardens at 2/6d with tea available for an extra 1/-.

There is strong evidence in the records that the Players turned their attention after the war to improvements at the Institute, which must have been neglected for some time. There are several references to the Stage Renovation Fund, which received profits of £31-15s-6d from the 1947 winter production of one act plays and £54-14s-6d from the 1948 production of Sheridan's *The Critic*. Lighting work was carried out at the Institute that year.

Miss Hyett's review at the 1948 A G M reported that since 1941 the Players had raised over £300 for various charities. Later that year Miss Hyett was able to report that she had persuaded Julian Slade to give performances of *The Importance of Being Earnest* for the War Memorial Week. In 1949 the Players commenced monthly play-readings, with the first being held at Painswick House on 1st December.

The Painswick Players
assisted by Chorus and Orchestra
WILL GIVE
Shakespeare's Comedy
TWELFTH NIGHT
IN THE
Garden of Painswick House,
(Weather permitting).
ON
Wednesday, Aug. 13th, at 3 p.m.
AND
Thursday, Aug. 14th, at 6 p.m.
Wednesday 13th, Front Row, 3/6; Second Row, 3/-;
Unreserved Seats, 2/6.
Thursday 14th, Front Row, 2/-; Second Row, 1/6;
Unreserved Seats, 1/-.
(After Wednesday Performance, Tea 1/-).
Expenses will be defrayed by voluntary contributions, and the entire proceeds will be divided between the Painswick Lych Gate Restoration Fund, and the Painswick District Nursing Fund.
If either performance should be cancelled owing to the weather, the play will be repeated on Saturday, August 16th, at 3 p.m., and Tickets taken for cancelled performance may be used.
Tickets may be obtained at the COTSWOLD STORES, or from Miss L. C. HYETT, Painswick House.

The 1950s began with the Players at the peak of their form, producing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Painswick House. The review noted that

“...the fairy scenes were staged in the natural surroundings more effectively than any stage could capture and in this atmosphere Oberon (Julian Slade) and Titania (Diana Goodman) instilled the expressions of pathos so essential for a complete appreciation.”

The production produced a profit of £53-10s-10d and the Players were on a sound financial footing now, with £94-8s-11d in the Post Office and £26-1s-10d in Lloyds Bank.

However, it was inevitable that, with the Players so dependent on Miss Hyett as their leading figure, her increasing age would now begin to mean a slowing down of Painswick Players' activities. The productions become more widely spaced and in January 1954 there are records of a meeting to discuss the future of the Players. The conclusion was that the Players must carry on, but that as much responsibility and work as possible was to be taken from Miss Hyett. Colin Maclaurin-Jones was appointed Stage Manager and it was agreed that a committee of management was to be formed for each play, together with a Play Selection Committee.

We have no copy of a Constitution for the Players at this time, but the minutes for 1957 record that one was adopted in 1948. It was also considered impossible to stage a summer play that year. However in October 1958 Miss Hyett

“expressed her hope for a Shakespearean production in Painswick House Garden next summer”

adding that she would need much help from her committee. Around that same time there is a record of Colin Maclaurin-Jones purchasing a stage curtain track and fixings, an item which is still located above the stage today and in regular use. Good value for £10-11s-6d!

FINAL DAYS

Miss Hyett's wish was fulfilled and in July 1959 *Twelfth Night* was staged in her garden. It was, however, to be the Players' last open air production, raising £66-1s-0d for the World Refugee Year Fund.

In 1960 an evening of one-act plays was staged at the Institute on 13th and 15th October, including a performance of *Creatures of Impulse* by W S Gilbert. Miss Hyett appeared in this production as a Strange Old Lady – her last recorded stage appearance.

The 1961 production of *The Holly and the Ivy*, staged in December that year, has gone down in Painswick Players legend, with stories handed down by the original Players to later members. Inspection of the records has confirmed the accuracy of their memories. Miss Hyett's last committee meeting on 6th October minuted the difficulties arising with the production and the review after the performance confirms this. The leading man was in two other shows, only attending rehearsals intermittently and the cast had coughs and colds. One story related that Miss Hyett paid a visit to one cast member before a rehearsal to persuade him to leave his sick bed to rehearse! Finally, Miss Hyett herself became ill with bronchitis a week before the opening night. Derek Hodges, the new headmaster of Painswick School, had fortunately been recruited as assistant producer and was able to put

he final touches to the production. Eye witnesses report that Miss Hyett sat in her usual place in the wings during the performances, but was clearly very unwell, having to be supported onto the stage to take her bow as producer. Early in 1962 she died.

After a suitable period of silence, a Committee Meeting was held in the Green Room on 18th July 1962 – the minutes record clearly that it was a Committee, not a General Meeting. Miss Margaret Hyett was elected to the Chair, vacant for the first time in the Players' history and signed the minutes of her sister's last committee meeting. Nine other members were present. It was immediately decided to place a memorial plaque to Miss Hyett in the Institute Hall and to set up A Prize for Drama at the School in her memory.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the future. Some members wished to continue and it was felt that Miss Hyett would have strongly wished amateur drama to continue in Painswick. Others felt that it was not possible to continue without their Founder Producer. A resolution to dissolve the Painswick Players was put forward and then an amendment

“That Painswick Players suspend activities until 1st June 1963”.

In the vote, the proposition to dissolve was passed with two dissenting votes. It was resolved that lighting, scenery and props were to be given to the Institute and costumes to the County Drama Committee. The succeeding generations of Players did in fact have a large stock of costumes until the early 1990s which were said to have belonged to Miss Hyett's Players, so it is possible that the last resolution was never carried out.

ENDINGS....

A final Committee Meeting of the old Painswick Players was held on 3rd October 1962, to complete the winding-up process. The records and Miss Hyett's scrapbook were to be given to the County Record Office. The final bank balance before liquidation was £114-0s-6d. This covered the costs of the Memorial Plaque at the Institute (£26-5s) and the purchase of War Stock (£25) to establish an annual Lucy Hyett Memorial Prize at Painswick School at one guinea for

“the child or children who had made the greatest progress in Drama or Elocution during the year.”

Finally gifts of £15 each were given to the Baptist Church, the Congregational Church and the Parish Church Organ Fund. The last entry in the official records shows the passing of a small remaining cash balance to the successor group, the Country Players. It is signed by Rose Tranter, the long-serving Secretary and Treasurer of Painswick Players and by Pegi Hodges, Treasurer of the Country Players.

One addition was also made to Miss Hyett's scrapbook before it was deposited in Gloucester Record Office. A copy of a published tribute to Miss Lucy Hyett was added. It reads:

“This was a unique Society. It was often said: “The Painswick Players ARE Miss Hyett”. She produced 73 plays over 38 years and was known throughout the County for her choice of good plays, correct dressing of costume plays and great sense of timing. Her Drama Festival entries were frequently awarded Gold Stars”.

The article also pays tribute to the late Miss Ida Hyett, who arranged the music for many productions and to Miss Margaret Hyett for her work on scenery and props. The author recalls the thrill of leaving the Painswick House Garden in the dark lit by actors carrying torches and concludes that Miss Hyett's energy and zeal were remarkable. Hundreds of pounds were raised for Painswick and national causes.

It was the end (at least for now) under the old name, but Miss Hyett had trained her Players well and that experience was to provide the basis for a new generation of drama in Painswick.

...AND BEGINNINGS

In August 1962, a meeting was held of those interested in forming a new dramatic group in Painswick. There were many of the original Painswick Players and some new faces. In the intervening months the old Players had kept together by holding play-readings organised by Colin and Naomi Maclaurin-Jones. The name 'The Country Players' was chosen and the group began to plan for their first production in the Institute *The Camel's Back* which was presented to great acclaim in December 1962.

Under the new name, a wide range of drama was presented over the next 20 years, falling into the pattern of spring and autumn productions at the Institute. No one person could replace Miss Hyett and this was reflected in the revolving chairmanship. No one held this position for more than one, or exceptionally two, years. This practice continued until well into the 1980s.

The Country Players enjoyed great success until the late 1970s, when competition from other forms of entertainment began to reduce audiences. There was also a lack of younger members and the older stalwarts were beginning to retire.

Equipment and fittings had been renewed during the 1960s, but wear and tear were beginning to show, particularly on the electrical system. An influx of new blood brought a ground-breaking production of *Alice in Wonderland* in 1980, but casting remained difficult and audiences were not as large as in the past.



1972 Separate Tables

By 1982 it was felt that a change of image and a closer association with Painswick were needed. While long-term residents knew that the Country Players were a local group, Painswick had gained many new residents, who were not aware of this. There was still reluctance among original Painswick Players to resume the name of 'Painswick Players', so after much debate the name Painswick Dramatic Society (and known as PaDS) was chosen at the 1982 A G M.

This was a turning point, bringing with it an influx of new members, whose enthusiasm and ideas were to leave their mark on the next decade of the group's history.

TOWARDS THE MILLENIUM

PaDS marked the 1980s with a string of successful and ambitious productions, beginning with *Under Milk Wood* and rapidly followed by *Salad Days* and *Guys and Dolls*. *Salad Days* was particularly memorable, not only as the first musical in the group's history, but also for the presence of the composer, our President, Julian Slade in the first night audience. The audience figures and profits broke all previous records.

The large cast productions brought in still more new members with fresh ideas and experience. It became possible to expand activities to three productions a year. Possibly this enthusiasm carried change forward too fast for some. There was no time to consolidate gains or to reconcile old and new ideas. The financial successes were invested in new equipment, extending PaDS' range and finally resolving the long-running electrical problems.



1984 Garden scene from *The Importance of Being Earnest*

As time passed, many of the energetic new members had to move out of the district to further their careers and proved hard to replace. As a result, by the early 1990s, the society was once again struggling to fill the roles necessary on stage and behind the scenes in order to mount productions. By 1993 and 1994 it was only possible to stage one production per year and after that PaDS was 'mothballed' to await more promising times.

In 1997, the time seemed right to attempt a revival. A combination of new talent and previous members tested the possibilities with a series of revues and small productions; the catalyst being the arrival of an experienced and enthusiastic new producer, Jack Burgess. More new people with onstage and back-stage skills were attracted to PaDS, which now entered the technological age as a result! Productions were resumed at the

Institute (soon to become the Painswick Centre), and soon took up the old pattern of two productions per year. To mark the millennium, PaDS finally resumed its original name 'Painswick Players'.

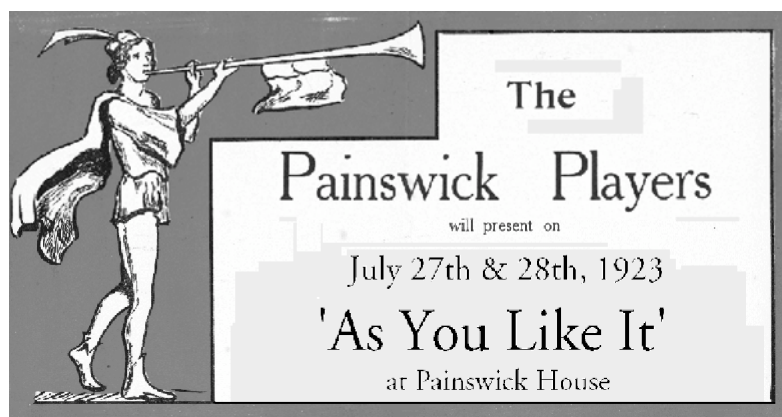
AND BEYOND....

The rest is too recent to be history. Painswick Players marked its 80th anniversary in 2003 by reviving Miss Hyett's original 'Trumpeter' logo and by an additional production, *Living Legends* which featured excerpts from past productions and an appearance by Julian Slade, our President and an original Painswick Player from Miss Hyett's days.



2003 Julian Slade and the cast of *Living Legends*

The Lucy Hyett Prize at the school was also revived and upgraded with the presentation of a silver cup to mark the occasion. The proceeds of the recent string of successful productions are being reinvested in a complete refit of the stage area. What will be next for Painswick Players.... our centenary in 2023? One thing is certain; Miss Hyett's wish for drama to continue in Painswick is still being fulfilled.



A WALK AROUND STROUDEND TITHING DISCOVERING THE HISTORY OF THE LANDSCAPE

by

Carolyn Luke

This is an introduction to understanding some of the elements of our local landscape, based on a walk, organised early in 2006 by the Stroudend Tithing Educational Trust and Painswick Local History Society and led by Mark Bowden.

The Cotswold landscape has been continually evolving since tracts of forest were first cleared for agriculture during the Neolithic period, some 6000 thousand years ago; a succession of peoples and cultures have lived and farmed here since, each introducing new elements into the landscape such as burial mounds, defensive fortifications, tribal or estate boundaries, fields and settlements.

The modern landscape has evolved under the influence of political, social and economic factors. After the Norman Conquest, the Lords of the Manor controlled the land, requiring serfs to work under the feudal system in the open fields, allocated in strips; or sometimes land was gifted to one of the monastic houses and tenanted. By the end of the 14th century the combined effect of war, famine and plague had greatly reduced the population; the consequent shortage of labour contributed to the breakdown in the feudal system, allowing a new class of independent yeomen farmers to become established. Land that was previously required for food production was available for keeping increased numbers of sheep, whose wool brought considerable wealth to the area.

The mid-16th century saw more social change after the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, when the monastic estates were forfeited to the Crown. They were sold off, sometimes to previous tenants and the wealth generated contributed to the growth of the secular economy. The character of our landscape has been greatly influenced by these new landowners. Many were local clothiers, who aspired to be

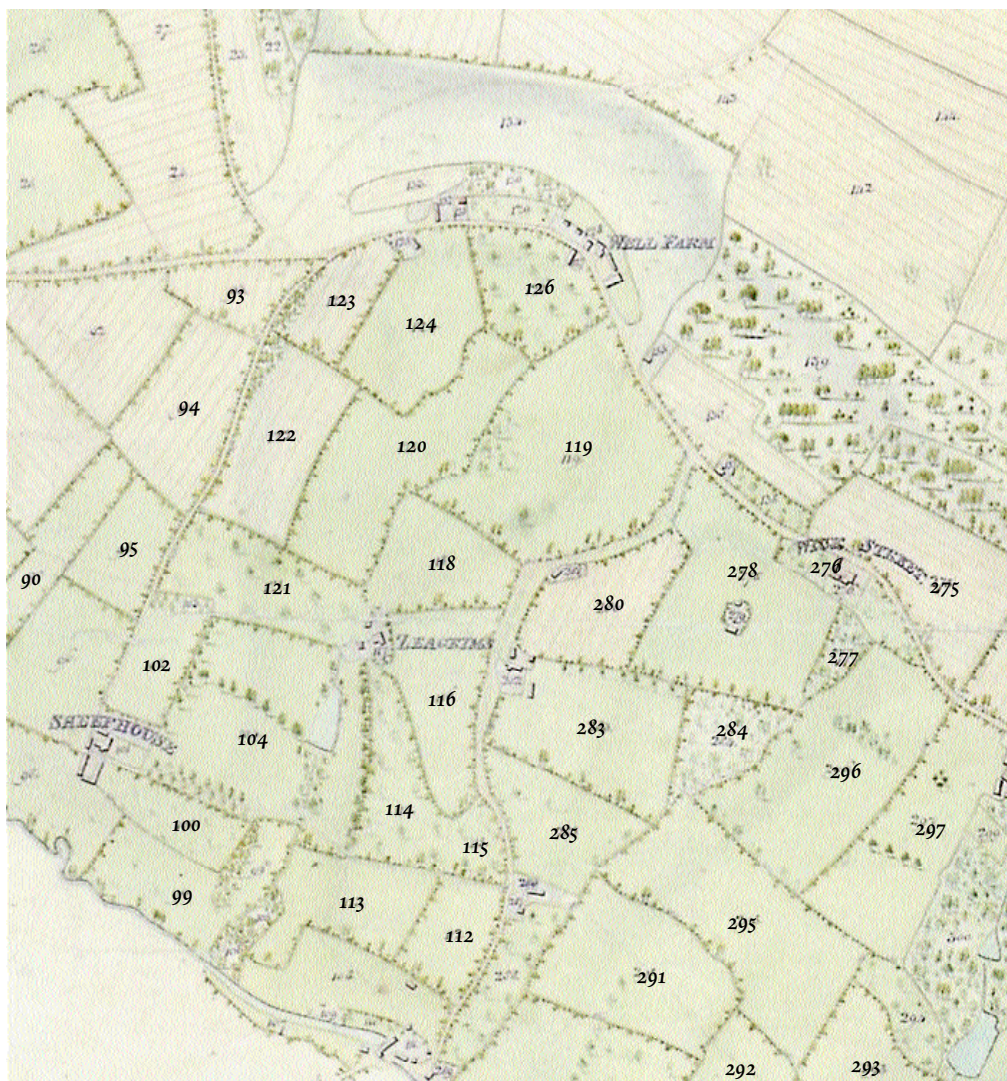


View of Juniper Hill and fields below Wick Street, part of the Pallings estate in the 18th century.

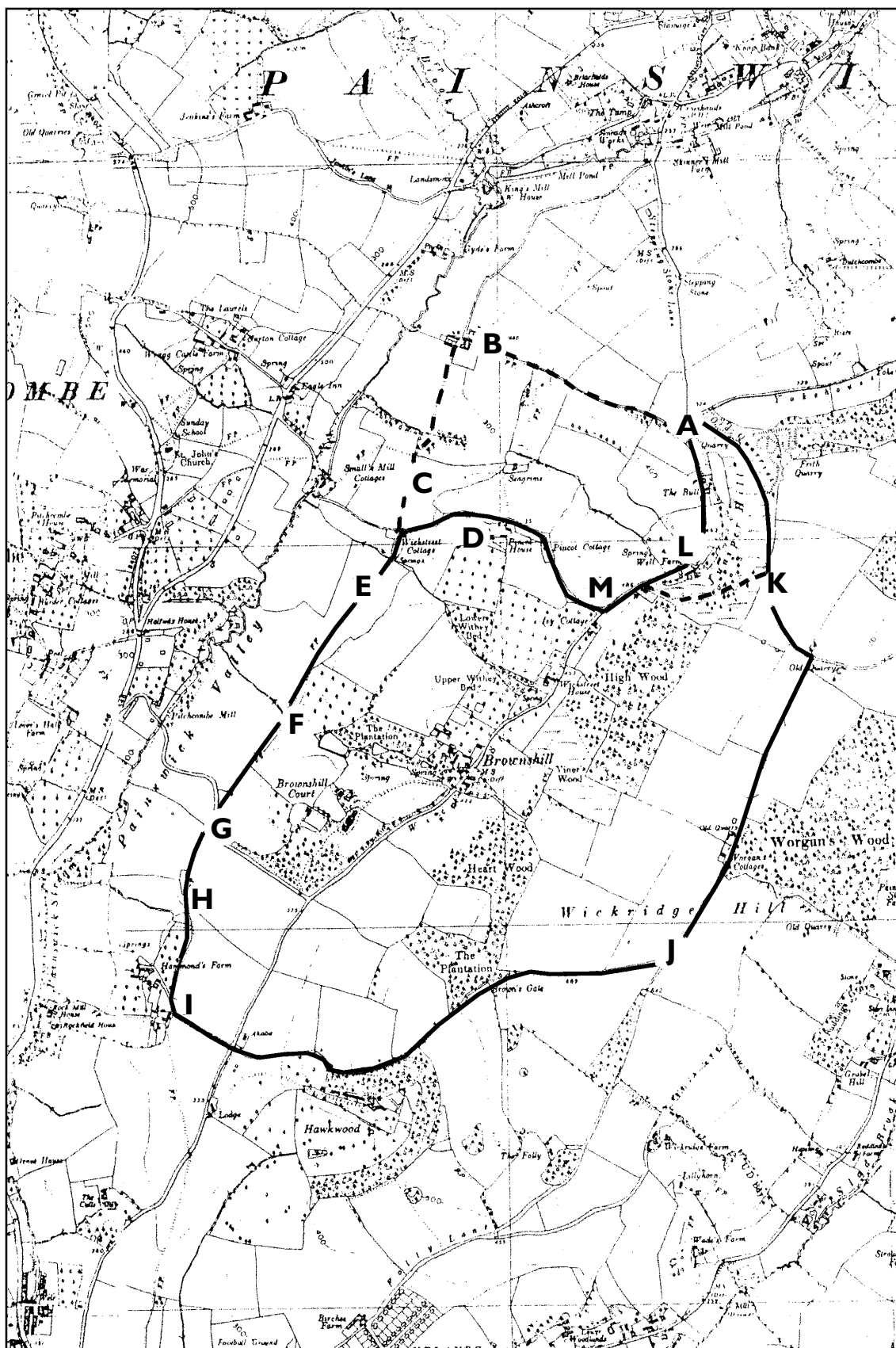
country gentlemen and acquired land and properties with the profits made from making cloth. One of these families, the Pallings, owned most of the land along Wick Street from Greenhouse Lane to Hammond's Farm. The new wealth allowed estates to be created with fine houses, landscaped gardens, new farms and enclosed fields.

The appearance of this countryside has changed very little.

We can discover much about our heritage by looking for signs of settlements and associated activities such as agriculture, quarrying, limekilns and charcoal burning. This entails observation of 'lumps and bumps', which may indicate vanished buildings or field boundaries, ridge and furrow undulations made by ploughing or features such as walls, hedges and tracks. These observations can often be interpreted using information from historic sources. The 1820 Parish map by Fosbrook and Baker and the 1839 Tithe Survey (Gloucestershire Record Office) are particularly useful, providing information about field names, tenancies and land use. Modern technology, such as aerial photography, can also enable us to build up a picture of the development of our landscape by revealing former field boundaries and ridge and furrow plough marks.



Extract of 1820 map showing Sheephouse, Well Farm and Wick Street.



The walk begins at the foot of Juniper Hill (A), the junction of Wick Street with Stepping Stone Lane and Yokehouse Lane (there is a lay-by near to Juniper Cottages). In dry weather the route is via a footpath down the field towards Sheephouse. Note this route crosses a deep gully between Sheephouse and Pincot Lane, muddy in winter. In wet periods it is advised to walk along Wick Street, rejoining the walk in Pincot Lane at (D).

Wick Street begins at the junction of Stepping Stone Lane with Yokehouse Lane at The Bull (a former public house). The name Wick refers to the early medieval name for Painswick. It was the 18th century turnpike road from Stroud to Painswick and Gloucester, until the opening of the new turnpike (now A46) in 1818. Wick Street follows the contour along the spring-line, passing a stone-built pound for containing straying animals adjacent to Juniper Cottages.

Walk down the footpath through the field below the junction on left to Sheephouse (B).



Sheephouse dovecote in gable.

The footpath to Sheephouse was formerly a track. The track immediately above the house passes through a field (102) called 'Coneygers', which indicates there was once a warren here to provide rabbit for food and skins. The house dates back to the 15th century when it was occupied by the sheep bailiff to the Lord of the Manor. It may have had origins as a shelter for sheep brought down from high ground in the winter or for lambing and shearing. There is an integral dovecote in the gable (late 16th century), which would have provided a supply of squabs (young pigeons) for the table. The Palling family extended the house c1800 providing a fine façade overlooking the garden.

Turn left at the track passing between the houses and proceed across the fields, crossing the stream (C) and on towards Pincot Lane.

The first field (104) is Fishpond Ground and the stream emerges from a former pond above belonging to Seagrimms (or Zeagryms), which gives its name to the fields (112-115) beyond. The name can be traced back to the 14th century (Alice Segrym recorded in 1327). Land of this name was given to Flanesford Priory (in Herefordshire) by the Lord of the Manor, Richard Talbot in 1348. There was a mill recorded just below here on the Painswick Stream early in the 15th century; it was later called Small's Mill and operated by the Pallings as a cloth mill in the 18th century. (The mill has since been rebuilt as a house.)

At Pincot Lane turn left, walk up to the field gate (D) on the right hand side.

The field (285) below Pincot House, Pinkhouse Mead has notable lynchets, the result of ploughing along the contour line within a field on a hillside, creating terraces. They normally date from the early medieval period when additional land on sloping hillsides was ploughed and brought into use to grow food for the rapidly expanding population.



Lynchets below Pincot House.

Further up, Pincot Lane has particularly wide verges compared with other lanes in the locality, which suggests that it may have been used for moving stock. This is supported by reference to a licence granted in 1565 to the tenants at Seagrimms for use of Pincot Lane for husbandry.

The footpath continues towards Stroud between two cottages and through the fields (E), crossing a small stream.

The first field (291) is Seagrimms Orchard where there is a slight indication of ridge and furrow, possibly associated with the orchard planting but there are no fruit trees here now. There are boundary markers in the hedgerow of unknown origin, engraved with a D, indicating a different ownership. The path then passes through Withy Close (292), the name indicating a place where willows would have grown.



Extract from 1820 map showing Brownhill House and Brownhill Court and Hammond's Farm.

The path continues and crosses a second stream into the field below Brownhill Court (F).

This stream flows from a series of three ponds, fed by a spring by Brownhill House (also known as Wick Street Farm) an early medieval hall house with cross-passage, enlarged during the 17th century by Edward Palling. Fishpond Orchard (294) next to these ponds suggests these were early fishponds, which were also an ornamental landscape feature often found adjacent to larger medieval houses.

Brownhill Court was built by William Palling IV c1760 and completed c1790 by his heirs, on the site of an earlier house, the Guidehouse. The house is an example of the grand country houses built in the classical style by the gentlemen clothiers of Gloucestershire.

The back of the house overlooks the remains of a large 18th century landscape garden (304) with a number of specimen and ornamental trees. The remains of a retaining wall with adjacent ditch indicates a ha-ha, a popular feature in 18th century landscaped grounds, which allowed an uninterrupted view across the garden whilst keeping stock out.

Excavations in the 19th century found Roman skeletons and bricks, indicating a possible villa site in the grounds. The path continues through the field in which there is evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing of curved broad medieval type.

The footpath continues across Wade's Lane (G) and through fields, following the hedgerow on to Hammond's Farm.

Wade's Lane connects Wade's Mill (formerly Pitchcombe Mill or Jenner's Mill) with Wick Street. The lane has been re-aligned since 1839 to improve access to the mill. Cloth mills along the Painswick Stream declined during the first half of the 19th century but Wade's Mill was later used for other water-powered industries such as making umbrella sticks and grinding chemicals to produce manure. A house (18th century) and several cottages remain but the main mill buildings have been demolished, though some foundations remain.



Remains of ha-ha and landscape garden below Brownhill Court.

The 1820 Baker survey shows some 20 defined ownership strips at Hammond's Farm (329-344) all belonging to the Pallings but let to Mr Capel, another clothier. The name 'tillock field' suggests that it has been ploughed for some time, whilst the pronounced curve in the field boundary can often be seen in large, cultivated medieval fields. It is not known at what date they were last used as individually tenanted strips. By the 1839 Tithe Survey the field was divided into two parts. There are interesting points to consider along this field boundary, which cannot be easily explained e.g. a kink in the hedge and at (H) the curve of the new field division, which would have been expected to follow one of the existing land divisions. Early maps

show a double line of mature trees, which can still be seen in a narrow field (311) just below called the Acre.

The farmhouse at Hammond's Farm (rebuilt in the 19th century) and adjacent properties (formerly White's Farm), together with Hammond's Mill (now Rock Mill), on the Painswick Stream (dating from 1486), were once also part of the Palling's Estate but let to another clothier family, the Capels. Nothing remains of the industrial buildings at Rock Mill (once the most valuable on the Painswick Stream) although the clothiers' houses and workers' cottages remain. There is no obvious track down to this mill, only a steep footpath (in contrast to Wade's Mill and Small's Mill).

At the traditional Cotswold stone stile (I) by the track at Hammond's Farm turn left up the track towards Wick Street.

The track, which has been straightened since 1820, connects to Wick Street (here called Old Painswick Road). The point at which it was straightened can be discerned from the end of the wall and the beginning of the hawthorn hedge.

Crossing Wick Street the track proceeds up the hill to Wickridge.

A steep track follows the curve of a well-established mixed hedge up the hill above Hawkwood College, formerly The Grove, which was owned by the Capel (clothier) family and rebuilt in the Gothic style c1840. The dating of hedgerows by numbers of plant species is now discredited, but the depth of the track between the wall and hedge suggests some considerable age and the name of the adjacent fields (266-268) as sub-divisions of Broad Field suggests it may have been a medieval open field.

Passing through a gate into a field, follow the wall and turn left at the next metalled track, Folly Lane (J). The track follows the ridge northwards past Worgan's Farm to where it meets another track at the top of Juniper Hill, connecting Wick Street with Slad. Turn left, returning to Wick Street.

The track along Wickridge is again of indeterminate age, but its elevation and connection with one of the saltways from Droitwich to the Cotswolds and its direct route from Bulls Cross down to a crossing point on the River Frome, suggest it may have been used for several thousand years. It was also used as a carriageway from Painswick to Stroud via Bulls Cross before Wick Street was turnpiked in the 18th century.

Juniper Hill Common (134) is part of a network of limestone grassland sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the County, supporting native orchids and butterflies. The track passes former quarries within common land, which supplied stone for local houses and road building.

The route downhill through the woodland on the left (K) can be taken so as to pass by Well Farm (L).

Well Farm comprises a farmstead, situated on an abundant spring. The farmhouse, dating back to the late medieval period, has a late 17th century addition on the front of the original house, whilst the large barn was added in the 18th century when the farm became part of the Palling's estate.



Well Farm and barns

Along the road on the corner of Pincot Lane (M) are the ruined foundations of either a cottage or barn, in a field (119) called the Redding. This field name indicates a piece of land associated with assarting; that is land taken into use from woodland or waste ground, usually in the early medieval period, when the rapidly increasing population required additional land to be cultivated.

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JOTTINGS

"I humbly presume to Acquaint Your Honours, There is now Conceal'd in the Dwelling House of William Palling Esq. In the Parish of Painswick, Gloucestershire, a Large quantity of Guns, Gunpowder, Pickaxes and Shovels, Iron Bars, 40 or 50 Brass Pots for dressing Victuals,... The Above Palling is said to be a man of bad Principle, tho Vast Rich."

*John Jannings, Supernumerary Exciseman
To the Commissioners of Excise at the Excise Office, London
Stroud, May the 10th 1758*

"As to William Palling Esquire of the Parish of Painswick, I find him to be the greatest Oddity that ever existed... He is about 50 years of Age, and he was never married: He is a fine, jolly, portly Man, and take his Slovenliness away; I think he is as fine a Person as ever I saw."

*Nathan Carrington
To the Commissioners of Excise at the Excise Office,
London
Stroud, 28th May 1758*

"When he goes to Gloucester or elsewhere... He always walks there with his Man Servant, who carries along with him a Brace of Pistolls, or a Blunderbuss, nay sometimes both."

*Nathan Carrington
To the Commissioners of Excise at
the Excise Office, London
Stroud, 28th May 1758*

"He works very hard himself in his fields, and very often makes his dinner upon Bread and Cheese, which he eats a great deal of."

*Nathan Carrington
To the Commissioners of Excise at the
Excise Office, London
Stroud, 28th May 1758*



All of the above extracts relating to William Palling of Brownshill
are taken from *The Research Report on Stroudend Tithing*
by Dr Christopher Phillpotts, 2006

100 YEARS OF TELEPHONES IN PAINSWICK

by

Peter M Rowe

The first telephones arrived in Painswick in about November 1904, when the National Telephone Company established an exchange in New Street. The National Telephone Company was one of a number of private companies offering the telephone to the public. It had been established in 1881, a year after the first long distance telephone line had been set up in the UK – between Leeds and Bradford – and only six years after Alexander Graham Bell had developed the first experimental telephone in Boston, USA in 1875.

The following January, Painswick had its own entry in the Telephone Directory (see below). In later surviving telephone directories, Painswick, like other exchanges had their entries integrated with other local exchanges. The first ten owners of telephones are a mix of the 'great and good' and some of the larger commercial businesses. The "x" and "y" after the telephone numbers indicate that the telephone number was on a shared or party line.

84 (West.) When Calling give Name of Exchange as well as Number.

PAINSWICK EXCHANGE.

PUBLIC CALL OFFICES.

1T New Street National Telephone Co. Ltd.

T –Also open for Trunk Service.

5x	BURDOOK	W. H.	Builder, Plumber, &c., New at
2y	COLE	W. H. & Co.	Pin Manufacturers, Painswick mill
3y	OOTSWOLD	Stores Ltd. Grocers, Provsn Merchts, Cheltenham rd	
4x	FERGUSSON	W. B., M.D.	"Hazelbury"
5y	IRELAND	Maurice, Bus Proprietor, Jobmaster, Bell st	
2x	MARSLAND	Ellis	Architect, Court ho
3x	REED	E. T. Warmington	Falkland ho
1y	SAVORY & Sons Ltd.	Hair Pin Manufacturers, Brookhouse mills	
1x	SEDDON	Rev. W. H.	The Vicarage
4y	WESCOTT	J. H.	Falcon hotel

Extract from: Telephone Directory, January 1905

The telegraph had preceded the telephone by some thirty years. The first public telegraph line opened in the UK in 1845 between London and Gosport. The earliest for a telegraph office in Painswick is in 1870 (Post Office Directory, 1870) at the old Post Office – premises now occupied by The Chairman – in New Street. This was shortly after Mr Thomas Spring became postmaster.

The photograph on the right shows the first telephone exchange in New Street. A sign can just be seen below the top window of the building on the left; it reads "PUBLIC TELEPHONE". The premises were leased – the initial term was for seven years from 25 December 1904 at a rent of £15 per annum.

The photograph was probably taken as part of a survey carried out for the GPO some time before the independent telephone companies were nationalised in 1912. By 1912, Painswick had some 39 subscribers, more than half of whom shared party lines.



First Telephone Exchange, New Street



Second Telephone Exchange
Bisley Street

By 1923, and possibly several years earlier, the telephone exchange had moved to Bisley Street. The photograph on the left was probably taken in the early 1930s. The telephone exchange was located in the building in the middle of the photograph – a cottage now known as The Chur. A sign between the two first floor windows reads "PUBLIC TELEPHONE". A local resident remembers the exchange operating from the front room, to the right of the doorway beneath the sign. The stump of a telephone pole can still be seen in the back garden.

The first purpose-built telephone exchange was built in 1936 in Pullens Road. A foundation stone marking this date can still be seen beneath the window on the wall facing Pullens Road. The photograph below was taken shortly after the building was completed – the top few lines of the sign to the left of the building read:

GPO
New Telephone Exchange
Equipment for 170 lines
Come on the Telephone Now
Apply to the District Manager



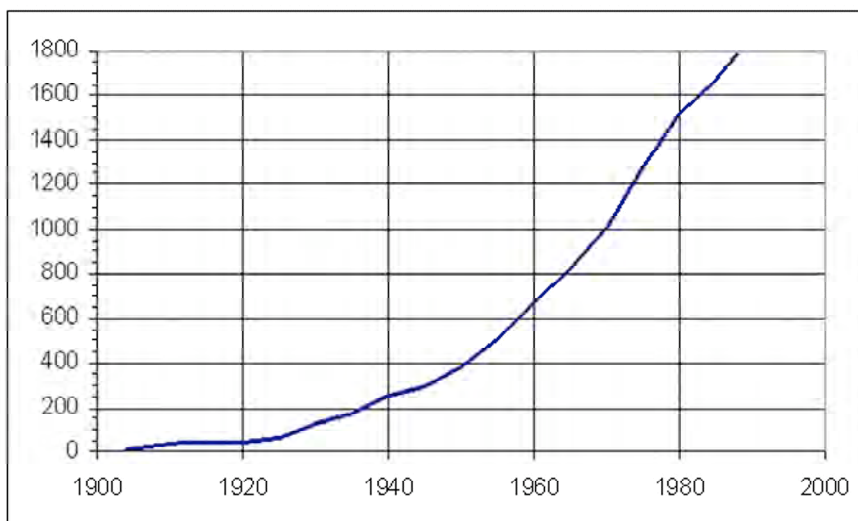
First purpose-built Telephone Exchange, Pullens Road

In about 1959, the telephone exchange was extended (to the right), doubling in size. The building was converted into two homes when the telephone exchange moved to its present location in Stroud Road in the early 1970s

Service	First Introduced in UK	Available in Painswick
Speaking Clock	1936	1959
999 Service	1937	1951
Trunk Dialling within UK (without operator assistance)	1958	1972
International Dialling (without operator assistance)	1963	1976

Painswick telephone numbers have changed over the years. Four digit numbers were introduced in about 1938, and six digit numbers in 1972. Both coincided with the introduction of new exchange equipment, which also extended the services available to subscribers.

One of the main drivers for new telephone exchanges was the need for more space for telephone operators as the number of subscribers in Painswick increased. The number of subscribers has grown almost exponentially except during the first and second World Wars. It has only slowed as the number of households with a telephone reached saturation.



Number of Telephone Subscribers, Painswick Exchange

As we all know, the telephone service continued to evolve – with privatisation in the early 1980s, the introduction of mobile and satellite telephones, and new telephone services such as broadband.

Acknowledgements

The extract from Telephone Directory, January 1905, and photographs of the telephone exchanges in New Street and Pullens Road are courtesy of BT Group Archives, High Holborn, London WC1.

The photograph of the telephone exchange in Bisley Street is courtesy of Peckhams of Stroud.

JOHN WILFRED SEDDON - PIONEER AVIATOR

by

John Bailey

John Seddon was one of the first Royal Navy flyers at a time when flying was in its infancy and a really hazardous pursuit. He designed and supervised the building of an aircraft, the Mayfly, which, although it never flew, equipped him with considerable technical knowledge. It is not overstating the case to describe him as a pioneer of metal-framed aircraft.

SEDDON FAMILY

John Wilfred Seddon, also known as Jack, was born in Painswick and baptised in 1886 at St Mary's Church Painswick. His father was the Rev W H Seddon, Vicar of Painswick for the first time in 1885. The advowson was owned by Mr Perrins of Malvern, of 'Worcestershire Sauce' fame, and he presented his son-in-law to the living of Painswick in 1885. It did not take long for parishioners to endear themselves to their Vicar who worked tirelessly for their welfare. He resigned however in 1890 to devote his energies to the Church Army. Rev Seddon did not enjoy the best of health and when the opportunity arose he applied, and was instituted, as Vicar of Painswick for the second time in 1897. In 1917 against all attempts to persuade him to stay, Rev Seddon resigned enabling him to take up a living in Shropshire which had become vacant upon the death of his brother. John's mother was Frances Isobel Seddon nee Perrins, a devout Roman Catholic. His sister Ruth was superintendent and sister Alice assistant superintendant of St Mary's Home for a number of years prior to her marriage. This may perhaps be considered a rather unlikely background for a man who chose a career in the Royal Navy and who became obsessed with flight and aviation.



John Seddon with wife Elsie on their wedding day
Sittingbourne

Seddon's interest in flight is said to have been awakened whilst he was a junior officer on a torpedo course on HMS Vernon at Portsmouth in 1908. In a break from studies, one of the senior lecturers demonstrated a large model aeroplane that he had made. Seddon must have been very impressed with what he saw and heard. The following year Seddon was on HMS Sealark - a ship charting the southern coast of Ceylon. In the hot season in those parts, it was the practice for Europeans to retire to the hills. This rest period gave Seddon the opportunity to develop his ideas and led him to build a model

aeroplane of his own design. His design – quite unique – incorporated the use of steel tubular hoops instead of the more conventional solid wooden struts with steel bracing wires covered with canvas. By the time of Seddon's return to England in 1909, he had the details of his design of a full-size tandem wing biplane firmly in mind.

EARLY DAYS

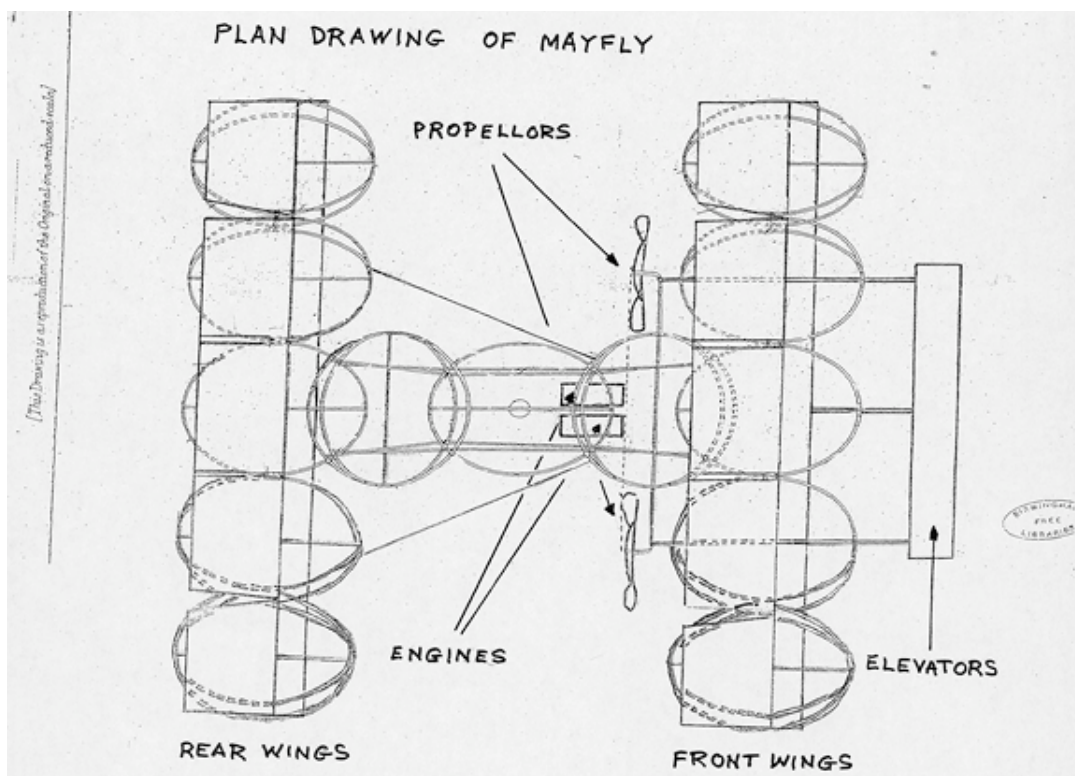
It may be instructive, at this stage, to recall briefly the general progress and development of aviation up to this time. The Wright brothers in the United States were in 1903 credited with the first successful powered flight, albeit only some 120 yards and at a height of 10 feet. They continued to develop and improve their aircraft, the Flyer, and in 1905 achieved a distance of 25 miles and in 1908 a 50 mile flight. In 1907 the Wright brothers demonstrated their aeroplane in Europe and in England offered to sell their patents to the Admiralty. Their Lordships turned the offer down as, although they showed some interest in airships, they could not see that aeroplanes would be of any "...practical use to the Naval Service", their faith was firmly placed in bigger and better battleships for the defence of our island. In 1909 Louis Bleriot, in his monoplane designed aircraft, was the first to fly across the English Channel. In the same year Moore Brabazon, later Lord Brabazon of Tara, was the first Englishman to fly solo in Great Britain and in this year was awarded No.1 Royal Aero Club pilot's certificate. Nevertheless, the aviation scene was dominated by the French and Americans. The French held a very successful aviation week at Rheims in 1909, where Bleriot set a new air speed record of 46.18 mph, to which the Admiralty were invited. There must have been an undercurrent in the Royal Navy of interest, especially among junior officers, and Capt R H Bacon was sent to France as a Navy observer. He was most impressed with all he saw and, upon his return, he entered upon the uphill task of persuading their Lordships of the Admiralty to set up a unit to investigate the possibilities and potential of aeroplanes to the Royal Navy. Mr David Lloyd George, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer in Mr Asquith's government, was also at the Rheims meeting and was equally impressed and observed,

"Flying Machines are no longer toys and dreams, they are an established fact. The possibilities of this new form of locomotion are infinite. I feel, as a Britisher, rather ashamed that we are so completely out of it."

THE MAYFLY

Upon Seddon's return to England, he was anxious to develop the ideas he had formulated in his mind and wished to pursue his ambition to build an aeroplane. It was to be a tandem biplane about 50 feet in length and span. The wings were to consist of five equal panels, each ten feet long, the upper and lower planes of each panel braced by tubular hoops crossing at an angle of 60 degrees; the fuselage was to consist of five sets of crossed hoops, joined by horizontal spars. Seddon obtained two patents on his innovative designs, both applications were made in 1909 and completed and accepted in 1910.¹ The first was titled Improvements in and connected with Aerial Machines and referred to the fuselage construction and the other titled to Improvements relating to the Manufacture of Wings or Planes as used in Aeroplanes. Initially however, Seddon had to investigate the availability of steel tubing of the required strength, weight and rigidity with sufficient flexibility to absorb tension or compression forces. Apparently, Seddon had been impressed with the

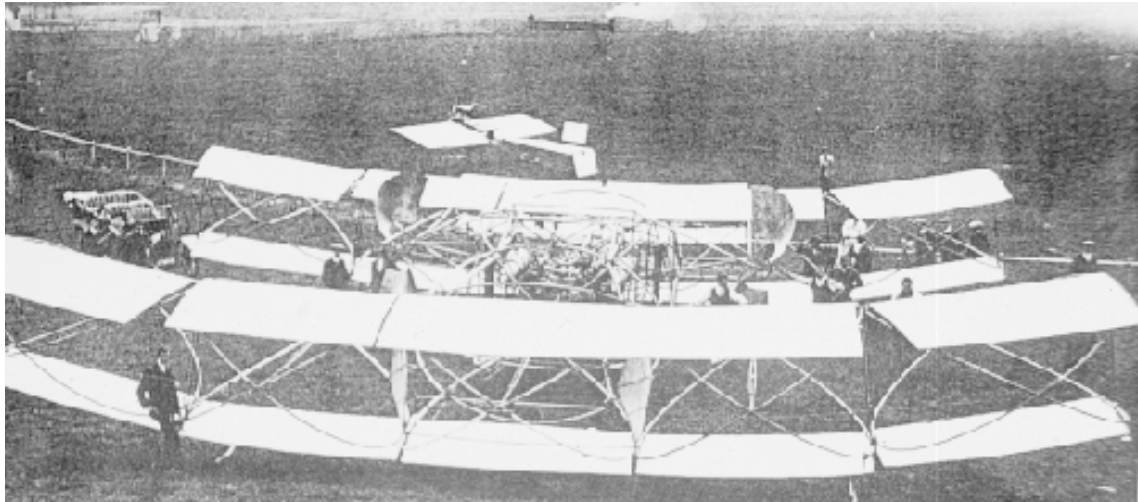
strength and lightness of the Dursley-Pederson bicycles, built of tubular steel, owned by his father and sisters in Painswick. He went to see Listers at Dursley, where the bicycles were made, to seek their assistance. Listers were unable to supply tube to Seddon's specification themselves but referred him to their suppliers, Accles and Pollock at Oldbury in the West Midlands. The timing of Seddon's approach could not have been bettered. Accles and Pollock were themselves investigating the development of thin-gauge steel tubing of sufficient strength/weight ratio for use in aviation and they were delighted to assist. Seddon must have been very persuasive as he not only managed to capture the interest of the managing director, Mr W W Hackett, and his brother, Arthur Hackett, in his design, but they also offered to build the aeroplane at their factory at Oldbury. Thereafter the firm developed an increasingly important business in strong lightweight metal tubing used in the aircraft industry, for which they showed their gratitude to Seddon by taking him into the business after he retired from the services.



The construction of the aeroplane was not a project that could be achieved at weekends and spare moments only, so Seddon sought to obtain special leave from his Naval duties. Capt Bacon's report perhaps had helped with Admiralty realisation of the advances being made in aviation by other nations. Seddon managed to convince his Admiral that his project was viable and would be a worthwhile investment in this new technology. He secured three months unpaid leave from the Navy in which to pursue his project. He persuaded his mother to provide the necessary finance to enable him to proceed. Seddon was perhaps also spurred on by the incentive of the *Daily Mail's* offer of a £10,000 prize for the first successful flight from London to Manchester.

During the summer of 1910 the construction of the aeroplane, now called the Mayfly, took place at Accles and Pollock's factory at Oldbury. By August the aircraft was nearing

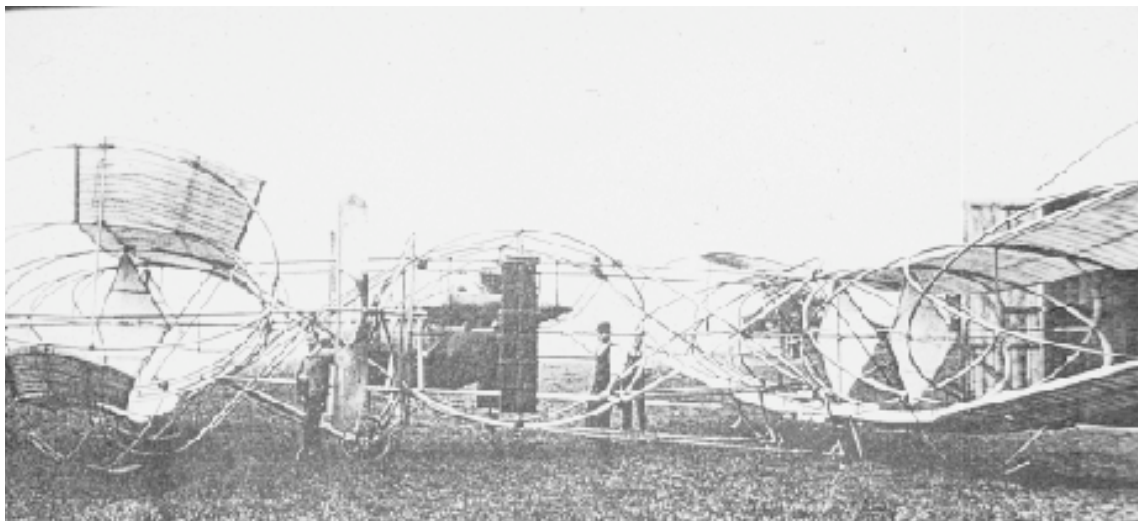
completion and was drawn by a horse, along 12 miles of road, on its own wheels but with outer wing panels removed, through Sedgley to the racecourse at Dunstall Park, Wolverhampton, which was the base of the Midland Aero Club. The Club held a members' meeting on the 3rd September, 1910 in which the Mayfly made its public debut. It was housed in one of the hangars used by Club members, but it was still in the hands of engineers and was not ready to fly. Nevertheless, not surprisingly, it attracted a great deal of attention from the press.



Mayfly from rear, Dunstall Park, September 1910

One newspaper referred to

“...a strange contraption made of hoops of steel tube with planes [ie wings] fixed to them... ...designed to carry six people.”



Mayfly side view, Dunstall Park, September 1910

It was not revealed where in the structure six people would be accommodated, but the Mayfly was said to be the largest aeroplane in the world at that time. A more extensive specification of the Mayfly is detailed in Appendix I.

At a further flying afternoon held on 22nd October, 1910 *Flight* magazine reported

“The Seddon biplane...is still in the hands of a large staff of mechanics, who

are finishing off the thousand and one little items which crop up in the final stages. Lieut Seddon's leave unfortunately expired just before the machine was ready for testing, but he hopes to be back in a few weeks' time when we may hear more of this interesting machine."²

The demands of Naval duties were frustrating for Seddon for the Mayfly had reached a stage where his continual presence was required at Dunstall Park. On the 18th November 1910, Seddon wrote, from HMS Victory, to the Commander-in-Chief Portsmouth requesting to be discharged on half-pay. He explained

"Up to present I have expended the sum of £2,800 on the construction of an aeroplane of a type which it is hoped will prove meritorious for war purposes...This represents every penny that I possess and nearly £1,000 borrowed from my parents..."

The appeal was received sympathetically by his Admiral and it was agreed that he should be granted three months leave on full-pay, upon the condition that the Admiralty be kept fully informed of progress and developments. His leave began 10th January 1911 and his first report, dated 24th January, showed that extensive alterations had had to be made to the wings and fuselage, with the object of strengthening the machine and reducing the weight which had grown beyond the original estimate of one ton.

On the 2nd March 1911 Seddon reported that he would be making trials on the next day. On 7th March he reported that the machine had been completed as predicted and trials commenced. Seddon was hoping to make a flight and the machine was taken out on to the racecourse and the ropes cast off. Unfortunately the left engine failed which ruled out any question of making a flight. The engines however were not the only source of trouble – previously there had been a number of failures - a propeller broke, an engine chain severed and the undercarriage had collapsed. Seddon reported that alterations were proving more costly than he had estimated and that he was unable to embark on further expense. Following reminders from the Admiralty, Seddon reported on the 12th May that he had been unable to obtain the trials he expected and no further progress had been made. By this time the Admiralty were losing patience and Accles and Pollock had lost interest. Seddon's leave had expired about 10th April and he had returned to Naval duties. Sadly, the Mayfly never flew and was left out on the Dunstall Park racecourse and was gradually dismantled and broken up by souvenir hunters.

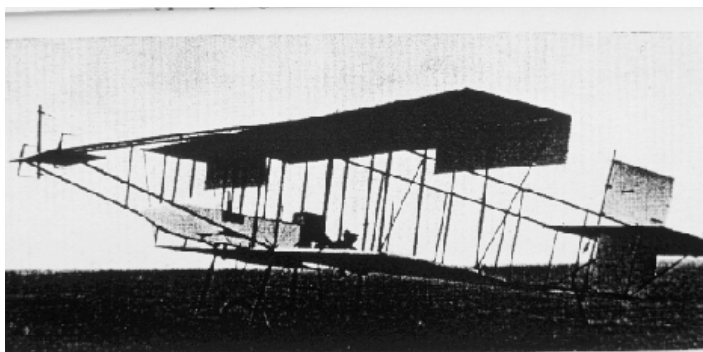
It was a strange coincidence that in this same year, 1911, the Royal Navy had had an airship built for them by Vickers at their Barrow-in-Furness yard. On its first outing a strong gust of wind forced the airship off one of its moorings and broke the airship's back. Its name was also Mayfly and it never flew either – must have been something in the name!

NAVAL PILOT

Despite the set back of the Mayfly Lieut Seddon remained determined to follow a flying career with the Royal Navy.

In October 1911, the Admiralty decided to establish a Naval Flying School. They acquired 10 acres of land at Eastchurch, on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent from the Royal Aero Club and

the First Naval Flying school was opened in December 1911. Seddon applied and got on the first pilot's course that he could and was appointed to Eastchurch on the 13th



Short 35 biplane at Eastchurch 1911

December 1911. On 11th January 1912, the Admiral, Commander-in-Chief of The Nore, was on an inspection of Eastchurch. He was most impressed with all he saw and expressed his approval of the activities there. Two days after the Admiral's visit however, Seddon, flying a Short S.35 biplane, misjudged his landing and crashed into the closed

hangar doors, completely demolishing the aircraft. Seddon escaped with a fractured left leg – fortunately for Seddon, the Admiral by this time was well out of the way!³

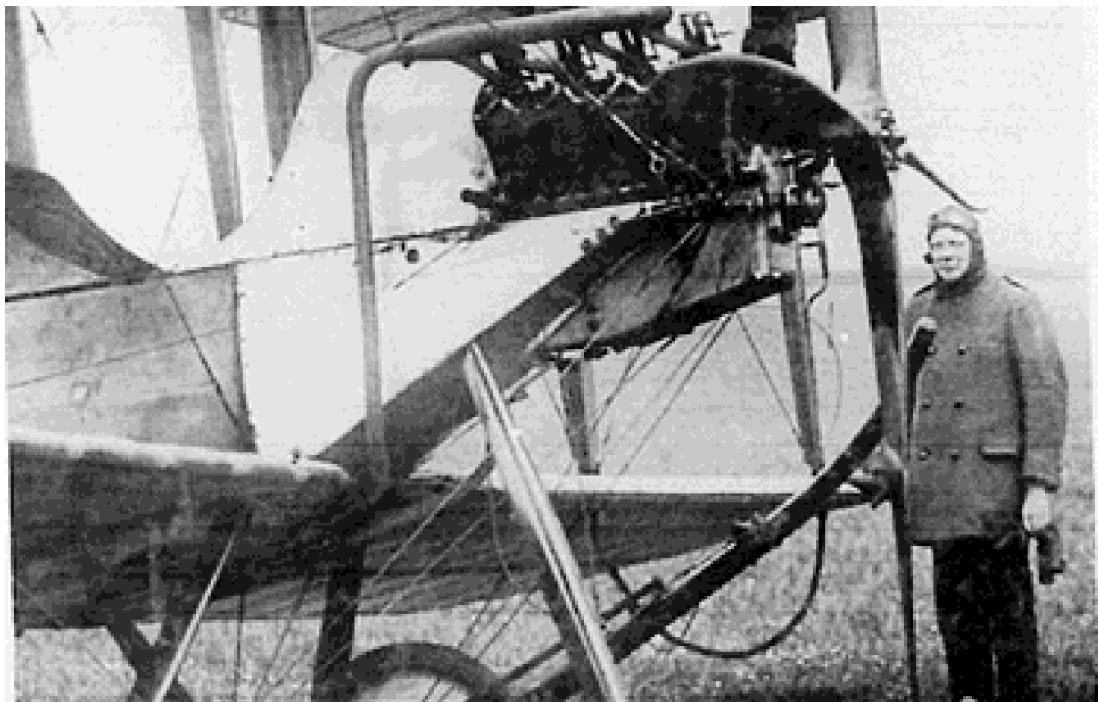
On the 13th September 1912, Seddon successfully took the tests for the pilot's brevet on the Short S.34 biplane at the Royal Aero Club's flying ground at Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. He was awarded Pilot's certificate No.296 on 17th September 1912.⁴ In these early days, all pilots were tested and certificated by The Royal Aero Club.

By the middle of 1912 the Admiralty was fully committed to this new section of the Royal Navy. A strong influence in this change of strategy in the Admiralty had been the appointment of Mr Winston Churchill, previously Home Secretary, as First Lord of the Admiralty on 23rd October, 1911, in Mr Asquith's government. The appointment made him the political chief of the most powerful fleet in the world. From the start he determined to keep the Navy in prime position by increasing the speed and firepower of the fleet. He introduced many new ideas and reforms against previous senior Admiralty policy. He was tireless in his visits to ships and shore bases and interested himself not only in technicalities but also in the welfare of the Navy personnel. Mr Churchill's progressive and energetic attitude met with considerable suspicion and mistrust by senior naval officers, but he quickly endeared himself to the rank and file. One of the innovations encouraged by Churchill, which directly affected Seddon, was his vigorous support for the development of a Naval air wing.

On 31st December 1912 the Admiralty commissioned the first seaplane station – HM Seaplane Station, Isle of Grain, Kent - the first of a chain of seaplane stations on the east coast facing the English Channel. Seddon was one of the Navy's most experienced pilots and he was appointed the first station commander, with rank of Lieutenant in the Navy and Flight Commander in the Royal Flying Corps. The two ranks that Seddon held arose from an unsuccessful attempt at the instigation of the government, to amalgamate all service flying units into one combined force titled the Royal Flying Corps. The Naval wing of the Corps however remained under the control of the Air Department of the Admiralty and they continued to go their own way until ultimately the Royal Navy Air Service was officially recognised on 1st July, 1914. The Isle of Grain was the first experimental

seaplane station and was mainly to concentrate on seaplane float design, wireless telegraphy, bombing and folding-wing experiments. Subsequently, Seddon was one of the Navy pilots who tested new aircraft before acceptance into service with the Navy. Mr Churchill, the first cabinet minister to fly, was flown by Naval aircraft many times between stations on his numerous visits to Naval ports and shore stations.⁵ He became in fact an experienced flyer. Correspondence between himself and his wife Clemmie, revealed that he had in fact made some 140 flights. This correspondence has been published and extracts relating to his flying experiences in 1913/4 are referred to in Appendix 2. Seddon had the distinction of teaching Mr Churchill to fly and is mentioned in a letter from Winston to Clemmie, of 8th February, 1914. The letters also show how keen Mr Churchill became in flying and did decide to take a pilot's certificate. However, although Mr Churchill is known to have flown solo, there is no evidence that he ever obtained a pilot's certificate.

Seddon's pre-eminence among Naval flyers of the time was recognised, and is illustrated not only by his being selected to teach Mr Churchill, but by his being selected for three prestige flights made before the commencement of the Great War. It was in May 1913 that



The First Lord of the Admiralty

Seddon was chosen to provide a Royal escort.⁶ The King and Queen (King George V and Queen Mary) were leaving the Thames estuary for Flushing to attend the wedding of Princess Viktoria Luise, only daughter of the German Emperor. Seddon provided the escort to the Royal Yacht to a point beyond Margate, some 18 miles from their base. Another occasion, again involving the King, was the Royal Review of the fleet at Spithead (the channel off Portsmouth) in July, 1914.⁷ The Navy had assembled over a hundred warships for the King's inspection. Virtually all the RNAS pilots and some 20 aircraft gathered at Calshot Naval Air Station, on the Solent, to provide the flypast following the



Lt Seddon (centre front) at Calshot July 1914

King's review. The flypast consisted of five flights of seaplanes. The Isle of Grain flight – known as the War Flight – lead by Seddon, was heading the flypast in Short folding-wing seaplanes. They flew at mast-top height which, although thrilling for the spectators, caused some problems for the pilots. This was the first ever demonstration of formation flying.

The third flight, quite different to the ceremonial type flights mentioned above, started as a rescue mission. It was in January 1914 whilst HM Submarine A.7 from Devonport was on trials in Plymouth Sound.⁸ The vessel submerged but failed to resurface and could not be located. The authorities thought that perhaps a seaplane would be useful in locating the vessel – Seddon was chosen for the task. On the 14th January, Seddon, flying a Maurice Farman S.7 biplane seaplane started from Isle of Grain, took the coastal route to Plymouth Sound. Seddon started at 9.15 am, passing Beachey Head at 11.40 am, and Selsey Bill at 12.20 pm before touching down at RNAS Calshot at 12.40 pm to refuel. Continuing his journey, he left Calshot at 2.20 pm and descended on the waters of Plymouth Sound at 4.40 pm. The journey assisted by a steady wind had taken 5 hours 25 minutes over a distance of some 350 miles, giving an overall flying speed of a little over 60 mph. By the time Seddon arrived the submarine had been located. The next day Seddon flew over the area where the submarine was known to lie but was unable to observe it. Squadron Commander Seddon was later awarded the Britannia Trophy for this flight being judged the most meritorious flight of 1914.

START OF THE GREAT WAR

War was declared on the 4th August 1914 and started a new episode of Seddon's career. The German army were marching into Belgium, hoping to gain easy access into France over this largely unprotected border. Great Britain had pledged to aid Belgium in the event of their borders being violated. The army were quite unprepared for action on the continent and the initial response was left to the Navy. Mr Churchill, against protocol, at beginning of October sent a Naval brigade of armoured cars and motor cycles to Antwerp. They were unable to prevent the capture of the city but they may have helped to gain sufficient time to consolidate and hold Dunkirk, where a RNAS unit was established.

On the 29th October 1914 Seddon flew from Isle of Grain for Dunkirk via Dover and Calais with the object of reconnoitring the German gun positions at Ostend. On 5th November, 1914 he took part in an air attack upon Bruges railway station.⁹ Seddon carried two bombs – one bomb fell on a railway siding close to the station, and the other bomb damaged some oil storage tanks. This must have been one of the first air raids of

the war. It was also reported that Seddon, leading a detachment of seaplanes, rendered great assistance to the British fleet during their bombardment of gun inplacements at Zeebrugge and other positions on the Belgium coast in November, 1914. Shortly after this, the Isle of Grain squadron returned to base and took up patrol duties along the continental North Sea coast. Whilst on such a patrol, on the 17th December 1914, Seddon was over the North Sea flying a Short seaplane. Unfortunately the engine failed whilst off the Hook of Holland and Seddon had to land on the sea. The aircraft was salvaged and Seddon and his crewman were rescued by a passing Norwegian ship; Seddon and crew were interned for a short time in Holland.¹⁰

We have covered just a few years of Seddon's early career up to the end of 1914 in which he became so devoted to aviation. This continued for many years but requires further research and study to complete the story. We do know however that when he retired from service it was with the rank of Group Captain in the Royal Air Force. It is fitting to conclude this article with the following testimony taken from Seddon's early Naval service record-

"A most capable officer. Exceptional abilities as a pilot and Technical knowledge, specially recommended for Employment where questions of repair, design and feats of Aircraft are involved."¹¹

Acknowledgements

Much of the information contained in the first part of this article was obtained from –
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and the photograph of the First Lord of the Admiralty from -
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| 6. | <i>The Aeroplane</i> 29 May 1913 |
| 7. | <i>The Aeroplane</i> 8 July 1914 |
| 8. | <i>The Aeroplane</i> 29 January 1914 |
| 9. | <i>The Aeroplane</i> 2 December 1914 |
| 10. The Royal Aeronautical Society | Letter dated 3 March, 1999 |
| 11. Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, Somerset, | Records and Research Centre. |

Appendix I

The Mayfly Specification –

Built by Accles and Pollock, 1910, at Oldbury, West Midlands to the design of Jack Seddon ; assisted by Arthur Hackett and W.W.Hackett, both of Accles & Pollock

Description Tandem wing biplane about 50 feet in length and in wingspan. contained some 2,000 feet of high tensile steel tubing with a wing area 1,000 square feet; weighing 2,600 lbs unloaded At time of completion said to be **the largest aeroplane in the world**

Structure –

Fuselage: five pairs of two inch diameter steel tubular hoops, of 12 feet diameter, crossed at 60° angles (except central pair at 45°), joined by wooden main spar and straight tubular struts. It was in the centre pair of hoops that the engines, petrol tanks and control column were located.

Wings: Each wing consisted of five panels, each panel 10 feet long. Upper and lower panels each braced by pair of tubular steel hoops crossing at an angle of 60° (except central panel at 45°) Each wing panel consisted of 'D' section tube on leading edge; with 16 ribs with fabric covering and trailing edge of sheet aluminium.

Undercarriage: pair of main wheels just forward of the pilot's position; a small pair of wheels at leading edge of rear main planes; curved skids towards wing tips and under forward fuselage.

Power: two four cylinder two stroke 'vee' N.E.C. water-cooled engines of 50 h.p. (but not connected in any way) housed side-by-side in a stream-lined sheet metal nacelle each driving a large two-bladed aluminium tractor propeller through a double chain-and-sprocket transmission. The propellers were carried on outriggers from the fuselage frame positioned immediately aft of the forward wings. Alongside the pilot at shoulder level were two large teardrop- shaped cylindrical fuel tanks and outside these were a pair of tall tubular radiators.

Controls: a biplane elevator mounted on booms ahead of the front wings and two pairs of diamond-shaped rudders located at the outer ends of each central wing panel, linked with and worked either independently or together with the outer moveable wing panel. The pilot worked the controls by means of a large column-mounted steering wheel.

Personnel: said to accommodate six. Pilot, sitting above and behind the two engines; with five passengers.

Appendix 2-

Extracts from *Speaking for Themselves, The Personal Letters of Winston and Clementine (Clemmie) Churchill*, Edited by their daughter Mary Soames, 1998, Black Swan edition, 1999

23 October 1913 from Winston / H M S Enchantress, Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey
Darling, We have had a very jolly day in the air. First we all went over to Eastchurch where we found dozens of aeroplanes and everyone flew... across the river... to our other station in the Isle of Grain – a delightful trip... [pp78/9]

29 November 1913 from Winston / Eastchurch
My darling one, I have been naughty today about flying... with twenty machines in the air at once... it is not possible to look upon it as a very serious risk. [p82]

Undated – about beginning of December 1913 from Clemmie / Admiralty House
...I do implore you not to fly this morning. There is a high wind and it is a bad day... [p83]

8 February 1914 from Winston / H.M.S.Enchantress, Sheerness
My Darling One,
The weather greatly altered for the worse after I started on Saturday and now it is raining and blowing in a detestable manner... I had a little flight yesterday with Lieut. Seddon which was quite pleasant and not at all dangerous – though rather windy. [p.83]

29 May 1914 from Winston / H.M.S.Enchantress, Portsmouth
My darling One,
I have been at the Central Flying School for a couple of days – flying a little in good and careful hands and under perfect conditions... [p.87]

5 June 1914 from Clemmie / Dieppe
Your telegram arrived late last night... Every time I see a telegram now, I think it is to announce that you have been killed flying... [p.91]

6 June 1914 from Winston / H.M.S.Enchantress,
I will not fly any more until at any rate you have recovered from your kitten [Clemmie was pregnant at the time Ed]; and by then or perhaps later the risks may have been greatly reduced.

This is a wrench, because I was on the verge of taking my pilot's certificate... I should greatly have liked to reach this point which would have made a suitable moment for breaking off. But I must admit that the numerous fatalities of this year would justify you in complaining if I continued to share the risks – as I am proud to do – of these good fellows. So I give it up decidedly for many months and perhaps for ever...

Anyhow I can feel I know a good deal about this fascinating new art. I can manage a machine with ease in the air, even with high winds, and only a little more practice in landings would have enabled me to go up with reasonable safety alone. I have been up 140 times, with many pilots, and all kinds of machines, so I know the difficulties the dangers and the joys of the air – well enough to appreciate them, and to understand all the questions of policy which will arise in the near future.

It is curious that while I have been lucky, accidents have happened to others who have flown with me out of the natural proportion. This poor Lieutenant whose loss has disturbed your anxieties again, took me up only last week in this very machine. [pp.91-92]

A LIMESTONE SPHERE

by

Cedric Nielsen and Carolyn Luke

A stone sphere, roughly the size of a cricket ball, was found at Edge Hill Farm, Edge (SO 80/90 8515 0963) approximately 600mm (2 feet) below the foundations of a garden wall, alongside Edge Lane. It is composed of a hard, shelly oolitic limestone and has a diameter of 60mm (2.4 inches) and circumference of 230mm (9 inches). It now weighs 448 g (15.5 oz) but a small piece was broken off when struck by the spade at the time it was found. The stone has no identity marks so its actual use can only be conjectural. It may have been used as a weight; there are records of fossil sea urchins (*clypeus plotti*), locally called pound stones, being used for this purpose.¹ However it appears not to be a natural object but to have been purposely worked into a sphere; it is possible that it was manufactured as a cannon ball.



The stone sphere with tennis ball as size comparison

The close proximity of its resting place to the roadside at Edge might suggest that it was lost (perhaps off the back of a cart travelling the lane connecting Painswick to Edge) at some time in the past. Edge Hill Farm is dated 1604 but the hollow way leading from the crossing of the Washbrook suggests considerable age. Edge Lane connects with other ancient tracks along the scarp edge, including the track through Stockend where there are a number of quarries. The geological map for the area around Edge indicates that this type of shelly oolitic limestone, known locally as ragstone, may be found in the area of Rudge Common/Scottsquarr Woods², but the source has not yet been identified.

We know that stone shot had been quarried from sites within the manor of Harescombe, which includes Scottsquarr Woods. *The General Report of the Commissioners of Public Records 1819* contains a short abstract of Royal Letters Missive in the reign of King Richard II (1367-1400) to his Chancellor.³ The letter is written in

French. The King ordered Richard de Lane, mason, to make cannon balls in his lordship of Harescombe, Gloucestershire and directs him under the Great Seal to take such workmen, artificers, and carriages as he may stand in need of, in that service.

Stone shot was used at least until the time of King Henry VIII (1491-1547). The Talbot Papers list ordnance delivered by warrant of the King to Sir Sampson Norton for use in France, including 'gone stones' of iron and of stone. Among the relics preserved in the Tower of London is part of the armament of the Mary Rose lost at Spithead 1545, comprising a length of gun, retaining the stone shot with which it was loaded at the time it sank. Siege catapults also used stone shot and were used well into the fifteenth century. Cannon were beginning to be used around 1480 but required teams of horses to move them; their main use was to batter down the gates of defended sites.

THE CIVIL WAR IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE(1642 – 1649)

Cannon were part of the arsenal used in the Civil War and ranged from those capable of firing cannon balls weighing up to 64 lbs down to guns such as the Falconet or Robinet, which fired one or two pound cannonballs. Although smaller guns were more mobile they still required a team of four horses to move them.

Painswick was in the front line between the Parliamentary Forces in Gloucester and the Royalists based in Painswick. There were numerous small skirmishes around Painswick. One such skirmish took place at Bacchus Way below Huddinknoll Common in February 1644, where there appear to be defensive earthworks, although this has not been proven. There are accounts of the skirmish, involving some 200 infantrymen and horsemen but no mention is made of any guns. The Parliamentarians fled to take cover at Bacchus Farm.⁴



Bacchus Way seen from Huddinknoll Common

Painswick became the centre of serious fighting when the church was bombarded and set on fire. A cannon ball made of cast iron weighing 3lbs 11oz with a diameter of 3 inches, was found in Painswick churchyard and given to St Clair Baddeley; there is no record of what happened to it after Baddeley's death.⁵

The stone hewn sphere, possibly a cannon ball, found at Edge Hill Farm could have been used as supplementary munitions when iron cannon balls were in short supply. Evidence for this is found in two letters by William Vavasour, the Royalist Commander, written in Painswick on 22nd and 29th March 1644 requesting an urgent need for supplies of powder, guns and cannon bullets.

DISCUSSION

The collection of the cannon balls found around Gloucester, now in the Folk Museum, does not include any stone cannon balls, only iron ones of similar size to that found at Edge Hill Farm. The fact that this stone is the only one recorded in Gloucestershire could be because they would most likely break up on impact; the effect on horses or men however, would have been lethal. If the sphere is a cannon ball then it was probably never used.

The technology of cannon construction improved rapidly throughout Europe. Cannon were cast in one piece as the technology of iron smelting improved. This allowed more powerful mixtures of powder to be used, which stone cannon balls would have been unable to withstand. As a result iron cannon balls had to be used and it is therefore unlikely that stone would have been used beyond the early 18th century.

The two options for the use of the stone sphere have been discussed in this paper. It is unlikely that a sphere would have been used as a weight as its shape would make it difficult to use for most purposes. The alternative option that it was made to be used as a cannon ball appears to be more appropriate.

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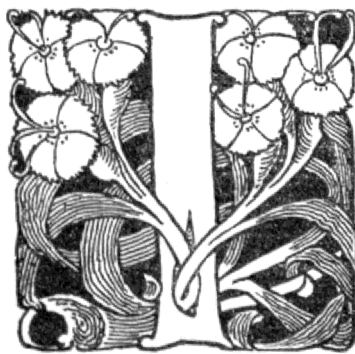
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PAINSWICK BOOK SOCIETY

by

Carol Maxwell

During the early part of the nineteenth century there was a proliferation of reading or book clubs in many localities throughout the country, and Painswick was no exception. However, Painswick's Book Society must surely have been one of, if not the most, enduring in its original form. Although these societies certainly flourished they nonetheless came and went, but Painswick's came into being in 1804 and saw the century out, only drawing to a conclusion in 1907. The Minute Book for the whole of that period has survived and provides a valuable insight into the genteel layers of Painswick society and their choice of reading matter. Its annual entries record the Society's ongoing financial situation, the rules, the membership, the publications in circulation and one or two curious incidents. In 1904 a special commemorative book was printed to mark the centenary of the Society. These two records, together with an accounts book dating from 1885 are precious sources of information and much of this article is based on the details they provide.



It may be asked, reasonably enough, whether anything worth recording in print can be written about a Village Book Society. During the first half of the nineteenth century, before the days of circulating libraries, there were probably hundreds of such little clubs scattered over the country. When the need for them ceased to be felt they disappeared, after a brief but useful & uneventful career. The long life of the Painswick Society has, however, given it a history of at least some local interest.

Opening paragraph from the Memento

By the beginning of the nineteenth century there were basically two types of library – circulating and subscription. The former businesses that charged a fee for lending books. They were, in some cases, run by a bookseller or publisher. Subscription libraries, of which Painswick Book Society was one, were owned by subscribers who acted as library shareholders. They charged subscribers a small fee, which enabled them to borrow books either free of charge or at a reduced rate. Subscribers tended to be from the gentry and professional classes and were predominantly male, though in later years more women were included. These private subscription libraries were primarily the domain, therefore, of an affluent minority that attempted to collect standard works of permanent value in history, biography, travel and natural science. As the century progressed, the inclusion of literary works became more prominent, this being a time when interest in reading books and magazines was growing rapidly.

Books and substantial publications were, however, very expensive. In the early part of the century the average price for a new three volume novel could be as much as 3 l s 6d

(roughly equivalent to £88 today). This was far more than an ordinary worker's weekly wage.¹ So, libraries offered the chance to borrow at an affordable rate.

Painswick's Book Society, like many similar local literary clubs, probably evolved from a previous loose arrangement wherein friends passed books and periodicals amongst themselves. This was common practice in the late eighteenth century. In 1804 a set of seventeen rules was drawn up by, presumably, the thirteen signatories neatly inscribed at the end of the list. These thirteen were: Nathaniel Butler, John Little, J. Bedwell, John Wight, Edward Wight, Nathaniel Osbourne, John Packer, Charles Horlick, Oade Roberts (Yew Tree House), John Fearon (Painswick Vicarage), S. Button, B. Butler and John Knowles. This group established the pattern for the membership over the next few decades, viz Painswick men of comfortable means and elevated status in the community.

It should not be assumed that Painswick Book Society's membership was typical of all libraries though it was typical of many. As Professor Robin Alston notes,

"Cultural historians have under-estimated the number of libraries available for reading, whether for entertainment or for self-improvement. As the database² demonstrates there was provision of print in almost every market town in the British Isles by the year 1820, and by 1850 in hundreds of villages with a population of less than 500 souls. The sheer variety of libraries so far discovered is quite extraordinary: libraries devoted to the arts and sciences; libraries in inns; libraries on the estates of wealthy landowners provided for the workers; libraries associated with every type of society; village libraries provided by benevolent pastors."³

The rules seem to be based on experience and indeed the Minute Book records very few alterations to them over the following 103 years. The 17 Rules "unanimously agreed" are preceded by five Resolutions "unanimously adopted", for the regulation of the Society. In outline these Resolutions state that:

- 1 The Society's objective is to circulate books approved by the members
- 2 The members will pay one guinea subscription at every annual meeting
- 3 The membership be restricted to 16 who must reside in the parish
- 4 T.B. Butler be appointed Secretary for the first year
- 5 The Secretary keep proper accounts and Minute Books.

These are the 17 Rules as they are written in the Minute Book:

- 1st No person shall be admitted a Member of this Society who is not approved by the majority.
- 2nd An annual meeting shall be held to sell the Books and receive the Subscriptions.
- 3rd The Secretary shall order for the Society the following Periodical Publications.
The Monthly Review & Magazine.
- 4th Every Member shall at any time order such books as he thinks proper which are not excepted in the Rule of Exceptions, or inconsistent with the Rule of Limitation, and the Secretary shall provide them, provided the Fund will admit.
- 5th The Secretary shall send the Books to the person by whom they are ordered, and they shall then circulate in order of the names.
- 6th The Secretary shall have a discretionary power with respect to the ordering of

Books, that there may be a constant and sufficient supply.

- 7th At the annual meeting; the Books which have been circulated shall be sold, and the members shall be obliged to purchase the Books they have ordered (Pamphlets excepted) on the following terms. Those which cost Two Guineas, or more, at half, and those which cost less, at one third of the original price.
- 8th Pamphlets to be sold to the highest bidder.
- 9th All periodical Publications shall be sold in sets, and the Purchaser of the first of each respectively shall have the option of taking the future set at the same price, provided the cost of the Book remains the same.
- 10th If any book be lost, the person to whom it can be traced shall replace it, and if part of a set, he shall procure a new one.
- 11th The removal out of the Parish, the resignation, or death of any member, shall not in any measure effect [sic] the property of the Society.
- 12th As punctuality in circulating the Books is essential, and as we are alike interested in preserving it: It is agreed that the person who shall keep a Book beyond its limited time, shall pay one penny per day, for the first three days, and if he should exceed that time, shall pay two pence for every day afterwards.
- 13th A complaint of irregularity made against any member, and established to the satisfaction of a majority of the Society, shall subject himself to a fine of five shillings: A second complaint so established, he shall pay double the amount, and a third so established, he shall pay double the amount of the second.
- 14th If any person wishes to have a Book a second time, he may have it, by application to the Secretary, after its circulation.

Exceptions

- 15th Volumes of Sermons in general, Books of Divinity, Law, and Physic, which are not on general subjects.
- 16th Limitation – No person shall order any Book above the value of Two Guineas, without the approbation of the Society.
- 17th These Rules may be altered, added to, or expunged at any future time by a majority of Votes.

Most of these rules were never altered or rescinded throughout the existence of the Society. The few changes that were made were small. They included the following: in 1815 the rule which asserted membership be restricted to residents of the Parish of Painswick was relaxed; in 1822 the number of members was increased from 16 to 18, and in 1831 to 20; and in 1858

“Resolved ... all books be forwarded on Monday – a member neglecting to do so will pay a price of 6d, and if he should neglect to forward a book on the next Monday a fine of one shilling more and the same fine of one shilling for every Subsequent Monday.”

Despite the apparent rigidity of the Rules, the Minute Book records at regular intervals concerns about a failure to adhere to the terms agreed. In particular, the Rules about punctual circulation and lost/missing books are a thorny issue throughout the entire history of the Society:-

1847 “Resolved ... in future 8 days be allowed for all periodical publications in circulation.”

1862 “The meeting directed the Secretary to enter in the Minute Book the titles of the works which ... have not been returned to the Secretary: also to remind members that they are liable to the same penalty for not forwarding a book to the Secretary (when out of circulation) as they would be for not forwarding it when in circulation to the next member in rotation.”

This is followed by a list of six missing books.

1866 – four books listed as missing.

1867 – another four books missing.

1868 – two books missing.

Such information is given in precise detail in the Minute Book and it is rather surprising therefore that nowhere is there a single mention of a book title, (that is to say, what we would define as a book). This presents something of a mystery and it must be assumed either that books were perhaps listed in another, as yet undiscovered, document, or that the books were in fact the many periodicals, frequently referred to as books, mentioned throughout the Minute Book and in the accounts. There are indications that there may have been books as such. In 1815 there is the following entry:

“Resolved, that all Novels be taken at two thirds of their original price by the person who orders them.”

In 1904 it is resolved

“...to discontinue the circulation of books and to confine its circulation to the magazines of the day.”

So, what do we know that our Painswick forefathers were reading and what does this tell us about them? We know from a very comprehensive list (see Appendix 1) that a range of periodicals and magazines was circulating at any given time and that these were discontinued and added to continually. The choice of titles was characteristic of Victorian middle-class reading fashion and reflected the burgeoning appetite for both fiction and non-fiction that typified the era. It is very important to understand that these magazines bore no resemblance to today’s glossy productions. For the Victorian public, periodicals played a far greater role than books in shaping their understanding of new discoveries and theories in science, technology and medicine. Serious articles on a variety of subjects ranged across diverse forms of periodicals.

The genres did change during the Painswick Book Society’s existence. The early part of the nineteenth century saw an explosion of periodicals most of which dealt with specific topics. For example, religious magazines were numerous and very popular – noticeably they did not feature in Painswick’s selections (15th Rule?). Likewise, radical political periodicals were very successful. In general, the magazines of this early period started as repositories of learning, aimed at the middle classes. Gradually they became much more literary and broadened their target audience, especially to include women. By the mid-nineteenth century there was a vast number of magazines many of which were referred to as shilling monthlies. By this time they had largely become hybrids, combining high quality, non-fictional essays with high-profile novels, stories and poems. (See Appendix 2 for typical list of contents in *Blackwood’s*.) Some remained more expensive e.g. *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine* at 2s-6d. The popular magazines now tended to avoid controversial subjects such as religion and politics. The editors were often literary men and the publications reflected this. *The Cornhill* magazine, with Thackeray as editor, was typical of the middle-class public culture of which Painswick

Book Society was very much a part. As well as its serialised fiction and poetry, its prominent articles on contemporary scientific issues would have addressed the professional concerns of the readers including our Painswick members. This formula was common to all the shilling monthlies. (See Appendix 3 for some magazine profiles)

Whilst this genre is strongly represented in the Society's choice of reading matter, it is clear that subject-specific periodicals were also popular. It is not surprising to find the *Farmer's Magazine* and the *Journal of Agriculture* for example, but others are perhaps more interesting inclusions. *The Builder*, whose masthead proclaimed it "An illustrated weekly magazine for the architect, engineer, constructor, sanitary reformer and art lover", dealt with the architectural controversies of the age including urban growth and the consequent social crises. Was this a subject close to the heart of Painswick?

The Sporting Magazine began in 1792. The front cover reads "...monthly calendar of the transactions of the turf, the chase and every other diversion, interesting to the man of pleasure, enterprise and spirit." We can only speculate as to whether our Painswick members were actively sporty or merely sedentary followers!

The *Magazine of Domestic Economy* set out to promote the Victorian ideal of family and home being at the heart of society. It purports to supply "...the principles and the practice of rendering the enjoyments of home more generally appreciated, and more habitually delightful", (Preface vol. I). The taking of this magazine by the Society in 1837 is interesting as it was during this decade that women began to be admitted as members in greater numbers. Would this publication have been read by only the women?



As women became more interested in the periodicals generally so the literary output increased. Many of the literary and poetic master works of the age were made accessible by serialisation in the magazines. Some of Dickens' novels were published thus, and so too were the works of Byron, Tennyson, Thackeray, Trollope, Eliot, Hardy and many more.

Painswick Book Society members in fact chose to read very broadly as is evidenced by the titles of the publications in the list. Art, farming, science, travel, sport, geography, etc as well as the many miscellanies presented in the popular general magazines were of interest apparently in Painswick. It is also worth noting that the magazines taken often present opposing political views e.g. the *Westminster Review*, a quarterly review, was established by James Mill and Jeremy Bentham in 1824 in opposition to the Whig-

supporting *Edinburgh Review* and the *Quarterly Review* that tended to support the Tories. Painswick members took all of these. Were they all representative of various members' views, or were the members keen to expand their own understanding? Many of the publications used a deliberately confrontational style in order to address a broader middle-class audience. Many of them also moved their persuasions over the years, usually as a result of changes of editors or mergers. The overall summary is that members of the Painswick Book Society were reading serialisations of novels, comments on a wide range of topical issues and information on a range of specific subjects.

The members themselves tended on the whole to be drawn from the ranks of the squires, parsons, lawyers, doctors and clothiers of Painswick. In the early years there were very few women and of those few most were the widows of deceased members, invited to take their husbands' places. The Memento of the Society does provide some information about some of the members. The name of Thomas Jones Howell, who lived at Prinknash Park,

"...has found its way into the *Dictionary of National Biography*... Four members of the Society have represented Stroud in Parliament, namely Mr. W.H.Hyett, his son-in-law Mr. S.S.Dickinson, Mr. W.J.Stanton, and Mr.A.J.Stanton... Every vicar of Painswick who held the living during the 19th century, except one, joined the Society as did the Medical Men who practised in the parish... Mr. John Humpage, Mr. Joseph Wollen, Mr. Henry Cox Goodlake, Mr. William Gardner, Mr. Alfred Gyde, Mr. Richard Gardner and Mr. Sampson. The Rev. Charles Neville, who was at one time Curate of Painswick & afterwards Vicar of Sheepscombe ... is the "Mr.N-" frequently referred to in ... "*The Peaceful Valley; or the Influence of Religion*," ... published in 1825. Some of the members, besides Mr. Howell, have been writers as well as readers. ... Oade Roberts ... the brother of Mary Roberts who wrote ... "*Annals of my Village*", Mr. W.H.Hyett, Major Hawkins Fisher, Mrs. S.S.Dickinson, Mr. F.A.Hyett... But to Mr. St.Clair Baddeley of Castle Hall,... must be accorded the highest place in the Field of Letters that has been attained by any member of the Club.

...Mention must also be made of "*Our Family History*"... it consists of a Memoir of the Little, Palling, Caruthers, Butler, and White Families, written and privately printed by the present Secretary of the Society. Representatives of the first four of these families have from time to time joined the Society, and during the centenary of its existence, not a single year has elapsed when either the name of Little or Palling was not to be found in its Roll of Members."

For most of its existence there would appear to be no problem about recruiting members – there may even have been a waiting list. Vacancies were always filled immediately and many members remained in the Society until their deaths. It is noted in the Memento in 1877, for example,

"This Meeting desires to record its sorrowful regret at the decease [sic] of W.H.Hyett who for fifty five years had been a respected and valued member of this Society."

And in 1884,

"The death since their last meeting of their old and valued friend W.Capel

prompts the members of the Society to express their sincere regret at the loss of one who had been for the long period of 50 years a member of their Club."

Certainly for the first few decades the members were a fairly tight-knit local group, but gradually this relaxed and membership appears to have opened out to include people from further afield i.e. Stroud, and more women. There was even a meeting called specially in January 1878 because

"Miss Wemyss having intimated a wish to join the Society the Secretary called a meeting of the Members to elect her whereupon she was admitted a Member thereof."

There seems to have been only one unfortunate occurrence among the members. The Rev. Robert Strong, having taken offence at a book in circulation (it would certainly be interesting to know which book), caused a special meeting to be called in April 1838 and at which a resolution was passed which ended:

"It is the opinion of the meeting also that under the above Regulation the Secretary should withhold from circulation such Books as seem to him calculated to wound the moral and religious feelings of the members; but they think that Mr Strong must see that it is impossible for the secretary to exercise that power in all cases, inasmuch as he cannot read all the Books ordered."

Despite this attempt to deal with the ever-sensitive issue of censorship, the situation did result in the Rev. Strong and four other members withdrawing from the Society at the next A.G.M. Rev. Strong was re-admitted in 1858.

The finances of the society seem always to have been healthy although occasionally members apparently defaulted on payments. For seven years from 1823 the balance in hand (£85-5s-6d in 1823) is noted as being "exclusive of debt owed by Mr B Davis of £10-4s-7d" and in 1847 it was resolved that "the debt of the late Mr Lambe be cancelled and the books he had bought be sold to the best bidder". The subscriptions were one guinea for most of the life of the society but were increased to two guineas between 1831 and 1843 and to 30/- for one year when the members took out a subscription costing £5-5s to Mudie's Select Library which would entitle them to 15 volumes of "class A" books. In 1904 the subscriptions were reduced to a half guinea when they decided no longer to take books but only periodicals. The books and periodicals in the years covered by the account book (1885-1907) were purchased predominately from "Whites Bookseller" but there were also payments to Mudie's and Smith & Sons (possibly W H Smith of today) and at the end of the society's life the periodicals were purchased through T Hart, Dispensing Chemist, Stationer and Newsagent in Painswick, and Mr Spring (the Post Office) was used for "delivery of books and periodicals".

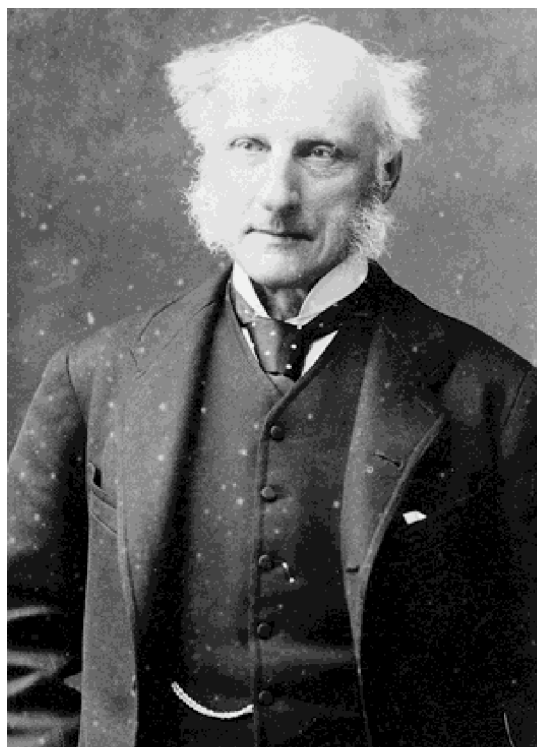
The only officer was the Secretary and for a large part of the Society's existence this position was filled quite extraordinarily by just two people. For the first few years there was a succession of men in the role, the longest tenure being held by Mr John Little from 1813 to 1822. On his resignation a book of the value of £5-5s, which was a vast sum by ordinary standards, was presented to him. In 1823 Mr Weston Hickes was elected Secretary and his term of office came to an end only with his death in 1864. His place was taken by Mr Edward Caruthers Little whose death in 1907 was deeply felt. It was a widely held opinion that the Society's success and prolonged existence were largely due

to the way he had managed its affairs. He had been a member since 1853.

The Annual meetings of the Society were deemed to be very important. From 1804 to 1886 they were held at the Falcon Hotel. Members enjoyed dinner together and then conducted the business of selling off the year's books. After 1886 the Meetings were held in the houses of members with invited guests including the rather illustrious Prince of Siam in 1906. Somewhat quaintly, when the dinners were held at the Falcon, members were fined 5s for non-attendance; and in 1863 it was resolved that members who had dined but left the room before 10.00pm should be fined 5s.

Painswick Book Society's longevity is rather exceptional considering it hardly changed its original format throughout. The Free Library and Museum Act 1860 encouraged the provision of a network of lending libraries and news rooms, supplementing the existing subscription and private libraries. A progressive increase in the literacy skills of the nation and the provision of schooling accelerated this process. This opened up possibilities for self-improvement on a vast scale hitherto unknown. Where book societies such as Painswick's continued to exist it was generally in an adapted form. Not so in Painswick.

In 1904, in commemoration of its centenary, Francis Adams Hyett wrote *A Memento of the Painswick Book Society* which outlined its history. These little books were specially printed in Chipping Camden by the Guild of Handicraft and are classic examples of the Arts and Crafts style practised there by the Essex House Press. This had started in 1902 using presses that had come from William Morris's Kelmscott Press. The Memento is typical of its output using rich, dark type on handmade paper, decorated initials and wood-engraved illustrations, and bound in matt-textured paper. The typeface, Endeavour, and illustrations were designed by C.R.Ashbee. Only twenty copies were printed. Of these, two were given to each of the eight members who subscribed to the printing, viz Miss Osburn, Miss Wemyss, Mr St Clair Baddeley, Mr W.H.Herbert, Mr F.A.Hyett, Mr J.C.Little, Colonel Little and The Rev.W.H.Seddon. The other four, one of which was beautifully bound in red morocco, were presented to Mr Edward Caruthers Little, the Secretary, at the Annual Dinner on 27 September 1904, "as a token of their gratitude for his services to the Society during the past forty years."



Edward Caruthers Little 1888

With Mr Little's death in 1907, it was decided that, in view of the fact that public and circulating libraries made access to books so easy, the Society had ceased to serve its purpose. Books to the value of £35-11s-9d, being the balance of the Society's accounts, were presented to The Painswick Working Men's Club and Institute. On 29 September 1907 the Painswick Book Society was officially dissolved.

Appendix 1

All of the following were taken by the Society at various times:-

<i>New Monthly Magazine</i>	<i>The Athenaeum</i>	<i>Contemporary Review</i>
<i>British Critic</i>	<i>The Builder</i>	<i>19th Century Magazine</i>
<i>Eclectic Review</i>	<i>The Farmer's Magazine</i>	<i>Bailey's Sporting Magazine</i>
<i>Quarterly Review</i>	<i>Chambers Journal</i>	<i>Picturesque Europe</i>
<i>Monthly Review</i>	<i>Bentley's Miscellany</i>	<i>The Australian Magazine</i>
<i>Blackwoods Edinburgh Magazine</i>	<i>Westminster Review</i>	<i>Harpers Magazine</i>
<i>Foreign Quarterly</i>	<i>The Art Journal</i>	<i>The National Review</i>
<i>United Service Journal</i>	<i>Macmillan's Magazine</i>	<i>The English Illustrated Magazine</i>
<i>The London Mechanic</i>	<i>Cornhill Magazine</i>	<i>Longman's Magazine</i>
<i>Fraser's Magazine</i>	<i>All Round the World</i>	<i>Temple Bar</i>
<i>Analyst</i>	<i>The Popular Sciences Review</i>	<i>Fortnightly Review</i>
<i>Magazine of Domestic Economy</i>	<i>All the Year Round</i>	<i>The Cosmopolitan Magazine</i>
<i>Quarterly Journal of Agriculture</i>	<i>Dublin University Magazine</i>	<i>Strand Magazine</i>
<i>The Gardener's Magazine</i>	<i>The London Society</i>	<i>The Studio</i>
<i>Polytechnic Review</i>	<i>Quarterly Journal of Science</i>	
<i>The New Sporting Magazine</i>	<i>St James Magazine</i>	

Appendix 2

Contents list from *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, No.CCCXXXI, May 1843, Vol.LIII

Dumas in Italy.
Ammalet Bek. A True Tale of the Caucasus from the Russian of Marlinski.
Reynold's Discourses. Conclusion.
Leap-Year. A Tale.
The Battle of the Blocks. The Paving Question.
Poems and Ballads of Schiller – No. VIII.
Natural History of Salmon and Sea-Trout.
Caleb Stukely. Part the Last.
Commercial Policy. Spain.

Appendix 3

Magazine profiles

New Monthly Magazine – first published in 1821, it was primarily a literary journal, contained original prose and poetry, covering a rich variety of subjects.

Chamber's Journal - popular literature, science and the arts.

Fraser's Magazine – a general literary Tory journal founded in 1830. Contributors included Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, Thomas Carlyle, William Makepeace Thackeray.

The Athenaeum – started in 1832, a weekly literary review. Contributors included Robert Browning, Thomas Carlyle, Charles Lamb. Finally absorbed by the *New Statesman* 1931.

Bentley's Miscellany – published fiction and literary criticism. Strong on serials e.g. *Oliver Twist*, *Fall of the House of Usher*. Dickens was one of the early editors.

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine – founded in 1817, a true miscellany and very confrontational in style, it covered a broad range of subjects including economics, art, literature, politics, philosophy. It was very influential.

Temple Bar – first published in 1860, always contained two serial novels, some short stories, three poems and six articles dealing with political, social, religious, literary, historical, geographical or moral issues.

Appendix 4

The members. The first date before a name is the year of election to the Society, the second of resignation or death, a 'c' the last attendance at a meeting.

1804	Nathaniel Iles Butler	1839-41	Mr Roebuck, Paradise House
1804-31	John Little, Pitchcombe House	1839	Mr Lambe
1804	J.Bedwell	1840	Mrs Roebuck, Paradise House
1804-c1830	John Wight	1841-48	Rev.William Roach (Curate of Painswick, afterwards Vicar of Whiteshill)
1804-c1822	Edward Wight		
1804	Nathaniel Osborne	1843-58	George Edwards
1804-c1816	John Packer	1843-50	Miss Bradstock, Brown's Hill
1804-c1842	Charles Horlick	1844-49	Mr Marklove, Lullingworth
1804	Oade Roberts, Yew Tree House.	1844	Rev.James Niven, Curate of Painswick
1804	John Fearon, Painswick Vicarage	1845-47	Alfred Gyde, New Street
1804	S.Button	1846-48	Randolph Robinson, Gyde House
1804-c1808	B.Butler	1848-65	James Ackers, Prinknash Park
1804	John Knowles	1848-60	Henry Cox Goodlake, Hambutts House
1806-1831	John Cox, Olivers	1848-53	William Freston
1806-c1808	B.Davis	1849-57	Mrs Marklove, Lullingworth
1808-c1828	Robert Wight	1849-51	William Savory, Eckfield
1807	Samuel Clutterbuck	1850-52	Mrs Walker, Paradise House
1813-c1838	John Humpage	1850-51	Major Cox, Damsells
1813-c1831	E.W.Viner	1850-51	Captain Massey, Brown's Hill
1813-c1815	S.W.Compton	1851-54	Captain M.M.Wroot, Beacon House
1814-c1841	Joseph Wight	1851-52	The Rev.J.Wason
1814-c1830	William Baylis, jun.	1851-84	William Gardner, New Street
1814	Mrs Wane	1852-53	Richard Wyatt, afterwards of Hill House, Stroud
1815	George Garlick		
1816	William King, jun.	1852-53	The Rev.Robert Strong, jun.
1816	William Knight	1853-56	The Rev.Robert Strong, sen. (re-admitted)
1820	Weston Hickes, then of Lullingworth, afterwards of Washwell House	1853-55	Major Samuel Maltby
1820-54	William Palling, the Sheep House	1853-1907	Edward Caruthers Little (then residing with his father at Pitchcombe House, afterwards of Woodside, Slad and Field Place, Paken Hill).
1820	The Rev.Charles Neville		
1821-23	Charles Mathias	1854-78	Sebastian Stewart Dickinson, Brown's Hill
1821-38	The Rev. Robt. Strong, Painswick Vicarage	1854-57	C.Goddard
1822-77	William Henry Hyett, Painswick House	1854-56	Mr Fletcher
1823-38	Charles Thomas Cox	1854-55	George Richard Coles, Castle Hale
1824	Charles Gyde, New Street, Painswick	1854-56	W. Freston(re-admitted)
c1824-c1828	Luke Wilmot	1855-58	Mr Proctor, Olivers
1824-57	Charles Baker, Washwell House	1855-67	Mr Reynolds
1827	William Baylis, Castle Hale	1855-61	Joseph Watts Hallewell, Stratford House, Stroud
1828	Mr Palin	1856-67	Rev.Arthur Biddell, Painswick Vicarage
1830	Joseph Wollen, New St & Beacon House	1857-71	Robert Tanner, Castle Godwin
1830-31	Mrs Cox	1857-67	Sidney Biddell, Farm Hill, Stroud
1831	Mrs Garlick	1857-68	Major Charles Hawkins Fisher, The Castle, Stroud
1831-48	Mrs Viner	1858-59	Edward Wood Mason, Beacon House, Painswick
1831	Mr Haines, The Croft	1859	Captain Brook Kay (now Sir Brook Kay) of Prospect House (now Gwynfa) Painswick
1831-c1847	Thomas Jones Howell, Prinknash Park		
1831-1832	Mr Ferrers	1860-67	Richard Gardner, surgeon, New Street
1832-38	Edmund Gilling Hallewell, Paradise House	1860-62	The Rev.Jeffries Hills
1833-84	William Capel, the Grove	1860	Mrs Wemyss, Stratford Cottage
1833	Mr Ireland	1861	George Richard Coles, Castle Hale (re-admitted)
1833-47	Charles Gyde, New Street		
1834-38	G.Cullerne		
1834	Thomas Clutterbuck		
1836-38	C.Smith		
1836-42	Edward Palling Caruthers, Brown's Hill		
1837	Mrs Evans, Brown's Hill		
1838-39	Edward B.Wight		

1862-70	James T.Stanton, of the Culls near Stroud (afterwards of the Leaze, Stonehouse)	1877	Miss Wemyss, Washwell House
1863-75	Walter J.Stanton, now of Stratford Lodge	1878-80	Dr Armstrong, Stratford Cottage
1863	General Ramsay, Castle Hale	1878-c 1885	Mrs Dickinson, Brown's Hill
1863-65	Mrs Niblett	1880-88	Hamilton Mills
1864-68	Charles Codrington, Tocknell's Court	1880-83	R.B.Parsons
1864-65	Leonard Strong	1881-84	Rev.R.Strong, The Slad Vicarage
1864-77	Herbert Hastings, the Vatch Mills, Slad	1881-93	Dr Collins, Steanbridge House
1865-69	Mrs Stanton	1883-94	Edward Hope Percival, Kimsbury House
1867	Mrs Charles Stanton, Upfield, Paken Hill	1884-1903	Rev.Thos.Palling Little, The Edge Vicarage
1869-70	Chas. Mansfield, Frome Hall, Stroud	1884-94	Robert Taylor, The Edge House
1869-80	Joseph T.Fisher	1884	Mrs Capel, The Grove
1868	W.Heelas	1886-93	Rev.W.H.Seddon, Painswick Vicarage
1869-74	Alfred J.Stanton, The Thrupp	1888-90	H.W.Sampson, Hazelbury
1870	John C.Little, Pitchcombe House	1890-93	Rev.W.Guest-Williams, Painswick Vicarage
1871-78	Rich. Gardner(re-admitted)	1892-95	Colonel Atkinson, The Slad
c 1873-85	B.St.John Ackers, Prinknash Park	1892-94	Mrs Hamilton, Yew Tree House
1874-79	C.W.Kingdom, County of Gloucester Bank, Stroud	1892	W.Hawkins Herbert, Paradise House
1874-77	Rev.W.S.Middleton (Curate of Painswick)	1892-95	Colonel Wratislaw, Tocknell's Court
1874	Geo.Watts, Hambutts House	1893	Miss Osburn, The Edge House
1875-1903	Major C.H.Fisher(re-admitted)	1896	W.St.Clair Baddeley, Castle Hale
1876	Miss Stanton	1897	Colonel Little, The Laburnums, Pitchcombe
1877	Francis Adams Hyett, Painswick House	1898	Rev.W.H.Seddon(re-admitted), Painswick Vicarage
1877-86	Rev.Herbert McCrea, Painswick Vicarage	1901-02	St.John Mildmay, Tocknell's Court

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- 1 www.british-fiction.cf.ac.uk *British Fiction 1800-1829* Cardiff University
- 2 *Library History Database*, Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London
- 3 Alston, Robin www.r-alston.co.uk

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Mr & Mrs Little for the loan of the primary sources (The Minute Book, A *Memento of the Painswick Book Society* and the accounts book from 1885 - 1907)

General information on 19th century book clubs and periodicals was obtained from:

A.Sullivan(ed.) *British Literary Magazines* Greenwood Press, 1983-86

The British Library, Humanities Reference Service

Waterloo Directory of English Newspapers and Periodicals, North Waterloo Academic Press, 2003

The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals

Professor Gowan Dawson, Leicester University

General information on the Essex House Press was obtained from:

A Select Bibliography of the Principal Modern Presses Public and Private in Great Britain and Ireland, The Club, 1928

This is one of nine similar sheets in poor condition which came into my possession quite fortuitously, arousing deep curiosity about the existence of such a society and prompting my quest for more information about the Painswick group and nineteenth century reading groups generally. A plea for help in *The Beacon* resulted in a telephone call from Mrs Joan Little with the news that in her keeping were *The Minute Book*, a copy of *A Memento of the Painswick Book Society* and an accounts book from 1885, safe in Pitchcombe House. Without access to these primary sources, this article would not have been possible.

New Sporting Magazine
No 71

PAINSWICK
BOOK SOCIETY.

Ordered by *the society*
To be kept 5 Days, Vol. Price £ — 2/6

	RECEIVED.	FORWARDED.
Mr. Charles Baker.....	Dec 21	Dec 26
Rev. James Niven.....	Dec 26	Dec 31
Mr. Charles Gyde.....	31	Jan 5
Mr. Alfred Gyde	5	10
Mr. Marklove.....	Nov. 6	Nov. 11
Mr. William Palling.....	11	16
Mrs. Viner.....	16	21
Miss Bradstock.....	21	26
Mr. Capel.....		
Mr. Edwards.....	25	5
Rev. W. Roach.....	5	11
Mr. Hyett	11	16
Mr. Randolph Robinson.....	16	21
Mr. Weston Hickes, (Secretary)		

A circulation sheet for one of the periodicals - *The Sporting Magazine* - taken by the Painswick Book Society dating from 1846

PAINSWICK, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1791

taken from

Universal British Directory, 1791

Painswick is a small town, but an extensive populous parish, in which the clothing business is carried on to a very great extent. The church is a large Gothic building, consisting of a nave, two aisles, three galleries and three chancels, with a handsome altar-piece, erected in 1743. There is a quarry of very fine free-stone in the neighbourhood of Painswick, and it has a nominal market on Tuesday, and two annual fairs, viz Tuesday in Whitsun-week, and the 19th of September. This place is distant from Gloucester six miles, Stroud three, Cheltenham ten, London ninety-four.

Post in and out every day. The Gloucester and Bath coach passes through three times a-week. Several carriers pass daily. Principal inn is the Falcon.

The following are the principal inhabitants:

Gentry

Caruthers Mrs Grace
Davis William, Gent. Wellclose
Duroure Hon. Colonel
Howell John, Esq. Prinknash Park
Hyett Benjamin, Esq.
Newland Mrs
Townsend Theyer, Esq.
Webb Nicholas, Esq.
Webb Samuel, Esq.
Week Mrs Anne
Week Mrs Elizabeth
Week Mrs Mary

Clergy

Metcalf Rev. William, Brimpsfield
Moseley Rev John, Vicar
Winter Cornelius, Dissenting Minister

Physic

Jenner John, Surgeon and Apothecary
Poulton Richard, Apothecary

Law

Burgh and Bryant, Attorneys

Traders etc

Adey Daniel, Yeoman
Bishop Joseph, Maltster
Bishop John, Yeoman
Bridges Michael, Baker
Bryan John, Mason

Cooke Thomas, Mealman
Cother William, Yeoman
Cox Elizabeth, Clothier
Cutts Edward, Mealman and Maltster
Davis Joseph, Shopkeeper
Dowell John, Yeoman
Driver Nathan, Clothier
Frankis Thomas, Yeoman
Gainey Daniel, Yeoman
Gardner John, Clothier
Gardner Edward, Clothier
Hewett John, Yeoman
Hinton William, Shopkeeper
Hogg William and Samuel, Butchers
Holder John, Butcher
Holder Jacob, Postmaster and Innkeeper
Horlick Charles, Clothier
Knight William, Clothier
Loveday John, Yeoman
Loveday Thomas, Shopkeeper
Loveday William, Maltster
Merrell Daniel, Baker
Parker Edward, Clothier
Parrat and Son, Bakers
Pegler Leonard, Innholder
Smith Thomas, Yeoman
Stanley James, Clothier
Walker John, Clothier
Walker Thomas, Clothier

SOCIETY EVENTS IN 2005

compiled by

Gwen Welch

A PAINSWICK MISCELLANY

In the first meeting of the year, David Archard and Helen Briggs gave some reminiscences of Painswick and an account of some of its traditions and legends, from the last 50 years. David talked of the building of the church porch in 1967 and the care that had to be taken with old gravestones and vaults that were uncovered during the work. There were photographs of some Painswickians who were involved, including Derek Hodges, churchwarden, and a very youthful David Archard.

Helen and David told many Painswick stories: the 100th yew that will not grow; the bellringers' ten-gallon pot that disappeared from the church tower and was found in Wales; the puppy dog pie offered to the men from Stroud; the weathercock from the church spire that was peppered with gun shot and has ended up in Stroud Museum. The stories were interspersed with readings of poems by local authors.

Recorded extracts from "Down Your Way", which visited Painswick in 1975, included interviews by Brian Johnston with the vicar, Rev Harold Heal and Jack Smythe, the manager of Brookhouse Mill, who gave many details of the pin manufacturing which was still continuing at the time.

Finally, David and Helen talked of farming in Painswick, and played the interview by Brian Johnston with Stan Slinger of Jenkins Farm, upon whose land the first Painswick Show was held in 1946, to raise money for the new vicarage.

BEFORE MY TIME !

In February, Richard Savage gave a talk on the archeology of Crickley Hill, a talk that was enriched by superb aerial photographs. Exploration of the site began in 1969, and for many years annual summer digs were carried out by up to 100 volunteers from countries around the world. Eventually, about half of the total nine acre site was investigated. The importance of the site was enhanced by its position on the hypothetical Jurassic Way trade route. The first human activity at Crickley appears to date from the Neolithic period, from about 4,000BC and there is evidence of later occupation in the Early Bronze and Iron Ages. Numerous flint arrowheads have been discovered, many of them clustered around the entrance to the fortified site, indicating that at some time there was a determined attempt to capture the hillfort by bowmen. The excavated site was restored at the conclusion of the series of digs and there are no current plans to open up the remainder.

THE PAINSWICK PLAYERS

The history of the Painswick Players presented by members of the Players at the March meeting is published in this issue of the *Painswick Chronicle*.

MEMBERS' RESEARCH EVENING

Barbara Blatchley explained that the great oak tree, known as the Painswick Oak,

standing in a field between Edge Farm and Packhurst Farm near Edge indicates an earlier field boundary which has long disappeared. It is thought that the oak may have been here for as long as 800 years; its tremendous girth and hollowed structure certainly testifies to many centuries through which the tree has survived. Barbara gave a chronological account of events in history which the tree may have 'witnessed'.

Peter Rowe's presentation on 'Telephones in Painswick' is incorporated in his article in this issue of *Painswick Chronicle*.

A VILLA WITH A VIEW ?

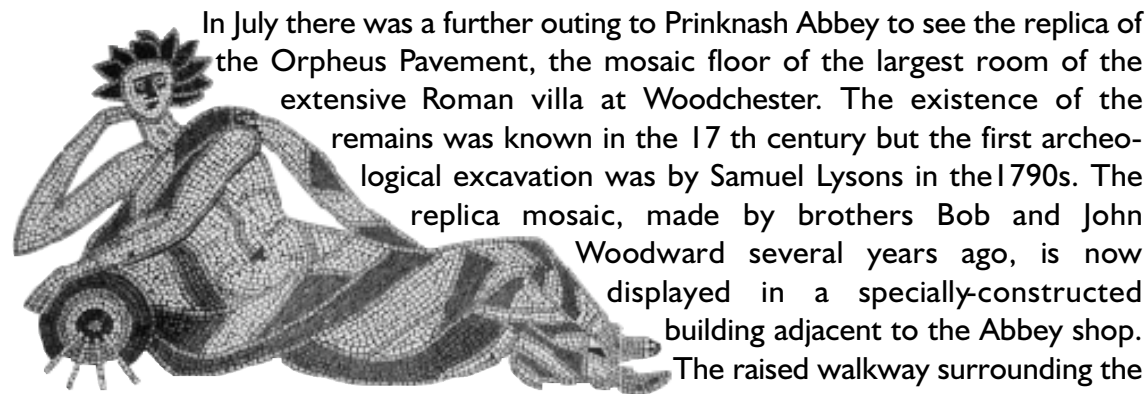
Why would a Roman family choose to build its home in the middle of nowhere ? In the case of Witcombe Villa it just had to be for the stunning setting. Second only to Chedworth, this is the best preserved Roman villa in the Cotswolds and in May members of the Society were taken on a guided tour of the remains by Neil Holbrook



of the Cotswold Archeological Trust. The site is a bit of an enigma, not least because various digging campaigns have removed so much over the years. It was discovered by accident and first excavated by Samuel Lysons in 1818. During the 1950s there was a major excavation by Ernest Greenfield but nothing was published and, furthermore, he constructed some low outline walls in an attempt to replicate the original. Much of what is visible today is 1960s Roman! Even so, there is plenty of evidence at Witcombe to indicate a very large H-shaped house, a very imposing hillside edifice with rooms on different levels. The villa, possibly constructed in the 2nd century, appears to have been abandoned between the 4th and 5th centuries. Five years ago it was realised that there was another courtyard and more building further down the hill. This was a huge villa, owned by a very wealthy family.

This is a difficult and strange site to understand, but Neil Holbrook laid out, in a fascinating way, a number of the possible theories about the villa.

THE ORPHEUS PAVEMENT



In July there was a further outing to Prinknash Abbey to see the replica of the Orpheus Pavement, the mosaic floor of the largest room of the extensive Roman villa at Woodchester. The existence of the remains was known in the 17th century but the first archaeological excavation was by Samuel Lysons in the 1790s. The replica mosaic, made by brothers Bob and John Woodward several years ago, is now displayed in a specially-constructed building adjacent to the Abbey shop. The raised walkway surrounding the

exhibit provides an excellent viewpoint from which to admire the beauty and intricate design of the mosaic and the fine workmanship of its execution.

EARLY EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

In October the Society heard John Loosely explain the reasons why, in the first half of the 19th century, many men, women and children left this country, hoping to find a better life in Australia. Emigration to Australia was largely a response to social and economic factors. The decline in employment within the traditional home-based trades of the local cloth-making industry resulted in hardship and even starvation in many parts of the Stroud valleys. People were forced to seek relief in the workhouse, resulting in additional charges on the Parish. Many of these paupers were encouraged to emigrate to the expanding colony. The Parish Vestry provided basic clothing and the cost of travel to the port of Bristol. Conditions on board were cramped, with two adults to a 6ft by 3ft bed, but cleanliness was enforced and everyone was expected to contribute their various domestic skills. The voyage could take up to four months and inevitably took its toll on the most vulnerable, especially children who were particularly at risk from outbreaks of measles which had a mortality rate as high as 50%. These risks, however, did not deter nearly one million people who chose to emigrate and settle in Australia by the middle of the century.

THOSE MALVERN HILLS

At the November meeting Mark Bowden, a past chairman of the Society who works for English Heritage, talked about the history of the Malvern Hills. He has made a survey of the hills and his talk was illustrated with some magnificent aerial pictures of the hills and camps. The rocks are extremely old at 680 million years. One of the main features of the hills is the abundant supply of water which never seems to run dry. Cremations from the Bronze Age, 1500 BC, have been found, but the main features are the two Iron Age camps on Midsummer Hill in the south and the Herefordshire Beacon in the centre of the range. Both of these have many hut circles within their boundaries, but not much archeology has been carried out.

A dyke or boundary ditch runs slightly below the level of the main ridge of the hills and on their eastern side. This is thought to have been built as a result of a dispute between Gilbert de Clare, the Lord of Gloucester, and the Bishop of Hereford in 1287. However, there is evidence in places that, to some extent, this old boundary pre-dates the Iron Age camps, as part of it runs under the ditches of the British Camp. There is little evidence of occupation of the hills in mediaeval times, with Ledbury being the only significant settlement in the area. The town of Great Malvern itself came into existence in the early 19th century in the area around Great Malvern Priory. There were a number of mediaeval castles, but the largest of these, Bronsil Castle, was demolished by Lord Beauchamp in the 19th century and the stone used to build Eastnor Castle.

The Llanthony Connection References

Due to the need to meet the printer's deadline for Painswick Chronicle Number 8, I was unable to complete the reference sources in time. These are set out below in the order in which they occur in the paper.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
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| West, John and Margaret | <i>A History of Hereforashire</i> , 1985, pp 33 the Pre-Norman map. Phillimore, Chichester. |
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| Gerald of Wales | <i>The Journey Through Wales</i> ; translated by Lewis Thorpe, Penguin Classics. |
| Remfrey, Paul Martin | <i>Longtown Castle</i> , 1997. ISBN 1 899376 - 29 - 1 |
| Craster, DE | <i>Llanthony Priory</i> , Gwent 1963 HMSO. |
| Fancourt, FD | <i>Llanthony Priory, a History and Guide</i> , 1980. B. A. Hathaway, Nailsworth. |

Charter of Cecily, Countess of Hereford, confirming to Llanthony Secunda, the church of Painswick given to the Cannons by her grandfather, Hugh de Laci.

A 11 no 1, date probably between 7 April 1174 and 9 August 1179.

Camden Misc. XXII, p 40, paras 65 and 66.

Cedric Nielsen

Painswick Local History Society Publications

Painswick Chronicle Number 1 (out of print)

Painswick Chronicle Number 2 (out of print)

Painswick Chronicle Number 3

Painswick Chronicle Number 4

Painswick Chronicle Number 5

Painswick Chronicle Number 6

Painswick Chronicle Number 7

Painswick Chronicle Number 8

Painswick: Time Chart of a Cotswold Village

by Carl Moreland in association with Painswick Local History Society

Barks and Bites from Bow-Wow Land

Leaflet: *Painswick Milestone Project*

Also available from the Society:

Gyde Orphanage Remembered

