PAINSWICK CHRONICLE

The Post Office, Painswick

Painswick Local History Society

Number 1 1997

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:

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

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 £6.50 per person or £10 per couple. Membership application should be made to the Membership Secretary:

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The Society is grateful to John Bailey for the cover illustration of Painswick Post Office and the drawing of the teasels, and to Jennifer Barnett for the drawing of the Friends Meeting House.

ISSN 1461-0787

PAINSWICK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: Lord Dickinson

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I write these introductory remarks to the first issue of the Painswick Local History Society's journal.

The Society has now been in existence for more than seven years, and we have for some time felt a need for a periodical which would publish and preserve articles on our local history which might otherwise so easily be lost and forgotten. These articles would be drawn from the researches of our members and others, or the talks given by the speakers at our meetings, or the gems stored in the memories of older residents. It is all material too valuable to be lost. Hence this journal.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard work of the committee which has laboured over this publication - John Bailey, the Society's Research Secretary, Hywel James, Carol Maxwell, and Gwen Welch. It has taken a long time because they were determined to set the highest possible standards both in content and presentation. I hope the result of their efforts will give pleasure and instruction to all its readers and be the forerunner of many more issues in years to come.

Peter Minall
Chairman

This issue has been greatly assisted by a £100 grant from the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. We are most grateful to them.

We should like to express our gratitude to Father Peter at Prinknash Abbey for his invaluable advice and help with the presentation and printing of this issue.

Contents

THE HYETTS AND DICKINSONS OF PAINSWICK

A Talk Given By Lord Dickinson to the Society at the AGM in June 1996

When I was asked to give this talk about the Hyetts and the Dickinsons I accepted with some misgivings. It wasn't a subject that I had at my finger tips. My brothers and I were not brought up in Painswick. Neither my grandparents' house, Washwell, nor the Hyetts' home, Painswick House, were our homes. Our early childhood had been spent in Livingstone in Zambia where my father had a position in the Colonial Service, with short breaks on my mother's family farm in South Africa. We were based at Washwell for two or three years before my father died in 1935 and later spent parts of holidays with the Hyetts. I don't remember that there was any talk about the previous generation of either family, and, and course, my mother, being South African, had never met any of them; and, after all, we were only children at the time. I do remember Francis Hyett only as a very old man who did not speak much. Now that I have read up more about him, this recollection bears no resemblance to the sharp-witted, intellectual and rather frightening martinet that he must have been.

So I have had to start from scratch and dig through the newspaper cuttings, obituary notices and other material we have at home. It has been very interesting. All sorts of things have come to light which I had no idea of. No longer are the people just names from the past. Their personalities have come out of the shadows.

There is not enough material that I have been able to put my hands on to talk only about the Painswick aspect of these families. For the principal people concerned, most of their activities were further afield - in Stroud, Gloucester and the County generally.

First to arrive in Painswick were the Hyetts, who originated in the Forest of Dean and subsequently moved to Gloucester. Three generations of the family successfully practised as attorneys, and through their work, and also to some extent by advantageous marriages, a fortune was built up. By 1735 Charles Hyett was very well-to-do. He lived in one of the finest houses in Gloucester with a large right-angled garden stretching to open fields and down to the docks. He also owned a number of properties around Gloucester, one of which was on the outskirts of Painswick. Here he decided to build a new mansion. It took more than two years to complete and he called it "Buenos Aires" because of the fine air of Painswick. He had little time to enjoy his new house because he died in 1739.

Two sons succeeded him, one after the other, and his only grandchild, who died in 1810 without children.

A family history written by Sir Francis Hyett provides considerable information about these early Hyetts, but nothing in it refers to any activities in Painswick. All four of them who lived in Painswick House were prominently connected with Gloucester. Each of them in his time was Constable of Gloucester Castle, an honorary but lucrative appointment, and two represented Gloucester in Parliament. A third might also have been an MP, but his father's attempt to buy him a seat came to nothing.

Although there is no record of anything particular about Painswick, one has to bear in mind that the presence of a large establishment so close to the village must have had a considerable impact on the economy of the place. In the building of the house undoubtedly local craftsmen and workers would have been employed. New job opportunities would have arisen, once the house had been completed, for domestic staff, for people to look after the horses and the carriages and in maintaining the gardens. Local tradesmen of all kinds would have had increased business from this new large household: and this would have been even more so in the next century when the house almost doubled in size and presumably the establishment to match.

Those were the times when the owner of the big house was the "Squire". He owned three or four farms in the neighbourhood. He had houses in the village and owned allotments. As the local Justice of the Peace he would have dealt with misdemeanours. Simply by being there, those three generations of Hyetts must have had a large influence on the life of the community. Perhaps they were also philanthropists. But there is no record of that.

Unlike the first family, there is a lot of surviving material about the second Hyett family. Both William Hyett and his youngest son, Francis, who succeeded him, kept newspaper cuttings in which they featured, and both privately printed some of their speeches and important correspondence. Together with other family documents these give an impressive record of service to the County, in the competent administration of public affairs, in the advance of education and in the care of the mentally ill and the physically handicapped.

William Adams was the second cousin once removed of the wife of Benjamin, the last of the early Hyetts. Having no children of his own, Benjamin bequeathed all his property to this fortunate young man of 16. Soon after moving to Painswick House with his mother he changed his name to Hyett.

Having completed his education William proceeded to travel extensively in Europe with friends from University, spending as much as a year at a time away from home. He ws on the field of Waterloo before all the bodies had been buried. He spent summers in Greece, Turkey, Italy and Switzerland and winters

in Rome. On a journey to Macedonia he engaged an artist to accompany him, and some of those paintings we still have at home.

In 1821 he married and settled down in Painswick. Their first child was born two years later, and their tenth in 1844.

William was a great man, both physically and in terms of ability and achievement. Obituary notices speak of his great stature and superb physique as well as his cheery voice and genial manner. I can remember being told that at an agricultural show in the park he challenged anyone to beat him at wrestling. He swam the Helespont. He walked over most of the Highlands and his favourite sport was deer stalking.

After the Great Reform Bill of 1832, for the first time Stroud was able to elect a Member of Parliament and William contested the seat. There were three candidates, each of whom had identical political opinions; so the election was more a matter of popularity than of politics. There were 2,132 votes cast and William finished up with a majority of 400. In the Painswick district there were 152 voters 151 of these voted for him, and the one who didn't later called at Painswick House to apologise. He said that he didn't think that Mr. Hyett went far enough on the slavery question.

In Parliament he allied himself to the Whigs, but soon became disillusioned with the political scene, deciding that members were more interested in proposals for the retention of power than for legislation for the good of the kingdom. Parliament was dissolved two years later and he did not stand again for re-election. From then on he devoted himself to local affairs.

For all his life William took a great interest in scientific agriculture. He was actively involved in the formation of the Farmers' Club in Gloucester and attended most of their meetings. There is a journal at home with a number of printed lectures and addresses which he gave to the Club. The format of these are as one would expect to find in an advanced text book, with highly technical and closely reasoned material supported by tables showing the results of experiments he had carried out himself on his own land. Subjects include experiments on the growth of the potatoe (sic); modes of comparing the nutritive values of different crops; the sanitary effects of land drainage; the chemical effects of different manures on particular crops, and the absorption of liquid solutions by growing timber. For his work on this subject he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

The improvement of education was close to William's heart, and he set about putting his ideas into practice in Painswick. In 1844 he got the new free school built, and two years later the building of the new national school, for which he

gave the plans and the bulk of the subscriptions. Later he organised the amalgamation of the two schools.

Trained teachers were provided, and through his influence and his purse his aim of keeping pupils at school until they were 13 or 14 was achieved. It was a hands-on operation. He caused one of the rooms to be converted into a carpenters shop, and in another set up a printing press. Every afternoon the boys were taught in one or other of these skills.

He attached much importance to the cultivation of mental accuracy. For two years he himself taught mechanical drawing and he insisted on the boys being made to master the first two books of Euclid. His object was not just to educate printers or carpenters or draughtsmen but generally to start youths active and intelligent in any line of life which might be open to them.

There is a newspaper cutting from The Times in 1879, 2 years after William's death, with an article in which the writer discusses the reform of education and the necessity of learning the three Rs properly so that elementary science could be understood. In it the writer says:- "The use of elementary science teaching will be to help the child think about his surroundings, and for this purpose the most practical instruction is to teach the science of seeing. Many years ago a benevolent Gloucestershire squire (William Hyett) set himself to teach the science of "seeing" to the children in the village school, and as a means thereto he taught them to draw. The effect of the consequent awakening of their observing faculties was that many of these children made their way into positions much superior to those in which they were born, and some of them have gained considerable prosperity.

The children were allured to see; and when they saw it soon became easy and natural for them to think".

In 1838 William became involved in the proposal to extend the railway network. It was a time of increasing unemployment. Local mills were closing because they were becoming uncompetitive with northern industries which had the benefit of cheaper distribution by rail transport. In a printed letter to David Ricardo on the advantages to the poor to be derived from the early commencement of the railway through the Stroud valley, he argues that a reduction in transport costs would enable industry to compete again, and that the effects of the recession would be considerably reduced in these valleys. He mentions that he could remember when there were 24 active mills on the Painswick stream compared with the handful still operating.

The care and treatment of mentally ill people had always been a matter of con-

cern to William. In the course of his travels he always made a point of visiting local mental institutions. In 1862 he was one of the principal founders and benefactors of the Barnwood mental asylum, and in its records is described as the first chairman and practically the originator of that institution. When it started up he went to live there for two months to make certain that everything was being managed in the way he approved of.

The hospital itself survived for more than 100 years, and the charitable trust today is the largest in the County helping the physically and mentally disabled. Francis Hyett was chairman for 42 years. His daughter, Margaret was on the Committee, and currently I am chairman.

Another of William's concerns was the absence locally of a specialised eye hospital. It was then the practice for ordinary general surgeons to be responsible for ophthalmic disorders and their specialised knowledge of this branch of medicine was hazy to say the least. For a long time he campaigned for the setting up of an eye hospital in Gloucester. Eventually this was achieved and specialists duly appointed.

William died in 1877. Of his ten children, four were boys. The eldest son died at the age of 25, two died in infancy, and it was the youngest, Francis who succeeded to the property.

Like his father, Francis was a scholar with a sharp enquiring mind. Like his father he did a tremendous lot for the County, but in a different way. William ws an innovator, a man of ideas with the time and the means to see them through. Francis was a barrister by training and his forte was in administration - the administration of justice in Quarter Sessions, and in the competent running of the County Council Education Committee of the County Council and all the other committees in which he ws involved. He threw himself whole-heartedly into everything he took on, mastering every detail. He was impatient with prevarication or waffle and did not hesitate to let this be known. My Dickinson aunts used to say that they were all terrified of Uncle Francis and how sorry they were for his four daughters, all unmarried, whose lives he dominated. Not that I ever heard them complain. They admired and revered him; and so also, judging from his obituary notices, and letters of condolence received on his death, did a host of colleagues and contemporaries.

By the time Francis inherited, the property bore little resemblance to the estate which William had come in to. Gone was most of the land, and the family's lifestyle was much changed. Income from property was in decline and taxation rising. However, Francis managed to survive without earned income, though in greatly reduced circumstances. There were no luxuries. A description in one of

An aerial view of Painswick House

the obituary notices puts it like this:-

> "Had Sir Francis elected to pursue a professional career at the Bar, he must have in due course reached the highest positions which the English Judicature has to offer. He preferred the life of a country gentleman, not for the selfish enjoyment of its ease and independence, but in order to find, in its opportunities, scope for public service. It is common knowledge that the Squire of Painswick has been a comparatively poor man throughout his life with little more than has sufficed to maintain his estate, and that his rare abilities might have been applied to the greater enhancement of the family fortunes. All the greater therefore should be the County's appreciation of his life-long devotion to the public interest in service which has been a public asset of inestimable value"

Francis occupied most of the chief positions in the County administration and at one time simultaneously held the chairmanships of the County Council, the County Education Committee, the Gloucestershire Joint Standing Committee and Quarter Sessions. He was a magistrate for 70 years and a chairman of Quarter Sessions for 25...

He was one of the original members of the County Council having been returned for Painswick in the first election in 1879. In all the subsequent elections he was never opposed. He was the first chairman of the Painswick Parish Council and continued in that post until he resigned in 1905.

Other interests included the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society to which he contributed papers frequently. There is also mentioned a keen interest in acting, though I have not been able to find out anything more than that. Certainly all the family were well versed in Shakespeare's plays, and in later years I can remember Lucy quoting long extracts of these. After supper my cousins used to settle down to do the Times crossword puzzle. The quotations they did at once, but soon abandoned it if there were none.

I expect you are familiar with "The Painswick Annual Register" which is regularly quoted in the "Painswick Beacon". As far as I can find out, Francis founded this journal and was editor for ten years. Much later, in his eighties, he was editor of "Gloucestershire Countryside". Between times he wrote books. Among these were "Gloucester in National History", "Glimpses of the History of Painswick" and "A History of Florence".

He was a remarkable man.

Before going on to the next generation I should mention Mary, one of Francis's

many unmarried elder sisters. It is said of her that she worked splendidly for the good of her native village, and while she was here, no Sunday School teacher had more influence and no district visitor was more beloved. This may have to be checked, but it also said that the Painswick Flower and Industrial Show which has given so much pleasure and fostered so many healthy interests among the inhabitants of the district, owes its origin to her. It was she who promoted the first show and as Secretary was responsible for its management.

Life was difficult for his daughters when Francis died in 1941. It was not just the war that made survival in a big house a problem. It was the fact that Margaret and Lucy had no idea of what their capital or income was. It took ten years to sort out their father's will, and during that time they lived on small advances made by their solicitors.

The other two sisters left home to take up careers in teaching, and when I was a boy they were seldom around. Margaret and Lucy spent all their lives at Painswick House and they were concerned with almost everything that went on in the village. Lucy tended to take the lead and it was she who was the moving spirit in the Painswick Players for so many years. She produced and acted in dozens of plays, mostly in the Institute, but also in the gardens of her home. She also was on the County Council.

Both sisters were very handy. Margaret trained as a physiotherapist, and about the only time she was away from home was during the first World War when she joined a hospital unit in Serbia, at one stage being taken prisoner. From home she used to bicycle to work to the hospital in Gloucester every day, and if the weather was too bad for bicycling, she would walk. She was a JP for many years.

Both sisters spent time most days visiting old people in the village and seeing to their welfare. A major memorial to them is the 19 acre wood opposite our gates, which in 1946 they gave to Painswick in memory of their father and grandfather, who had planted it.

Lucy died in 1962 and Margaret in 1975. With their passing the second Hyett family came to an end; and we must now go back four generations to Frances Stephana, William Hyett's eldest and only married daughter who married Sebastian Dickinson.

Until Sebastian decided to settle in Gloucestershire in 1854 the Dickinsons had no connection with the county. His forbears had held senior positions in the

Army and in the Navy, and he had been largely brought up in London by his grandmother while his father was serving in India. Sebastian trained to be a barrister, and at the age of 25 started practising at the Bar in Bombay. It soon became apparent that the Bombay Bar was overcrowded with too many barristers chasing too little work; but it is a measure of his ability that before long he had become the most successful; and within 14 years had accumulated sufficient fortune to enable him to live comfortably for the rest of his life. As a measure of his income from legal work he wrote to his sister the year before he returned to England to say that he did not see the point of continuing to work for another year just for the sake of an extra £5,000. That ws a lot of money in 1853. But he thought it would be wrong to spend time on creating more wealth than he needed.

So at the age of 39, he retired and returned to England, determined to spend the rest of his life working for the good of the community. He bought or leased, I am not sure which, Browns Hill, a large stone Georgian house on the other side of the Painswick valley down towards Stroud.

The list of his involvement's, in local affairs is impressive. He was a magistrate, Chairman of the Stroud Board of the Poor Law Guardians and a member of the Barnwood mental hospital committee. He joined the Stroud Volunteers and was given command of a company, regularly attending all their drills and training sessions. He was on the committees of schools, clubs and institutes. Among these was the committee of management of the National schools of Painswick. He represented Stroud in Parliament for 5 years and was chairman of Quarter Sessions.

Like his father-in-law, William Hyett, education was one of his prime concerns. He considered it a simple matter of duty that those who had had the advantage of a good education should do their utmost to place education within the reach equally of all classes and denominations, and that the means of higher education should be within the grasp of everyone of ability.

As an example of this, Sebastian was the first secretary and general organiser of a new concept known as the Gloucestershire School Prize Association. The objective here was to institute examinations for children of primary schools and to give certificates and prizes to those who acquitted themselves well. The idea was also to encourage parents to leave their children longer at school and to get them to attend more regularly. There were no individual tests at that time. School inspectors only checked on the administration of the school and no

attempt was made to find out about a child's progress. The results of some of these tests was an eye-opener, with some very poor achievements. However, in the three years the scheme operated before tests were introduced by the State, marked improvements were shown in schools' performance.

Sebastian made time to establish in Stroud a School of Art, which he continued to manage for the rest of his life. When meetings were held there he was indefatigable in his efforts to ensure that they were a success. He would often call at every house in the principal streets of Stroud to encourage townspeople to attend, and generally managed to achieve crowded meetings.

Sebastian owned various properties in the area. One of these was Washwell House on the Cheltenham Road out of Painswick. In this he had installed his widowed sister, Mrs Weymss, with her daughters Harriet and Catherine. These two must have been the kindest of souls, particularly in their care of animals, which the lovely birdbath in the churchyard still reminds us of. When they both died in 1928 my grandfather, Willoughby, Sebastian's only son, decided to make Washwell his home.

Before 1928 there had been a period of 50 years when there had been no Dickinsons in the neighbourhood. Willoughby had lived all his working life in London. His career had embraced membership of the London Council when it was first formed, and subsequently becoming chairman of it; Member of Parliament for 12 years from 1906 to 1918; founder member of the League of Nations Society, which led later to the formation of the League of Nations; founder member, and later President of the World Alliance for promoting International Friendship through the Churches; and an early advocate for women's suffrage. As early as 1907 he moved a Bill in the House of Commons to give the vote to women. Although this got nowhere, he persevered steadily in working towards this end, and he was largely instrumental in eventually getting the measure through Parliament in 1918. At the time this was described as the greatest constitutional change since the Reform Act of 1832.

I can not remember my grandfather being much involved in Painswick affairs. He was a committee member of the Gyde Orphanage, as it was then called; but apart from that, and the long-running argument he and some other low church members of the congregation had with the rather high church vicar of the time, he spent his days on World Alliance affairs and in keeping in touch the many friends he had all over the world. He died in 1943.

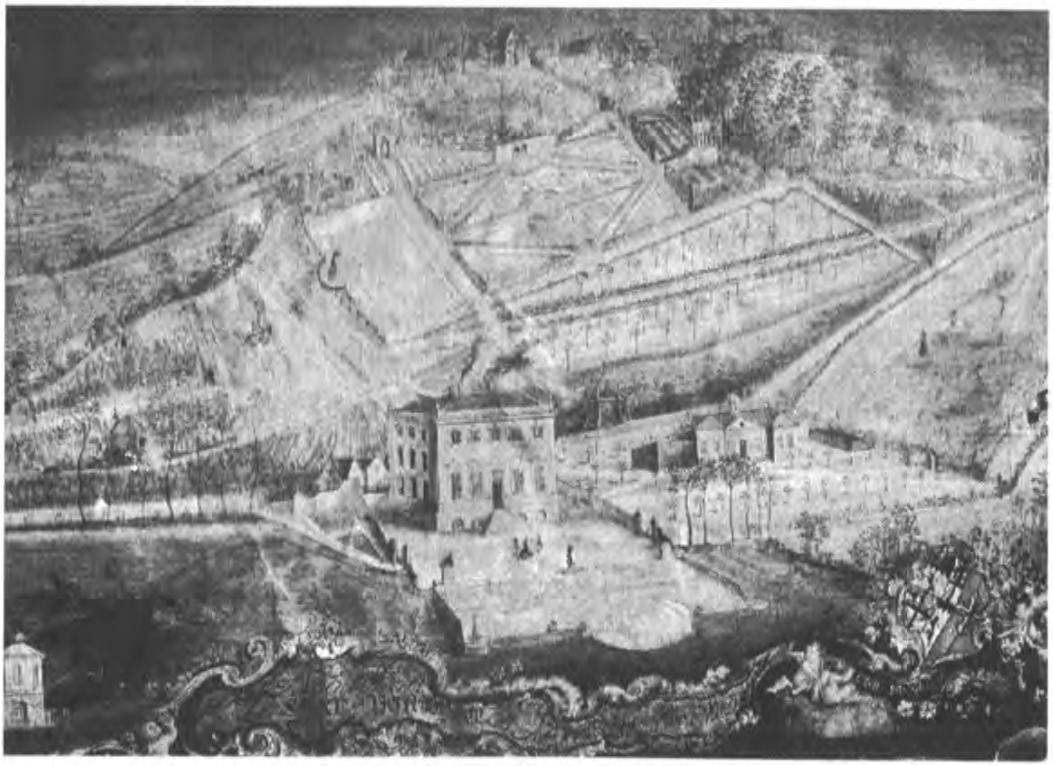
One of his sisters, Annie, lived on and off at the Poultry Court for a number of years. Together with Margaret Hyett she had been taken prisoner in a hospital unit in 1915 in Bosnia, and after the war she returned to that country to help

with relief work. In 1919 she helped with the formation of the Serbian Red Cross, and in the same year founded an orphanage there. Later, in Bosnia, she founded a school of woodwork. Her involvement with that part of the world must have lasted for several years, because I have a newspaper cutting of 1930 describing her latest venture at the age of 70, of setting up a chain of small hotels there. I have no record of how far that got.

None of Willoughby's three children lived in Painswick. Each of them in their different ways were gifted, spirited characters, inherited I expect from my dominating but lively Irish grandmother. The eldest married a schoolmaster; the second an MP, subsequently becoming an MP herself, and later, a member of the House of Lords.

In the Great War my father was in Royal Naval Air Service, and was awarded the DSO and the Croix de Guerre avec Palmes for a daring bomb raid on Constantinople. For the rest of his brief life he worked in Africa. To my lasting regret I remember him hardly at all. As you all know, my mother is still actively around, and long may that continue.

This has been a rather sketchy account of some of the members of three families, the first of whom came to Painswick 260 years ago. It is also probably incomplete and should have included connections with Painswick which I am unaware of. If any of you can fill in any gaps, I would very much like to know about them.



Painswick House showing Rococo Garden circa 1748 by Thomas Robbins.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF PAINSWICK

by

John Bailey

It is fitting in this first chronicle to dwell a little upon the name of our town and the derivation of each of the elements that combine to form that name, i.e. "Pains" and "wick"; and the numerous spellings of the name that have been identified.

No previous name is known that may have been used by Roman or later Romano-British occupation of the "parish". In the sixth century West Saxons conquered the area, which became part of the Anglo-Saxon sub-kingdom of Hwicce, part of Mercia. Subsequently Hwicce came under the overlordship of Wessex for a period. Fortunately the "parish" does not appear to have been directly affected by the Danish invaders in the tenth century. It is known, however, that prior to the death of King Edward the Confessor in 1064, the West Saxon village was then called "Wyke", which formed part of a very extensive manor. This name was derived from the Saxon term "wic", or Old Frisian "wyk", both meaning "village", or perhaps more correctly "dairy farm", for the Saxon communities tended to be spread in small hamlets and farmsteads, rather than farming villages as we understand the term. The Saxon "hamme", meaning "enclosed meadow-land" also still survives in Hamfield and Hambutts.

We know from the Domesday Book, 1086, that the Saxon Thane, Earnsige - Normanised version of his name, Ernisi - was Lord of the Manor. He was a man of considerable importance, being also the Manorial Lord of Miserden, Cranham, Swell, Siddington and other manors in the county. He was therefore holder of an extensive area of land which, at the time of the Conqueror's survey, had been divided out amongst five Norman Lords. Wiche - Domesday spelling - which included Cranham, was given to Walter de Laci, a friend of King William. Upon his death in 1085 at Hereford, the Manor passed to his second son, Roger de Laci (his eldest son was a monk). Roger was banished for insurrection in 1088 and the manor of Wyke passed to Hugh de Laci, Roger's brother.

"Wyke" appears to be the spelling most commonly used up to the middle of the 13th century, but the following additional spellings are also recorded:-

Wiche (1086)	Wicha (1211)	Wik
Wika	Wikes (1213-14)	Wyca
Wycke (1220)	Wyk (1212-15)	Wyke (1064)

In the middle of the 13th century, however, documents begin to show the additional element of our present name. The community became known as Wyke Paganni -

after the Norman, Pain Fitzjohn. The addition of "Paganni" - Saxon name for Pain - was made necessary to distinguish our growing community from other villages in the county and elsewhere, known by the same name - Wyck Rissington, Wickwar, Droitwich, were all originally called "Wick" (or an alternative spelling thereof).

Sir Robert Atkins, 1712, says that "Painswyke" was also previously known as "Michael's wike", but gives no authority for the statement; nor does any reason suggest itself as to why it should be so named.

Following the death of Hugh de Laci in 1121, without issue, the manor of Wyke was conferred by King Henry I upon Pain Fitzjohn, in the right of his wife, Sybilla, (nee de Laci), whom he had married before or about 1121. Sybilla was Hugh de Laci's niece and heiress, being the daughter of either Emma or Ermeline de Laci, sisters of Hugh. The second element of our name thus derives from this Norman Lord , Pain Fitzjohn. Something like one third of Walter de Laci's extensive possessions came to Pain, consisting of some 115 manors, of which Painswick was one of 27 in Gloucestershire. Pain was of the lesser Norman nobility, but was a powerful man of some considerable importance in the English border with Wales. There were frequent skirmishes with the Welsh in the borderland and Pain was one of those entrusted by King Henry with the protection of this boundary of the kingdom. He was Sheriff of Shropshire about 1127, and a pipe roll of 1130 shows that he was a judge in Staffordshire, Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire. During the latter part of King Henry's reign he was one of the King's principal councillors and was found to be a witness to a number of Royal Charters.

At the time of the succession of King Stephen in 1135, Pain was Sheriff of both Shropshire and Herefordshire. It was apparent that his allegiance to King Stephen was withheld at the beginning of the King's reign, but, like other Barons who initially held back, eventually supported him. Early in 1136 we find that Pain was a witness to King Stephen's Charter of Liberties.

At this time the Welsh were in revolt and fighting to free themselves from Norman rule. There was much activity along the borderland with the Normans trying to contain the Welsh advance. On 10th July 1137, Pain was killed by an arrow, whilst attacking the Welsh rebels in a border fight. His body was brought to Gloucester and was buried by the monks in the Chapter House of the then Abbey of St. Peter. Painswick was not the only village to be named after Pain Fitzjohn. In the borders, in the old county of Radnorshire, there is a further village, Painscastle - Castellum Paganni - which took his name and was the site of one of his borderland castles. The castle mound and bailey with surrounding ditches can still be seen in the gounds of Castle Farm. It was initially a stockaded castle, but was rebuilt in stone in 1251; it was later destroyed and only earthworks are visible now.

It is supposed that the name of Pain may well have been attached verbally to "Wyke" during Pain Fitzjohn's lifetime, but the earliest written reference showing both elements together appears over a hundred years after his death. An earlier document, a Charter of 1121, came close, in referring to the boundary between St. Peter's manor of Prinknash and the adjacent manor of Painswick, by the name of the Lord of the Manor - "the boundary between the monks and Paynfitz John". W.E. Wightman in "The Lacy Family" 1966, says, however, that there is some doubt, as to the authenticity of the document..

The first accepted written reference - Payneswik - is on a document dated the 47th year of the reign of Henry III, which is the regnal year 1262-63. Since that date, over some seven centuries, there have been many variations in the spelling of "Painswick". A list follows, for those who wish to ponder, of the numerous spellings, here given in alphabetical order, showing the date when first used (where date is known) -

Paigneswyk	(1376-77)	Payncowyke	(1275-76)
Paineswick	(1645)	Payndeswike	(1285)
Painesweke	(1573-74)	Paynesweke	(Q.Eliz.)
Paineswick	(Henry IV)	Payneswick	(1328-29)
Paineswicke	(1573-74)	Payneswicke	(1557-58)
Paineswike	(1573-74)	Payneswik	(1262-63)
Paineswyke	(1324-25)	Payneswike	(1535)
Painsik	(1708)	Paynneswyk	(K.Edwd.II)
Painsweeke	(1648)	Payngwyk	(1306)
Painsweke		Paynswick	(1556-67)
Painswicke		Paynswicke	(1598-99)
Painswik		Paynswike	(1541-42)
Painswike	(1712)	Paynswyk	(1342-43)
Painswyk		Paynysweke	(1535)
Paneswyk	(1494)		
Paneswyke	(1358-59)		
Panneswyke	(1538-39)	Peneswyke	(1550)
Pannyswyk	(1552-53)	Peyneswick	(1302)
Panswyk	(1758)	Penswyke	(1527)

Thirty-three spellings were published in the parish magazine of July 1888 (believed to be the work of C.T.Davis), and these have been supplemented from "The Place Names of Gloucestershire", making now forty-five. But it will be seen that the present spelling is not included, making forty-six! The earliest reference that I have seen on an original document of the present spelling is on a property deed dated 1714. If anyone knows of an earlier reference, I would appreciate a note of it.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE MAIL SERVICE AND THE POST OFFICE IN PAINSWICK

by

Trevor Radway

Definitions and Terminology

As long ago as 1661 Henry Bishop wrote "a stamp has been invented" but this was a date stamp brought into use in that year. It was not until May 1840 that adhesive stamps were issued and they were described in the sheet margins as "adhesive labels". The public preferred to call them stamps and indeed we still refer to postage stamps as just 'stamps'.

This simple terminology does cause the researcher problems when looking through Directories prior to 1840 as mention is sometimes made of the fact that tradesman A sells stamps. It is quite possible that they could have been similar to what we know today as the John Bull stamp for personal use and nothing whatever to do with the postal system. They could possibly have been impressed marks similar to those used on legal documents or other stamps used for Tax purposes.

In describing items I will therefore use the term **stamp** to cover a word or mark on a letter and a **postage stamp** as an adhesive.

History of the location of the Painswick Post Office

One reads of the Falcon being a Posting House. Do not be misled by this terminology. The OED definition refers to (a), A post Office or (b), An Inn or other house where horses are kept for the use of travellers and the term was in common usage in 1833. Posting was the means of travelling by relays of horses. It was not reasonable to expect one horse to go all the way from Gloucester to London for example so they were changed at frequent intervals, of perhaps ten or twelve miles, at Posting Houses. Here is scope for someone to investigate further.

1781-1794

A Painswick stamp was used on mail during this period so there must have been some form of Office. It certainly appeared in the 1793 List of Post Office Towns with the status of a sub-post town. That was probably a sub-office rather than a Receiving House which could have been the premises of another type of business altogether, such as a public house, inn, or shop for instance which just took in letters awaiting a carrier.

Painswick was thus superior to a Receiving House. The exact location of the sub-office is not known but a room at the Falcon Inn seems the most likely place.

1798
Jacob Holder shown as Postmaster and Innkeeper (Falcon)

1820
The earliest recording of a Post Office in Painswick, Ann Loveday being the Postmistress. Colleen Haine stated whereabouts unknown but probably New Street.

1839-1844
Robsons 1838 Glos. Directory lists Edmund Greaves in New Street as Postmaster and sub-distributor of stamps together with being a Chemist, Druggist, and purveyor of Patent Medicines. He was still there in 1844.

1848
P.K. Holder was recorded for the Post Office in New Street unsure where.

1851-1868
The census of 1851 lists Mrs Martha Holder, a widow, as Postmistress living in New Street, and Harrison Harrod Directory lists her again in 1859. Where in New Street is uncertain. Colleen Haine recorded her there in 1868. Samuel Holder, a grocer, lived at Canton House 1865-1867.

A group of postmen standing outside the Post Office in the early 1900's. Charlie West stands beside his bicycle on which he delivered mail to Cranham twice a day.

1860-1933

Thomas Spring purchased the 'bakery building' in 1860 for use as a grocers shop and is known as being Postmaster from 1868 until his death in 1899. The premises were then known as Spring, Edwards and Co. grocers, bakers and Post Office. Edward Thomas Spring became Sub-Postmaster. He is listed in Kelly's as still being there in 1931.

A sepia postcard produced by E.T. Spring and postally used in 1905 showing the Post Office.

1933-1997

When one looks at the present Post Office there is tendency to think it must be one of the oldest in the country. That is only partly true. The building itself was built in 1478 and is the oldest building actually housing a Post Office in the country. It has only been used as a Post Office since 1933 when the business moved from what is now Walklett's bakery some four doors down New Street. H.M. Strange was listed in Kelly's as being there in 1939.

Letters and Post Boxes

Envelopes came into use about the same time as adhesive stamps around 1840. Prior to that letters were folded sheets of paper often affixed with a personal seal or sealing wax. Who wrote them or received them? Well it certainly wasn't the ordinary artisan living in Vicarage Street for example. Many of those people were illiterate, never ventured beyond Stroud, and never had the need to correspond with anyone. Postage rates were VERY high compared to wages as prior to 1840 they were based on number of sheets of paper and distance

sent unlike today when we have a uniform rate of postage wherever the letter is sent in the country.

Letters were usually sent by such people as solicitors, architects, engineers, Lords and MP's and the aristocracy but very rarely the average man or woman.

Letter boxes came into use in 1852, the first one being in Jersey. The first in Gloucester was in 1854 made by Butt of Kingsholm. I do not know when the first letterbox was established in Painswick. Prior to that time it would have been usual to take your letter to the office and hand it in or give it to the postman in more urban areas often involving an additional fee.

It was not commonplace to actually pay for letters when handing them in prior to 1840. There were two choices; (a) they were handed in unpaid and the letter was stamped or marked in manuscript with a black mark in which case the recipient paid. (b) They could be paid for on handing in by the sender at the correct rate in which case the letter was stamped or marked in manuscript in red. After 1840 it became more usual to affix an adhesive stamp when sending the letter although letters could still be sent with cash payment, without adhesives, until 1853.

The Postal Stamps and Cancellations

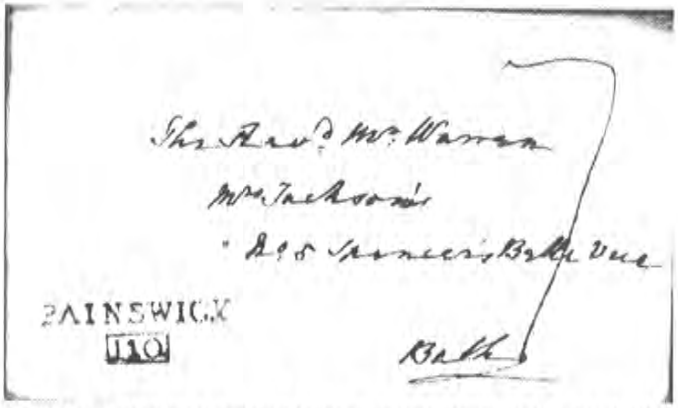
The first recorded handstamp is a 55mm x 8mm mark used from 1781 to 1794. My diagram is of the assumed script as I have not seen one.

PAINSWICK

As stated previously Painswick appeared in the 1793 Post Office List of Post Towns so it was relatively important. It was also reported that "Post in and out every day - the Gloucester and Bath coach passes through three times a week".

The next was a larger 63mm x 8mm mark used in 1802. There is only one known example of this.

During the period 1805-26 a 38mm x 4mm mileage 110 straight line mark was used. The 110 was the assessed distance from London upon which the basis for establishing the postal rate was calculated. The other factor was the number of sheets of paper in the letter, which included the folded cover which was more often written on the reverse to save money. These examples are now referred to as entires.



A letter dated March 15th 1805 written by Cornelius Winter. It was struck with a black PAINSWICK 110, the recipient having to pay 7d. This singe sheet to BATH was calculated on a distance of between 50 and 80 miles. The route would have been via Cirencester. Today the distance to Bath is just over 40 miles.

Between 1830-42 a straight line stamp about 38mm x 4mm was used but by this time the mileage had been removed. The reason being that with the building of new roads and bridges in the country the distances were liable to change fairly rapidly. During the late 1830's it also became possible to send mail by rail. Most Painswick mail still went via Cirencester.

A very rare PAINSWICK PENNY POST was used about 1834. The only known example is on an undated entire so one cannot be sure. In that year a penny post was set up from Cirencester through Edgeworth and Miserden to Painswick although Painswick was not itself a penny post from Cirencester. In fact the surveyor's sketch of the time shows Painswick served by horse post between Gloucester and Minchinhampton, both of which were on mailcoach routes. Painswick was probably on a second penny post ride, not covering the whole ride but as far as the principal village (Edgeworth) originating from Painswick and carrying letters that had reached Painswick from Gloucester. Painswick, having sub-office status, could certainly have been the origin of a penny post but it would have had to account for it through a post town, in this case Cirencester.

To expand a little, a penny post was a local system with the local postmaster getting a proportion of the receipts.

The mileage erased stamp was replaced with a large seriffed undated circular mark on 19th December 1843 and this was used until 19th February 1849. A Post Office instruction of 5th October 1841 said that from the next day Painswick letters were to be sent to Gloucester by the night mail and to Stroud by the day mail. At that time Painswick was a sub-office of Gloucester and it was subsequently transferred to Stroud on 29th March 1852.

Painswick was issued with a numeral canceller, number 314, in April 1844. This

has been recorded used between 17th April 1845 and 19th October 1858. The use of the canceller confirms the office's superior status. It seems likely that it had a Maltese Cross stamp prior to that but identification is difficult. I have seen one cover posted in Painswick where the adhesive is cancelled with a Maltese Cross.

On 15th July 1857 Painswick was sent its first circular datestamp, probably when it became a Money Order Office. Painswick was issued with a further single datestamp on 19th February 1861 and again on 28th April 1870.

In 1867 there was a re-arrangement of Gloucester, Witcombe, Painswick and Brimpsfield posts, according to Post Office Archives. Quite what that entailed is not stated.

19mm thimble stamps were used at the turn of the century, mainly for back-stamping incoming letters but also for cancelling the adhesive at least until October 1932. A 31mm skeleton stamp was used between 1907 and 1913 often in emergencies. They were loose pieces of type held together in a frame stating PAINSWICK 10.30AM 11JU 13 STROUD.

Then came a double circle handstamp with a bar at the bottom which was in regular use until about 1970 when all mail in the County of Gloucestershire was cancelled thus thereby losing the individual identity of small villages on the mail.

I am very ill-informed on the matter of Registration marks and Express Fee letters emanating from Painswick and would like to examine any examples prior to 1970. Indeed I would welcome the opportunity to examine any old letters prior to 1932 to further my knowledge.

EXCERPT FROM THE 1838 ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE STATE OF HAND-LOOM WEAVERS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Painswick

The Minister of Painswick, in deprecating the evil of beer-shops, considers that-

"They have done much to lower the moral feelings of the poorer classes in England. He states that, in the beer-house a poor man will find a comfortable fire and plenty of companions, whereas at home he may have but scanty fuel and noisy children. Thus, a man, in passing daily to and fro, is often tempted to enter, and to drink till ultimately his visits and his potations become habitual."

He moreover observes that-

"These houses give credit to a greater extent than duly licensed houses, which is another great temptation to a poor man. When, says he, there were only public-houses, the number was less; the persons who kept them were respectable; they would not give that credit which the beer-houses do, and they did not offer such facilities and attractions to the poor man. Added to this, the number of beer-houses that there are, the unfrequented places in which many are placed, the law which limits them to be closed at night is almost useless, for it would require a regular police to go round the country to enforce that law. It may well be conceived what favourable places for plotting evil and carrying it on are these beer-houses rendered.

For his own part he states, that he is convinced that no material good can ever be expected to be done to the country while they remain; and he believes, that many a family, once respectable, has reason to bemoan the passing of that bill, as one of the greatest evils brought to their doors. Only place yourself, he continues, in the situation of a poor man to see how great the temptations of such places must necessarily be to him; and when a father of a family once takes to drinking, he becomes at once a most thoroughly selfish being - all ties of family are forgotten - wife and children are neglected - every thing indeed is sacrificed to obtain drink!

It would doubtless, therefore, be a great blessing to remove the temptation to drunkenness out of the way of the poor people, and if they were thus taught to look for happiness at home, instead of seeking it in the beer-shops, there would be (putting religion out of the present question) some prospect of their becoming anxious for the education of their children.

There are certainly wanted additional means of education, especially day schools; but the disposition of the working classes for education is not very encouraging to anyone to attempt such a thing, as the far greater part are altogether indifferent on the subject. Where religion has made an impression, there a desire for education is awakened; parents become anxious for the training of their children, and are willing to exert themselves to obtain it; otherwise it appears to me that if they do send their children to school, they do it more as a sort of favour to you, and the children are left to do much as they like, but of course their interest is not much attended to.

The first requisite, as it appears to me, is to excite among the people a desire after education, for which, at present the greater number are without care. Where the parents are impressed with religion there is in general a feeling for the education of the children, that they may be properly trained; but this is not rarely found; one obstacle with the hand-loom weavers is want of money.

As to the working classes themselves desiring education, I do not think they do, but that they would willingly remain in ignorance and let their children grow up in the same state. Religion, as I before said, making the exception; to promote education, therefore, you must promote religion."

The dissenting minister of Painswick states that-

"This parish is not so disgraced by bigotry as many; our vicar is a gentleman of liberal mind, yet it is highly desirable that some system should exist, to the benefits of which dissenting children might have unshackled admittance. I cannot say that the working classes are anxious for extended instruction, though, generally, they set a high value upon the advantages of *sunday-schools*.

The number of hand-loom weavers has decreased much of late; many having been compelled to seek their bread by other means; hence the return will show a smaller number of hand-loom weavers' children than you will be prepared to receive.

I think the hand-loom weavers of this district may be justly considered a moral class of men, perhaps, compared with others - religious also. Their pecuniary state is deplorable, and it has been so for years, though not equally so. How many have supported life, it is difficult to say; I know some, who, during the last three or four years, have not had work more than half their time, and when working they have not earned more than 6s. or 7s. per week. Their looms, too, seem to have rendered them unfit for other labour when they have followed weaving for many years. The condition therefore of many aged men, whom I know, is very distressing."

CHILDHOOD REMINISCENCES OF PAINSWICK

by

Dorothy F. Gardner

(Who, as a child, lived at Damsells Mill)

I was born at Damsell's Mill in the year 1890, the youngest of nine (seven girls and two boys). The first boy was born after four girls so there was much rejoicing in the family and Painswick Church bells rang out in celebration! In all the years I lived at Painswick those bells were a joy to me. Ringers of the 12 bells came from many parts of England to ring them.

Although only six when the family left Damsells to live in Painswick, I still have many vivid and happy memories of my childhood at Damsells.

It was a lovely old house built of stone. There was a wide oak staircase, long landing and back stairs. We children had lots of fun there. Often, after we were sent to bed, four of us would creep down to the kitchen, move a candle so that no light shone up the stairs and have a game of 'hide and seek' making use of the many rooms and small cupboards. (Mother suffered from deafness and being in the dining room a long way from the kitchen would not hear us). In a large attic apples were stored for the winter. The door was fastened by a chain and I, being the smallest, was the one to be pushed through to do the scrumping. Although frightened to go up the stairs in the dark I would gather the apples in my night-ie and we ate them in bed! I wonder how many grubs we swallowed!

A dear old soul from Sheepscombe came to do our washing in a large wash house in the garden where there was a 'dolly' and large mangle. The clothes lines were in a field across the road. No spin dryers in those days! A zinc bath of hot water by the kitchen fire was used for our personal cleanliness.

Mother made excellent cowslip wine for which we children were packed off with baskets to pick as many as we could. I remember sitting on a high chair with the others pulling off the yellow flowers and packing them in to pint cups. I don't know what was her next procedure but I know the wine was good! Another of our tasks was to cut off the sides of hens' feathers for Mother to use in her making of feather beds and pillows. I still have some of those pillows.

My eldest sister attended a boarding school at Leamington Spa. I don't remember much about her at that time except that she came home for the holidays. She spent her weekends with Grandma Fall who lived with two Aunts of Mothers

at Leamington. One of these Aunts taught a blind boy to play the organ and later he was organist at a Church in Leamington for many years.

George and I thoroughly enjoyed the days when Father took us to visit a farm at Camp, also the lovely dinners they gave us! We gathered quantities of mushrooms in the fields and watercress in the brooks.

Walking along a path in a wood with my brother one day we suddenly saw a bull coming towards us. I dashed to a gap in the hedge, while my brother ran to close a gate leading to the lane. Alas, the bull followed me through the gap but fortunately ignored me and disappeared up the road.....we ran to Damsells Farm to warn them.

We loved haymaking time and a ride on a cart horse was my delight. We liked to pretend the corn stooks were our little houses and take turns in inviting one another to tea. I do not think children have such fun today. In the large garden a brook ran down the side and there was a pond at the back of the house. The brook continued under the road. Sometimes the floodgates were pulled up. We would remove our shoes and socks, take a bucket wade in and catch a fine lot of trout....and didn't we enjoy them! There was an open well at the bottom of the garden backed by an attractive rockery. One day my brother (2 years my senior) and I were bending over the well looking at a frog in the water when in I fell, head first! He managed to grasp my ankles and hauled me out!...none the worse.

Due to my father's heart condition we left Damsells to live at Fairview, in the Stroud Road. Our house had a lovely garden, (flower and kitchen), tennis court and croquet lawn, six lawns altogether plus an orchard carpeted with daffodils in the Spring. Mother was a keen gardener and in her conservatory grew yellow tomatoes which I consider have a very much nicer flavour than the red ones. I wonder why they are not produced so much nowadays?

For a few years four of us went to a private school at Byfield House, the Principals being Mrs. Finch and her sister Miss Young. Mrs. Finch was at one time Mother's help-companion and was married from Damsells. In the town at that time people were referred to as "Painswick bow-bows". The reason being that one year when the bell-ringers came it was said they were given 'bow-wow pie'. There was even a banner in the Church which was sometimes carried bearing a large pie on it. For one of the Painswick Park Shows my sister's bicycle was decorated to represent a Church tower. I was given the money to buy a 'big penny watch' - a fine big one it was but I was terribly upset because it did not chime! I also had a brooch with a little 'bow-wow' on it. At this show George came looking for me telling me to put my name down for the 'high jump'. To my dismay I found it was for the boys but the Vicar Mr. Seddon told me to join

in. To everyone's surprise I won it! Nor surprising to George and I as we often jumped over the tennis net and practised the art by placing a stick across two uprights with nails fixed up them at intervals so that the horizontal stick could be raised after each 'go' and if we didn't jump high enough it would fall. I was better at this than George.

For Queen Victoria's Jubilee we spent the previous day decorating our horse trap, cotton wool wound round the spokes of the wheels and masses of flowers all over with effective and beautiful results. I wore a white frock and a wreath of flowers on my head: my brother George proudly decked in sailor suit complete with whistle on a white lanyard, looking very smart! This day of days was spent at Painswick House Park. Huge marquees, a gorgeous tea, swing boats, games of all kinds and all the fun of the fair plus the Painswick Band which was an excellent one. Added to all this was the great pleasure of being presented with our Jubilee Mugs. This Park was the scene of many events including some first rate Flower Shows. The Squire and the Misses Hyett were grand people. One of the sisters started a girls' cricket club, to which I belonged. In one match against a team of boys we actually beat them!

With a large family such as ours 'pocket money' did not come our way. However we were each given a penny for the Church collection on Sundays. George and I did a bit of cheating quite often by putting a halfpenny in the bag and keeping the other ourselves. One Sunday when Father, as a sidesman, was taking the collection my halfpenny missed the bag and fell on the floor! I was horrified lest he should discover my wickedness as he and an old retired clergyman who had been sitting in the pew across the aisle started looking for the coin. They both saw it at the same time and bumped their heads together as they went to pick it up. This started George and I laughing so much it infected the choir boys and they started laughing also. I was almost hysterical, felt myself being lifted over the back of the pew, then out of the Church! Disgraceful! The Church and the Vicar were much loved. One morning a few days before Christmas I was asked to go to the shop to buy a shillingsworth of oranges. I returned with about 24 small ones, but my Mother, not being pleased with them told me to take them back to change them for better ones. On the way I met the Vicar. When I told him my story he took the large parcel from me and scattered the contents amongst a lot of children who were about. That worried me as I had no more money but the dear man accompanied me to the shop and bought a fresh lot for me.

Before cars came on the scene a horse bus went from Painswick to Stroud, Gloucester and Cheltenham. I remember the first bicycle as well as the first motor-car in Painswick. Sunday Schools were very active in many ways. One year we did "Puss-in-Boots!...great fun. An Artist from Sheepscombe painted cat faces which were worn as masks.

The Summer Sunday School Outing, always a pleasure to which we looked forward, sometimes took us to Birdlip Gardens by means of farm wagons as transport. Another event was the annual 'Clipping' Service at the Church in the month of September. Everyone joined hands outside, the Band played the hymns one of which was usually 'The Church's One Foundation'. A special clergyman would come and preach from the steps which led up to the tower. Collecting boxes fixed to long poles were held up for people to pop in their money from upper windows.

Two very eccentric ladies lived in an historic house in Painswick. They showed a friend and myself over it one day. We admired the handsome carved ceilings and staircase but we were both nervous and at each room one of us would remain in the doorway just in case they decided to lock us in! (We had heard that a girl had once been locked in a bedroom for a week, but don't know how true that was!)

Quite often they would ask us to go for a drive with them. They would get different firms to bring a car and take them out for a trial run without any intention of actually buying the car.

We called them the 'Dollie Masons', they looked like dressed dolls. It was amusing to see the one coming down the road wearing dainty white shoes and stockings, pretty dress, fancy pinafore, picture hat and white gloves and carrying a fancy basket full of corn on her way to feed the hens which they kept nearby. They painted their faces a rosy pink. They loved attending the local Police Court 'cos they could enjoy a little weep there! At church they had a pew to themselves until some friends of ours shared it, much to their disgust. After that it was always necessary to make sure that one of them was not holding a hatpin on the seat hoping that the interloper would sit on it!

One day when I was on my way home from Stroud School the Painswick Band was coming down the hill. Following the Band were men carrying an imitation scaffold supporting figures depicting the Dollie Masons. Like puppets the limbs were moved this way and that by their manipulators, much to the amusement of the crowds especially when one of the figures would raise a hand to dab its eyes with a handkerchief. After first taking them home they were taken to the pin mills beyond Painswick, they were dumped in the pond and 'drowned' The last I heard of the two eccentrics was that after one had died the other was removed to a mental home.

A Siamese Prince once came to Painswick to learn the building trade. I was about twelve when friends brought him to see us. He was very fond of tennis and one day during my school holidays he came and asked me to have a game. The

builders were working at a boys' school opposite and I asked him if he shouldn't be working, he replied that he really ought to be holding the ladder for a man on top of it but that he was quite all right! (I wonder if he was one of the King of Siam's descendants in the book "Anna and the King of Siam"?)

Shoe box making was thriving industry in Painswick in those days. Deliveries of cardboard were sent periodically to women in the cottages and they would do the assembly work. The cardboard came from Stroud. No matter what hard work had to be done everybody seemed to be happy and content with their lot in those days. Honest, too...no need to lock up our doors as we have to today unfortunately.

Footnote: Dorothy Gardner died about 20 years ago. The article and photographs were given by Gordon Gardner, as a distant relative and member of the Society.

Members of the Gardner family at Damsells.

The census return of 1891 (RG 12/2022) shows the following members of the Gardner family living at Damsell's Mill.

Charles Ford Gardner	Head	Age 47	Farmer & Miller	Born in Miserdine
Emma Jane "	Wife	43		Born in Reading
Alice Jane "		16		Born in Painswick
Edith "		15		"
Annie Elizabeth "		13		"
Eleanor "		11		"
Edward Charles "		9		"
Winifred Emma "		7		"
Catherine Mary "		4		"
George Edwin "		2		"
Amy Dorothy "		6 months		"
Fanny Elizabeth Richards		27	Domestic Servant	

Detail from 'Members of the Gardner family at Damsells'.

PAINSWICK FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE AND THE DELL BURIAL GROUND

An article written by Roland Pepper in 1978, with additional material (in italics) provided by James Hoyland in 1997

The Society of Friends emerged in the ferment of the 17th century, when religion for many was a clash between on the one hand High Church Laudian Royalists subscribing to the Divine right of Kings, and on the other hand Puritan Parliamentarians in considerable variety holding in common rigid, but by no means identical regard for the letter of the Bible; with Roman Catholics held in suspicion by both. Quakers fell into none of these categories: the message they proclaimed was to them 'primitive Christianity revived'. It grew from the religious experience of George Fox, which in 1647 when he was about 23 years of age, crystallized as a continuing experience of the immediate and guiding presence of Jesus Christ, available to all who would truly follow.

George Fox felt compelled to proclaim his message, first in the North of England in 1652, where many were convinced; and by 1654 he and they began a mission to the south, travelling and preaching through the country, usually in pairs, and aiming towards London, Norwich, Bristol and beyond.

Those centering on Bristol probably included in their travels Banbury, Cirencester, Tetbury, Nailsworth and Gloucester, because in most of those places, in spite of opposition, persecution and sometimes imprisonment, some became Quakers who themselves spread the message. They included Nathanial Cripps, A Justice of the Peace of Tetbury, and also John Roberts of Siddington near Cirencester, who became a Quaker after hearing one Richard Farnworth preach through the grating of Banbury Gaol, (where he had been imprisoned for omitting to take off his hat to the local Mayor). *It is said that George Fox himself rode through Gloucester in 1660 in peril of his life.*

It would have been by that personal spreading of the message that Quakers began in Painswick, probably in 1655 or 1656, where there would have been a fertile soil with the usual 17th century trouble with political parsons.

The first burial in the Dell Burial Ground was of "Ales, wife of Walter Humphries, 22.1.1657", and in the same Burial Ground there were over the years about 100 burials, including 16 members of the Loveday family. *The first priority for any Quaker community was the acquisition of a burial ground. Quakers, not having been baptised, were denied burial in consecrated ground. The Dell burial ground is reached by a rough track from Beech Lane to Dell Farm.*

The Lovedays were a very old Painswick family, settled there certainly since 1277, and for a long time they had been the chief millers, and holders of considerable land, including Dell Farm, and the land from there down to and including Loveday's Mill in the val-

ley below, and the land on the Painswick side up to Vicarage Street, and Loveday's House near the Church, now the Vicarage. They probably gave to the Friends the site of the Dell burial Ground and the site of the present Meeting House, both of which are mentioned in Quaker records as having been acquired in 1658. It is probable that Friends originally met in a barn or out-building on the site of the present Meeting House, which bears the date 1706, and which may or may not have incorporated some of the old building. *Alterations to the building took place in 1793. The original blocked off entrance can still be seen in the south wall with the date 1706 inscribed. The present porch at the east end of the building opens into a lobby with a staircaase leading into an upper room. This was used as accommodation for visiting Friends and most recently as a school room.*

The small burial ground in front of the Meeting House contains eight headstones including those of the Padbury family. The fine Portuguese laurel tree which stands in front of the Meeting House is thought to be as old as the building itself.

The Meeting House is furnished with wooden benches and a table in front of the Elders' bench This simplicity reflects the simplicity of Quaker worship which is based on silence.

The first Quaker marriage in Painswick is recorded in 1658. It is also recorded that a school was transferred from Nailsworth to Painswick in 1695 (though what became of it is unknown). What is certain, though, is that Quakers took an active interest in the education of their children.

In 1683 John Loveday was imprisoned for eight months for refusing to attend services in the Parish Church, and in 1685 goods to the value of £60 belonging to John Loveday Junior were distrained for a similar offence. Thomas Loveday, who died in 1690, built the nearby house now known as Yew Tree House and originally known as Mundays.

Thomas Loveday's daughter, Hannah, married in 1712 Axtell Roberts, the grandson of John Roberts of Siddington mentioned earlier. John Roberts' son, Daniel, wrote in 1725 "Some Memoirs of the Life of John Roberts", which after publication in 1746 ran into some 30 editions over a period of a hundred years.

Axtell and Hannah Roberts had various children, including Hannah and Deborah. Hannah married Joseph Davis, and their daughter Bridget was buried in the Meeting House Burial Ground as the first burial there on 4th March 1770. Deborah Roberts married Edward Loveday in about 1790, and their marriage was signalled by the monogram combining their names over the porch of Mundays.

A grandson of Axtell and Hannah Roberts, Daniel Roberts, went to live at Mundays in 1796 with his daughter, Mary, who wrote in 1831 the "Annals of my Village" a book which some rank with White's Selborne. A later Joseph Davis, a descendant of the same family, was a trustee of both the Painswick properties, and by an Indenture dated 2nd May 1870 conveyed them to William Alexander and eleven others as trustees.

There is very little historical record of Quakers in Painswick in the 18th and 19th centuries. It can be assumed, though, that they lived simple, abstemious and rather austere lives, a little apart from the rest of the community. They would have worn plain attire (Quaker bonnets and hats and so on) and eschewed music and the other arts. They were not allowed to enter the universities and were thus denied the professions. Their reputation for straight dealing, however, would have made them successful in their business enterprises, and many of them would have enjoyed relative prosperity. Much of this wealth would have been spent on philanthropy.

Although for many years there were many Quakers living in Painswick, their numbers declined during the 19th century, towards the end of which only two remained, Lydia Padbury, who lived at Hazelbury opposite the Lych Gate, and James Atkins, a botanist, who lived for many years at Rose Cottage in Butt Green, and who evolved the Cyclamen Atkinsii and the Myosotis Dissitiflora. It is said that those two worthies, in their eighties and the only two Quakers remaining in Painswick, did not consider it seemly to continue to meet unaccompanied, so that for the time being Friends' Meeting in Painswick ceased *(in 1894).*

One of the main reasons for the decline in numbers was the policy of disowning friends who married outside the Society. This disastrous policy was revoked in 1859 after much heated debate, but only after several thousand Quakers had been lost to the Society. Emigration also played a part here.

The Trustees owning the properties had the wisdom not to sell them, and the Meeting House was for some years until 1953 let on lease to a community of Plymouth Brethren. In the meantime, however, the number of Quakers living in or near Painswick gradually increased, to the extent that they began again to hold Meetings for Worship in Painswick, from October 1951 in the Congregational Schoolroom, and from 1st July 1953 in the Friends' Meeting House, of which possession was then resumed. Those Quakers included Geoffrey and Dorothea Hoyland, (she being a daughter of Dame Elizabeth Cadbury) and their son James, who is now practising as a doctor in Painswick, various members of the Nicholls family from Gloucester and the writer who had come to live in Painswick in 1948. There is now again an established Meeting with some 40 members.

As an interesting contrast with what would have happened in the 17th century, it may be mentioned that nowadays there is much co-operation between the Churches in Painswick, and that the Vicar and many Anglicans, the Ministers of the United Reformed and Baptist Churches and many of their members, with monks from the Benedictine Abbey at Prinknash and the Roman Catholic Parish Priest and members of that Church, have all joined in Friends' Meetings for Worship in Painswick Meeting House; and Quakers from time to time join with those others. Thus there is both historical continuity and true progress.

Sept. 1997

Brunswick: The Friends Meeting House

QUEEN VICTORIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE 1897

The 22nd June 1897 was the day appointed for the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign. She had succeeded to the throne on the death of King William IV on the 20th June 1837.

Jubilee celebrations commenced earlier in Painswick than in most places. For some minutes before midnight of the 21st, members of the Society of Ringers might have been seen stealthily wending their way through the churchyard to the Church tower. Directly the hour of midnight had struck, Jubilee Day was ushered in by the ringing of the "Queen's changes" by 12 members of the Society.

At 8 a.m. the bells were "fired" 60 times to mark the Queen's 60 years of reign. Short peals on 8, 10 or 12 bells were rung at intervals during the day.

A special service of thanksgiving was held in the Parish Church at 11.30 a.m. with the Rev. W.S. Guest-Williams officiating. The congregation included many non-conformists, and one of the lessons was read by the Congregational Minister, the Rev. S. Thomas. After the service the choir sang the National Anthem from the top of the Church tower, joined by a large crowd of people below in the Churchyard.

At 1 p.m. some 100 inhabitants, of 60 years or older, sat down to an excellent dinner in the Parish Room. The room had been prettily decorated with flowers for the occasion, and the dinner was well served by volunteer waiters and waitresses. The toast of "The Queen" was proposed by the Chairman, Mr. F.A. Hyett. "The Festivities Committee" were the toast of Dr. Ferguson, to which the Rev. F.C. Walsh responded. Mr. Baddeley, in well-chosen phrases, proposed the health of the Chairman and his family.

Meanwhile, dinner was being provided for the bell ringers at the Falcon Hotel, presided over by the Master, Mr W. Hale. The spread by the host, Mr Westcott, was everything that could be desired.

At 2 o'clock the children assembled in the Board Schools to receive medals and to join in the procession to the sports field. The procession was unique in the history of the town, consisting of floral decorated carriages. The procession started from the Falcon, wended its way up New Street and Gloucester Street and to the Avenue leading to Painswick House into the field known as the "Coach Field". There were 16 carriages in the procession headed by one of Miss Wemyss's carriages, happily decorated with evergreens. Next came Miss Burdock's handsome little pony trap artistically decorated in red, white and blue. Mrs Finch's trap contained a varied assortment of flowers nicely arranged. The

comic element was represented by Mr Voice, whose turn out afforded great amusement.

Queen Victoria's Jubilee Day.

Mr Maurice Ireland had one of his 'buses tastefully decorated with bunting as well as flowers. Miss Daveney's pony tub was a study in yellow and white and reflected great credit on the artiste. The tandem handled by Mr Hyett was very smartly turned out, the predominant colour being royal blue. Miss Savory's tub was simply a mass of flowers and those who prophesied an easy win for her were not mistaken. Great taste was displayed in the decorations and the two ladies in white costumes under a canopy of flowers looked simply charming. Miss Gardener's decorations were confined to wild flowers and looked very pretty. Miss Hardcastle made a pretty picture in a trap, the prevailing colours of whose decorations were red, white and blue. Miss Wemyss's cavalcade of Painswick fairies, in white, blue and green, was much admired, as was also Miss Thorold's carriage in yellow and white. Mr Clutterbuck showed an artistically arranged trap in pink and white. Miss Mendham's trap was decorated wholly with wild flowers, whilst Dr Ferguson brought up the rear with his two traps, one driven by himself, decorated prettily with floral designs. Master Ferguson's pony tub looked refreshingly cool in pale blue and white.

The carriages were judged by Mrs Baddeley, Miss Jones, Mr Herbert and the Rev W S Guest-Williams. First prize was awarded to Miss Savory's tub, second prize to Miss Wemyss whilst the third prize was taken by Dr Ferguson's dog cart.

A programme of sports had been arranged at 3 p.m. in the Coach Field, for young and old consisting of novelty races-

Girl's Skipping Race (under 15 years)

1	F. Baylis	2.	J. King	3.	R. Gyde

Sack Race

1	A. Ireland	2	A. Dredge	3	G. Harris

Human Donkey Race

1	F. Burdock	2	E. Gyde	3	A. Ireland

Egg and Spoon Race

1	H. Higgins	2	P. Daniels	3	G. Trow

Three Legged Race

1	Millard & Radford	2	Groves & Mills	3	Wigmore & Millard

Half Mile Open Race

1	N. Radford	2	Groves	3	Millard

Girls Egg & Spoon Race

1	Laura Thomas	2	Lily Pearce	3	Jessie King

Old Mens Race

1	Ash	2	Ireland

Old Womens Race

1	Mrs. Gardner	2	Mrs. Cooke

Wheelbarrow Race

1	Groves & Foxwell	2	Cook & Birt	3	West & Ireland

At 5 o'clock about 400 children, under 15, sat down to tea. The National Anthem was sung and thanks given to Mr. Hyett for use of his field. It was a coincidence that this same field had been used for the sports held in celebration of Queen Victoria's Coronation in 1838. After tea, an entertainment followed which included the Maypole Dance performed by the Girl's School, being a repeat of an item from their School Concert last Easter.

Perhaps the entertainment that followed at 7 o'clock was looked forward to with as much curiosity as pleasure, for Mr Phipps with the assistance of Messrs Reed, Peters, and Walker had arranged a Nigger entertainment in the open air. Miss Burdock was the pianist, Mr Reed first violin, Messrs Fryer and Dredge second violins, Dr Walker tambourine, Mr Phipps Bones and Master Burdock triangle. Mr Peters as "Massa Johnson", acted as middleman. Several of the songs, especially the choruses, went remarkably well, while the jokes brought roars of laughter from the crowd. "Bones" was irresistible both as regards costume and wit. "Tambo" in the opposite corner could play the fool as well as he played the sage. The entertainment lasted just over an hour and was thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed.

The streets of the town were bright with flags and flowers during the day, and were prettily illuminated with fairy lamps and Chinese lanterns at night.

The bonfire on the top of the Painswick Beacon was the crowning event of the day. Mr W.H. Burdock, assisted by Mr Finch (who built the 1887 Jubilee bonfire) was entrusted with building the immense bonfire. In the presence of almost the entire population of Painswick, upon the signal being given, the fire was ignited at 10 o'clock. No sooner was a light applied, than a tremendous blaze shot up and the red glare was to be seen for miles around. Not many minutes elapsed before some 50 other fires could be counted on almost every eminence of any height around. The fire burned until after 4 a.m. the following morning and without doubt was one of the finest in the Cotswolds.

It had been previously decided that the permanent celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee would take the form of much needed restoration work upon the Church clock. As a first instalment of this restoration, the clock face had been repainted and it was now possible to see the time with ease, which has not been the case for some years.

It was felt that the celebrations, from beginning to end, had been extremely successful and reflected much credit on the organising committee, especially Mr Hardcastle who acted as general secretary. The 22nd June was undoubtedly a "red-letter" day in the history of Painswick...

GYDE HOUSE

A talk given by Mr F.R. Semark to the Society on 18th March 1997

It was a beautiful afternoon in early October in 1928 that I arrived off the London coach along with my older sister and our Mother, at the bus stop opposite the Church. I was seven and my sister ten. We walked up Gloucester Street and so came upon the Gyde Orphanage, which to a small boy, looked overwhelmingly large. This was to be my home for the next nine years and subsequently, to have such a profound effect on my life. So what was this place that I had come to?

Gyde Orphanage was founded by Edwin Francis Gyde, a Victorian worthy and a bachelor who was born in Painswick in 1812 and who died at Ebley House in 1894. He was a very wealthy man and left the bulk of his fortune for the establishment of charitable institutions in Painswick, the two principal ones being the Almshouses, for which the sum of £10,000 was provided and the Orphanage, which was to receive the residuary estate, later estimated to be about £100,000. Unfortunately, the wording of the will was somewhat opaque and Charles Gyde, his next of kin, disputed its validity. The essence of the dispute lay in the wording of the principal bequests which required the trustees to hold the monies in trust ".....as soon as any land shall at any time be obtained or given for the purpose of employ the same" in erecting the Almshouses and the Orphanage. At the first hearing in 1898 the Court upheld the next of kin's claim by observing that the will was bad in law as the contingency on which the monies in question were to be applied (for the purchase of land) might never arise and were therefore deemed void. The Trustees of the Will, in that same year, went to the Court of Appeal which upheld them and reversed the Lower Court's decision. The next of kin again appealed but the Attorney General, who was obviously doubtful as to what the House of Lords might decide, allowed the case to be settled by the payment to the next of kin of one tenth of the Testator's estate on their undertaking not to renew their claim. I have been unable to ascertain in which year the Attorney General intervened but until land became available Edwin Gyde's bequest remained dormant for several years.

One of the Trustees of the Will was a Charles William Rushworth Ward, who lived in Bermondsey and to whom the Testator made substantial benefactions and also expressed a desire but not a direction that Mr Ward should take the name of Gyde. Whether he did so or not is unclear but it was he who resolved the impasse by offering, in two affidavits of 27th July, 1908 and 16th June, 1909, and sworn in his own name, the land on which both the Almshouses and the Orphanage now stand and which was conveyed in July 1910. A further five acres or so together with a Barn, was given by this same Mr Ward in November 1917 and the conveyance noted that Mr Sydney Berry had the tenancy until 1924. This land is now known

as the Gyde Barn and field and is tenanted by Mr Jack Hinds. The Scheme for the erection and administration of the almshouses was approved in the Chancery Court in 1910 and they were built at a cost of about £3,000 to a design by the well-known Sidney Barnsley and were opened in 1913.

However, the Orphanage Trust was still in difficulty since the Trustees now found themselves in contention with the Attorney General as to the way in which the Testator's wishes were to be fulfilled. These were that the Founder's residuary estate was to be applied for the erection and maintenance of an institution to be called "The Gyde Orphanage and Blind Deaf and Dumb Asylum" for the maintenance, education, training and support of orphan and poor blind and deaf and dumb children. The Trustees averred that the Testator in his will contemplated only one building to be erected but they had been advised and were satisfied that it was impossible to maintain, train and educate healthy and afflicted children (as they are rather quaintly described) in one and the same building. They then argued that three separate and distinct Institutions would be necessary, that is one for Orphans, one for Blind Children and one for Deaf and Dumb Children all with their separate staffs and teachers and that if the Residuary Fund were so divided the amount available to each Institution would be £33,000, which sum would be insufficient to erect, equip and maintain them. Furthermore, the Testator had directed that, in the selection of children, preference should be given in turn to those from Painswick, then from Stroud and then from the County of Gloucester. As a result of enquiries made by the Trustees, it was found that there were 138 eligible orphan children 20 blind children and 23 deaf and dumb children within the above territorial limits. It was also found that the Blind and Deaf Childrens Act of 1893 made provision for such afflicted children to be boarded out and to be educated in and at the expense of the County at a cost of £26 to £30 per annum per child. They therefore concluded the Testator's wishes were impractical and asked for other arrangements to be made to fulfil his wishes.

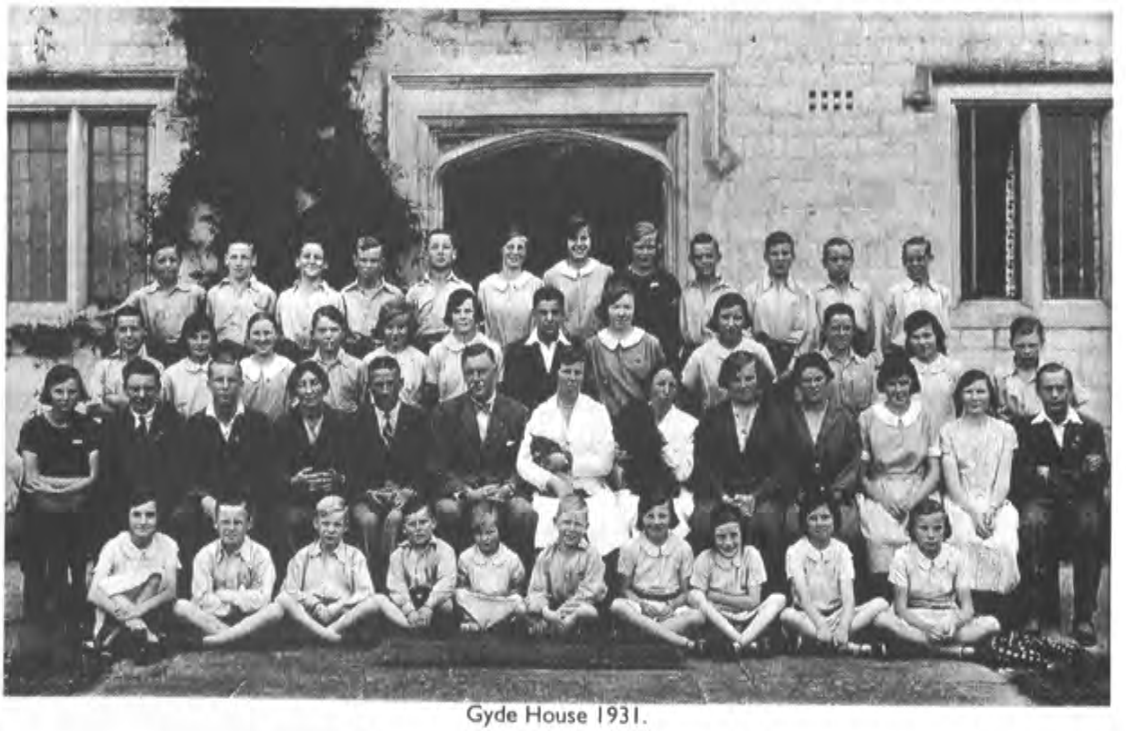
These arguments must have prevailed because in July 1909 a Scheme was submitted to the High Court which set up the Trusts which, with very little modification, continue to this day. The Scheme was in three parts. Part 1 set out the Application, Administration and Management of the Scheme, including the qualifications and election of the 12 Trustees. Part 2 set up the First Charity Fund by which an Endowment of £40,000 was invested in 2 1/2%. Consolidated Stock and the income applied for the benefit of Poor Blind and Poor Deaf and Dumb Children. Part 3 ordered that an Orphanage be erected and equipped to accommodate not less than 50 or more than 75 children at a cost, including all fees, of £12,000. The balance of the Founder's Residuary Estate was to be used to set up the Orphanage Fund and the income applied for the maintenance, education and training of poor Protestant children between the ages of 5 and 12 years. The Scheme was finally approved in January 1913 and the work of construction began the following year. The Orphanage was designed by Percy Richard Morley Horder. In his book, "The

Buildings of England - Gloucestershire and The Cotswolds" David Verey describes the architecture as urbane and in the best Morris tradition in its Edwardian phase. The building contract was awarded to Orchard and Peer of Stroud, the lowest of 8 tenders, in an amount of £14,900. Building work was delayed by the Great War and it was noted that great difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable materials. That, together with cost inflation caused by the War, resulted in the final spend being £18,280 and completion was delayed until 1919. The first children were admitted in 1920 and one of those was Mr Bert Wright, now in his eighties and living at Ashwell. It is worthy of note that, since this was a Scheme imposed by the Court, all the changes in the building specification had first to be referred to the Attorney General for sanction. The amount spent on these referrals, together with all the other legal fees in settling the will, must have been enormous and consumed a sizeable portion of the estate! The final amount transferred to the Trustees and which formed the Endowment Fund was £67,944 and was invested in 5% War Loan yielding an income of £3,397 4s 8d.

A word about value. I estimate the total of the Edwin Gyde Residuary Estate in 1919 was £126,000 which at present value would be £4,410,000; the amount spent building the Orphanage at to-day's prices would be £637,000 - but I guess it would need at least another million added to that number to produce its modern equivalent. The income from the two endowments was respectively, £1,000 and £3,397. In the 1931 Stock Market crash the Consolidated Stock fell catastrophically and the Government of the day devalued the 5% War Loan so that the income fell by a third to £2378. In my searches at the Record Office I came across an undated paper but it must have been written in late '32 or early '33 and reviewed the financial state of the Orphanage Trust after the War Loan devaluation, when its income fell by a third. At that time the cost of maintaining a child was £87 pa., and in July, 1933 there were 40 boys and girls costing £3480 pa., that is an operating loss on the revenue account of £1102 for the year in question. The Trustees concluded that they were unable to continue to run the Orphanage at that reduced level of income and thus it was that the National Childrens' Home was invited to take over its running, which they did from August, 1933. I was right in the middle of all this, along with 17 girls and 23 boys and it affected all of us in many different ways.

When I arrived in 1928, the Orphanage was run by Captain and Mrs King - he a retired Army Officer and she an ex-nurse, assisted by a small staff and with other ladies coming from the village to do the laundry (we had our own) and the other housework and the cooking. The grounds were maintained by Fred Parry, an ex-naval man, and later on, Bill Hanks. We generated our own electricity (110 volts dc.) and the power-plant was maintained by Fred Davis. I recall that the boys, including me, used to play "chicken" by seeing who could keep their fingers across the mains the longest! I wonder now that no one got killed. At a time when there was much poverty in the country and, looking back, many children showed signs of deprivation, we were housed in beautiful surroundings, were warm, well fed,

clothed and cared for. We were brought up as young ladies and gentlemen. As for us boys, all the courtesies were taught and demanded. No lady came into a room without us rising: we would rush to open the door as she left: every request was prefaced with "please" and a "thank you" on its granting: we raised our hats to any lady of our acquaintance and touched it to any man that we knew: we stepped off the pavement if it was too narrow for more than one to pass. Boys and girls were housed in the two "ends". We slept in dormitories two at each end. Ours were called "Troy" and "Babylon", the girls' were "Ninevah" and "Athens". Conversation with my sisters (my younger sister joined us a year or so later, in 1930) was usually only possible after tea or during walks. Religion played a large part in our daily lives. Grace was always said at meal times, prayers were said in the dormitory at our 7 pm. bedtime, on Wednesday evening we had a short service in the dining room after tea which was taken in turn by the Vicar and the Congregational Minister, whom we boys used to call "Winkle", I think because he had a glass eye. In the wintertime, the late afternoon sun streams through the great west facing window in the dining room which looks through the arch straight down the drive and I often recall the singing of the hymn "At even, when the sun was set...." On Sunday we all attended Morning Service at 11 am, and the younger children left after the first hymn, the older ones stayed to the end of the Service. On Sunday afternoon we all attended the Childrens' Service at 2.30pm. and when we returned to the Orphanage, we had an hours Bible study. I reckon I know more about the journeys of St. Paul than most. In my early days I remember how terrified I was when I first heard a gale blowing through the Plantation just behind the House. At about that time too the R101 flew low over Gyde at night and quite a few of us younger boys were frightened.



Gyde House 1931.

Christmas was a happy time. An air of great excitement settled over the Home once school had broken up. We sang carols most evenings in the days before Christmas and on Christmas Eve we hung up our stockings and like most other children, tried to stay awake to see Father Christmas. Come the morning - at about 4 am - some bright spark would wake up and feel with his toes what Santa had left at the bottom of the bed. That led to loud whispers to the boy next door and before you could say "knife" the whole place was awake to a crescendo of noise loud enough to waken the dead - or at least Captain King - who was not best pleased. One year, I recall, the bedlam was so intense that all the stockings were collected up and dire warnings issued of the wrath to come if one more peep was heard from us! In those days Painswick had a Silver Band (and it was a good one too). Very early on Christmas morning the Band would play at various places around the Village and one memory that I cherish is lying in bed listening to the distant sound of the Band, the notes carried on the wind, as they played my favourite carol - not heard often enough - "Christians awake, salute the happy morn". After Morning Service and Christmas Dinner, the real excitement of the day began - the opening of the Christmas parcel from home. This was one time when I was allowed to visit the "girls' end" since I shared a parcel with my two sisters. There were one or two who were orphaned of both parents, but they too received an exciting parcel donated, I think, by kindly people from the village.

On Boxing Day we had a Tea Party laid on by the Hyett family of Painswick House. After a scrumptious tea, we adjourned to what in those days was the Gym where there was a large Christmas tree which in my earliest days was lit by miniature candles. Underneath was a pile of presents, one for every child, each called by name to go up and receive it from the hand of Miss Margaret Hyett. This was not the only benefaction we received from the Hyett family. When the snowdrops were out in February we were all invited to the House and were met by Miss Hyett, who walked with us to the woods where we were each allowed to pick 12 flowers. At mid-summer we were all invited to a party in the House where we were given a gorgeous tea, finishing with strawberries and cream. Before my first visit, I was told how one ought to behave and that no well-mannered little boy ever made comments to his hostess about the food she was providing. Whom do you suppose it was who let the side down badly? Most years we would receive a visit from Sir Francis, a little, bright- eyed man, then in his eighties, and he would talk to some of us.

As an aside, I had the very great pleasure some 60 years later, when my dear wife and I gave a party at Painswick House to celebrate our Golden Wedding, to have the opportunity of thanking Lord and Lady Dickinson, descendants of the Hyetts, for the very great kindnesses which I and all the other children at Gyde received from the Hyett Family over many years.

We were great walkers and roamed the Beacon, through all the lanes, which were traffic free in those times, and the fields roundabout. The furthest walk that we ever did was to the river at Epney, a round trip of 25 miles. I wonder if any of my audience

remember the derelict mills at that time - the early Thirties. I recall playing in Lovedays and finding some of the First War Home Guard equipment which had been left. We younger ones attended the village schools; the boys where the library is now located and the girls, under the awesome Miss Kirkland and her cohort, Miss Butler, in what is now the Town Hall. We boys suffered under the infamous Mr Slack. I think the man must have been a masochist for we were beaten unmercifully. In those days, before the advent of cheap fountain pens and biros were still to be invented, we used to write with steel relief pens. I am left-handed and, in addition to the beatings I suffered whilst he attempted to make me write with my right hand, I often had "three of the best" on each hand for making blots over the paper using a nib which I found almost impossible to use as a left-hander. He was also a churchwarden and God help any boy whom he thought had misbehaved in church because he got a good hiding on Monday morning when he turned up for school. A little ditty of those times said it all:

Mr Slack is a very good man,
He goes to Church on Sunday
He prays to God to give him strength
To whack the Boys on Monday

Dear old Harold Arch was always at the receiving end of Mr. Slack's ire and was frequently caned. One afternoon as we assembled for school Mrs. Arch, his Mum and a well-remembered Painswick character, came storming through the door and strode up to Mr Slack and, snatching the cane which he habitually carried under his arm, beat him round the head and shoulders calling out "Take that, you brute, and leave my Harold alone", all the while silently cheered on by the onlooking boys. Dear Miss Moody, who taught me, told me years later that Mr. Slack had suffered a great personal tragedy and this changed his personality. Fortunately for me I got a scholarship and went off to Marling in 1933.

This was the year that the Trust gave up running the Orphanage. Upon my return from the summer holiday, which as usual I had spent at home, I found changes afoot, many of which I did not like. Of the girls at Gyde before the changeover, a few went home, including my youngest sister. My older sister went to live with Captain and Mrs King and the rest went to the Ebley Branch of the National Children's Home and had a pretty rough time of it by all accounts. Gyde was quickly filled up by boys drafted in from the many other branches of NCHO (an early acronym!). We were a pretty motley lot in those early days and quite a few were unsuitable and were sent elsewhere. I suppose for the first time in my life I was meeting children who came from deprived homes rather than just poor ones. The NCHO was a countrywide Methodist foundation with some 4,000 children in its care. The staff were called Sisters (much to the dismay of my Mother who thought that I had been overtaken by popery). In some ways the regime was very strict which I found irksome as I got older but, on the other hand, I enjoyed a personal freedom that would never have been allowed in the Kings' time. Our diet was very poor except that, being Marling

boys, at least we went off to school with a cooked breakfast inside our bellies and there was a cooked meal on our return. For most of my time at Marling I went hungry at lunchtime as the sandwiches which were provided were so awful! Only in my last year did I have a school dinner at mid-day. We were up at 6.30 am each morning and spent the first hour of the day cleaning and polishing. I remain well house-trained to this day! I was allowed to join the Church Choir and when I was fourteen I was baptised followed soon after by confirmation. At Whitsun the following year I became an Altar Server and I still have the Altar Book which Canon Craven gave me to mark the occasion. One of the things I least liked during that time was the "Gyde Concert Party", which was formed and in which we were required to sing and dance at fund raising performances in all the great Central Halls of Methodism scattered round the country - most of which had inadequate facilities, particularly for the gymnastic displays which we gave. By this time we older boys were allowed to stop up to 9 pm. although one of us was required to wash up the staff supper things. We were also allowed out on our own as long as we informed the Sister-in-Charge of our whereabouts. And so I came to the end of my time at Gyde and in early 1937 left to take up an apprenticeship in the Royal Air Force. Looking back, I have much to be thankful for. Dear old Roy Cornock, a good friend of mine - I used to call him my twin since we were of the same age and birthdate - said it all years later: "You Orphanage boys were in some ways the lucky ones: we were all so poor in those days". I still keep in touch with Sister Alice, the last of the original NCHO staff in my time. She used to visit us every year but now she is over 90 she prefers to stop at home.

Apart from the odd visit during the War whilst serving with the RAF at Aston Down and again in the 1950's, when living in Bristol and I got my first car (and according to my children, all roads led to Painswick) I had no real contact with Gyde until the 1970's, when I began to visit quite often. About that time Gyde underwent its first major refurbishment. The roof was re-tiled, the ceilings in the living rooms downstairs and in the dormitories were lowered and upstairs too, the space was better used to provide smaller rooms for one, two or three children and more bathrooms and lavatories were installed. At this time, the Home was divided in such a way that three separate self-contained units were formed. All these alterations reduced the capacity down to 40 children divided among the three houses. One of two enlightened Acts of Parliament were passed after the War designed to improve the lot of deprived children, whether they were orphaned or came from broken homes. Less repressive attitudes developed and Gyde became much less institutional than it had been. The appellation "Orphanage" was dropped in favour of Gyde House. Girls were re-admitted. The Staff no longer wore uniforms and were no longer called "Sister" but were usually known by their first names. Children received pocket money and, for the older ones, some thought was given to training them in life skills.

Parallel with these developments, children were being fostered out more and more so that eventually the numbers at Gyde and at other children's homes declined. In the mid-eighties the NCH decided as a matter of policy that they would close

down all of their Homes except those for the disabled and use their resources in other ways. This is not the place to argue the merits or otherwise of that decision, sufficient to say that in 1984 the NCH gave notice to the Gyde Trustees of their intention to withdraw, which they did the following year.

By this time I was retired and had been invited to become a Trustee and I felt then that I had come full circle, but this time at the sharp end. The Trustees were faced with the problem of finding another charitable organisation able to use the building in accordance with our Founder's wishes. For the reasons just mentioned it was most unlikely that we should find an existing children's home to take it on and so it proved. But we were approached by the Mountbatten Trust - an organisation which aimed to give children from the Inner Cities and from deprived homes the change of an activity holiday in the Cotswolds. It was a good idea but the scheme was poorly managed and underfunded so it collapsed after eighteen months. The Trustees were again faced with the problem of finding a use for the building, which seemed to be becoming something of a white elephant. The Trustees were of the opinion that the best way forward was to sell the building and to become a grant-making body using the income from the invested proceeds. The Charity Commission was, however, reluctant to permit a sale at that time, believing that it could still be used as a children's home.

At about this time, on my way to a company meeting, I heard someone called Coral Atkins talking on the radio of her work with deprived children and how she was "bursting at the seams" in her own house providing a home for the 15 or so children that she was then looking after. The outcome of all this activity was the Trustees granted a 20 year licence to the Coral Atkins Children's Home rent free but they were to be responsible for the building's upkeep and insurance. I was appointed, along with another Trustee, as Directors of the Company to represent the Gyde Trust. Coral has been at Gyde for about 10 years and I know she finds life very difficult in persuading local authorities to place enough of the right type of children with her. The ones that she does get are often severely damaged and have suffered physical and sexual abuse and have probably been fostered many times, all of which for one reason or another have broken down. It is not surprising, therefore, that such children are almost unmanageable by the time Coral gets them and they behave in ways which are sometimes quite violent and anti-social. Nevertheless, the way in which these children are looked after can produce remarkable changes in their behaviour. I often think Coral is in a "Catch 22" situation. Her motto is that she takes a child on for life but once the child passes its 18th birthday it no longer is entitled to financial support from its sponsoring authority. Quite often, for the reasons already mentioned, these children are incapable of looking after themselves and Coral continues to support them from resources which are already under strain.

And so Gyde continues, perhaps in not quite the way our Founder intended; but still caring for poor children and I commend them to you for your love, compassion and understanding.

JOTTINGS

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, 9TH NOVEMBER 1896

Mr Sims — "It was reported last week that you were dead, Mr Fayers, and on Friday several persons stopped me and asked me if I had heard Mr Fayers was dead?"

Chairman, Mr F A Hyett — "I wonder what gave rise to that rumour? Here he is, as well as ever."

Mr Fayers — "Thank you, I am."

Stroud News, Friday, 13th November 1896

FROM PAINSWICK BEACON 1843

"Come, climb with me the loftiest ridge of our own Beacon Hill,
And rest upon its springy turf, when the air is clear and still,
And gaze upon the scene beneath; - the distant mountains blue
The silver river at our feet winding the valley through
The wood-crowned hills, the fertile plains, the hamlets scattered wide,
The distant city's misty smoke, - its tall cathedral pride." T.G.D.

Extract of poem taken from the Painswick Magazine - October 1889

SEEN IN *WOMAN'S REALM*

Taken from The Beacon, January 1981

Henry Hall, the dance band leader, said in an interview that he had written a piece of music which he called "Painswick". It was so entitled because "I once went to a place called Painswick and enjoyed it so much that I came home and wrote a piece about it."

CASE OF EXAGGERATION

Stroud News, Friday 27th November 1896

Case of the Rev W.S.Guest-Williams v F.H.Croome

Mr. F.H.Croome — "The claim made upon me was for the whole of my house property."

Judge — "The claim before me is in respect to Greenhouse Court, £1-3s-2d. The other property is not claimed today."

SOCIETY EVENTS IN 1996

by

Gwen Welch

Between February and November 1996 the Society held seven meetings at the Croft School in Painswick and visited a 19th-century woollen mill in process of restoration. The talks covered a wide range of subjects and among the speakers were enthusiastic and knowledgeable amateurs and professional historians.

STAINED GLASS AND COTSWOLD STONE

At the first meeting of 1996 in February, John Bailey, the Secretary and Research Secretary of the Society, gave a talk on "Stained Glass Windows in Painswick". John explained who made the windows, when they were installed and the religious significance of the scenes depicted. His slides showed the brilliant colours and intricate designs of the stained glass. Close-up views of the windows in St. Mary's Church revealed details which many of the audience (including regular churchgoers!) had not previously noticed. There are now bound to be more people taking a closer look at the windows in our local churches!

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES IN PAINSWICK

The number of people gazing intently at buildings in Painswick has probably been increased by those members of the Painswick Local History Society who went to the March meeting of the society. Mr Christopher Bishop gave a fascinating and comprehensive talk on "Architectural Styles in Painswick". Mr Bishop not only described the styles of building, but also the factors which determined these styles, such as fashion, the materials available, and cost. Until the 19th century stone was used for building because good quality material for walls and roofs was available from Painswick quarries. It was not until canals were built, making the transport of heavy materials both quicker and cheaper, that bricks and slate became more widely used. Photographs taken by Mr Bishop on a recent walk around Painswick illustrated the change in styles and also showed how the age of a building can be estimated from visible clues, such as the design of a front door or the shape of a window. Some of Mr Bishop's comments on alterations made to buildings were less than complimentary! By the end of Mr Bishop's talk his audience had learned how geology, fashion, economics and developments in transport had influenced the appearance of Painswick which is so admired today.

RESEARCHES AND RECOLLECTIONS

During the Research evening of the Society Helen Briggs helped by Richard Harris took us on a historical tour of Vicarage Street. Tom Newman told us about events in Painswick 100 years ago and John Bailey's quiz tested our knowledge of local history.

Photographs and maps of Vicarage Street showed how the properties on the North side are on much smaller plots than those on the South side and how the appearance of some buildings has changed. In the late 19th century the householders in Vicarage Street had a wide range of occupations, including stonemason, quarryman, cobbler and vicar. Until comparatively recently there had been several shops in the street.

The audience included local people who had a knowledge of Painswick over many years. They gave their recollections of Vicarage Street and the families who had lived there. They also had connections with Painswick people and events mentioned in newspaper reports of 100 years ago on which Tom Newman based his talk. Tom is one of the compilers of the "Painswick 100 Years Ago" articles which appear regularly in "The Painswick Beacon". His searches through the "Stroud News and Journal" showed that issues causing concern in the 1890's - education, vandalism, the water supply - still concern us today.

The evening concluded on a light-hearted note. John Bailey showed photographs of Painswick with a local history interest and asked questions about them. The ease with which the audience answered the questions has set John the task of making the questions harder next time!

MILLS, MACHINES AND MEMORIES

On a fine, but chilly, evening in May over 30 members of the Society were shown around Stanley Mill, near Stonehouse, by its owner Mark Griffiths, who is restoring the mill with the help of English Heritage. The mill was built in 1831 and is one of the first fireproof industrial buildings. It produced cloth until its closure in the mid-1980s. In the four-storey, L-shaped main building cast-iron columns and arches support the ceilings and were also used to house the belt drives for the machinery The floors are made of stone; wood was used only for the roof trusses. Power for the belt drives was provided originally by five water wheels, and later by a beam engine. The wheels and engine are no longer on the site, but clues to where they used to be are visible on the ground floor of the building. This floor is several feet below the adjacent River Frome, the source of the water power. Beside the main building are several smaller buildings which housed ancillary activities necessary for cloth making, such as drying teasels, a smithy and a workshop. In the workshop are belt-driven metal-working tools

With the help of slides it was explained how the Movement developed, following principles established by William Morris. There had to be honesty in the use of materials, the avoidance of superficial ornament, and an emphasis on English traditional design. Natural features such as leaves and birds served as the basis of pattern design.

It was important that the workers should find personal satisfaction in manual creative labour. In the Cotswolds there were several centres where fine furniture, fabrics, silverware, jewellery and stained glass were designed and produced, to say nothing of the houses and public buildings erected - not least in Painswick.

Before the meeting closed notice was given of the launch of Carl Moreland's new book on the history of Painswick.

GUNPOWDER, TREASON AND PLOT

The 391st anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot was marked in an appropriate manner by the Society - the November meeting was held on November 5th and the subject of the evening's talk was "Guy Fawkes in the Cotswolds". The speaker, Bryan Gerrard, began by describing the religious scene in England at the beginning of the reign of James I. On one side were influential Protestants, such as Robert Cecil, Earl of Leicester, who wanted to rid England of all traces of Roman Catholicism; on the other were wealthy Roman Catholics, who despite having to pay heavy fines, still actively supported the spread of their religion. The conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot belonged to some of these wealthy Roman Catholic families. The instigator of the plot was Thomas Catesby, a landowner, who recruited Guy Fawkes and other gentry, including Thomas Percy, a cousin of the Duke of Northumberland. Guy Fawkes was a soldier; he travelled abroad frequently and sought help for the English Roman Catholics. The conspirators planned to blow up Parliament, kill James I and his heir and take prisoner the younger Royal children. While these plans were being drawn up Catesby stayed at Lypiatt House and it is probable that Guy Fawkes visited him there. After the plot was discovered, Catesby and his associates fled to Warwickshire where they were captured. Had the conspirators been successful and the king and government been overthrown, then men in towns and villages would have been called up to form the "Dad's Army" of that time. On the list of men from Painswick who were eligible to serve are several well-known local names - Loveday, Bliss, Tocknell, Stamages and Ffaulk; their occupations included weavers, tailors and clothiers. At the end of this wide-ranging and interesting talk Bryan Gerrard posed a thought-provoking question: by celebrating the failure of the Gunpowder Plot are we perpetuating the divisions of our society?

which are still in use. The smell of machine oil and the organised chaos of tools and ironmongery in this workshop revived memories among the retired engineers in the group of their time as apprentices. The tour of the site ended on one of the upper floors of the main building where the huge machines on which wool was spun and cloth was woven are still in place. Although the machines were silent, it was not difficult to imagine the days when the rooms were filled with noise as the machines clattered and hummed to produce the fine cloth for which the mill was famous. At one end of the weaving room is a small loom on which cloth samples used to be made. The colour and texture of the samples on display showed why the cloth produced by the Stanley Mill has been used in clothes sold by Jaeger and Austin Reed. If the plans of Mark Griffiths come to fruition, the machines will soon be working again and Stanley Mill will once more be producing fine cloth.

BUSINESS MATTERS AND A FAMILY HISTORY

An Annual General Meeting can be the least popular meeting in a society's programme, so it was encouraging to have a large attendance at the AGM of the Painswick Local History Society. The Chairman of the Society, the Rev Peter Minall, reviewed the events of the past year and announced two new and important projects for the Society - the publication of a Journal, and the promotion and distribution of the "Painswick Time Chart" to be published by Mr Carl Moreland later in the year.

After the business part of the AGM, the President of the Society, Lord Dickinson,

gave a talk on the Hyett and Dickinson families and their influence on Painswick life. This talk is reproduced as the first article in this edition of the Chronicle.

At the conclusion of Lord Dickinson's most interesting and enjoyable talk members of the audience recounted their memories of Miss Lucy Hyett.

NEW SEASON - OLD FRIENDS

The new season of the Society opened, with a talk by David Archard on various aspects of Painswick life and history. The large audience at this meeting showed how popular these talks are. This year David had selected from his extensive collection of photographs and post cards those relating to "Milestones, Post Boxes and the Changing Scene in Painswick". Between the showing of each group of slides Jill Simmons read extracts from books and magazines, providing background information and comment. The theme of the first part of the talk was communications: roads, the postal service and the telephone system. Photographs of buildings and artefacts associated with these services revealed details not immediately obvious to the casual passer-by, such as the stone plaque on the wall of the former telephone exchange inscribed "Edward VIII 1936".

After communications David considered two other essential services, the police and the fire brigade. There were splendid photographs of the first Painswick Fire Brigade, formed in 1896 with an 8-man crew and a horse-drawn fire engine, and of a crew on a training exercise at Painswick House rescuing one of Sir Francis Hyett's daughters from an upstairs window.

In the final part of the talk David reminded the audience of the famous people who have lived in Painswick and of changes to the Painswick scene over the last 150 years. He concluded on a topical note with photographs of the Clipping service; those taken in the early part of this century show a fine array of hats among the congregation!

After David's most interesting and enjoyable talk members of the audience offered their reminiscences and personal knowledge of the people and places shown in the slides.

THE ARTS AND CRAFT MOVEMENT

At their October meeting members of the Society were told of the growing interest shown by visitors from many countries in the Arts and Crafts Movement which flourished in the Cotswolds a century ago. The speaker was Mrs Mary Greensted, Keeper of the Decorative Arts Section of the Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery, which houses the finest collection outside London of exhibits, many of which were created in this area.

Printed by Prinknash Abbey Press