

# PAINSWICK CHRONICLE



The Post Office, Painswick



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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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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## PAINSWICK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: Lord Dickinson

### EDITORIAL

From the outset the editorial policy for the Society's journal was that principal articles selected for publication were either specifically for the *Painswick Chronicle* or hitherto unpublished material. In this issue we include an article that has previously appeared in print. We feel this shift in policy is quite justified as the article appeared in 1944 and is little known to present readership – and the article is of such interest!

The editors would like to thank all other contributing authors, of whom six are Society members.

We are particularly pleased to have Peter Minall's article as this records the progress and conclusion of a major project in which the Society was closely involved – a 'first' for us! We are also pleased to include the rather thought-provoking article contributed by Cedric Nielsen which contains brief details of a recent excavation which he instigated in pursuit of his theory about the original location of the village. Another 'first' for us.

This is the third issue of the *Painswick Chronicle* and we hope that readers will find it enjoyable and informative. The editors will be pleased to consider any suggestions or criticisms that readers may like to put forward to improve future issues. We are pleased to include the photograph of the Craven family sent in to us by Nico Craven, son of the Rev. Hiram Craven, in response to the article by Doreen Hartley about Paradise which appeared in issue number 2.

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## **W. H. HYETT FRS, OF PAINSWICK**

### **MAN OF MANY PARTS**

by

**Philip Walmsley**

The last Hyett of Painswick House, Benjamin Hyett, died in 1810, having devised his estate on Frances, the widow of the Rev. Henry Cay Adams of Shrewsbury, his second wife's cousin, with reversion to her eldest son, William Henry, on her death. In 1813, by a voluntary act, W.H. Adams adopted the name of Hyett.

William Henry Adams was born on 2nd September 1795, and was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford. In 1812-13 he spent a year at Edinburgh with a private tutor. This varied education gave Hyett a width of intellectual interests of which the most important were to be literary and scientific. Throughout his life he wrote verse and translated foreign poems. His scientific interests were predominantly practical, being directed in particular to improvements in agricultural and forestry practice.

After the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815 he spent several weeks in the Low Countries and France and, after 1817, went on a more extensive tour lasting over two years, which included Switzerland, Italy, Sicily, Greece and Constantinople. He had returned to Britain by the end of 1819.

#### **COUNTRY GENTLEMAN AND LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

In 1816 Hyett was a freeman of Gloucester, entry being by gift of the Corporation as he had no right of inheritance. On return from his travels he seems to have settled briefly in Gloucester, becoming a member of the Corporation. From 1820 he lived at Painswick House, the house he was to occupy for the rest of his life. From the beginning, he was an improving landlord, in 1825 planting the plantation which still exists on either side of the Gloucester Road. In 1821 he married Anne Jane, the second daughter of Joseph Seymour Biscoe of Hempsted Court. These were years when he was establishing himself as a man of importance in city and county. In 1821 he became a county magistrate, but did not give up his interests in the city being appointed mayor in 1829-30.

In 1832 the Reform Act was passed and Stroud became a two-seat parliamentary borough. By this it was intended to give representation to the West-of-England cloth industry and, when the boundaries were drawn, they included 13 parishes including Painswick, all at that time with working cloth mills. Stroud was regarded as a safe Whig seat, and no Tory stood against the three Whig candidates. It was widely expected that Hyett would top the poll and this he did.





William Henry Hyett. Esq. 1795-1877



In his own parish of Painswick, 154 electors voted for him, only one elector voting for another candidate. He also topped the poll in all but two of the other 12 parishes of the constituency. Yet Hyett's parliamentary career was short. In November 1834 Charles Grey's successor as Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, was dismissed by King William IV, who installed in office Sir Robert Peel as head of a minority Tory government. An election followed in January 1835, but Hyett had announced that he would not stand "because of circumstances of a private nature alone". In fact, several circumstances seem to have influenced him in coming to this decision. He felt increasingly uncomfortable in the Whig Party, which contained those whose policies were too radical for him. He also found the expense of renting a London house a considerable financial burden and disliked the separation from his family during the lengthy parliamentary session.

Hyett's renunciation of a career in national politics meant that for the rest of his life his considerable talents and energy were to be spent in serving local causes. His political views from this time caused him to support the Tories, or, as they were soon to be known, the Conservatives, but he was never tempted to stand for Parliament again.

### 'THE SQUIRE'

After giving up a parliamentary life, Hyett was to occupy himself mainly with matters inside the county. His strong personality undoubtedly impressed itself upon Painswick, where he became known as the 'Squire'.

He had already been living at Painswick House when the last election of a vicar had taken place in 1823 and, like all respectable inhabitants, had no doubt been disgusted by a contest

"attended with all the ordinary Results and Concomitants of a Contested Election not only of Party Spirit but also of Immorality, Vice and Drunkenness of the grossest kind".

On that occasion the resident curate, the Rev. Robert Strong, had seen off an outside challenge by 37 votes. The chosen way of changing the situation was by the passage of a private bill through Parliament which would enable the advowson to be sold and the proceeds used to benefit the parish. Hyett took the lead in this and acted as chairman of the trust which effected the sale.

Otherwise, Hyett played an active part in the ordinary life of the community. He was one of the three trustees of the Painswick Benefit Society, heading its procession to its Whit Monday church service and afterwards dining at the Falcon Inn. Later, we are told, the party

"proceeded to Painswick House, the home of Mr Hyett, where they were regaled with a plentiful supply of his own brown October".<sup>1</sup>

On one occasion he organised the rescue from a well of a mentally-disabled man who had fallen into it.

But his greatest contribution was certainly his involvement in Painswick education.



## EDUCATIONAL REFORMER

In 1820, when Hyett settled in Painswick, the Endowed School was meeting in the old Town Hall (on the site of the present war memorial). Its headmaster, Thomas Ward, ran it as a private school, the Painswick Commercial Academy, and had a number of boarders and paying day-pupils. In the 1820s there were also 26 free boys being taught there, paid for by the local charity.<sup>2</sup> According to his son, Hyett did not think it catered sufficiently for the boys for whom the original endowment was intended, and in 1828 he converted two cottages in Butt Green into a boys' school. By 1833 this school had 134 pupils and was clearly outgrowing its premises. There were then 25 boys at the Endowed School. The pupils paid one penny a week, but Hyett himself provided the main financial support.

As to girls, a National School had been established for them in 1816 and had 88 pupils in 1833. Another girls' school, not linked to any religious denomination and called the Benevolent School, had 46 pupils in the same year. These two schools were united about 1844.



The National School; drawing by Ellis Marsland, 1884

From 1840, when the new Town Hall, was opened, the Endowed School met on the first floor. With the other Painswick schools still inadequately housed, Hyett led a campaign to raise funds for a new school building. This was built on Stroud Road in 1846-47 and occupied by the different parts of the National School, with older boys and infants on the ground floor and girls on the first floor.



After the death of Thomas Ward in 1853, it was possible for Hyett to achieve his amalgamation of the Painswick schools. The Endowed and National Schools became the Painswick United and Free Schools, the National School boys joining those of the Endowed School on the first floor of the Town Hall, where the accommodation was enlarged. This union lasted ten years, a period which has been called "a golden decade in the educational history of Painswick".

As secretary of the United School Hyett was effectively in control of it. The new master in charge of the boys was a north-countryman, Moses Pullen, found by Hyett and appointed because of his ability to teach the practical skills which were added to the boys' curriculum. Woodwork, printing, mechanical drawing, land measuring and mapping were taught, whilst simple chemical experiments to illustrate good agricultural practice were shown to older boys. In the girls' school knitting and sewing were added to the curriculum, a specialist teacher being employed. Other innovations were the establishment of an evening class for adults in practical subjects, and the setting-up of a lending library. On visits to France Hyett bought cheap sets of mathematical instruments which on his return he sold to the pupils at a low price.

Hyett superintended these projects. For two years he taught mechanical drawing at the school, and wrote a booklet on the subject, printed on the school's printing press. The printing press had been procured second-hand, and a young printer was paid to teach printing. There is no doubt that all these subjects were popular with pupils and parents, and attendance at the school increased. In 1855 the average attendance had been 123, and by 1861 this had increased to 167.

In 1856 the Rev. Arthur Biddle became Vicar of Painswick and took over as secretary of the United School in 1861. The differences which developed between him and Hyett over the running of the school caused the union of the schools to be dissolved. Moses Pullen continued as master of the Endowed School in the Town Hall until 1867, but the reduced number of pupils appears to have caused the school to cease to be viable, and after three years it closed and Pullen left Painswick.

This was the end of Hyett's interesting and important experiment in practical education, which had received some publicity. In 1857 Hyett attended an Educational Conference presided over by the Prince Consort at which he described his educational ideas.

## RAILWAY PROMOTER

In December 1834, during his last weeks as the district's Member of Parliament, Hyett attended a meeting in Stroud addressed by Saunders, Secretary of the Great Western Company, and Brunel, its engineer. The aim was to secure local support for the Great Western Railway, the enabling bill for which would be before Parliament in the 1835 session. The Great Western Railway Bill duly became law in August 1835, and work started on the line from Paddington to Bristol. Already in June at a meeting in Cheltenham, at which Hyett had taken the chair, it had been resolved to launch the Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway Company to build a line from Swindon to Cheltenham through Stroud and Gloucester. The inaugural meeting took place in October, when, from the 12 directors, Hyett was elected chairman of the new company.<sup>3</sup>



In October a meeting took place in the newly-opened Stroud Subscription Rooms to promote the buying of shares in the company. Hyett's speech in favour made a great impression and, according to the *Gloucester Journal*, "the eagerness to obtain shares in this new undertaking is unprecedented". Hyett himself took 3,500 shares.<sup>4</sup>

This is not the place to describe the delays and disappointments of the next few years.<sup>5</sup> The severe depression which hit the local woollen industry in 1837 weakened the early enthusiasm for the line, but Hyett kept up the fight on its behalf. In 1838 he published a pamphlet arguing that the construction of the line would bring great advantage to the area through the improved communications it would provide. "Why should Bristol not become to Stroud, what Liverpool is to Manchester - and Hull to Leeds?"<sup>6</sup>

In 1840 Hyett resigned his chairmanship of the company and retired from the board, although he continued to attend some meetings and was present at the special one in Cirencester in January 1843, which agreed to the sale of the still incomplete railway line to the Great Western Railway. The line from Swindon to Gloucester was not finally opened until May 1845.

Hyett's support for railways, however, was to prove lifelong. In a letter to the *Stroud News* in 1873, when it was being proposed that a railway be built from Stroud to Painswick, he advanced similar arguments in its favour to those he had used 40 years earlier.

## MAN OF SCIENCE

Hyett seems to have pursued his scientific interests most actively in the early 1840s. His interests were shown in the booklets published at that time and in the addresses he gave to the Gloucester Farmers' Society, which were sometimes printed.

His main interest lay in the application of scientific method to agriculture. In 1840 he gave an account to the Gloucester Farmers' Club of extensive experiments with the use of sodium nitrate as a manure, and he later published a booklet *Chemical Effects of Particular Manures on Particular Crops*. In 1842 *Experiments on the Growth of the Potato; more particularly as to the Distance at which sets should be planted* was published. As in so much of his activity his interests were practical, summed up in a booklet published in 1842, *The Benefits which Agriculture has derived from Science*.

A particular interest was the possibility of changing the colour of wood by impregnating growing trees with chemicals, an interest which resulted in the publication in 1842 in volume 14 of the *Transactions of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland* of an article *On the Absorption of Chemical Solutions by Growing Timber*.

The result of this activity was his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society on 29th February, 1844. His certificate of election states that he was "distinguished for his acquaintance with the science of Agriculture", and mentions two of his papers, that mentioned in the previous paragraph, and one in the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England* entitled *The comparing of the Nutritional Values of different Agricultural Crops*.<sup>7</sup>



## FOUNDER OF HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

Two areas of medicine interested Hyett for much of his life - the treatment of mental disability and defective sight.

When Hyett first settled in the county in 1815, two committees, of JPs and subscribers, were preparing to build the first county asylum at Wotton, near Gloucester, the cost being shared between the county, the city and voluntary subscribers. Delays occurred before the appointment in 1821 of a new building committee, of which Hyett was an influential member. The new hospital was opened in 1823 and Hyett continued his connection with it as a member of the house committee. At first, he regarded himself as the representative of the county, acting as a visiting magistrate in 1824, 1825 and 1835. From 1837 onwards, he was a visiting subscriber, and so represented the subscribers' interests. The joint management by county and city JPs and representatives of the subscribers was beset by difficulties, which led to the break-up of the union in 1856. The contributors were paid £3000 by the county authorities, who took over the whole of the Wotton asylum to accommodate Poor Law patients. There was also a need to look after the existing paying and charity patients, and in 1858 Hyett took the lead in buying Barnwood House, which after adaptation and extension was opened as Barnwood House Hospital in 1860.

In a letter written in 1859, he explained that the purpose of the new institution was to benefit

“those of the middle classes who, unable to pay the whole, paid a part of the cost of maintenance, and those of the more affluent who paid the full rate of charge of medical care, board and lodging”

as, unlike paupers, these classes would no longer be able to use the county asylum. He also emphasised the importance attached to facilitating the recovery of patients. Hyett was active in its management for the rest of his life.

In the 1830s he witnessed the successful removal of an eye cataract at Gloucester Infirmary, and, in 1865, knowing of the recent invention of the ophthalmoscope, he wrote to the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee of the Infirmary complaining that too few eye operations were being performed and pressing for the establishment of an eye department there. However, the committee replied that such a move was unnecessary, so Hyett opened a subscription list and, in May 1866, the Gloucestershire Eye Institution was opened. The specialist eye surgeon, R. Brudenell Carter, moved from the Nottingham Eye Hospital to take charge of operations. Before the end of the year 254 cases had been treated, in contrast to an average of about 60 a year previously. Hyett's interest lay in helping working operatives and a charge was fixed at one shilling for the first week's treatment, and sixpence per week after that.

In 1878, the year after Hyett's death, the Infirmary proposed amalgamation between it and the Eye Institution, with an ophthalmic department being at last established at the Infirmary. This was agreed and the separate Eye Institution came to an end after 13 years, during which time 5,109 cases had been treated.<sup>8</sup>



## BUILDER

There are three buildings with which Hyett was connected - Painswick House, Stroud Subscription Rooms and Painswick National School.

In 1830 the architect George Basevi had married Frances Agnata, sister of Hyett's wife, and he is said to be the architect of all these buildings. However Hyett himself asserted that he had played an important part in the construction of the buildings with which he was connected, and published his views on the subject towards the end of his life:

"Having been in Brick and Mortar for more than fifty years, always acting as my own clerk of the works, and generally as my own architect, I am often referred to by friends about to build or alter, and, therefore, to save the trouble of writing repeated replies, I am induced to print what follows, to be at hand at all time..."

In the 1830s, Basevi designed single-storey wings in Greek Revival style for Painswick House, each containing a single room, an entrance hall on the west side and a ballroom on the east. The additions, giving the house additional space for entertaining, may have been added because of Hyett's ambitions as a politician at that time.<sup>9</sup>

With Stroud's elevation in 1832 to the status of parliamentary borough, it was felt that the town needed a spacious public building where meetings could be held. The money for this building was raised by public subscription, to which Hyett subscribed. He was also a trustee and member of the building committee, and secured gratuitous plans for this building from Basevi. Also involved in the building of Stroud Subscription Rooms was the Painswick surveyor Charles Baker, usually regarded as the clerk of the works.

Hyett was one of the prime movers in the building of Painswick National School in the mid-1840s. For this Basevi provided plans before his death in 1845.

## MAN OF MANY PARTS

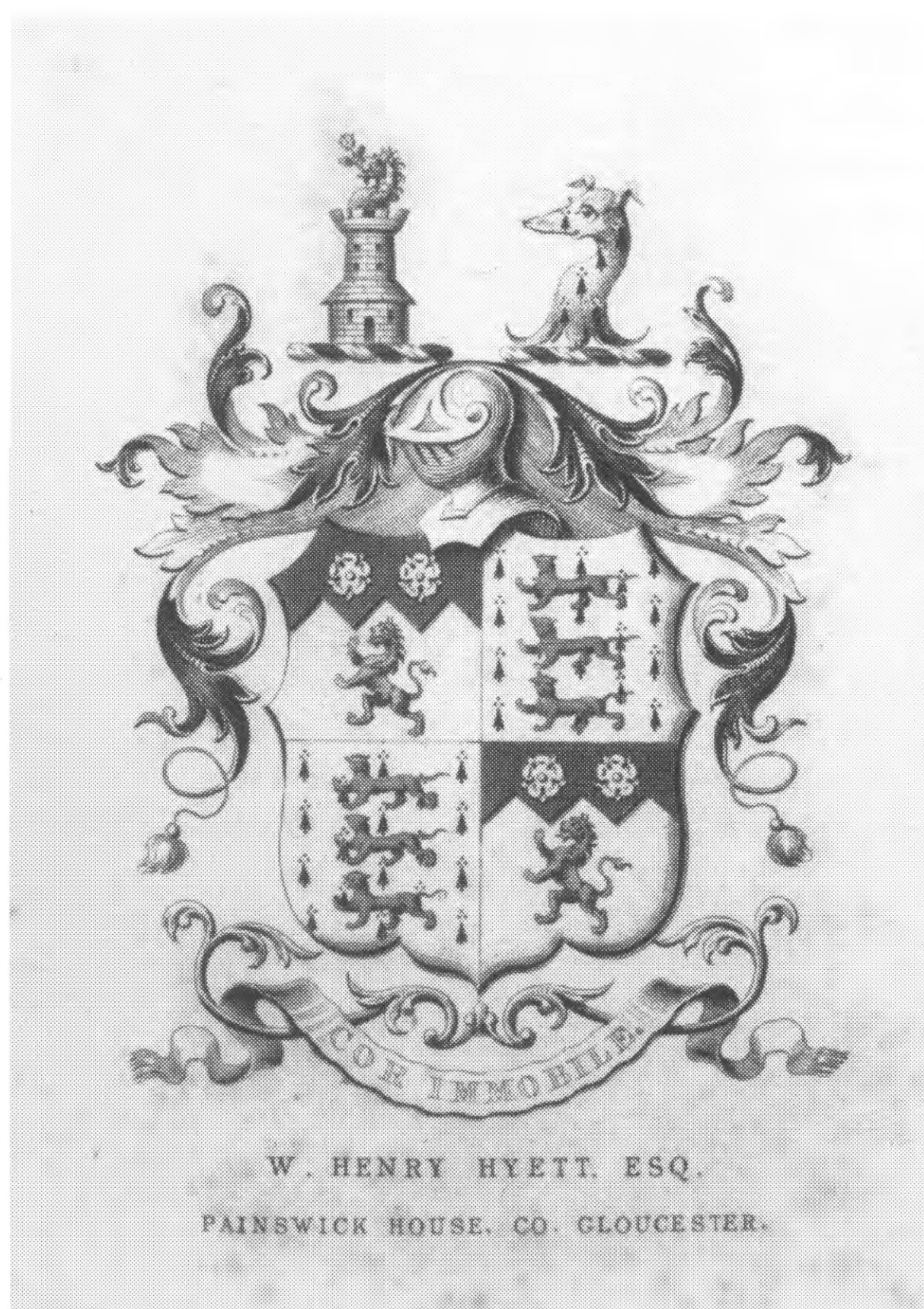
Hyett died on 13th March 1877. An obituary written by his friend, R Brudenell Carter of the Gloucester Eye Institution, was printed in both the *Stroud Journal* and the *Stroud News* of 17th March, and an 18-page account of his life appeared in Joseph Stratford's *Gloucestershire Biographical Notes* in 1887.

The range of Hyett's activities makes it difficult to give a comprehensive account of his career. He was certainly a man of very varied private interests, but he also sought to achieve improvements in those fields in which he thought it his duty to involve himself. This attitude caused him to become active in education, medicine and the popularisation of scientific methods in agriculture. He met with mixed success in his undertakings, but his direct and practical efforts to help his fellow-countrymen made him a model of a public-spirited country landowner of his time.



## Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank the following for their assistance in the writing of this paper: Mr David Smith, MA, FSA, County Archivist, and the staff of the Gloucestershire Record Office, Mr Graham Baker, Senior Librarian (Local Studies), and the staff of the Gloucestershire Collection at Gloucester Library, and Miss Mary Sampson, Archivist of the Royal Society.



Engraving from *The Armorial Bearings of the Principal Families of the Empire* by John Burke, 1845

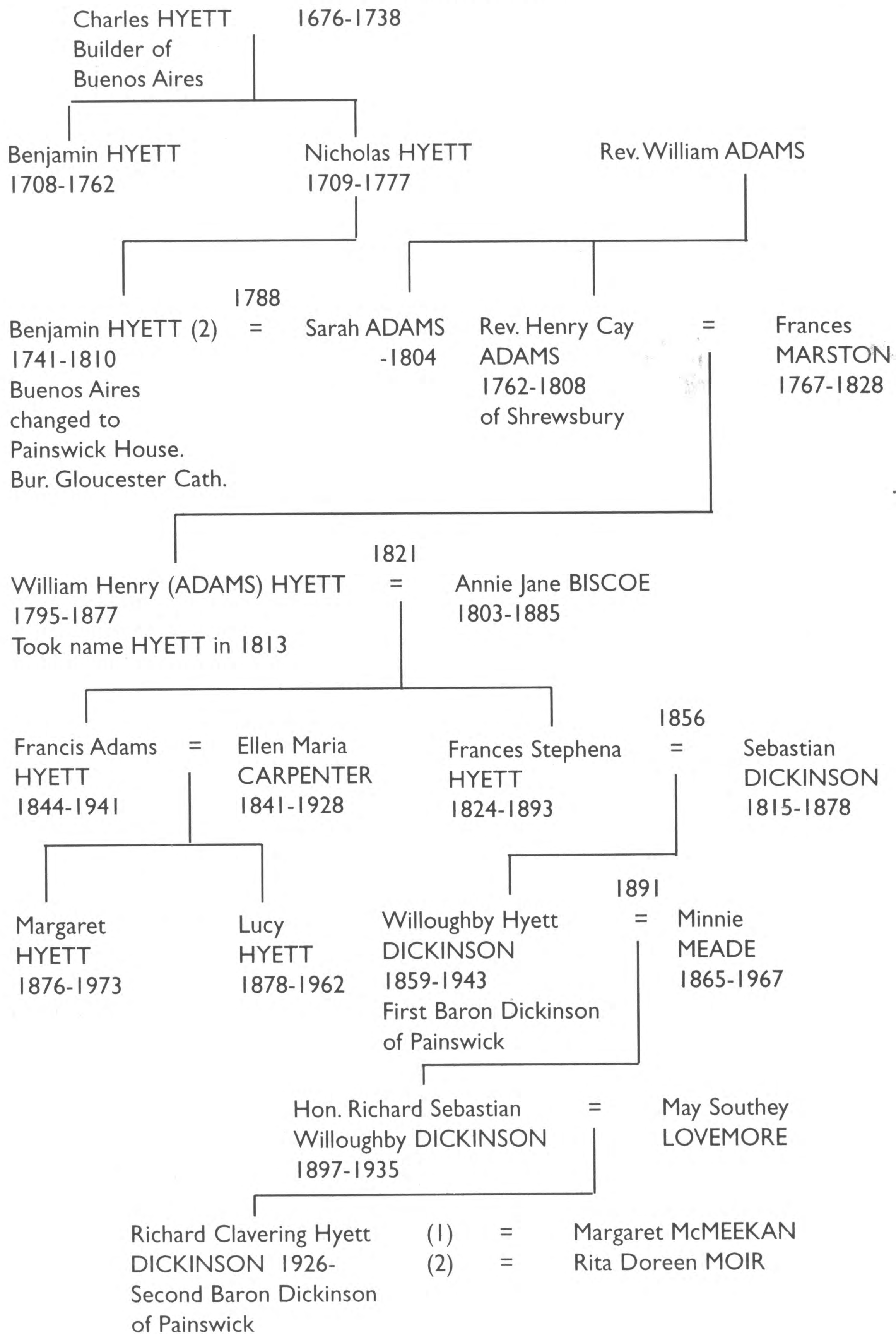
- Arms      Quarterly, First and Fourth, argent a lion rampant azure on a chief dancettée, sable two roses argent for HYETT.  
            Second and Third, ermine three cats in pale, azure for ADAMS
- Crests    First, a castle proper charged with four pellets, issuing therefrom a lion's head, in the mouth a rose slipped gules for HYETT - Second a greyhound's head erased ermine.

## Editor's note

Phillip Walmsley has written books on Stroud and is President of Stroud Local History Society. Members may recall that in the early days of the Painswick Local History Society he gave us a talk entitled 'Trouble at'mill'.



# HYETT FAMILY TREE





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- 5 Maggs, Colin G *The Swindon to Gloucester Line*, Alan Sutton, (1991)
- 6 Hyett, W.H. A letter to David Ricardo, Esq., on the Advantages to the poor to be derived from the early commencement of the Railway through the Stroud Valley, Stroud 1838. (Ricardo, Hyett's old colleague as MP for Stroud, had written a pamphlet urging that priority should be given to emigration in the interests of the local unemployed.)
- 7 I am grateful to Miss Mary Sampson, Archivist of the Royal Society, for the information in this paragraph.
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# PAINSWICK FIFTY YEARS AGO

by

A.J. Gwinnett

In this article I do not propose to set down things in anything like chronological order, but to give reminiscences of life and things in Painswick as they obtained when I was a boy before I left the parental home to seek work and fortune in another part of the country.

Well, as we saw Painswick in those days, the first thing was Spring's timber yard and workshop<sup>1</sup> on the opposite side of the road from the schools with a large sawpit in which men worked pulling a long saw up and down cutting timber. Close by was the workshop of Mr. William Estcourt,<sup>2</sup> father of one of the Mayors of Gloucester. Here he carved his beautiful designs in stone and marble for tombstones and other memorials. Mr. Estcourt was also a famous ringer and leader of the Painswick ringers when champions of the world. He it was who composed the famous peal of treble Bob Maximus which was rung in Painswick tower and remained unbeaten for a century or more. Another member of that band of ringers was William Savory, whose yard and shop was opposite.<sup>3</sup> I believe a member of the family still lives there.

Anyone entering the town was struck by the row of fine elm trees<sup>4</sup>— I believe four in number — which stood in a piece of railed-off greensward immediately adjoining the churchyard and opposite Miss Padbury's residence.<sup>5</sup> At the end of this enclosure was another entrance to the churchyard; then came Padbury's stable<sup>6</sup> and a peculiar stone of four solid steps from which the ladies mounted their horses. Adjoining was a row of houses facing the street and at the back another row of cottages fronting the churchyard, in one of which lived Tinker Cook, a man who looked after the churchyard chimes. He was a clever and handy man who could repair almost anything from a watch to a tea kettle.

At the end of the front row of houses was Tailor Keye's shop, and then a grocery and provision shop owned by Mr. Phipps, landlord of the Falcon Hotel opposite. At the rear of this shop was a large yard which came into the churchyard. Here the pigs were slaughtered and burned. They must have had some right of way into the churchyard, for at this time the wooden doors were opened and a great joy it was to us boys to see the straw flaming away over the scorching pigs. A shrubbery occupied the remaining portion of that side of the street to the Stock House. I do not remember it but I have always understood that the Town Hall stood hereabouts.

Our ailments at this time were attended to by two doctors, both of whom enjoyed the name of Gardner. "Doctor Dicky,"<sup>7</sup> the Scotsman, lived next to the "Falcon," while Doctor William<sup>8</sup> resided higher up New Street. Both rode horseback when doing their long and tiresome journeys in the Cotswold villages surrounding Painswick.

What a very tall man was Mr. Barnfield,<sup>10</sup> who lived in a small house between the



Baptist Chapel<sup>9</sup> and West's ironmongers shop.<sup>1 1</sup> Then there was a garden before reaching the stores, house and grocer's shop of Samuel Holder.<sup>1 2</sup> Hart's chemist shop<sup>1 3</sup> was opposite and Mr. Ewbank, who was assisting his father, died as the result of swallowing a fly when driving home from Stroud.

A little further along the street the premises now occupied by Burdock's builders' yard was Skinner's Brewery<sup>1 4</sup> with the Bell Inn attached kept by Mr. Pick. Skinners had several branches of trade, but in regard to brewing they grew barley on land up the Cheltenham road, made it into malt, and later brewed the beer which they sold to customers over a wide area. I remember once as a special treat going with my Uncle George to deliver some beer at Chalford, the other side of Stroud. Several of the public houses in Painswick brewed their own beer. It was done at the "Falcon" and many times I have seen it in operation at the New Inn<sup>1 5</sup> when William Wright lived there.

"Charlie White," as he was familiarly known, kept the "Star"<sup>1 6</sup> and also a boot shop. He was a shoemaker by trade and was the local dentist. Here I suffered my first experience of "dentistry," if that is the correct term for it. The scene was the cobbler's shop; the dentist, the cobbler; the patient, myself. Having had violent toothache for several days, I was driven as a last extremity to visit old Charlie for "operation". That is a correct term and no other word for it. I went and met Mr. White who, having carefully viewed the tooth and the situation, produced an instrument with double jaws, one portion of which he fixed over the aching tooth and the other was screwed down on to the top of it. "Sit on the floor, my lad" was the next order, and with knees tightly pressed into my ears Charles started to pull. The instrument slipped a little and had to be re-adjusted, and then after a long pull and a strong pull the tooth yielded to superior strength and out it came, but not until I had been dragged round the workshop. All this came to a shilling, which I can assure you the patient earned equally with the operator! Memory still clings to this eventful scene.

Suicides were very uncommon in Painswick at this time (and I hope are now) and the news that John Morris had thrown himself out of the bell chamber spread rapidly. I was an eye witness to the scene. I believe I was with my grandmother and remember seeing the man falling. Many a time I thought of this when going in the dark to ringing.

Joseph Cook's grocery and provision stores was a short distance up Gloucester Street on the left-hand side. This gentleman was the first man to visualise the potentialities of Sharpner's Point, as it was then called. Here he started and carried on business in a wooden building. Whether the business has developed or not I cannot say, for I have not seen it since the days of my youth. Shops and shopkeepers appear to me to have been more numerous 50 years ago than they are today. Bob Moffatt had a shop on the corner of the Cheltenham and Gloucester roads.<sup>1 7</sup> Ash's boot and shoe shop was just above;<sup>1 8</sup> while Doidge and Horlick had quite extensive premises on the other side with a window right on to the road in New Street.<sup>1 9</sup>

Election days were great fighting days in Painswick and I remember one such encounter ending in a man (I could mention the name but I won't) being knocked through this window into Doidge's shop. Fine sport this I assure you. Lower down Bisley Street



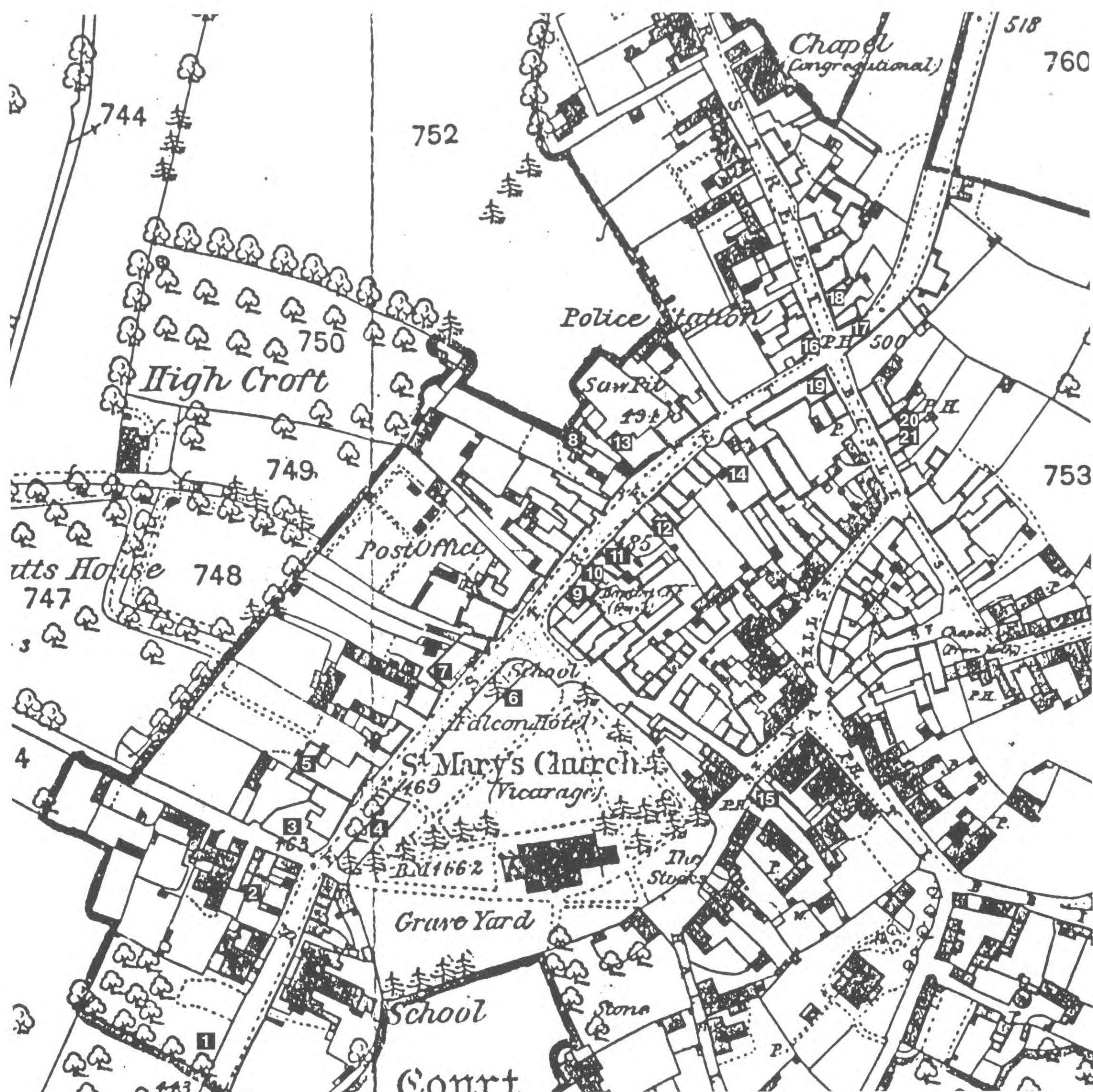
William Driver kept the Fleece, **20** with Butcher Dance's shop next door. **21** Later and for many years afterwards the butcher's shop was in the hands of Roland Smith, and a little lower down Mrs. Charles Hill had a shop on the pavement, as it was called. She was a very exacting lady and one still remembers her with her copper scales up and down, up and down, weighing to an exact balance an ounce of tea.

There was not much in the shopping line in Bell Street with the exception of Butcher Hogg, and then across on the bank a little lady, Miss Somebody, sold snuff and the like. Joe Goddard lived in the corner and sold potatoes, apples, etc., while adjoining were Butcher Webb's stables. Then there was the celebrated Barber Clark's. What an ordeal to go there for a haircut. Best behaviour and everything that was good was essential. If it happened to be a wet or damp night one had to be very careful to thoroughly wipe your boots before taking a seat. The old barber was a typical Dickens' character. Dressed in a suit of black broadcloth with a top hat of considerable length giving plenty of air space for the head and, wearing horn-rimmed glasses, he was quite the hairdresser of his profession. His Wellington boots were worn inside his trousers and echoed almost as he bumped about. If a boy was unlucky enough to go for his haircut about teatime he was in for an evening's pleasure, enjoyment or anything else you like to call it. Mr. Clark, with characteristic kindness, would invite him to take a seat and then unceremoniously slide into the house. There was nothing to distract one's attention except the flies on the ceiling or the beating of one's heart. After a lapse that seemed almost a lifetime the bump, bump of the Wellingtons would herald the appearance of the barber and after certain preliminaries the operation would begin with the placing of the cloth and sticking it ever so far down your back.

Barber Clark was celebrated for his wonderful hair oil which was very efficacious in maintaining the natural colour of the hair. This was so, for one lady of my acquaintance was well over eighty before the sign of a grey hair appeared.

(This article was taken from *The Gloucestershire Countryside* (edited by Robert Payne, late member of the society), a quarterly magazine. This particular issue was published in 1944. Arthur John Gwinnett was born in Painswick in June 1867. His father was Henry Gwinnett, a builder and undertaker, and the leader of the Plymouth Brethren. He was a bell ringer. He was indentured in 1881 for a period of six years to Messrs Hulbert & Metcalfe, Printers, Stroud. After leaving Painswick he worked briefly in Cardiff and Redditch, but then settled in Alcester, Warwickshire by the end of the 1880s. He died there in August 1952.)





Section of 1882 Ordnance Survey Map

- |           |                                   |           |                                |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Spring's timber yard and workshop | <b>12</b> | Grocer's shop of Samuel Holder |
| <b>2</b>  | Workshop of Mr. William Estcourt  | <b>13</b> | Hart's chemist shop            |
| <b>3</b>  | William Savory's yard and shop    | <b>14</b> | Skinner's Brewery              |
| <b>4</b>  | Row of fine elm trees             | <b>15</b> | New Inn                        |
| <b>5</b>  | Miss Padbury's residence          | <b>16</b> | The "Star"                     |
| <b>6</b>  | Padbury's stable                  | <b>17</b> | Bob Moffatt's shop             |
| <b>7</b>  | "Doctor Dicky,"                   | <b>18</b> | Ash's boot and shoe shop       |
| <b>8</b>  | Doctor William                    | <b>19</b> | Doidge and Horlick             |
| <b>9</b>  | Baptist Chapel                    | <b>20</b> | Fleece                         |
| <b>10</b> | Mr. Barnfield                     | <b>21</b> | Butcher Dance's shop           |
| <b>11</b> | West's ironmongers shop           |           |                                |



## **PAINSWICK MILESTONES**

by

**Peter Minall**

The ancient milestones that appear beside roads and lanes, sometimes at the most unexpected places, are a visible link with times gone by, a reminder of routes that have long fallen into disuse and of the days when getting about was arduous and perhaps dangerous. Along with signposts, they were the 'street furniture' without which it was only too easy to get lost in strange territory.

Various hazards have caused the disappearance of many milestones and to preserve and restore those that are left around Painswick became the aim of the Society in 1997. Initial research was based on a survey carried out by Christopher Cox in the 1960s,<sup>1</sup> which was most helpful in locating stones on four roads through the parish of Painswick, namely:

- Gloucester – Painswick – Bisley - Cirencester;
- Gloucester – Painswick – Wick Street – Stroud;
- Pitchcombe – Painswick – Cheltenham (today's A46);
- Stroud – Lightpill – Slad – Birdlip.

We have been able to add a fifth road, suspected by Cox, but confirmed by the surveyor's sketches for the first edition of the Ordnance Survey c.1813.<sup>2</sup> This was the road which ran below the Painswick Beacon through Popes Wood, past Prinknash Park and Buckholt Wood to Birdlip. It was marked by four milestones, of which only one remains.

In 1998 the Society successfully applied for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the cost of a restoration programme. Because this was a pilot scheme administered by the Countryside Commission prior to a nationwide launch, we were allotted an experienced researcher to guide and monitor the progress of our plans.

A condition attached to the grant was that the work had to be completed within a year, so we limited our programme to 'Phase 1', the Stroud – Slad – Birdlip and the Gloucester – Wick Street – Stroud roads, 12 stones in all.

### **THE STROUD – LIGHTPILL – SLAD – BIRDLIP ROAD**

The construction of this road was authorised by an Act of Parliament of 1800. The stated object was shorter and better communication between Bath and Cheltenham and adjacent parts particularly those parts

“wherein many considerable and extensive Clothing Manufactories  
are carried on”.

The Act ordered the setting up of milestones or signposts.

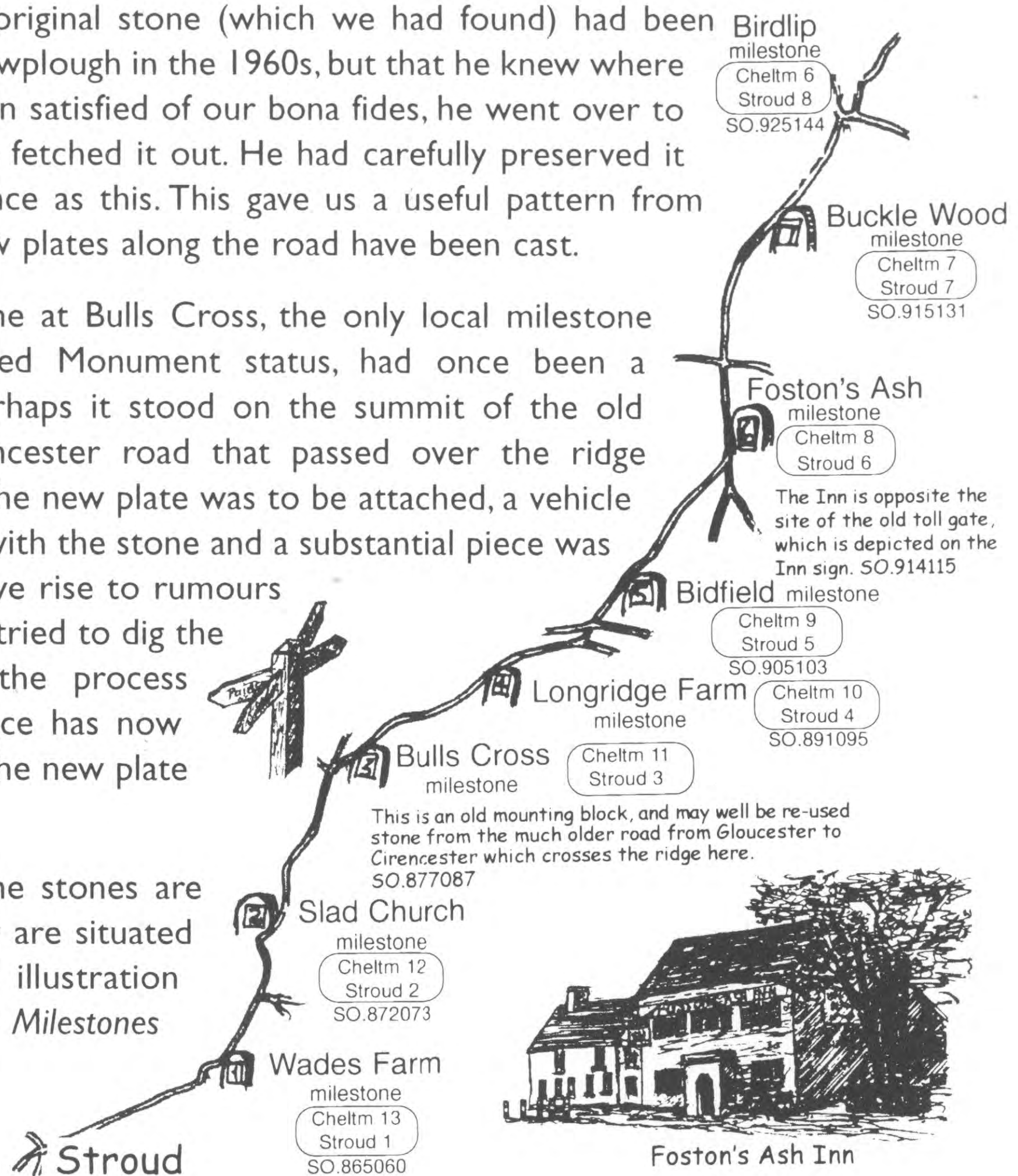
By a stroke of good fortune, when searching for the site of the stone that stood near the toll house at Foston's Ash turnpike, we met a local resident who not only was able



to tell us that the original stone (which we had found) had been snapped off by a snowplough in the 1960s, but that he knew where the plate was! When satisfied of our bona fides, he went over to his garden shed and fetched it out. He had carefully preserved it for just such a chance as this. This gave us a useful pattern from which the other new plates along the road have been cast.

The interesting stone at Bulls Cross, the only local milestone with Grade 2 Listed Monument status, had once been a mounting block. Perhaps it stood on the summit of the old Gloucester – Cirencester road that passed over the ridge nearby. Just before the new plate was to be attached, a vehicle must have collided with the stone and a substantial piece was knocked off. This gave rise to rumours that somebody had tried to dig the stone up and in the process damaged it. The piece has now been put back and the new plate fixed.

On this route all the stones are now complete. They are situated as shown on the illustration from the *Painswick Milestones Project* leaflet.



## THE GLOUCESTER – PAINSWICK – WICK STREET –STROUD ROAD

On the other of our two routes I made an interesting discovery at about mid-day one bright sunny day. I took a snapshot of the stone which stands in Gloucester Road beside the bus stop. When the print came back, it was possible to see clearly inscribed on the stone – 'VI'. This inscription would have been covered by the plates later attached to the stone, bearing the legend 'VI miles to Gloucester'. It appears that this stone has had two lives. One suggestion is that it originally served the now defunct Gloucester – Bisley – Cirencester road which passed this point.

The stones on this route date from the mid-18th century, the road having been originally turnpiked in 1727. Each has two plates. The top one tells the distance in miles in Roman numerals and the lower one is common to all the stones – "miles to Gloucester". Fortunately we had one surviving set of plates on this route, at Stepping Stone Lane, from which the mould was made for the rest. I am told that, in 1940 when, under the threat of invasion, the order was given to remove signposts and milestones, the local roadman ignored the order, covered this post with debris and, after the war, simply removed the heap of rubbish.



All but one of the stones on this road have now been restored. The remaining one is at Jericho Pitch (St Leonards Well). It needs to be moved forward and stood upright, but it is so heavy (it is 5'6" long!), that at the time of writing we are waiting for a JCB to shift it (see note).

On this route all the stones are now complete. They are situated as shown on the illustration from the *Painswick Milestones Project* leaflet.

The new plates were cast at DM Foundries Ltd, Thrupp, and the stonework was carried out by Messrs Horne and Kilmister of Painswick. We worked under the guidance of our researcher, Jo Rose, of Rose Associates, Witham Friary, Frome. The total cost of the project has been a little over £2,700, wholly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

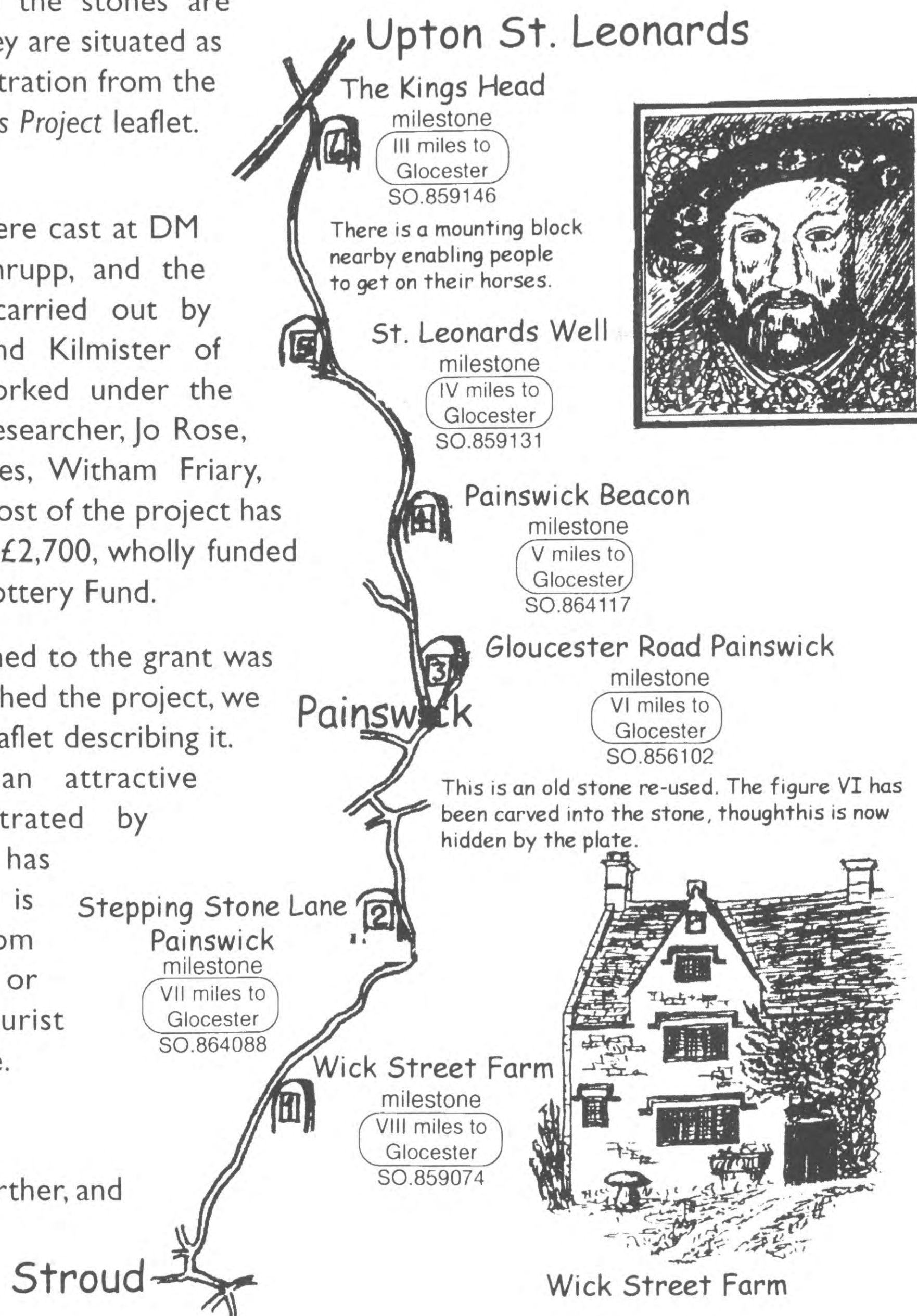
A condition attached to the grant was that when we finished the project, we must produce a leaflet describing it. The result is an attractive production, illustrated by John Bailey. It has sketch maps, and is available free from Painswick Library or Painswick Tourist Information Office.

## PHASE 2

We hope to go further, and restore the stones on the disused road to Cirencester.

Then it would be good to replace the missing stones at Gyde Farm and The Royal William on the A46. And perhaps put up replacements for those which once stood across the Painswick Beacon and in Cranham Woods. Or would it? For there are those who would argue that to restore existing stones to their former state is one thing; to put up a copy of the original is another matter, a pretence at history. What do you think?

Note: The JCB duly arrived and the stone is restored. Ed.







The Bulls Cross Milestone

## References

- 1 Cox C, *Milestones of the Stroud District* in *Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, vol 83, 1964.
- 2 Surveyors' drawings for the Ordnance Survey, c1813, in the British Library.  
  
There is useful information in C Cox's article *Some Problems of Dating Milestones* in *Journal of the Gloucestershire Society of Industrial Archaeology* vol 6, No 1, Feb 1969.



## JOTTINGS

Stop traveller turn your eye

A solumn thought you're sure to die

Remember that you shortly must

Lie here as we do in the dust.

Inscription from tombstone in Painswick churchyard  
of William West (died 1843) and Mary West his wife (died 1825)

As through the fields he walked alone,

By chance he met grim death,

And with his dart, did strike his heart,

And robbed him of his breath.

Inscription from tombstone in Painswick churchyard  
of John Parker (died 1799)

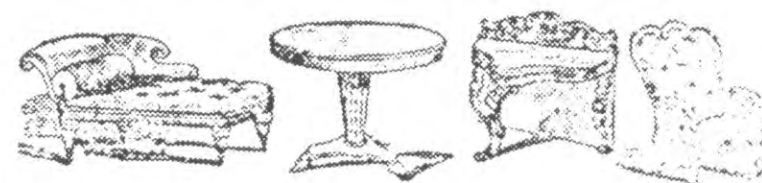
H. GWINNETT,  
CARPENTER, JOINER,  
Coffin Maker, and Undertaker,  
St. Mary's St. Painswick.

*Most Respectfully solicits the favour  
of your Patronage and Support.*

Jobbing in all its Branches. Estimates given for General Repairs.

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New Street, Painswick.

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## THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S

by

Derek Hodges

Guidebooks invariably allude to the magnificence of St Mary's Church, Painswick, and often to the fame and beauty of its bells: fame from the long history of change-ringing that goes back some 300 years in the history of the Ancient Society of Painswick Youths, and beauty from the tonal quality of the ancient bells.

The Church now has 14 bells – quite unique for a small town church – but the first reference we have to the bells is that in 1686 two bells were added to make eight. We know nothing about the six previous bells, but we find in the churchwardens' accounts for 1686 that churchwardens Edmund Webb and William Rogers paid Rudhall of Gloucester £1-15s-0d for casting two bells, and £3-0s-0d for the metal, £1-0s-0d to James Loveday for making the frames and 8d to Richard Barnfield for fetching the bells from Gloucester in his wagon. These bells must have been very heavy because the first reference to re-casting is in 1731 when Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester recast the eight bells to make ten. Two more were added in 1821 to make a peal of 12 – probably because in 1815 the bells in St Lawrence's Church, Stroud, had been increased from six to ten and Painswick would not be outdone.

It was in 1686 that the Ancient Society of Painswick Youths was formed and it was at its tercentenary in 1986 that the 13th bell was added. This bell, known as a flat 7th, was placed in this position in order to form a perfect octave in the middle of a ring of twelve. It is usual for wording or names to be cast into the bells when they are made. The wording of the 1986 bell records the tercentenary of the 'Painswick Youths' and, I am proud to say, that it also has my initials cast into it as I was a churchwarden at the time.



The Tercentenary Bell





The Recast Bells - 1993

In 1993 another bell was added by recasting the original 1st and 2nd making three out of the two, so now we have 14 bells. The latest 'high tech' innovation has been installed by the steeple keeper. This involved putting sensors on the bells and connecting them to a computer in the ringing chamber. By tying the clappers of the bells to keep them silent, all sorts of practice can be done without annoying the local inhabitants.

The history of the Ancient Society of Painswick Youths is long and complicated. The town has always been proud of its bellringers and the name 'Painswick Youths' is much honoured and revered today although, perhaps, its heyday was some 150 years ago. Many record peals have been rung over the years. One of the earliest recorded was achieved on 1st March 1731 when a peal of triples consisting of 5,040 changes was rung in 3 hours 36 minutes;

"...to the great Satisfaction of the Auditors; not only Townsmen, but Strangers and those who were judges of the Art." (*Gloucester Journal*)

There had always been great rivalry between the ringers of Stroud and Painswick and also of Bristol. For instance, on 7th February 1815 the Bristol men had rung 7,325 changes of Grandsire Caters (on ten bells) at Christ Church in that city. Painswick resolved to beat them and on 23rd September 1816 they rang 10,278 changes in 6 hours 48 minutes. In 1817 a rumour reached Painswick that Bristol men had beaten their 10,278 so it was announced on 1st May that

"Monday next the Society of Painswick Ringers intend to ring on their truly celebrated bells a peal of 12,312 Grandsire Caters, being the longest and of greater duration ever rung in this kingdom".

On the Monday morning the bells went into changes soon after 7 o'clock and, as the day passed and course after course rang out, the churchyard and the streets around filled with people. The *Cheltenham Chronicle* spoke of "a vast number of respectable people assembled on the occasion". Just before three in the afternoon, 7 hours and 44 minutes after going into the changes, the bells ran round. This was said to be the longest peal ever rung. The ringers met with tremendous excitement when they came out of the tower. The churchyard was packed with people and it seemed the ringers would never get to the Falcon Inn across the way. However, the town band, which had turned out for the occasion, forced a way for the ringers, playing lustily as they led the heroes to the waiting refreshment.

One point of passing interest about this performance – all the ringers except one, Robert Selwyn, went on to live to a ripe old age. Giles Mansfield was 97, Daniel Gyde 89, George Harding 87, when they died. The average age at the time of death was 82



(excluding Selwyn who was 50 when he died) and it was pointed out as a warning to others that he was the only bachelor in the band!

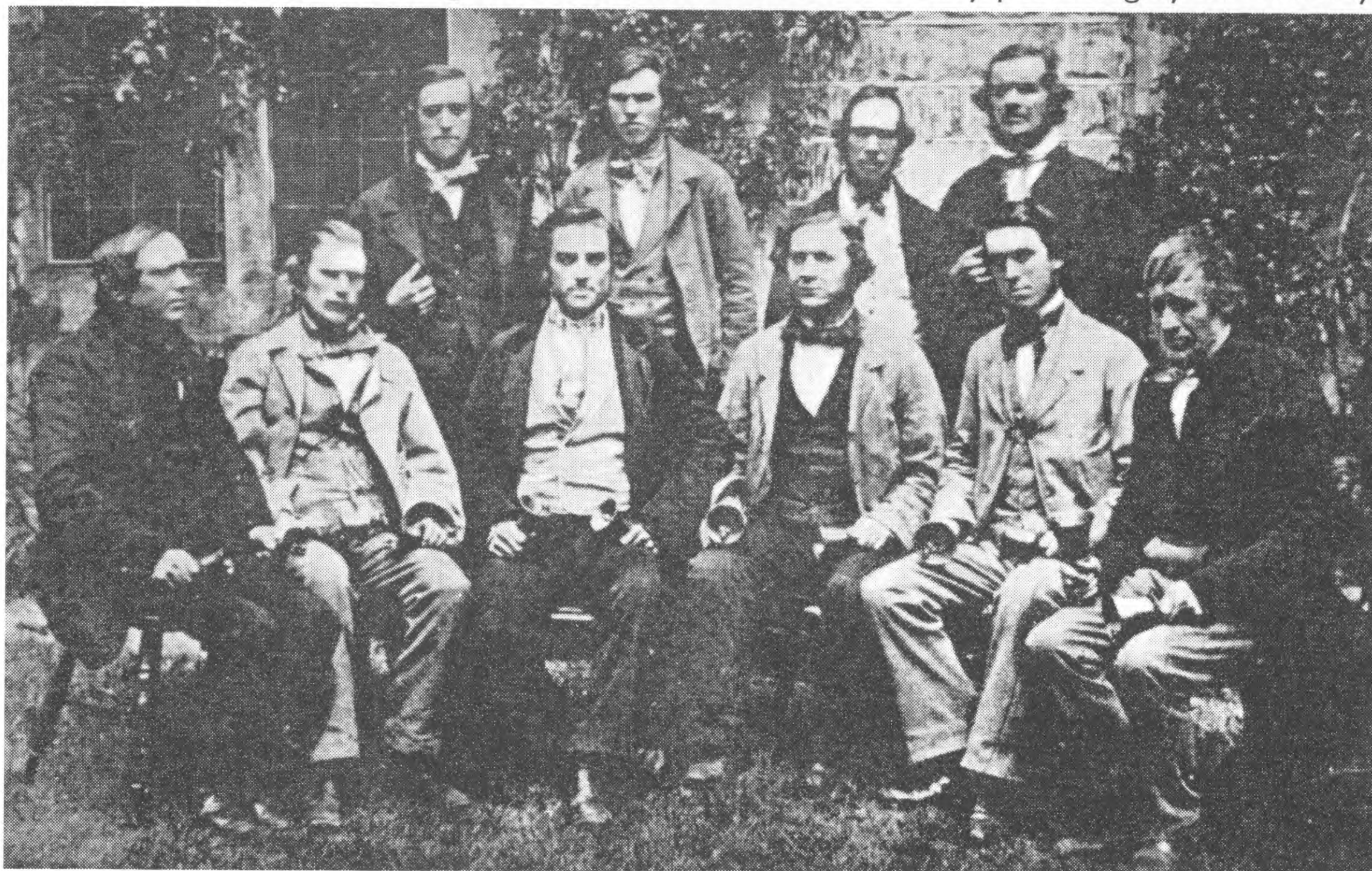
On Monday 9th December 1833 the *Gloucester Journal* reported that the 'Painswick Youths' achieved an

“unparalleled feat of change-ringing which eclipsed all other former feats of change-ringing by completing a peal of Treble Bob Maxims consisting of 10,224 changes, composed and conducted by William Estcourt, in 6 hours 50 minutes”

In this century, on 8th November 1930 a further record peal was claimed when 17,687 changes were rung in 11 hours 35 minutes.

As will be appreciated these long spells of ringing were thirsty work. The ringers were well supplied during the courses of a peal with suitable refreshment from the Falcon Inn contained in a six and a half pint copper ale jug which was the gift of Richard Cook to the Society of Ringers in 1735. The ale jug was, unfortunately, stolen and was lost for many years. It was very fortunate indeed, therefore, that it was restored to the Society having been found in an antique shop in Wales by the husband of one of the ringers. The jug was formally handed back to the Society on the occasion of the tercentenary dinner in 1986.

In the history of the 'Painswick Youths' the name which stands out above all others is that of Estcourt. First, there was William Estcourt, baptised 23rd December 1797. He rang his first peal as a teenager and his name featured in every peal rung by the Society



The Painswick Bell Ringers - circa 1860

Back Row - Alfred Walkley, George Wright, Jerry Birt, David Marmont

Front Row - John Morris, James Estcourt, Alfred Keene, Robert Birt (Conductor and composer of peals), Albert Estcourt (brother of James), William Estcourt (father of James and Albert)



over the next 45 years. Another famous ringer of this era was Giles Mansfield who was destined to become the grand old man of Painswick ringers. Born in October 1792, he had learned to handle a bell by the age of ten. In 1805 at the age of 13 he had taken part in the joyous ringing that celebrated the great victory at Trafalgar and in the subsequent muffled ringing when news of Admiral Nelson's death reached these parts. An industrious man, he first went out to work at the age of seven and did not retire until he was 82. During his long life he was twice married, having 12 children by his first wife and a further six by his second, and in his old age he would proudly tell how he had brought up all 18 children without recourse to parochial assistance.

The Painswick conductor at this time was James Savory. He was a millwright by trade and was responsible for the maintenance of Painswick bells, a task taken over by his son in later years. A seven-year contract between Savory and the Parish, dated 3rd April 1820, whereby the former undertook to maintain the bells providing "Ropes, Bolts, Brasses, Iron and Wood of all descriptions, with oil and every other necessary" for £6 a year still exists in the parish records.

William Estcourt died in 1876 and his son Albert carried on the tradition and left a longer lasting memorial at the church he had known and loved as a young man. The church was struck by lightning on Sunday 10th June 1883 which carried away 20 feet of the spire and caused other damage to the structure. The task of restoring the church was entrusted to Albert Estcourt who, besides having been three times Mayor of Gloucester, was a builder of no mean ability.

Today, as we look across the Churchyard, perhaps from the lychgate built from the timbers of the 1819 bell frame, and listen to the fine bells ringing out, we can contemplate the yew trees, the tombs carved by John Bryan (himself a distinguished ringer) and the spire of Albert Estcourt. Just up the road stands the Falcon and we can recall those stalwarts of the past who have made their way from the tower to its door after their long peals, the town band playing triumphantly before them: the Savorys, the Gydes, the Holders, the Chandlers, the Cooks and the Birts, weavers and wool-spinners, shoemakers and book-binders, stonemasons and carpenters, men who, under the inspiring leadership of William Estcourt, rang so many peals in that wooden-panelled belfry above the present ringing chamber and made the name of The Ancient Society of Painswick Youths famous throughout the world.

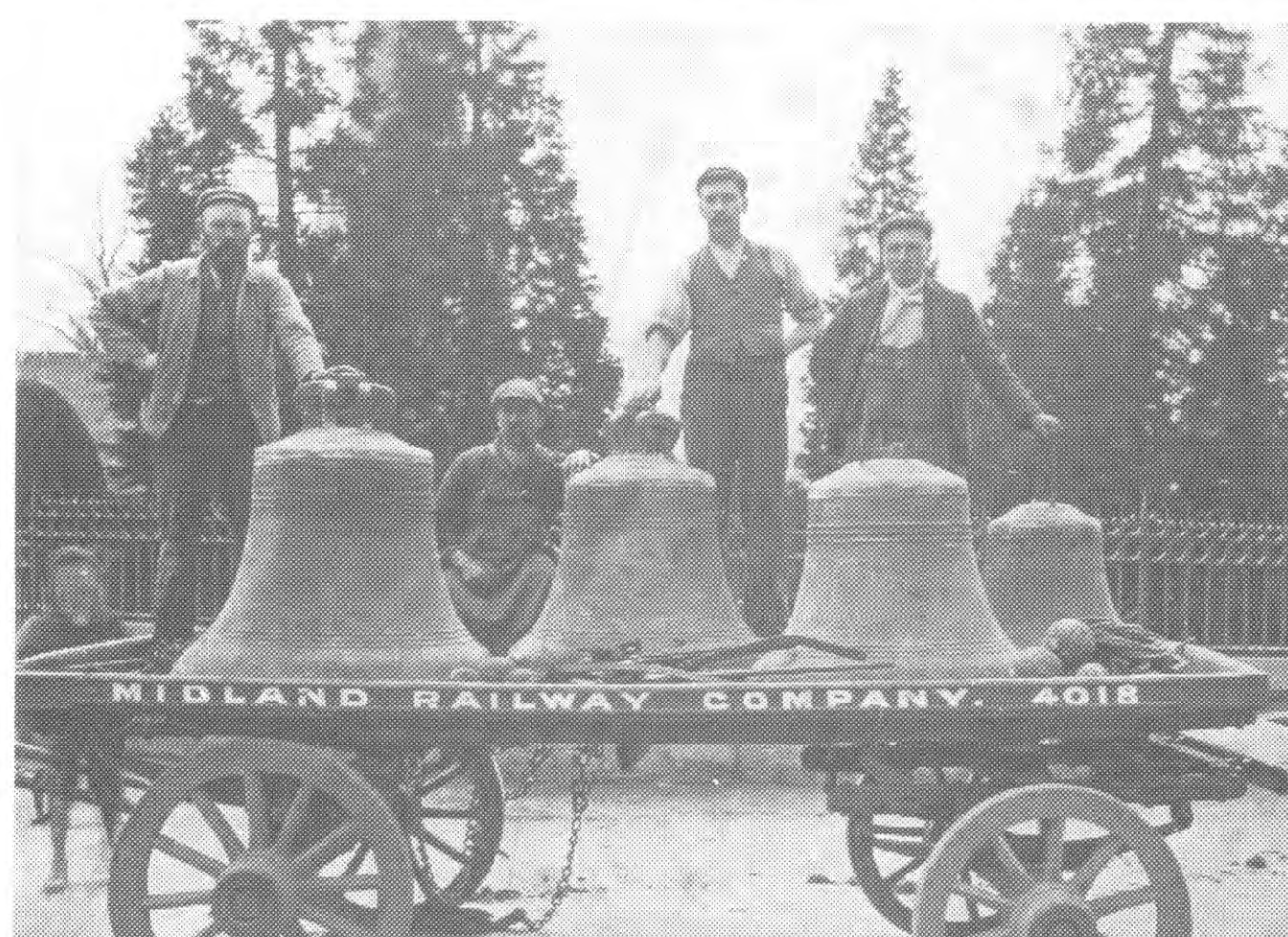


**Appendix:****INSCRIPTIONS, DATES, FOUNDERS AND WEIGHTS OF THE BELLS**

		Cwts	Qtrs	Lbs
Treble	TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF JOAN WARWICK MOSS 1913-1991 Whitechapel Foundry 1993	4	3	17
Second	NON CLAMOR SED AMOR CANTAT IN AURE DEI Whitechapel Foundry 1993	5	1	11
Third	PRO ECCLESIA ET REGINA. RECAST IN MEMORY OF ROYSTON CORNOCK MASTER OF THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF PAINSWICK YOUTHS 1968-79 1980-88 Whitechapel Foundry 1993	5	2	13
Fourth	WHEN YOU RING ME I,LE SWEETLY SING 1731 Abraham Rudhall 1731	5	2	11
Fifth	PROSPERITY TO ALL OVR BENEFACTORS AR 1731 Abraham Rudhall 1731	5	2	19
Sixth	THE GIFT OF EDMD WEBB CLOTHIER 1686 Abraham Rudhall 1731	6	3	21
Seventh	THE GIFT OF WM: ROGERS ESQR 1686 Abraham Rudhall 1731	7	1	16
Seventh (Flat)	ANCIENT SOCIETY OF PAINSWICK YOUTHS TERCENTENARY BELL 1986 MRM JIN DAH Whitechapel Foundry 1986	7	2	10
Eighth	ABR RUDHALL CAST VS ALL 1731 Abraham Rudhall 1731	8	1	9
Ninth	1732 Abraham Rudhall 1732	9	2	16
Tenth	PROSPERITY TO THIS TOWN AND PARISH AR 1731 Abraham Rudhall 1731	11	2	3
Eleventh	JOHN DOWNE VICAR AR 1731 Abraham Rudhall 1731	13	2	15
Twelfth	THOMAS SMITH AND WILLIAM BARNES, CHURCHWARDENS AR 1731 Abraham Rudhall 1731	18	0	15
Tenor (Key of D)	I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL 1731 Abraham Rudhall 1731	25	2	19



Note: The second and third bells replace two original bells which weighed 4.3.2 and 5.1.4 respectively. The old bells were cast in 1819 by John Rudhall, recast by him in 1821, recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1887 and re-tuned and the cannons removed by Taylors in 1901. None of the original Rudhall 10 were tuned at this time and they remain as Abraham Rudhall made them other than having their cannons removed in 1901.



The ten bells being taken away to have their cannons removed, 1901



## Glossary

Bob	A 'call' by the conductor during change-ringing that causes an odd number of bells to vary their normal pattern of work.
Cannon	Part of a bell by which it is hung in the old style.
Change-ringing	The ringing of a series of unrepeated changes on a ring of bells.
Clapper	An iron shaft pivoted at the top with a ball at the bottom which strikes the inside of the bell.
Peal	A series of changes conforming to definite rules and consisting of not less than 5040 changes on seven bells or a minimum of 5000 on eight bells.
Ring	A diatonically tuned set of bells which are rung full circle.
Running-round	This happens when the bells finish changing and return to rounds.
Treble	The highest toned bell - generally, but not exclusively the lightest. It is usually the first to ring, and as it is pulled 'off' the ringer shouts 'Treble's going - gone' to alert the others.
Triples	Methods rung on seven bells.

## Sources

Hyett, F.A.	<i>Glimpses of the History of Painswick</i>
Baddeley, W. St C	<i>History of the Church of St Mary at Painswick, (1902)</i>
	<i>The Ringing World</i>
	<i>Peal Books of the Ancient Society of Painswick Youths</i>
	<i>Accounts books of the Churchwardens of St Mary's Church, Painswick</i>
	<i>Gloucester Journal</i>

## Acknowledgements

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance given by Cyril Wratten of Charlton Kings (Chairman of the Library Committee of the Central Council of Church Bellringing) and Alan Hodges (Steeple Keeper of St Mary's Church).



## WHERE WAS SAXON PAINSWICK?

by

Cedric Nielsen

After the withdrawal of the Roman administration from England in AD 410 there was a westerly movement of Saxons from the Thames Valley into the Cotswolds. Following the battle of Dyrham in AD 577 however, the Saxons conquered Gloucestershire and Saxon settlement ensued. Typical settlements would consist of small farmsteads based on mixed-arable farming. Did Saxon Painswick develop this way?

I decided to see if there was any evidence, documentary or on the ground, to throw any light on this question. Place names still in use today contain Saxon elements and these can be of some help. For example:

ham	meadow land	Broadham
wic	dairy farm	Painswick
worth	enclosed homestead	Ebworth
fold	small enclosure for animals	Ifold
frith	wood	Frith Wood
coombe	valley	Sheepscombe
hol	hollow	Holcombe

Not only does the survival of these Saxon elements in present-day place names indicate Saxon occupation, but the descriptive meanings reveal the Saxon land use and support the suggestion that the farming community consisted of small homesteads scattered throughout the manor.

It would have been natural for new settlers moving into the area to have continued to cultivate the existing agricultural land. Baddeley<sup>1</sup> says that the best land in the Manor of Wyke (as Painswick was called in Saxon times) was on the west side of the Manor, around the site of Ifold Roman Villa and along both sides of the Washbrook stream, which the Lord of the Manor kept as his own. Most of the high ground in this area, even today, is sown to arable crops and supports larger farms. The eastern side of the Manor was mostly woodland, with occasional clearings, where soils were more fertile and could be cropped. This is where most of the remaining woodlands still exist. I have often thought about the ancient field strips that can be seen in a number of fields in the valley to the west of Highfold Farm, from the ground and from aerial photographs – can these be remaining signs of medieval agriculture? Baddeley<sup>2</sup>, during excavation of Ifold Villa found that, after abandonment by the Romano-British, the villa had been used by people and livestock – were they Saxons, or squatters?

Documentary evidence comes from the Domesday Book, the survey ordered by William the Conqueror and completed in 1086. It reveals estate values and owners during the reign of King Edward the Confessor and, therefore, at the very end of the Saxon period. This is the first written mention of Wyke and reveals that the Manor had previously belonged to a Saxon thane called Earnsige – Normanised version Ernisi –



and was part of the Hundred of Bisley. The very administrative system of county, hundred, manor, tithing, is evidence of Saxon control and organisation. Further details of Wyke are given. The adult male population consisted of three radknights, 35 villeins, 16 bordars, 11 serfs and a priest; and four mills. On this basis the total population is thought to have been between 250 to 300 people. They must have been sparsely spread considering that at that time the Manor included what is now Cranham, but the occupations shown and the existence of mills again support the idea of an agricultural community. No mention is made of a church, only of a priest, but this is usually accepted as an indication that a church existed. If we accept that there was a Saxon church in the Manor, the question of its location arises.

Carolyn Heighway<sup>3</sup> says that “many Saxon church sites ... seem to have a connection with the Roman past”. Locally, Frocester, Kings Stanley and Woodchester are examples where a Saxon church has been found in close proximity to a Roman villa. It has previously been supposed that Painswick church was built on, or close to, the site of the Saxon church. There is no evidence to support this view – what is to say that it was not located near Ifold Roman Villa, for example?

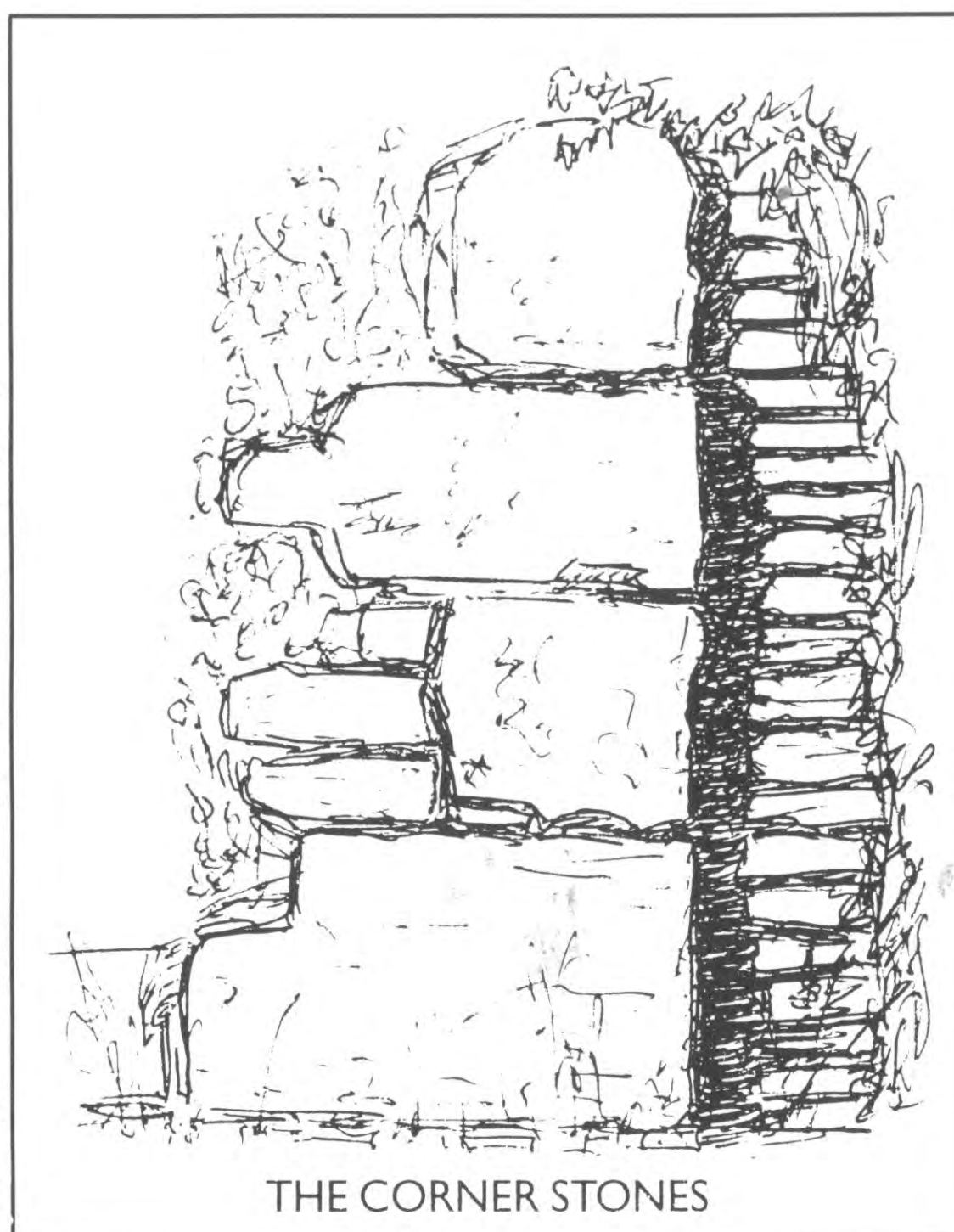
The first time a church is mentioned in Wyke is in 1103. Hugh de Lacy became Lord of the Manor in 1095 and in 1103 he gave land to his newly established Priory at Llanthony in the Black Mountains. The grant included the right to quarry for stone, the advowson of the church and the collection of tithes. In return the priors had to supply a priest for the church. This further supports the probability that there was a Saxon church, but where?

A typical Norman village frequently developed around three buildings – the Manor House, the Manorial Court and the church. It is supposed that Pain Fitzjohn's castle dates from the beginning of the 12th century. Pain chose a site for his castle at the end of a spur of land, near Castle Hale, that had natural defensive properties. The Manorial Court house was close, near Court House, and the Norman church was built close by. There is evidence from the carved stones in the fabric of Painswick church that the present building succeeded an earlier Norman church.<sup>4</sup> It is possible that this earlier church was built near to the castle by the priors, about 1150, after the building of Llanthony Secunda at Gloucester. The dedication of the church to St Mary follows from that of Llanthony Secunda which was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. These three buildings then became the centre of the present location of Painswick village. However, I put the question – did Pain choose a new site for his castle because the topography of the site was easier to defend and much more appropriate than the wider ridge to the west, by Ifold Roman Villa?

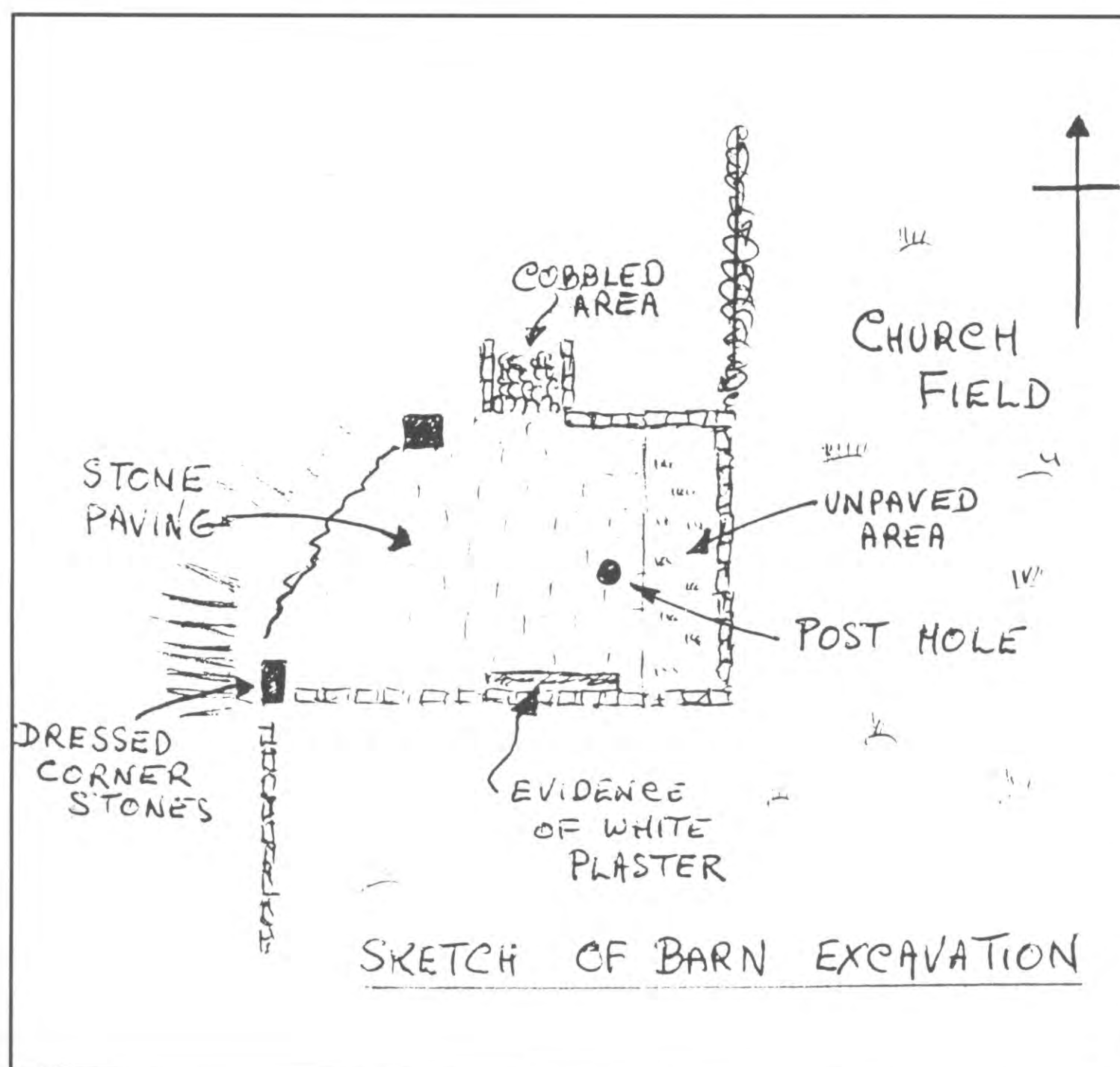
The name of Painswick did not appear on documents until 1262,<sup>5</sup> some 130 years after the death of Pain Fitzjohn in 1137. It is interesting to speculate why it took so long for the village name to appear. Was it because the Saxon Manor of Wyke was a spread community made up of isolated farmsteads and did not form a place of importance until Norman days, when buildings began to concentrate around the nucleus of the Norman buildings, gradually making a village as we understand it...



I return to the question of the location of the Saxon church. The remains of a small structure near Ifold have always interested me. It may be significant that they are close to the ancient trackway from Bisley to Gloucester which crosses the site.<sup>6</sup> The remains consist of a stone floor and the base of the east and south walls and a few stones of the west wall. Two of the corner stones are dressed ashlar stones with tongues which originally must have been interlocked with grooves in abutting stones. This technique is usually associated with quality building. These stones had obviously been re-used and this leads me to consider whether they had been robbed from Ifold Villa or another important building such as a church or a Roman shrine close by.



The structure is shown on the Charles Baker map of 1820<sup>7</sup> and includes a porch halfway along the north side. It is still shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1884<sup>8</sup>, but is not shown on the 1902 Ordnance Survey map and had presumably been demolished by then. I was encouraged to find that the field which adjoins the site was called Church Field<sup>7</sup>. The field to the north, beyond the trackway, was called Cuckoo Pen<sup>7</sup>, the meaning usually indicating an association with remains of ancient buildings.



An exploratory excavation of the site was carried out in March 1999 by Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group. The structure was found to be approximately 6.4m by 10.6m, orientated on a west/east line, and had latterly been used as a barn. The floor was paved with substantial Cotswold stones some 150mm thick but they did not cover the whole area of the structure, falling short of the east wall. There was a post hole through the paving near the east end. As previously thought, the



substantial corner stones had been reused. Pieces of white plaster were found that had been used to plaster the inside of the walls. Cotswold stone roof tiles found on site were identified as being the best quality tiles from a quarry at Througham, near Bisley. The stone in this quarry fractures into thin sheets and is ideal for roof tiles<sup>9</sup>. No artefacts were found on the site during the excavation.

The Cotswold stone floor was not removed during excavation due to lack of resources and time. Therefore the levels below the floor remain sealed and the question as to whether the barn has an ancient history still remains to be answered.



The opportunity to make a field walk on part of the Church Field adjoining the site came in April 1999, following cultivation. Pottery sherds were found in an area up to 150m from the barn site in Church Field and were identified by City of Gloucester Museum as follows

- two sherds of Roman roof tiles
- four sherds of 2nd/3rd century Severn Valley ware
- eight sherds of 15th century glazed ware
- three sherds of 17th century black Staffordshire ware.

The implication of the early finds makes speculation very interesting, but further research cannot be pursued at this time. A full excavation report on the barn site will appear in *Glevensis*<sup>10</sup> in the future.



Finds of Romano-British pottery, roof tiles and floor tiles have been made in other fields. Field walking (with the owner's consent) still reveals some finds, and it is possible that with enough material we may one day be able to form a clearer picture of Painswick's early past. The question of the location of the Saxon church remains a mystery and is a challenge for future generations to solve.

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- 10      *Glevensis* contains the proceedings of the Gloucester  
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## Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Philip Berry for permission to excavate the barn site.



## THE TWINING FAMILY IN PAINSWICK AND SHEEPSCOMBE:

### SOME SNIPPETS

by

Elisabeth Skinner

Thomas Twining, born in Painswick in 1675, is the most famous member of the Twining family. In *Painswick Chronicle* Number 2 we discovered that Thomas Twining left Painswick for London in 1684 and later founded the extraordinarily successful tea business. There are, however, hundreds of other members of this family who have lived in the Painswick parish over the centuries. First, the registers of Painswick Parish Church provide some clues to the size of the Twining family. For example, in the 100 years between 1740 and 1840, there were 167 Twining baptisms at Painswick Parish Church, 70 marriages and 82 burials – and these figures do not include the married female lines.

Where did it all begin? In 1927, Stephen Twining wrote a pamphlet called *Some account of an early Twining pedigree and of other references to the name in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries*.<sup>1</sup> The account usefully shows how several probably unrelated people took their name during the medieval centuries from the village of Twynning just a few miles north of Tewkesbury. It was likely that Twynning was the village of their birth and childhood and they acquired the name 'of Twynning' when they arrived somewhere else. For example, in the 1330s there was a monk at Westminster Abbey called Walter Twynninge or Walter de Twynyng; apparently he was permitted to drink wine, because he said he was unable to drink beer! Stephen Twining suggests that Thomas Twenyng and John Twenyng, abbots of Winchcombe in the 1470s, did not inherit the name as a family name but simply took the name of the village of Twynning from which they had probably come. The village of Twynning was owned by Winchcombe Abbey as far back as the 12th century and it was natural that young men from the village should occasionally become monks at the abbey.

By 1400, however, a family line had been established. Stephen Twining believes it can be traced back to a Roger Twynnyng who was born in 1260. (see possible lineage p38) In 1412 there was a Thomas Twynnyng of Tewkesbury who left a will naming six children: Richard, John, Thomas, Alice, Agnes and Elizabeth. Shortly afterwards in 1427, the first Twining, John, appears in Painswick while Agnes (Agneta) Twynnyng is mentioned in Expense Schedules of the Steward of Painswick Manor.<sup>2</sup> The family appears to have become relatively well-situated in the Painswick trading community; for example, Henry Twinning in 1486 and Joan Twynnyng in 1496,<sup>3</sup> rented a mill from the Lord of the Manor, while, at the same time, another John Twynnyng was the tenant of a significant Painswick property called Ludlowes.<sup>4</sup>

During the 16th century some members of the family had enough property to warrant making a will, for the Gloucestershire Record Office has several Painswick Twining wills proved during that period: John (1550), Thomas (1553), Julian(a) (1585), Thomas (1594), John (1597) and Edith (1599). According to Baddeley, Juliana Twynnings had the family mill in 1556. In 1596 John Twynyng died leaving a fulling mill to his son, Thomas, who



went on to have a son Daniel, who, Stephen Twining thought, might have been the ancestor of Thomas Twining the tea merchant. The Gloucestershire Muster Roll of 1608<sup>5</sup> lists a John Twyninge, Thomas Twyninge the son of John, (Thomas was a husbandman or farmer of a smallholding) and three different Williams, a husbandman, a yeoman and a weaver, living in the parish of Painswick. Already we are confused! If Thomas was the son of John who died in 1596, who was the John listed in the Muster Roll?

In the fashion of the times, the family used the same names again and again over the centuries so it becomes extremely difficult for family historians to untangle. For example, in the century between 1740 and 1840, of the 167 Twining baptisms, 52 male children were baptised either William, Thomas, John, Samuel or Charles and 51 female children were called either Ann, Mary, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Eliza or Esther.

The family historian searching for the parents of a particular Samuel Twining of Sheepscombe, born in the late 1760s, give or take a few years, is faced with four different Samuels baptised at Painswick between 1765 and 1771. (There was no church at Sheepscombe until 1820.) Fortunately on this occasion, a process of deduction helps identify the Sheepscombe Samuel, born in 1770, the only surviving child of Thomas and Sarah Twinning. Samuel married Elizabeth Clissold when he was nearly 27 (1797) and the couple had several children – but which children? A second Samuel Twining, with a wife called both Elizabeth and Betty, had children baptised at the same time. Eight of the children possibly belonged to Samuel and Elizabeth of Sheepscombe, five girls followed by three boys. The two youngest boys, Henry and Jacob, were both baptised on 10th January 1813, the very same day on which their mother Elizabeth was buried. Samuel married yet another Elizabeth within 19 months, but the family was poor and life was a struggle. Henry's descendant, Lionel Merrett, writes,

“In England, when Henry was growing into manhood, starvation living conditions and the laws of the land made living almost unbearable. Henry was one young boy who fell victim to the temptation caused by starvation. In January 1830, ‘Samuel Mitchell and Henry Twining were committed to the county gaol for two months at the County Quarter Sessions for stealing potatoes from R Gardner of Painswick’. (*Gloucester Journal*)”<sup>6</sup>

But it was his younger brother Jacob however who really got into trouble and ended up being transported to Tasmania in 1835/6. Eventually, Henry decided to go too; he obtained a free passage to Australia in 1838 and he left in search of a better life than Sheepscombe could offer to a young farm labourer with a wife and baby.

Round about 1800, there were four Twining families in Sheepscombe. John and William were brothers who each had five surviving children born between 1777 and 1797. The brothers both had sons called Thomas (born 1786 and 1787), daughters called Mary (born 1794 and 1795) and Ann (born 1789 and 1797). How did they manage with these cousins of the same name? The other two families were slightly younger and not directly related: Thomas and Samuel between them had 18 children born between 1793 and 1817 (all surviving) – this time the only name in common was Ann.



By 1820, the brothers John and William Twining were approaching 70 years of age. For thirty years or more they had been important figures in Sheepscombe, acknowledged throughout the local area for their work teaching local children. John Twining was a weaver who worked at one of Cox's mills on the Painswick stream. The cottage school which met on Sundays from about 1789 was under the patronage of Samuel Webb of Ebworth with John and William Twining as teachers. According to William's son, John taught the boys and William taught the girls.<sup>7</sup> This was an early Sunday School visited by Robert Raikes from Gloucester who went on to found the Sunday School movement; Raikes wanted to find out how the brothers managed education at their school. Writer Joseph Stratford, described John Twining as

“a worthy but pious and poor man...an instrument of much good, clearing the village streets of those who previously were a great nuisance to the respectable inhabitants.”<sup>8</sup>

Raikes sent John Twining a signed Bible in which he

“confessed his obligations to him for the information he had given.”

Stratford notes that the Sunday School Union recognised John Twining's influence on Robert Raikes and they gave him an annuity which helped with the rent for his cottage, because he was the oldest Sunday School teacher then living.

The census shows that in 1841 there were 46 Twinings in Painswick Parish living in 16 different households; 17 lived in Painswick itself and 29 lived in Sheepscombe. Among the Painswick Twinings were two young female servants, two weavers (one man, one woman) and an apprentice wheelwright; in Sheepscombe, Samuel and Thomas were both weavers in their 60s, but the clothmaking industry in Sheepscombe had collapsed and the mill in the village had been empty for at least two years; the younger men were John, a stone Sawyer and William, Isaiah, Thomas and John, agricultural labourers. Fifty years later, in 1891, the census shows again that there were only four Twinings left – three in Painswick and one in Sheepscombe. Where did they all go? The pattern of their leaving, following the collapse of the cloth making industry of the Painswick and Sheepscombe valleys, was repeated in many other families of the Victorian parish. Certainly in Sheepscombe, there was so little work, they left in droves.

But finally...

Thomas Twining who lived in Sheepscombe in 1820 with his wife Ann, had ten children and then three families of grandchildren who were brought up in Sheepscombe. One of those grandchildren, John George Twining (sic), moved to the Vatch in the Slad Valley where he raised his own seven children. But the family had not gone for good; John George's great grandson, Dave Hopkins, President of Sheepscombe Cricket Club, has come back to the place of his ancestors – he lives next door to the cottage where Samuel Twining lived 200 years ago.



POSSIBLE TWINNING LINEAGE 1260-1500

Pedigree	Approximate Date of Birth	Regnal Year
Slr Roger Twynnynge had issue =	1260	44 Henry III
Sir Humfrey( Twynnynge) =	1290	18 Edward I
John Twynnynge =	1320	14 Edward II
Thomas Twynnynge =	1350	24 Edward III
Richard (Twynnynge) =	1380	4 Richard II
William Twynnynge =	1410	11 Henry IV
John Twynnynge =	1440	18 Henry VI
Richard Twynnynge =	1470	10 Edward IV
Jonne Twynnynge	1495-1500	10-15 Henry VII

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3	Baddeley, W. St C.	op, cit, p 118-123
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5	Smith, John - Editor	<i>Men in Armour in Gloucestershire</i> compiled in 1608
6		The Sheepscombe History Society Archive contains references to the Twinning family in File No 65.
7		<i>Notes on a conversation with William Twinning's son written by W H Hyett dated 3rd July 1859.</i> Gloucestershire Collection in Gloucester Public Library
8	Stratford, Joseph	<i>Good and Great Men of Gloucestershire in 1867</i> Savory, London



## MORE JOTTINGS

I feel we must mention the pride we have had in our bells over the years. We were often treated to long peals rung on all twelve bells – a rare occurrence now. I remember vividly the Saturday when an attempt was made on the world record. We used to count the rings to the minute to see if the ringers were maintaining their rate and got so used to the sound that when after twelve hours they stopped, there seemed an unearthly quiet. They thought they had taken the record, and champagne was enjoyed in the belfry. Mr Bert Ireland then running a fried fish shop in Vicarage St. rang the BBC in an effort to get the event broadcast – they refused.

Imagine the disappointment of the ringers and ourselves when the judges disqualified them as Mr Wright their conductor and arranger had repeated the opening phrase at its conclusion.

Extract from *Recollections of Painswick 1969* by Miss L Rose Tranter.

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This is Nico Craven's response to the article *My Paradise and its Inhabitants* by D Hartley which was printed in *Painswick Chronicle* No 2.



The family photograph was taken at Castle Godwyn, where the twins, Dominic and Francis, were born on 10th June 1934. My sisters, Pauline and Monica, are also present, as is the dog, who was called Brass.

Nico Craven 1.4.99



## A HISTORY OF MEDICAL PRACTICE IN PAINSWICK

by  
Dr James Hoyland

Medical knowledge prior to the present century was very limited. It was not realised how poor housing and crowded, insanitary conditions aided the spread of disease. In such conditions communal diseases like bubonic plague, cholera, 'sweating sickness' and smallpox thrived and swept the country in epidemic proportions with periodic regularity. People in the past often regarded such epidemics as indications of divine displeasure. Treatment of the sick was virtually confined to 'bleeding', or to the administration of strange potions. In some cases isolation was considered the only option available to prevent the spread of disease. No doubt Painswick would have been affected by its share of epidemics and disease, and no doubt the physicians did their best to ease the suffering of their patients.

The following extracts from Baddeley refer to some epidemics of smallpox that swept the country in the latter part of the 18th century and affected Painswick.

"The Rev. John Wiltshire was vicar of Painswick 1737-52 and lived at the same old house, the house of former vicars, called Ludloes in Vicarage Lane. During his administration, and after it, Painswick suffered severely from endemic small-pox (1741 and 1756-58). This scourge indeed seems to have been chronic here through the rest of this century. The patients were taken to be nursed in the house of S. Winn, at Washbrook. The physician was Dr J.C. Jenner, living in 1786." <sup>1</sup>

"In 1785 the steward was John Colbourne, and in that year, owing to the frequent scourging with small-pox (see note), it was resolved by the overseers of the parish to order a general inoculation." <sup>2</sup>

Note: Stroudend tything April 26, 1798 ordered that Mr Jenner be paid £1-11s-2d for attending the poor.

The Stroud News of just over 100 years ago was reporting another smallpox epidemic, fortunately affecting Painswick only slightly.

"A small-pox epidemic was raging in Gloucester, and the official report gave the total number of cases notified as 1,470, including

Fresh cases ... ..	168	Discharges ... ..	18
Deaths in hospital ...	18	Deaths outside hospital ...	125
Remaining in hospital ...	278		

Painswick had been fortunate, being almost untouched. A single case of a mild type occurred in Slad. This happy escape, from a terrible epidemic, it was thought, may be in part due to the prudence of some of the inhabitants, no less than 689 of whom were re-vaccinated." <sup>3</sup>

"The Parish Council were concerned that a case of small-pox from a neighbouring Parish was taken to hospital through Painswick. It was decided to write to the Stroud Joint Hospital Board to request any



future cases be taken by such a route as to avoid passing through the town.”<sup>4</sup>

A few years later the newspapers reported a further epidemic, this time it was influenza:

“Painswick was in the grip of an influenza epidemic in which there were few houses in which at least one inmate was not a sufferer.”<sup>5</sup>

“Influenza epidemic – which first appeared in October – began to subside in the middle of December.”<sup>6</sup>

“Influenza continued to the end of the month (January). The Lancet, incidentally, recommended that large and repeated doses – 30 grains every two or three hours – of potassium bicarbonate was a good remedy.”<sup>7</sup>

Shortly after, the *Stroud News* reported a further epidemic and included an enlightening social comment:

“Diphtheria of a virulent type was prevalent again, at the end of the year in an adjoining Parish, but no case appeared in Painswick before Christmas. Dr Fergusson, however, feared that the present freedom from the disease “was only a matter of time”, considering the deplorable sanitary condition of the town “until drainage and water supply are more thorough and satisfactory.”<sup>8</sup>

These then are some of the major incidents known to have affected Painswick. It is interesting to put these infectious diseases into the context of present-day practice.

Smallpox, with its high mortality and the risk of disfigurement, was notably prevalent in the second half of the 18th century. The picture changed dramatically with the discovery of vaccination by Dr Edward Jenner of Berkeley in 1796. In 1967 the World Health Organisation embarked on a world-wide policy of vaccination, and the disease was virtually eradicated by 1980. Thereafter it was no longer necessary to vaccinate infants or travellers going abroad. In 1963, however, a small number of cases were reported in Cardiff. People flocked to Painswick surgery for vaccination but the supply of vaccine ran out so it became necessary to make one phial do for several people at a time.

Diphtheria was another much dreaded disease. It carried the risk of suffocation if a membrane formed in the throat. Some will remember this disease and even one or two deaths from it. It was swiftly eradicated by immunisation but even so, for a time, doctors had to bear it in mind as a possible cause of severe throat infections.

Influenza is still with us of course. Winter epidemics occur most years and the severity of the illness depends upon the virulence of that particular virus. Some will have heard of the pandemic of 1918-19 which claimed 20 million lives and many will have suffered in the severe epidemic of 1957. Doctors are now able to offer protection with a ‘flu jab’.

We can now look back at some of the doctors who have practised in Painswick. In 1868 Painswick was served by two doctors with the same surname – Dr Richard Gardner and Dr William Gardner.



“Our ailments at this time were attended to by two doctors, both of whom enjoyed the same name of Gardner. ‘Doctor Dicky’, the Scotsman, lived next to the Falcon, while Doctor William resided higher up New Street. Both rode horseback when doing their long tiresome journeys in the Cotswold villages surrounding Painswick.”<sup>9</sup>

We learn more of Dr Richard Gardner from his obituary that appeared in the *Stroud News*: -

“Richard Connell Gardner, M.D. died in Algiers in his 69th year on the 10th May 1896. He came to Painswick in about 1860, having purchased the practice of Mr Goodlake, which he soon extended by his energy and expertise. His manners were somewhat brusque, and when his directions for treatment of his patients were not carried out, his language – with pronounced Scotch accent – was occasionally strong, but he was one of the most kind-hearted of men and often attended those in distressed circumstances gratuitously... Following a severe attack of pneumonia in 1876, he sold his practice to Mr H.M. Sampson and moved to Algiers.”<sup>10</sup>

Mr Henry Moore Sampson, surgeon, practised in Painswick from 1877 to 1893, from Hazelbury House, in New Street. Some insight into the regard with which he was held is shown in the following account of his retirement –

“Mr Sampson, who had for the past 16 years been resident Medical Practitioner in Painswick, left the neighbourhood this month. His professional ability and his unvarying kindness to all who needed his services, have made his departure a matter of general regret. He was presented on leaving with a purse, and an illuminated address, which very accurately expresses the feelings of his neighbours towards him.”<sup>11</sup>

In 1893 Dr William Balfour Fergusson, who had previously assisted Mr Sampson, took over the practice. He came from Newtown with a very high reputation. He also lived at Hazelbury House and was styled ‘Public Vaccinator’ in Painswick directories. He appears to have been a progressive character as the *Stroud News* reported that he held a series of lectures upon first aid at the Vicarage Room – certificates were awarded to successful candidates in April, 1896. He also organised an appeal for donations to purchase an ambulance stretcher. This was purchased and was kept with the town fire engine for use in emergencies.

The same year, 1893, saw the opening of a Nursing Home for children with hip disease in what is now the Red House in Lower Washwell.

“A home for the reception of eight children from the Alexandra Hospital for Hip Disease, 17-19, Queen Square, London, was opened in Painswick this month. The Cottage in the Cheltenham Road which was formerly occupied by the children who were to be emigrated to Canada has been altered, and is now devoted to the Alexandra Hospital patients. The first batch returned to London in December, and a member of the Medical Staff of the Hospital expressed much pleasure at the benefit which the little patients had derived from their sojourn in Painswick.”<sup>12</sup>



1893 saw also the resignation of Painswick's first Parish nurse:-

"At the beginning of this month Nurse White, who had been Parish Nurse for over four years, left to take a better appointment in London. When the Institution of a Parish Nurse was started by Mrs Seddon in 1889, it was not greatly appreciated, and some of the poor who admitted the Nurse into their homes, seemed to think that they were doing a favour to the Committee of Management. This feeling did not, however, last long, for Nurse White was so peculiarly suited for her vocation that her services were before long eagerly sought for, and her loss will now be felt throughout the district. Her kindness and unwearied attention to the sick had made for her friends in all ranks, and the poor have not only benefited by her care, but have learned from her many useful lessons. Some of her old patients and friends presented her with a testimonial on leaving." <sup>13</sup>

Dr Fergusson had an assistant called Mr Gilbert and the following is an account of an accident that he had suffered on his way back from Holcombe:-

"A serious accident, but one which might easily have been attended with still more serious consequences, happened today. Mr Gilbert, Dr Fergusson's assistant, was riding home in a thick fog, when at about 4 pm, his horse took fright near Holcombe and ran away with him to Painswick, galloping at full speed down Gloucester Street. He attempted to turn into New Street at the Star corner, but partly owing to the pace at which his horse was going, and partly owing to the density of the fog, he failed to turn in time, and his horse came with great violence against Mr Doidge's house, displacing a large stone and doing much damage to the shop window. The horse was so badly injured that it died in about twenty minutes on the spot where it fell, but Mr Gilbert had a marvellous escape, as with the exception of a severe shaking, he was unhurt." <sup>14</sup>

Dr Fergusson was succeeded by Dr Robertson, who practised from Byfield House in Bisley Street and was later joined by Dr Arnold. It is also recorded that around the end of the 19th century there was a Charlie White living at The Star, at the bottom of Gloucester Street, who doubled up as a dentist and a shoemaker!

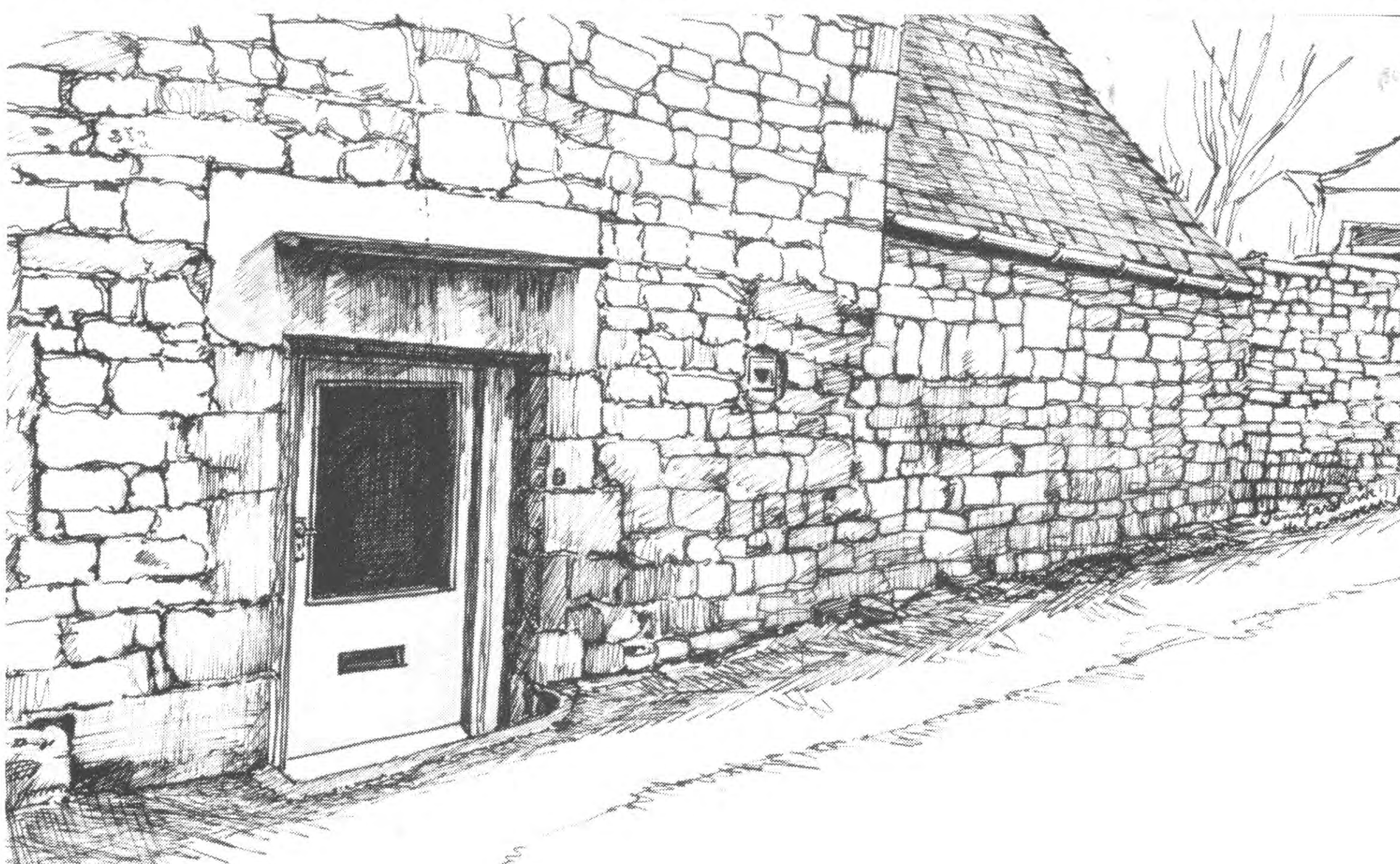
A contemporary of Dr Arnold was Dr Lionel Partridge, who lived at Hillworth in Gloucester Street, and ran a separate practice. He died in the late 1920s. In his early days he did his rounds in a pony and trap, resplendent in breeches and stockings. He later bought a car, a two seater with a 'dicky' seat. He was evidently a reckless driver and acquired the nickname of 'Madman Partridge'.

Dr Arnold took on Dr Robert Wise Holden Tincker as a locum in 1926. Dr Arnold at that time was on sick leave and died shortly afterwards. Dr Tincker bought the practice and moved from Byfield House to Beaconsfield House in New Street on his marriage to Kathleen in 1927. He was an intrepid driver and was in the habit of driving backwards up Tibbiwell. It was not unusual for him to go out on his rounds with his car packed full



of children. The weather did not deter him and he would not hesitate to go out even when there was a heavy fall of snow.

Dr Tincker had joined the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve between the wars and was one of the first to be called up into the Royal Navy in 1939. He was captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore in 1941 and spent the rest of the war in terrible conditions in a prisoner-of-war camp. He was subsequently awarded the V.R.D. for service to his fellow prisoners of war. His war time locums were Dr Barry, Dr Sadler – who subsequently moved to Cheltenham – and Dr Fox. Within six weeks of the end of the war Dr Tincker was back in his single-handed practice. With the advent of the National Health Service in 1948, he was told that his list was too large for one man and that he must find a partner. Thus, Dr Charles Henderson, who had recently retired from



Beaconsfield House

the Indian Medical Service, came to join him in partnership later that year. They practiced together, from Beaconsfield House in New Street, whilst Dr Henderson moved into Falkland House in Gloucester Street. Falkland House had been a home for 'working women' from 1890-1921 when they were transferred to St Mary's Home at the top of Stamages Lane. St Mary's Home is now a home for people with learning difficulties. The number of patients has slowly declined over the years.

Other institutions in Painswick have included St Mary's Maternity Home, next to the Royal Oak Inn in St Mary's Street. This was run by the redoubtable Nurse Judd, who is reputed to have weaned weakly babies on to Guinness. Pear Tree Cottage in Stamages Lane – now Mary's Acre – was also a maternity home from 1946-1949. That most expert of midwives, Flora Pocket, worked there as well as doing a great deal of domicillary midwifery.

There have been three tuberculosis sanatoria in the Painswick vicinity. One was located



on what is now the Croft Estate and was administered by Dr William McCall who lived at Field View in Gloucester Street. For a short time there was a sanatorium at Birdlip, but the most well known was the one in Cranham Woods. It was called the Cotswold Sanatorium for Consumption Co. and operated from 1898 to 1956. At its peak it could treat up to 120 patients; George Orwell and James Elroy Flecker were both patients there.

The partnership between Dr Tincker and Dr Henderson was dissolved in 1953 – splitting the practice, and also some households, right down the middle. Dr Sheila Forbes – later Dr Morrison – was Dr Tincker's assistant from 1956 until 1960, when Dr John Brayshaw became Dr Tincker's partner. Dr Brayshaw was also briefly a Clinical Assistant at Stroud Hospital, and the surgical skills he acquired there were to stand him in good stead when he emigrated in 1967 to the Australian outback. I, in my turn, was Clinical Assistant in gynaecology from 1964 to 1989. Both Stroud General and Stroud Maternity Hospitals were central to our work at that time.

I had joined Dr Henderson on 1st October 1959. Dr Henderson retired to Mann's Court, Cranham in 1960, when I took over the practice and moved into Falkland House. Surgeries were held in the front sitting room, whilst the passage was utilized as a waiting room for patients. Patient numbers were small, so surgery hours of 9-10 am and 6-7 pm left the rest of the day available for visits. Those were the days of home confinements and big measles epidemics. Some time-honoured coloured mixtures were still being prescribed. Mist diabolica, a particularly unpleasant medicine, was 'a Henderson special'. Soon after I moved into Falkland House, Ken Archard, the builder, with great ingenuity converted the scullery and pantry into a surgery and waiting room. This was the part of Falkland House that had been the bar of the New Inn. A receptionist was installed and an appointments system initiated.



Falkland House



Dr Peter Tatham joined Dr Tincker in 1967. This was the year of Kenneth Robinson's long-awaited General Practice Charter encouraging the formation of group practices operating from purpose-built surgeries and employing ancillary staff. When Dr Tincker retired in 1970 Peter Tatham and I acquired an old cottage at the top of Gloucester Street. This had at one time been used for making soap and for curing bacon, by a character called 'Windy' Mills. It was demolished to make way for the new surgery and the garden was converted into a car park. The branch surgeries at Birdlip, Miserden and Upton St Leonards were closed. The new surgery opened on St Valentine's Day 1971. It was to serve us well for the next 23 years.



Gloucester Street Surgery

Dr Tincker finally retired in 1970 at the age of 70. This remarkable man had not only devoted himself to general practice for over 40 years, but at the same time had played an important part in many village activities, eg the Parish Council and the Bowling Club. He and his wife Kathleen both played bowls for the County.

In 1972 the practice was designated a teaching practice. At the time of writing 26 trainee assistants and numerous medical students have passed through our hands. The trainees, now called Registrars in General Practice, stay for a year before becoming fully fledged General Practitioners themselves.

Peter Tatham left the practice in 1974 to take up full-time psychotherapy and his place was taken by Dr Peter Baddeley who also worked in the Oncology Unit at Cheltenham Hospital. Dr Jennifer Spence, now Chapman, joined us in 1978, and she met a long-felt need to have a woman doctor in the practice. She had trained in South Africa. By 1985 she wanted to shed some of her commitments and Dr Candy Jansen came into the practice as her job-sharing partner. Dr Chapman has continued her work in family planning clinics.

The National Health Service reforms brought in by Mrs Thatcher's Government in 1990 resulted in, among other things, a huge increase in bureaucracy throughout the Service.



Morale was badly affected by all the changes. At this point Dr Peter Baddeley resigned from the partnership to set up his own independent practice. His place was taken by Dr Roddy Jaques, who brought with him an expertise in sports medicine, which led to his appointment as an Olympic adviser. I went part-time in 1992 and Dr Kevin Barraclough, (complete with his telescope and observatory), joined the practice. Dr Chapman resigned in 1993 and was replaced by Kevin Barraclough's wife, Dr Jenny du Toit. Dr Barraclough has developed an interest in occupational medicine.

It was now very clear that the Gloucester Street surgery was inadequate to serve our growing needs. A large plot of land was acquired at the bottom of Gyde Road with the warm support of the Gyde House Trustees. A much bigger and more spacious surgery, designed by Robin Roberts, was built there. This is able to house an enlarged primary health-care team, including a visiting dentist. The surgery was awarded the Wicliffe Shield for the facilities it provided for the disabled. The new surgery opened its doors on the 23rd December 1994. Laurie Lee, in his inimitable way, formally opened the surgery, Hoyland House, on 14th February 1995. We, the doctors, felt that it was appropriate that St Valentine's Day should once again be chosen for such a ceremony.



Hoyland House

No account of medical practice in Painswick would be complete without mention of the many district nurses and midwives who have all rendered such sterling service over the years. For a doctor, as well as for the patient, they are always a reassuring presence especially during 'at home' deliveries. They continue to be the 'lynch-pin' of the practice and are now joined by practice nurses and all the other members of the primary health team.

I finally retired on 1st April 1996, the day on which the new Stroud Emergency Medical Service (S.E.M.S.) was inaugurated. This deals promptly and efficiently with all out-of-hours emergencies and is another major innovation in General Practice.

It all seems a very far cry from single-handed practice in the sitting room at Falkland House, let alone Dr Partridge's pony and trap!



## References

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**ON HEARING THE PAINSWICK BELLS RING OUT THE OLD YEAR  
AT MIDNIGHT, DECEMBER 31ST 1854**

Say why those solemn rounds of chime  
Peal from the midnight bell?  
They chant – the Choristers of Time  
Another year's Farewell.

All else is mute – Above the Tower  
The stars intently glisten:  
In the scar'd silence of the hour  
They seem almost to listen.

Or is it that Heaven's watch they keep  
On Time's recurring waves,  
To register the hosts they sweep  
Into these silent graves?

If so, good Sexton! Every year  
Still let these chimes be going,  
To ring into the drowsy ear  
What the bright stars are doing.

And tell us all, within the sound,  
That it may be our doom  
Before another year comes round  
To sink into the Tomb.

**William Henry Hyett, 1795-1877**



## SOCIETY MEETINGS IN 1998

by

Gwen Welch

### ROADS AND ROUTES

The first talk of 1998 was given by the Chairman of the Society, Rev. Peter Minall on the history of the roads in and around Painswick. Rev. Minall's talk was published in issue Number 2 of the *Painswick Chronicle*.

### CHERUBS, CHESTS AND CADDIES

At the February meeting Roy Truman gave an absorbing and comprehensive account of the history and construction of the tombstones in the churchyard of Painswick Parish Church and brought to the notice of his audience details of the tombstones not previously noticed by even those who regularly walk through the churchyard. He described the gradual transition in the design of the tombstones from the plain horizontal and vertical stone slabs of the early 17th century to the intricately carved chest tombs (sometimes erroneously called table tombs) and pedestal tombs (referred to as 'tea caddies'!) of later years. Some of the tombstones bear similar carvings, suggesting that the stonemasons used designs from the same pattern books. Over the years the tombstones have been affected by weathering, subsidence, corrosion and physical impact, and ways have been sought to halt the damage and restore the stonework. Mr Truman described the ways in which the stonework can be preserved and ended by issuing a challenge. Painswick churchyard has been called "the grandest churchyard in England"; whether it remains so depends on us.

### RECORDS AND RESEARCHES

The purpose and function of the National Monument Record in Swindon were described by Donnie MacKay at the March meeting. The Record is England's national archive for heritage information and contains over three million photographs, aerial photographs covering the whole of England, drawings, Listed Buildings information and a reference library. Mr MacKay showed how all kinds archive material can be used in local history studies by giving as an example his own research into the history of his birthplace – Elgol, on the Isle of Skye. By the end of Mr MacKay's absorbing and informative talk the audience had been made aware of how fortunate we are to have the National Monument Record and of how the Record can help the local historian.

### RESEARCH PRESENTATION EVENING

In April three members of the Society gave an account of their own research projects. Barbara Blatchley has been looking into the history of her house, Thorne, in Friday Street, thought to have been built on the site of the Market Hall. The prime evidence of this is the two Truscan pillars incorporated into the structure of Thorne. The front of the house is of good quality ashlar stone – clearly this was no poor weaver's cottage! Cedric Nielsen expounded a theory which attempted to explain why the village of VVyke did not become Painswyke until 1262, over 100 years after the death of Pain Fitzjohn. This theory is included in Cedric's article in this issue of the *Chronicle*.



The last speaker was Tony Bradley who talked of the extensive research he had done into the history of his house, Mary's Acre, in Stamages Lane. A summary of this research was published in issue Number 2 of the *Painswick Chronicle*.

#### VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MONUMENT RECORD

Following on from the talk in March a group of members visited the National Monument Record in Swindon in May. The group was shown around by Donnie MacKay, who had prepared a display of typical items held at the NMR. The group was then taken to see the Painswick collection where there was an opportunity to browse over the many pictures and aerial photographs of the area taken from the five boxes of photographs relating to Painswick.

#### PAINSWICK AND THE WELSH CONNECTION

At the Annual General Meeting in June the Rev. Peter Minall in his Chairman's report thanked the Semark Trust for the generous donation to buy audio equipment; this enables speakers to be heard and talks to be recorded. The Society had 114 members and meetings had been well attended. An important aim of the Society had been achieved with the publication of the first issue of the Society's journal, the *Painswick Chronicle*.

After the business part of the meeting Cedric Nielsen explained the connections between Painswick and Llanthony Abbey. Despite the troubled and unsettled times of the early Middle Ages a large abbey was built at Llanthony in a remote valley below the Black Mountains. The abbey was maintained by tithes from the manor of Painswick which was then in the keeping of Pain Fitzjohn. Assets from the Painswick estates, such as stone from Painswick quarries, were used in the building of another abbey, Llanthony Secunda, on the outskirts of Gloucester. This new abbey rivalled St Peter's Abbey in Gloucester in influence and importance, although the few ruins that remain give little indication of the abbey's original size and splendour. Mr Nielsen's absorbing and entertaining talk gave an insight into the complex historical background which linked a small town on the Cotswold escarpment with a monastic house in a remote Welsh valley.

#### HOSTS

On the last Saturday of June, the Society played host to about fifty representatives of local history societies from around the county. Visitors heard about research into medieval field systems and settlements in the Washbrook valley from Cedric Nielsen, Carl Moreland talked about the ideas underlying his book *Timechart of a Cotswold Village* and the Chairman described the aims of the Painswick Milestone Project. Carol Maxwell spoke of the birth-pangs that attended the production of the Society's first annual *Chronicle*.

During the afternoon visitors joined one or other of three guided tours of different parts of the village – the church (John Lawrence), Vicarage Street (Helen Briggs) and New Street and Bisley Street (Susan Robinson). Informative displays around the walls of the Church Room presented much information about the village's past, its shops and mills, the school, the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement and so on.

By the end of the afternoon we felt that the Society had not let Painswick or our visitors down!



### PAINSWICK IN MEDIEVAL TIMES

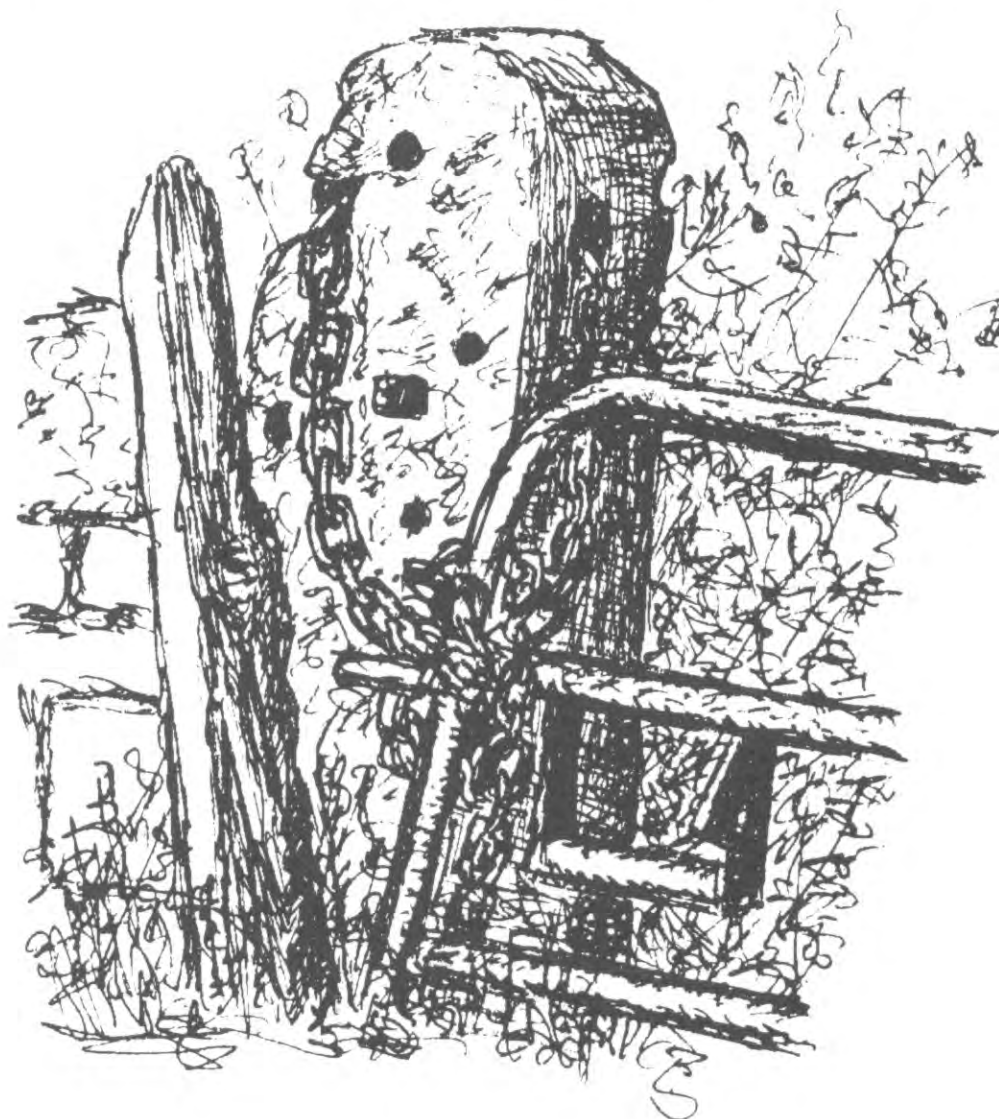
The September meeting of the Society took place in the fine new hall of the Croft School. The speaker, Russell Howes, related the story of the Lords of the Manor of Painswick, beginning with Roger de Lacy in 1086. The speaker made it clear that, although Painswick could hardly be said to have been the centre of English history, nevertheless some of the most powerful men in the land were Lords of the Manor during the period up to the reign of Henry VIII, men such as Pain Fitzjohn (Sheriff of Shropshire and Herefordshire) and Thomas Cromwell (Chancellor of the Exchequer). Mr Howes' talk was illustrated with slides making the connection between the lives of these figures from the past and the buildings and places with which they were familiar.

### AN EVENING OF HISTORY AND MYSTERY

'The other side of the Cotswolds' was shown at the October meeting when Aylwin Sampson gave a talk on 'Cotswold Enigmas'. Mr Sampson brought to his audience's attention strange and unusual place names, buildings and events, and suggested the reasons behind their strangeness. Among the unusual buildings in the Painswick area are the Red Stables opposite Greenhouse Court. Mr Sampson posed the question "Why make simple stables into a complex building?" and had several suggestions, but no definite answer. He ended his intriguing talk by recounting the mystery surrounding the visit of the young Princess Elizabeth to Bisley before she became Queen Elizabeth I and the story of the two children killed in the Charfield rail crash in 1928 and never identified.

### CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE AND THE LANDSCAPE

Memories of flower-filled meadows and of buying milk at the farm gate were recalled during the November meeting. Mr John Young, agricultural advisor to the National Trust, talked about the changes which have taken place in agriculture during the last 50 years and showed how these changes have altered the appearance of the countryside. Mr Young reminded his audience of the need to increase home food production during and after the Second World War. Increases in crop yields, however, have reduced the diversity of plant life and, because of changes in animal husbandry, few of the cattle breeds grazing in the fields in 1945 can be seen today. Hedges have been uprooted and walls demolished so that large agricultural machines can be used efficiently and these machines are housed in industrial-type units, not stone barns. Mr Young concluded his absorbing and thought-provoking talk by describing the problems facing farmers today and by explaining that the challenge is to produce systems which enable farmers to farm efficiently and economically but also protect the landscape.





Publications available from the Society.

*Painswick Chronicle Number 1*

*Painswick Chronicle Number 2*

*Painswick: Time Chart of a Cotswold Village*

by Carl Moreland in association with Painswick Local History Society

Leaflet: *Painswick Milestone Project*



