

Painswick Local History Society

GLHA Education Exhibition

A Brief History

The boys

Schoolmasters are recorded for Painswick for 1576, 1671, 1695 as was a school-house in 1692. There was certainly a school in the Quaker Meeting House in 1695. By the late 17th century there was a strong belief that educating children of the poor would reduce the possibility of unrest and trouble as well as producing good servants. In 1707 Giles Smith, a wealthy mercer, and his wife Ann provided the endowment of a charity free school for 10 poor boys – one of the earliest in the country. The school was held in part of the town hall or stockhouse which was also the workhouse.



The Old Stockhouse



Butt Green Cottages

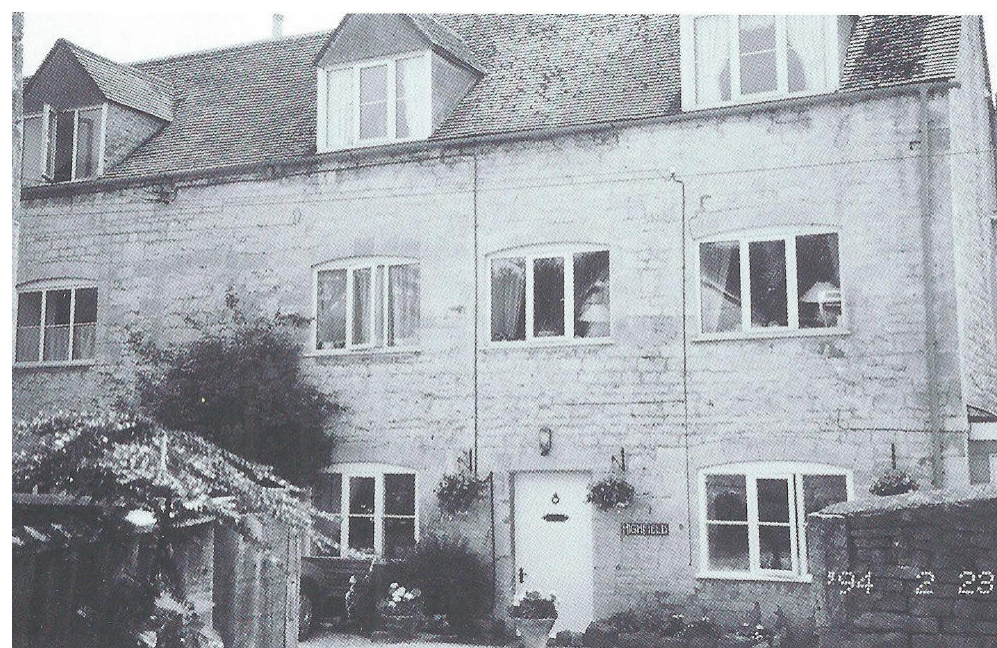
By 1736 there were 26 boy pupils learning reading, writing and accounts and by 1739 it was described as a grammar school. It was supported financially, unsurprisingly, by the local notables.

By the early 19th century there were boarders, fee-paying pupils and the free charity boys – all taught together. It was known as the Endowed School. In 1828 Mr Hyett converted two of his cottages in Butt Green for the school and especially for the charity boys. After 1840 the Endowed School moved into the upper storey of the new Stock House, today's Town Hall.

In 1844 the Congregational Schoolroom was built and a school was established in it by the British and Foreign Bible Society.



Inscription above the Town Hall



Edge Road Cottages

.... and what of the girls?

By 1830 there were two girls' schools – the National School, a Church school held in cottages in Edge Road, and the Benevolent School, an undenominational school founded by a Quaker lady, Miss Merrell. In 1837 the Benevolent School took over the Butt Green premises which a little later became an infants' school.

With burgeoning numbers all the buildings were becoming inadequate and in 1847 a new purpose-built school opened in Stroud Road. Most of the schools were amalgamated in 1853 to become the United National and Free Schools though in 1861 this union was dissolved and the Endowed School continued to use the Town Hall premises under the headship of Moses Pullen until its closure in 1867.



The National School

Professor A.W.Bickerton – the 1860s. “Moses Pullen was the village blacksmith turned schoolmaster. His rough-and-ready methods got down to the very bones and marrow of big basic principles.”

With the Education Act of 1870 things changed. At this time there were seven schools within the parish (including Sheepscombe, Edge, Slad and Stroudend). In 1878 the Painswick schools were placed under the control of the School Board. In 1881 the school was enlarged and what is now the Church Rooms was built to accommodate the infants.

In 1902 Painswick School became known as a Council School and from this time it was an all-age school with some pupils moving on, with scholarships, to Marling and the Girls’ High in Stroud. The other pupils remained in Painswick with a heavy emphasis on practical subjects. There were many who did in fact pass for the grammar schools but whose parents could not afford for them to go. Joan Woods recalled “*I was not the only one. A lot of people at that time could not afford to go. The majority of people in Painswick were quite poor. Indeed, Painswick was known as being Poor, Pretty but Proud.*”



The Church Rooms (above) and 1927 Infants class (below)



Wartime

At the beginning of WWI Painswick received many Belgian refugees and the school record books give details of Belgian children appearing in early 1915. In her memoirs Rose Tranter writes ‘*There was great excitement when the Belgian children joined us and amused us with their French and Flemish.*’ English classes were provided for the adults.

WW2 saw 60 evacuee children arriving, some with their own teachers, and this of course created problems of space. The School Log Books noted how many of the senior children, local and evacuee, worked much of the time on the farms helping with the potato crop and gathering rose-hips. Also noted in May 1945 – ‘Senior children have helped in the removal of wire netting and blackout from windows.’ School dinners for children from Painswick, Sheepscombe, Pitchcombe and Cranham were served in the Institute at 12.15, the wartime British Restaurant. In July 1945 children from the school presented 5 plays raising over £30 for the Welcome Home Fund.

Bernard Pearce wrote: ‘*Going to school we had to carry gas masks. Every time the air raid siren went we would walk across Stroud Road, through the field up to Hambutts and sit in the middle of the field in classes and wait till the all-clear. If a German plane had come he could have machine gunned the lot of us. But we had to clear the school.*’

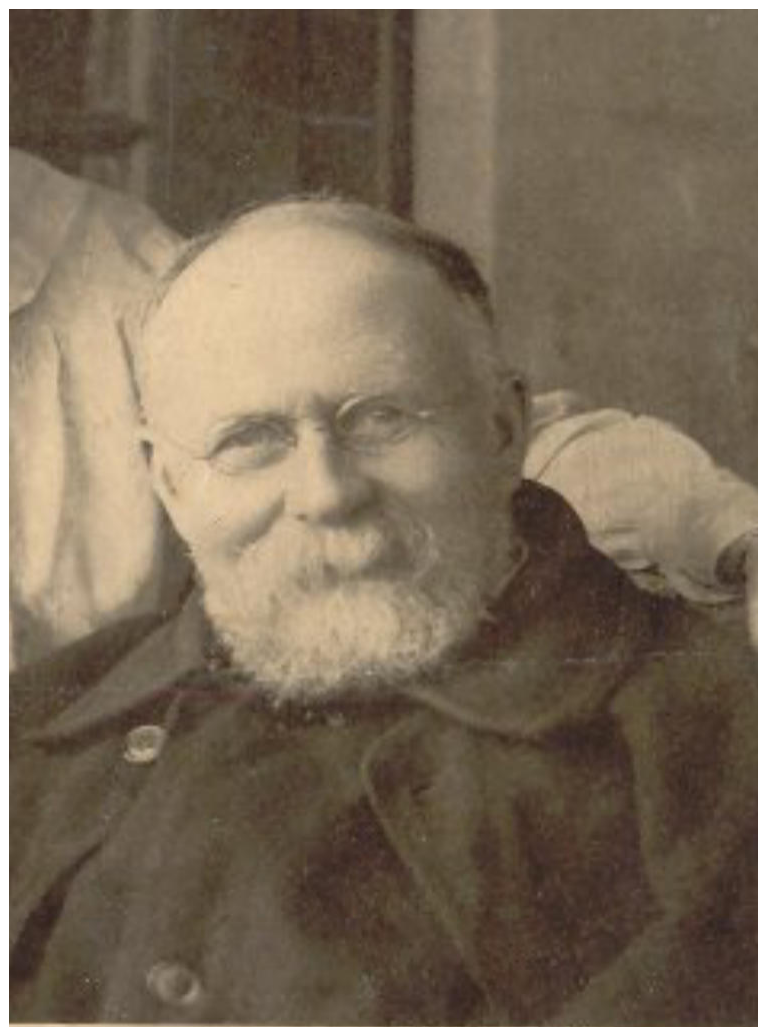
Name	DOB	Admission	Residence	Leaving Date	Reason
Jane Teughels	21/07/00	11/01/15	Newhall	29/10/15	To shop work
Rosa Teughels	13/09/01	11/01/15	Newhall	15/03/16	Gone to service
Josephine Pan Paemel	25/08/03	11/01/15	St Mary's Cottage	03/03/15	
Regina Pan Baelen	19/11/04	11/01/15	Loveday's	25/06/15	
Rachel Pan Baelen	18/11/06	11/01/15	Loveday's	25/06/15	
Anna Bouveroux	24/07/07	01/02/15	Beaconsfield House	05/02/15	
Henri Bouveroux	14/12/00	25/01/15	Beaconsfield House	07/11/15	School for Belgians, Stroud
Paul Bouveroux	06/04/05	08/03/15	Beaconsfield House	18/11/15	School for Belgians, Stroud
Elisa Verhaven	25/05/05	07/06/15	Swiss Cottage	09/06/16	
Jeanette Peleman	25/12/00	30/08/15	Perivale	29/10/15	

School record of Belgian refugees

In 1961 Archway School opened in Stroud so all Painswick secondary age pupils went to Stroud. And finally, in 1973 the newly built Croft School for primary children opened in Painswick.



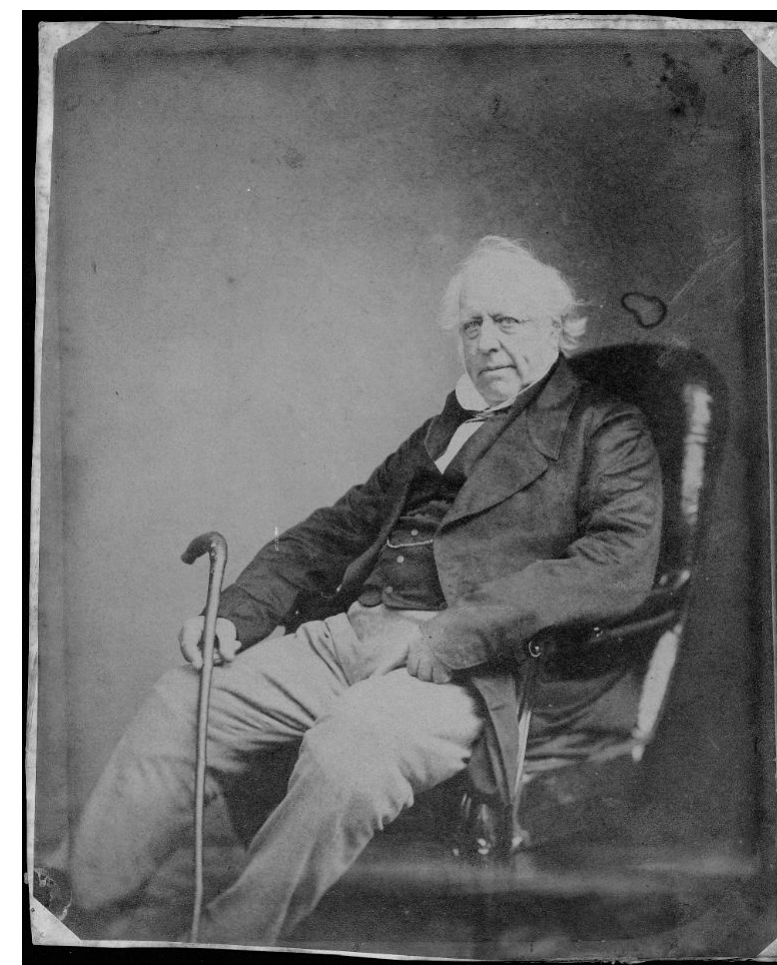
Joyce Perkins – beginning of WW2. “We used to have air-raid training. They dug trenches on the field but there weren’t enough for our lot so we had to go underneath the stage where we played cards. On a Friday afternoon we all had to go into the Hall and sit there listening to classical music, which would have been all right if they had told us anything about it. It bored us to tears, so we would sneak round and get down underneath the stage to play cards. We never got caught.”



Rev W Seddon

The Benefactors...

They were of course the wealthy and influential. Giles Smith, a rich mercer, established the first free school for boys. William Henry Hyett converted two of his cottages into a school for boys and continued to contribute financially to its running. Mrs Hyett was on the managing committee of the girls' Benenvolent School. John Hillman, a wealthy local man, bequeathed a large sum of money as did most of the wool mill owners, local landowners and wealthy vicars such as Rev. Seddon.



W H Hyett

The Purpose...

Almost certainly the motive for such generosity was based on the aim of producing ideal servants. This inevitably determined what was taught.



Girls school 1929

...Hence the Curriculum

The curriculum for boys for many decades was dominated by subjects such as reading, casting accounts, measuring and practical crafts. Moses Pullen as teacher was the exception inasmuch as he designed a curriculum which was far ahead of its time. (See section on notable teachers). However, in general the subjects taught were basic and practical – after all, anything higher might have resulted in undesirable aspirations! And for the girls it was essentially aimed at making good domestic servants. The Elizabeth Cox charity was used to 'educate' two girls from very poor families in sewing, knitting, laundry work (mainly how to wash and iron a gentleman's shirt) and housework. In fact the stated aim was to produce '*not just a good domestic servant but an excellent domestic servant*'. And there was always a strong religious element – presumably to keep the boys on the straight and narrow and the streets trouble-free!

Progress for the girls?

The Elizabeth Cox fund from 1854 was used to benefit two poor or orphan girls aged 11-12 to be called the Domestic Pupils at the National School. Essentially they were educated in household skills. However, there were stringent conditions. In addition to attendance at school, every day in the school mistress's house they had to make the beds, clean the rooms, prepare breakfast and dinner, wash up the tea things, wash and iron the mistress's family clothes and also clean the schoolroom and prepare the fire.

As the years went by the uses of the fund changed. By 1897 one or more girls could receive 6 months training at the Gloucestershire School of Cookery and Domestic Economy with board and lodging and 2/- weekly. This was a teacher training college in Gloucester. In 1928 it was extended to include any training centre and also training for probationer nurses. From 1940 it provided funding for uniforms for girls for the Stroud secondary schools and the technical college.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY

IN

THEORY AND PRACTICE

A TEXT-BOOK FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN TRAINING

BY

FLORENCE BADDELEY

ORGANISING SECRETARY OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE SCHOOL OF COOKERY AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

PART II

THE PRACTICE AND TEACHING OF DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

By FLORENCE BADDELEY.

CHAPTER X.

Housewifery: Hygiene in the House, Practical Housekeeping and Laundry Work

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Bernard Pearce – the early 1940s. "Beryl [twin sister] and I sat the 11-plus exam. We both passed with flying colours. Mr Harper contacted Mum, 'Beryl will be going to the High School; Bernard will be going to Marling.' 'I cannot afford it' she said, so both of us stayed at Painswick School till we were 14."

Teachers of note – for various reasons – across the centuries

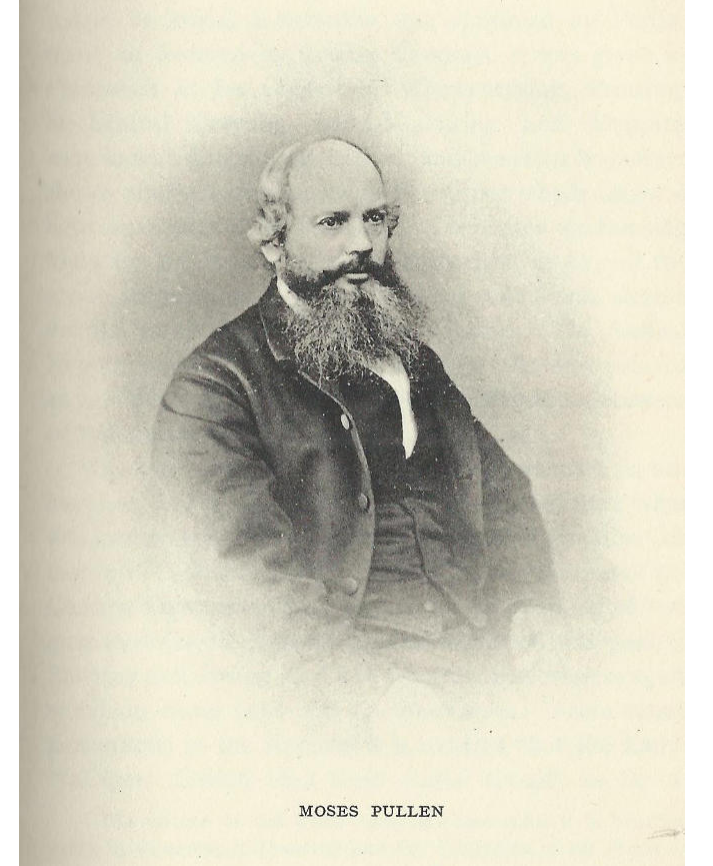
Thomas Rawlins

The criterion for selecting the master for the very first school in 1725 was stated as ‘*a fit person of a sober life and conversation*’. Thomas Rawlins was the local curate and was thus duly appointed.

Moses Pullen

Master of the boys’ department of the National Schools 1855-1867, he was a man far in advance of his time. The curriculum was very forward looking, including carpentry, printing, mechanical drawing, land measuring, mapping, practical agriculture and chemistry. He set up evening classes for adults and formed a lending library in one of the classrooms.

Francis Hyett wrote that he had a genius for imparting knowledge. And Professor A.W. Bickerton, an ex-pupil, who became President of the London Astronomical Society, wrote of him as being “... *one of the finest science masters under whom I ever studied. It was he who taught me the value of practical teaching as compared with the merely academic. However abstruse the problem in hand, he had no difficulty in presenting it so clearly that almost any dunderhead could understand the subject and keep a grip of it.*”



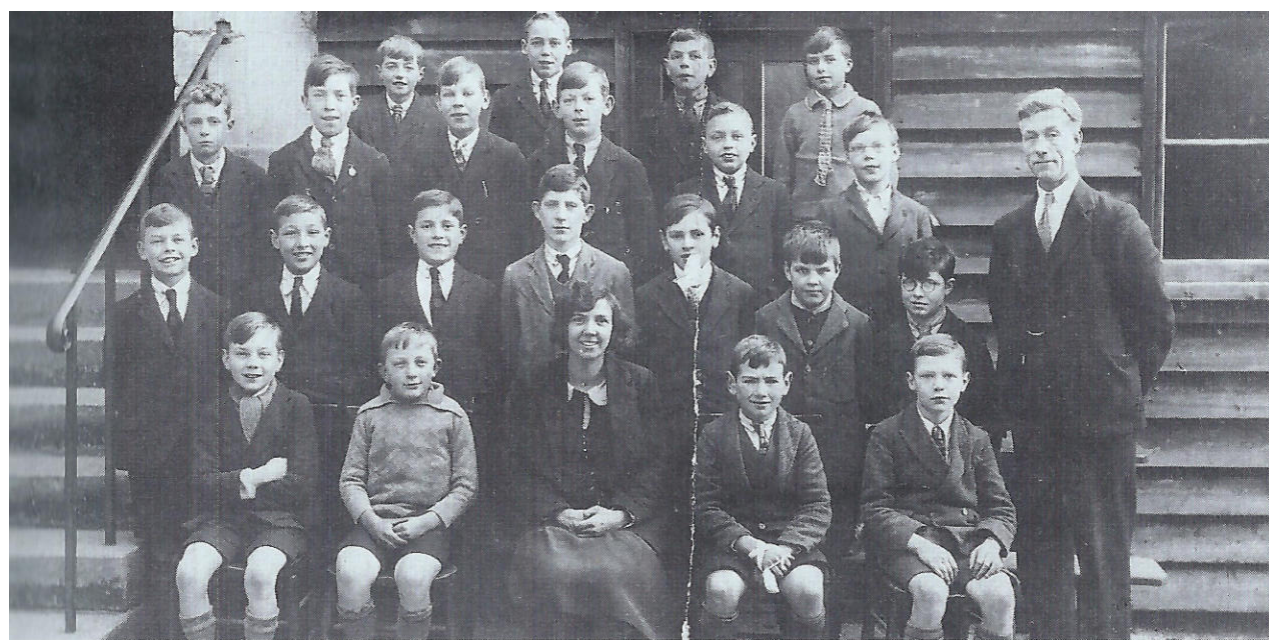
And then there was Miss Kirkland!

In charge of the Girls’ School in the first two decades of the 20th century, she was indeed a character, awesome in fact, and certainly left a lasting impression on her girls. She was a Suffragette, frequently taking part in marches, and did much to encourage the girls to be proud of their gender. Rose Tranter (see her recollections on the table) noted that she definitely “*trained us for after school life.*” Like Moses Pullen, she inspired her pupils to want to develop aspirations beyond simple domestic service.

And, oh dear, there was Mr Slack!

He was master of the boys’ department in the 1920s and 1930s and was regarded as infamous by his pupils. Fred Seamark later wrote that “*we were beaten unmercifully for the most trifling of errors or misdemeanours.*” Fred’s problem was that as a left-hander he was made to write, usually unsuccessfully, with his right hand and ended up regularly with ‘three of the best’ on each hand for that offence. There was a little ditty at the time:

*‘Mr Slack is a very good man,
he goes to Church on Sunday,
He prays to God to give him strength,
to whack the boys on Monday.’*



Vera Fleming

She taught in Painswick School in the 1960s and is remembered as a very special teacher. One of her ex-pupils says of her “*Although we did not realise it at the time, Vera was preparing us for the future.*” He explains how she broadened their thinking, their horizons and their confidence. “*She was so encouraging, always striving to focus on and develop her pupils’ strong points.*” Vera was well-loved. She still lives in Painswick and last November celebrated her 100th birthday.



Vera Fleming on her 100th birthday

Reg Daniels – the early 1930s. “... Mr Slack, who I am convinced disliked children because he taught you with a cane. I remember being in assembly one morning when Mrs Usk brought her son Ivor to school, knocked on the door and said that Ivor didn’t want to come to school. With that Mr Slack went mad. He hit Ivor all round the room and Mrs Usk had to come to his rescue.”

Sunday Schools

Covering many purposes and aspects, Sunday schools came into being partly to instil habits of industry, piety, morality and good behaviour, but also groups such as the Quakers recognised the wider value of education particularly for the poor. Robert Raikes visited the Sunday School in Painswick which had started in 1784 and promoted the first sermon nationally to be held in Painswick Church in support of the movement. Raikes noted in 1787 that more than 330 Painswick children were receiving instruction in reading and in the principles of Christianity. By the mid-19th century all denominations in Painswick had Sunday schools – thus probably ten simultaneously within the parish. Joan Wood had clear memories from the early 1920s of Sunday school being held in a classroom at the boys' school in Stroud Road. "We had to learn a piece of text by heart each week."



Congregational Church Sunday School



Yew Tree House

Private Schools

In the past, the wealthy of Painswick were a small though significant minority. References to private schools give few if any details other than the fact that such a school existed. Early in the 19th century it would appear that a private boarding school was run by Oade Roberts, a Quaker, in Yew Tree House. This large house had always been the home of important Quaker families. A short distance away and a few years later the census returns indicate that another private school functioned in Southfield House. A private kindergarten was held in the Quaker Meeting House in the 1960s and 1970s, an indication of an ongoing Quaker belief locally in the value of education.

By the 1850s the Court House was a private boarding school taking pupils from many other places. It served at different times as a school for boys or girls or sometimes both together. In the 1940s it was well established and Queen Mary made a well remembered visit.



Southfield House



Pupils at the Court House circa 1901



Queen Mary at Court House

Joan Wood – the early 1920s. "The girls attended at the classrooms on the upper floor of what is now the Town Hall. Both rooms had one of the cast iron 'tortoise' stoves in the centre which used to get the rooms nice and warm. The teachers had their desks next to the stoves. The discipline was strict, we had to behave ourselves. I liked school. I took the 11-plus and passed for the High School but we could not afford for me to go so I stayed at Painswick School until I was able to leave when I was 14

Not forgetting the adults

Adult education classes began early in Painswick. Moses Pullen was inspirational beyond his time, the 1860s, and set up evening classes in the Town Hall along with a lending library. Income from the Endowed School foundation charity was no longer needed for elementary education after the 1870s and was put to use with the establishment of an evening school, the Free Night School. Aimed at young men it was held in the Town Hall three evenings a week teaching, reading, writing, arithmetic, English, geography, history, mensuration, drawing, book-keeping, land-surveying, algebra, geometry, mechanical drawing and *‘Christian principles and habits will be instilled and personal cleanliness will be strictly enforced.’*

Mechanics institutes nationally, usually in large towns, were aimed at providing access to education and inspirational reading matter for ordinary working men. Many saw this as foolhardy, radicalism at its most threatening. Painswick as a village was unusual inasmuch as an institute was established here, supported enthusiastically by Francis Hyett and Rev. Seddon whose mother-in-law financed the building of the Painswick Institute for this purpose.



The Town Hall



The Institute (now the Painswick Centre)

Evening schools for adults continued for many years. For example, Jean Ryland remembers attending typing classes in the late 1940s prior to taking up a career as a secretary. Perhaps the best remembered now are the woodwork classes held for many years in the upstairs room of the Town Hall by Wally Brooks, the coffin maker of Burdocks. These finally finished in the early 1980s.



Tools used by Wally Brooks to give wood-working classes for many years until his death in 2001



Girls school 1925

The Charities

With several charitable trusts funding education for centuries in Painswick, eventually in 1987 they were amalgamated to form the Painswick Education Foundation, still functioning today. Nowadays in the main it offers grants annually to local young people to help with further and higher education.

Jean Ryland – the 1940s. “I stayed at Painswick School for the whole of my school life. We used to walk to the Rec for games such as rounders and cricket as the playground at school was too small. I coped with most subjects quite well but English was my favourite. Whilst I was still at school I went to night classes in Painswick to learn shorthand and typing – we didn’t have to pay for the classes.

History in the making...

Learning at the Croft School By Mole Class – (Reception)

"In Maths we learn about numbers and shape, we have lots of fun trying to show Colin the caribou how to get things right!"

"In English we learn different stories, play with words and sentences, and do some writing."

"In the Nature area we do lots of challenges and we get to play lots of games. We put our bat house up in the nature area. We find out about the flowers, plants and trees."

"In Enquiry we learn about things that are good for us, we use our head, heart and hand, sometimes we ask questions, and we think about things. We try and help other animals and people in our Enquiry work. This term we are thinking about the questions, 'Who is our neighbour?'"

"At playtimes we play on the climbing frame, the castle and if it's dry on the field. We have hoops, balls and bats to play with."

"In PE we do parachute games, we use the large apparatus, play the traffic light games. We do lots of running and jumping outside."

"I like maths because I like the 'taking away'." Alex

"I like lunch because I eating my vegetables". Mya

"I like lunch and PE because I like doing sport and eating my vegetables." Barny

"I like when it's planning time and I can go on the painting table and making table because I like making stuff and drawing pictures." Sophia

"I like eating my vegetables at lunchtime." Jacob

Learning at the Croft School By Years 4 and 5

What we enjoy: maths, English, Lunch (the food), Break and Forest School, Take 10 (running around and exercising), Science, D.T., Computing, Enquiry, Friends, Art, Star of the day, Music, Morning task e.g. maths challenge or word scramble.

Enquiry: Enquiry is geography and maps, We do big activities in groups, We have a big question we are trying to answer, We do lots about maps, lots about Painswick and our local area, history. Enquiry is about mixing different subjects. We have visitors in e.g. head of governors, Sioban Baillie M.P., we have opportunities to do trips - visit to the masonry yard.

Resources: editing pens, laptops, iPads, kindles, dictionaries, thesaurus, coloured pens and pencils, whiteboards and smart whiteboards, lots of music equipment - drums, glockenspiel, ukulele, boom whackers, hula hoops, skipping ropes, books for every subject and reading books, projector, bike stands, house points, flipchart, football goals, cricket equipment, beanbags.