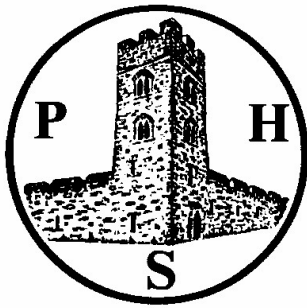




Paignton Heritage Society

Newsletter March 2021

www.paigntonheritagesociety.co.uk
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Message from our Chair

Well here I am, writing during another lockdown! I can't believe that we have had three lockdowns but, like all of us, I am hoping that this is the last one and we will be soon be able to once again enjoy meeting up with family and friends.

As many of you will know, Eileen Donovan has been our Treasurer since September 2000, and it has been my privilege to have her support me during the time I have been Chair. Eileen indicated a while ago that she would like to relinquish the position of Treasurer and I would now like to take this opportunity of saying a very sincere and heartfelt thank you on behalf of the Society for all her hard work and commitment to this role. Eileen's knowledge of the Society is unsurpassed and I am delighted that she will continue to serve as a valued member of the Committee and still hold our membership database.

I am pleased to tell you that Maggie Loates is now our Treasurer and we were delighted when she agreed to take on this important role.

Your Committee has continued to hold a monthly zoom meeting which has enabled us to take forward a number of important matters. We decided at our last meeting that we should hold our Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 23rd March. This will be a zoom meeting and will be chaired by our President, Nick Pannell. We will email out the Agenda and other documents prior to the meeting and will send out an email link to the meeting a few days beforehand, so that you will have the opportunity to join us on zoom if you wish.

We have now ordered a plaque for the memorial oak tree that is to be planted in Oldway in memory of David Watts. Tim Eley (who runs the Oldway Gardening Group) is hoping to hold a planting ceremony with

Christine and her family as guests of honour once the Covid restrictions have been lifted.

As your representative on the Friends of Oldway committee, it has been quite humbling to note how many people hold Oldway dear to their hearts and are keen to be involved as a volunteer once the tea rooms open. There has been a lot of publicity in local publications over recent weeks and it is a joy to see how lovely the tea rooms now look, with teapots on display and bone china tea sets on the tables.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that, in my capacity as Chair of the Society, I was invited to become a Trustee for Paignton Picture House. You may have read in the local press that the Picture House has been successful in securing funding to take forward significant restoration work and this started in January. Do have a look on their website and Facebook page to see how this is progressing.

It now only remains for me to say, that I hope you all keep safe and well and I will look forward to seeing you as soon as we are able to once again hold our monthly talks.

Iris Butler, Chair

Membership

A gentle reminder to those of you who do not pay by standing order that renewal of your membership (£10 per person per annum, renewable on the anniversary of joining) may be overdue.

The Committee are aware that, as a Society, we have not been able to meet up or run our social events since March last year, but we are anxious to keep you as valued members. Just contact our

Membership Secretary, Keith Masters to renew -
phone 07749 042743 or e.mail:
keith.gmasters362@gmail.com

Coverdale Tower

Again our thanks to Colin Wood, who has been keeping an eye on the Tower over the winter months. The Council have made temporary repairs to the flashings on the roof and this has stopped most of the water ingress, although some is still getting in around the windows. Once life returns to normal, we will turn our attention to giving the Tower the TLC (tender loving care) it deserves.

Some of you may not know how our Society came to be involved with the Tower, so briefly - here is the story.

Built by Bishop Osbern (1072-1103), the Tower was part of the Bishops' Palace, which in turn was part of the Manor of Paignton held for 501 years by the Diocese of Exeter.

Then came the "Dissolution of the Monasteries" when King Henry VIII seized the Manor from the Church. In 1545, the King gave the Manor to Thomas Speke who held it until 1557. Next, Queen Mary bestowed it on William Herbert, first Earl of Pembroke.

The Manor (including the Tower) then passed through the hands of a series of absentee landlords - from the Herbert family to the Carys, the Kellands and the Templers. The painting below shows the Bishop's Palace in 1793.



Figure 6. John Swete's Episcopal Palace at Paignton, dated December 1793.

Finally, after 350 years, the Diocese of Exeter regained the 'Bishop's Palace',

including the Tower, when they purchased the title deeds from the Templer family in 1909.

To complete matters, in 1959, the Templer family handed the title 'Lord of the Manor of Paignton' to Paignton Urban District Council - probably the first Council to hold such a title. The title is now held by Torbay Council.

In 1977, under the Ancient Monuments Acts of 1913 / 1953, Torbay Council entered into a Deed of Guardianship and the Tower became an 'ancient monument'.

By 2003, the Tower had fallen into a rather dilapidated state, and Paignton Heritage Society applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The bid was a success and work began on making the Tower safe for visitors and weatherproof. Work was completed and in 2007, Torbay Council made an Agreement with our Society so we were appointed Agents to look after the day to day management of the Tower.

Since 2017, negotiations have been taking place to renew this Agreement, but the existing arrangement worked so well, it was never a priority. At last, despite Covid, we have been able to re-open the file and a new Agreement is being drafted. We hope to report in the next newsletter that our management of the Tower has been signed off for a further ten years.

Kirkham House



**ENGLISH
HERITAGE**

Basically - it's no news!

Depending on the Covid-19 restrictions, we hope to re-open the House to visitors as usual at Easter and on Sundays over the Summer months - it may be a 'restricted tour' as we ran in September, but we will have to wait and see.

The collapsed garden wall remains a 'work in progress'

Walking Trails to beat Covid fatigue

We now have a brand new Trail on offer - a circular walk from Paignton Harbour to Goodrington and back. Tony Hill and Karen Chapman have made good use of

their time in lock down to produce this two and a half mile Trail.

The Trails are now available through our website - just e.mail us at:

<http://www.paigntonheritagesociety.co.uk>

The full range now includes -

Paignton - Harbour - Goodrington	£1.50
Paignton - Old Town (updated)	1.50
Paignton - Sea Front	1.50
Paignton - Medieval Paignton - Four Old Buildings	1.00
Paignton - Oldway	1.00
Paignton - New Town (Victorian/ Edwardian)	1.00
Preston - The Original Hamlet	1.00

There is a charge of £2 to cover postage and packaging.

- **8 July** - Murder & Mystery on the GWR by Mike Holgate

Doors open at 10am for a 10.30 start. Tickets are £3 for PHS members (quote the password "Kirkham") - £5 for non-members.

PHS website

Have you looked at our re-vamped website lately? Jim Milne has taken over responsibility for the website and is turning it into a really good site packed with photographs and information on Paignton. Thank you Jim - you are doing a superb job.



Spotlight on Culture

It seems so long ago now, but in December Iris and Karen were invited to a lovely evening at The Palace to join in the celebrations by "Jazz Hands" on their successful launch of Theatre Angels, and winning a place in the 'Top 100' small businesses in the country. Well done!

The Palace also celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2020 - and is still going from strength to strength!

An Audience at the Palace

Subject to lockdown restrictions, the programme of talks for the Spring and Summer:

- **11 March** – The Man Who Wrote Alfie by Ken Beevers
- **1 April** – Born into Entertainment by Anne George
- **13 May** – The Life, Legends and Legacy of Sir Walter Raleigh by Phil Badcott
- **3 June** – Torbay in the Movies by Dr Kevin Dixon

Paignton Memories -

Fond Memories of Paignton in the 1960's

We recently received an interesting e.mail from Mr Graeme Slater. Graeme and his brother, Michael, visited Paignton with their parents and brother, Martin, in the early 1960's, and have given us permission to reproduce some of their memories from those happy times:

Graeme writes to us:

After almost giving up on trying to find any photographs or archive references to the 'CINTRA' Guest House in Paignton, by pure chance I found the **Postcard HOTL 0319** of the very same on your website yesterday evening! I am in my mid-60's now but have happy memories of the two family holidays spent in Paignton staying at the Cintra. This would have been around 1962.

I wasn't expecting so much information to arise from finding the picture postcard!

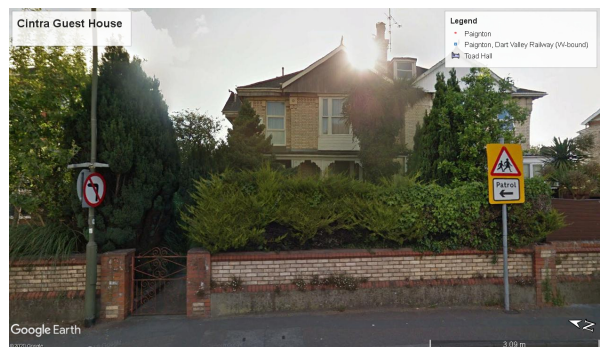


He writes to his brother, Michael:

Don't know why but this popped up in my mind this evening! I have searched before now with no results, but tonight I struck lucky and found this old postcard on the Paignton Heritage Society website!!

I think we had two holidays staying at Cintra B&B, once with Gran & Grandad & Uncle Dennis (seem to recall they had a room with a veranda which is just visible in the photo) and the other with Mum & Dad. I was around 4/5 years old so you would have been around 2/3 years. Martin [brother number three] had an allergic reaction to something where his face swelled up like a pumpkin and had to be taken to the doctors. They served grapefruit in the B&B topped with a cherry with breakfast but only for the adults! Dad used to park the Standard motor around the back entrance. Both you and Martin got into trouble for repeatedly pressing the front door bell and annoying the owners!! Haha! You also almost drowned when you fell into one of the Park's boating lake with your toy yacht 'Michelle'. Dad had to haul you out by your vest! Happy days!

I have also managed to locate it [Cintra B&B] on Google Earth - it is at 51 Dartmouth Rd, Paignton, although I don't think it's run as a guest house any more. Front hedging very overgrown but the building is still there!.



What do you think Old Bean???

His brother, Michael, responds:

Well done Sherlock!!

I've often wondered whereabouts this guest house was in Paignton! Never knew it was called 'CINTRA'; how did you remember that?? I do remember dad used to park in the rear courtyard. I cannot remember the frontage at all. Wasn't one of the owners called George? I think I remember the hallway layout - you came down the stairs and the kitchen was just to the right. I



also remember they had a globe shaped Hoover which seemed very modern.

I seem to remember dad saying that a couple of birds crashed into the radiator grill on the car on the way down and they had to smuggle us past it without us seeing before dad removed them so as not to upset us!

I also remember falling in the boating lake (not sure which park) and being dragged out by my vest. Dad had to go to Woolies to get some dry clothes. I even remember the blue and white yacht, though had

completely forgotten it was named Michelle! I don't remember ever being there with Granny, Granddad or Dennis. I do remember being on a beach somewhere with Dennis...I think it may be slightly later than you think we stayed there, as I don't think we'd have been able to reach the doorbell at age 2 or 3!! More like 1963-4??

I found a slightly earlier Google Pic than yours which clearly shows it was Blenheim House Residential Home at some stage, although I can find no further info on its history.

As you say, Happy Days!!

TTFN,

Mike

And Graeme writes back:

Glad you found my email interesting! Also, you have some other memories that I had forgotten about! It was mum who recalled the name Cintra as I had asked about this a few years ago now.

Now you mention it I remember the globe shaped hoover too! I think you're right about the kitchen/dining area as well. That's where my memory of the grapefruits topped with cherries comes from as you could see them laid out when the door was open. I wanted to try one but Mum & Dad wouldn't let me! Probably wouldn't have liked it at that age anyway! Do you also recall they had a dinner gong at the bottom of the stairs which they rang when breakfast was served?! You could be right about George... they used to wear white tunics?? Can remember them looking in on us occasionally in the bedroom when Mum & Dad had gone to Torquay for a night out.

You could be right about your age too; my memory is a bit fuzzy with some stuff - it was around 60 years ago! When Martin's face swelled up you were both very young. I can still see you both now together in the double bed... I had a cot like bed near the window. I know Mum & Dad had to take him to see a doctor 'down the road'... if you look on Google Earth the surgery is literally just opposite Cintra over the road!

I think it was the first holiday there that Granny, Grandad & Uncle Dennis were with us. They had travelled down by coach which in my mind at the time was a 'Stage Coach' like the ones in Westerns Haha!! There are probably photos of these hols somewhere... I have seen one with Dennis on that was taken on a boat when we went out on a sea trip somewhere. Glad you remember the yachts too... Martin's was named 'Martine', dad had painted the names on the sides. I had one a bit bigger that had a dark green hull and keel but no name. Do you also recall



the Triang clockwork liner I had at the time where you put the key into the funnel? Sometimes you can still find the odd one of these on eBay (£145 + !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!). The RMS Pretoria Castle was an actual boat that sailed between the UK and South Africa as mail and passenger liner! It was scrapped in 1975!

How did you find the pics when it was a residential home? All very interesting stuff!

I'll forward you separately a nice reply email I had from a lady attached to the Paignton Heritage Society as I sent them an email along with a copy of the same I sent to you last night.

Catch you soon Watson Old Fruit!!

Email from Karen (PHS) to Graeme

Our chair, iris, has passed your lovely email to me. It is great that our website has given you so many happy memories. Our society made the conscious decision to share our postcard collection freely, as we wanted to share with others our love of the Paignton area. Your email has endorsed our decision!

Thank you for passing on your memories - as a retired B&B owner, I hope my guests remember their time with me as fondly.

And Graeme responded:

Thank you for your kind reply to my email about the Guest House 'Cintra'. I felt it was important to share this with you as finding your copy of the post card has enabled my brother and myself to share some precious memories. This resulted in him recalling things I had forgotten about and vice versa. He managed to find more recent photos of 'Cintra' when it was being run as a residential home (Blenheim House).

If you wish, please feel free to publish my emails to yourself on this subject in your newsletter. I think that it is interesting that so much has been gleaned from just finding the post card on your website!



Best wishes,
Graeme.