

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!

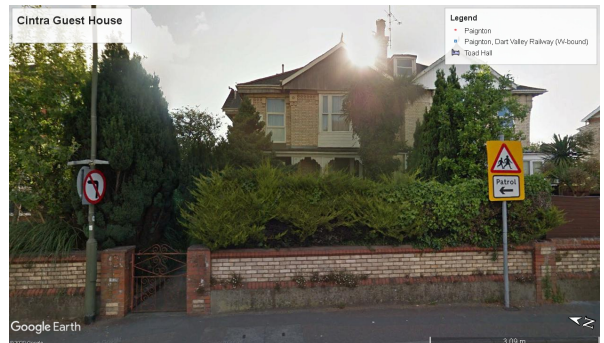


He writes to his brother, Michael:

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.