

Peintona, Peynton, Paignton?

Paignton? - how do you spell that?

If you are a local, you will have been asked that many times. I have Googled the name and, to the best of my knowledge, there is not another place in the world named Paignton. We are quite unique. It took over a thousand years to decide on the spelling - here are a few variations - you may know others

DATE	SPELLING	SOURCE
Circa 750AD	Pagingtun	The farm (tun) of the people (ing) of Paega (the name of a Saxon farmer)
1086	Peintona	Domesday Book
1198	Peintone	Torre Cartulary
1200	Peinctun	unknown
1237	Pynetun	Torre Cartulary
1242	Peinthon	Unknown
1245	Pexerntone	Patent Rolls of Henry III
1259	Peynctone	Unknown
1260 / 1265 / 1282	Payntone	Bishop's Registers
	Peynton	
	Peingtone	
1265	Peyntone	Unknown
1267	Peigntone	Unknown
1283	Payntone	Torre Cartulary
1285	Pynton	Unknown
1307	Peyngtone	Unknown
1394	Paynton	Licence for ship to carry pilgrims
1438	Pyngton	Unknown
1461	Peington	Deed
1545	Peynton	Several documents
1567	Paington	Survey of the Earl of Pembroke's Lands
	Payngton	
	Peington	
	Peyngton	
1569	Payenton	Will of Earl of Pembroke
1610	Paynton	Map of Devonshire
1630	Paynton	Risdon's Survey
1654	Paington	Charter from Oliver Cromwell
	Painton	
1720	Painton	Cox's Magna Britannia
1810	Paignton	Swete's List of Landowners
1811	Paington	Risdon's Survey - Index
	Paignton	Risdon's Survey
1833	Paignton	Parish Register notes the change from Paington to Paignton
1837	Paington	Act of Parliament - Paington Harbour Act
1859	Paignton	Paignton Railway Station - Platform Boards

The final spelling was due to the coming of the Railway in 1859. The Surveyor noted the various ways Paignton had been shown on maps, and so he consulted the Steward of the Manor and the Vicar. The Steward said "Paington" and the Vicar said "Paignton". To please both, the Surveyor wrote "Paignton or Paington" on his plan, and when the Station opened the board on one platform announced "Paignton",

whilst the other platform showed "Paington". For many years this was a source of amusement to visitors. A new Station Master was appointed and he determined to settle the argument once and for all. He asked the Postmaster, who said "Paignton" - and finally the matter was settled.