

Paignton

Paignton is located within Torbay local authority area. Historically it formed part of Haytor Hundred. It falls within Ipplepen Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 1575 in 1801 8365 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £06/00/00. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £30/07/08. In 1641/2 344 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1295. A market is recorded from 14 cent.

You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Paignton area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 122/5,9
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 122NW,SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX890610
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX85NE,SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 350 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Paignton as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



From the drawing by T. B. Shadwell from a sketch by H. Wesley.

Engraved by W.P. Lloyd.

THE CHURCH & REMAINS OF THE EPISCOPAL PALACE, PAIGNTON, DEVON.

A fair is known from: 14c.-1822. An extract from **The glove is up! Devon's historic fairs**, by **Tricia Gerrish**, is included by kind permission of the author

Paignton Fair LOCATION: A380/A3022. One of the three principal resorts of Torbay, South Devon.

ORIGINAL CHARTER: c.1294 Granted by Edward I to Bishop of Exeter and Thomas, Lord of Peynton for 3 day fair at Holy Trinity.

The Bishop of Exeter and Thomas, Lord of Paignton, or Peynton, were granted the first fairs charter: for a three day event to celebrate Holy Trinity, eight weeks after Easter. These were held near the Bishop's Palace in an area known today as Palace Place. In 1822 a holiday fair is recorded for Tuesday in Whit week, believed to have been in existence in 1809. There is no mention of fairs in either of Owen's 1792 or 1824 lists, which suggests that the 19th century Whit Tuesday event was no longer a trading fair. Fairs ceased altogether during the late 20th century; a brief revival had occurred in 1954.

Paignton's original fair had a Court Leet to administer social justice and the right to erect stalls etc, at a cost of 10 shillings a year to traders. When Holy Trinity Fair was revived in 1954 by the Devonshire Association of Drake's Men, Court Leet was a feature of the proceedings. In a re-enacted scene, one Susan Goodrich was brought before it, charged with refusing to have her ale tasted. She told Court Leet that, owing to her arrest, the fair dinner was spoiling at her inn. As many of the assembled worthies were planning to eat it, she was quickly released. Records of Courts Baron and Leet from the 1660s had been consulted, to ensure that this was based on a true event.

Early references: in Transactions of the Devonshire Association and in Trewman's Exeter Flying Post described the making and transporting of one of Paignton's famous plum puddings, for Whit Tuesday fair day. They were recent revivals of an ancient custom. Paignton's 1294 charter was, by repute, subject to a 'white pot' - making a giant pudding every 50 years. 'Seven years to make, seven years to bake and seven to eat', according to Dr James Yonge in the 17th century. The fair puddings were noted throughout the West country for their size.

Recipes during the 19th century cite 100lb flour, 170lb beef suet, 140lb raisins and 20 dozen eggs as typical contents for the Paignton Pudding. A local brewer's furnace was often used to boil the resulting mixture. One giant, made to celebrate the arrival of the railway at Paignton in 1859, was made in eight sections, piled pyramid-fashion on a wagon, pulled by eight horses, and transported to Paignton Green (by then the site of Paignton's fairs). The two thousand crowd present for the railway celebrations stormed the wagon, snatching handfuls of pudding, some of which found its way all over England by post.

Paignton's early 19th century Whit week fairs were also noted for wrestling contests: with a purse of 10 guineas on offer in 1819, and for other sports.

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Paignton a flourishing seaside town on the shores of Tor Bay, has trebled in size since 1900 and now has some 25,000 people. A hundred years ago it was described in White's Directory as "a neat and improving village and bathing place," which had "risen into notice as a place of resort for invalids during the last fifteen years, and is capable of being made a first-rate watering place. ..." But it was still chiefly a farming parish, noted for the excellence of its cider of which great quantities were shipped to London and elsewhere, and for its very large and sweet cabbages, called "Paignton cabbages" which were sent all over the county. The real rise of the town as a seaside resort dates from late Victorian times. The railway reached the village in 1859; and in the last 40 years of the century the population trebled (8,385 in 1901).

Paignton was an ancient village, founded about ½ m. inland from the shore, possibly by Saxon colonists who arrived by sea. Before the Norman Conquest the large and fertile manor had come into the possession of the bishops of Exeter. They had a palace here, of which some small remains of 14th century date may be seen near the church.

Under the bishops of Exeter, Paignton acquired in 1295 a weekly market and a three-day fair at the festival of the Holy Trinity; and a borough appears to have been set up about the same time. Much of the old village remains around the parish church, chiefly Church St., Kirkham St., Well St., and Winner St., in all of which 16th and 18th century cottages may be seen.

The parish church (St. John) was the mother-church of a large district which formerly included the parishes of Marldon and Stoke Gabriel. There are considerable remains of the 12th century church, chiefly the N. and S. rubble walls of the chancel, the red sandstone font, and the W. doorway of the tower. This doorway is, however, not in its original position. The church was almost entirely rebuilt in red sandstone in the early 15th century, possibly during the episcopate of Lacy (1420-55), whose arms appear in the painted glass of the N. aisle. It contains a late medieval stone pulpit, richly carved.

The stone screen to the Kirkham chapel in the S. transept has been barbarously mutilated but is still beautiful. It was erected c. 1526 by the Kirkhams of Blagdon, and is elaborately canopied. The interior ceiling is particularly notable, with its "exquisite vine-leaf enrichment whose fragile beauty is a masterpiece of execution." The sculptured panels are also noteworthy.

Oldway, a mansion of 115 rooms, was built for Singer, the sewing-machine millionaire, in 1874 at a cost of over £100,000 (architect, G. S. Bridgeman). The family ceased to live there in 1914 and after being put to various uses the house and grounds were bought by the town in 1945 for £45,000. It only remains to add that this palatial and opulent house was called The Wigwam when it was first built.

Blagdon Barton, 2 m. W. of Paignton, was the seat of the Kirkhams from the reign of Edward I until the 17th century. It is one of the most interesting of the smaller medieval "mansions" of Devon, retaining as it does its 14th century hall, screen, etc. The house was remodelled in 1567 and again early in the 18th century. (A detailed architectural account of Blagdon will be found in D.A. 69 (1937), 479-82.) The adjoining farm has tremendous cathedral-like barns and other buildings around a courtyard, as be-fitted a former estate of more than 1,000 acres.

Pancrasweek

Pancrasweek is located within Torridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Black Torrington Hundred. It falls within Holsworthy Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 330 in 1801 277 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 87 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Holsworthy Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Pancrasweek area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 40/12
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 49SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS297058
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS20NE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 111
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 190
- Geological sheet 307 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Pancrasweek consists of an isolated church and scattered farmsteads. The original Domesday settlements were as Dunsdon, Hamsworthy, and Virworthy. The present church (St. Pancras) is largely 15th century in date, though there are traces of original Norman work in the nave walls. The plain W. tower has fine crocketed

pinnacles of the W. Devon type. There is a Jacobean pulpit and a good granite S. arcade. At Lana, 1 m. N., is an attractive roadside Methodist chapel (1838).

Parkham

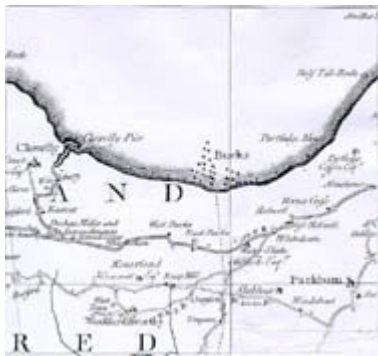
Parkham is located within Torridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Shebbear Hundred. It falls within Hartland Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 584 in 1801 786 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 170 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Bideford Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place-search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Parkham area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 28/3,4
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 28NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS389215
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS32SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet Explorer 126
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 190
- Geological sheet 307 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Parkham contains a number of former "mansions." Halsbury was the home of the Halsbury family in Henry II's time, but passed to the Giffards by marriage *temp.* Edward I. In 1885 Mr. H. S. Giffard, Q.C., was raised to the peerage as Lord Chancellor and took the title of Baron Halsbury of Halsbury. The present house, a

large stone-built barton, is of 16th and 17th century date. A record of 1560 speaks of it as a "new dwelling house" which fixes the date of the older parts as mid 16th century. There are some good panelled rooms. Bableigh was a home of the Risdon from the 15th century until 1760, but the rebuilt farmhouse is uninteresting. West Goldworthy was a "mansion" and retains some evidence of its former status. Stone was a house of some consequence in the 18th century.

Parkham church (St. James) is mainly a 15th century structure, with early 16th century aisles. It has a fine late Norman S. doorway (c. 1160-70), and a Norman font surrounded by some excellent medieval tiles. The N. aisle was erected by the Risdon. The S. aisle is of the same date, and may have been erected by the Giffards of Halsbury. There are inscriptions to the Giffards of Halsbury from 1595 to 1712.

Parracombe

Parracombe is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Sherwill Hundred. It falls within Shirwell Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 322 in 1801 315 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 82 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Lynton Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Parracombe area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 6/7
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 6NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS668448
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS64SE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 09
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 277 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Parracombe is a small village in a fold of Exmoor, which rises to 1,575 ft. at the SE. end of the parish. There are barrows on Parracombe Common, probably of Bronze Age date, and a number of other small earthworks dotted about the parish. Rowley

Barton ("rough clearing") was a Domesday manor; so, too, were East and West Middleton.

The parish is chiefly remarkable for its old church, which stands on the moorside high above the village. It was proposed to pull it down in the 1870s, but an agitation, in which John Ruskin played a leading part, saved it from destruction. A new church was built down in the village in 1878, and the old church, which has a completely unspoiled Georgian interior, is now used only occasionally in summer. It is dedicated to St. Petrock and is undoubtedly a very ancient foundation, but the present building is largely the result of an early 16th century reconstruction. The chancel, however, was not rebuilt at this date, but is early 13th century work; so, too, is the lower part of the small, square W. tower. The interior is plastered and whitewashed; everything is irregular and leans in different directions. There are 18th century box-pews; an 18th century screen with a wooden tympanum above it; a Georgian pulpit; and a number of early 16th century benches also survive. At the back of the church is the old musicians' gallery. On the walls are the wooden hat-pegs of the Georgian church, and oval plaques inscribed with suitable texts, such as "Let all things be done decently and in order." There are mural tablets to the old yeoman family of Lock (1667- 1803) who still farm in the parish. All the roofs are ceiled and whitewashed. It is an enchanting example of an unspoilt Georgian interior, though now in need of careful repair, and is by far the most interesting of all the churches in this part of Devon.

Payhembury

Payhembury is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Hayridge Hundred. It falls within Ottery Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 416 in 1801 415 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 69 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Ottery St Mary Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Payhembury area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 58/13
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 58SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is ST052028
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet ST00SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Payhembury church (St. Mary) is chiefly 15th century, with all the usual features: a Beer stone arcade with well-carved capitals bearing shields of arms (including the arms of Courtenay), a good rood-screen (c. 1450), some ancient carved bench-ends,

and Queen Anne altar-rails and pulpit with sounding-board. There is some medieval glass in the N. aisle, and a splendid panelled and coloured roof with bosses.

Higher and Lower Cheriton represent the Domesday manor of *Cherleton*, and Tale the manor of *Tala*. Uggaton, a large farmhouse of late 17th century date, is mentioned as early as 1196. Leyhill Farm was rebuilt in 1657 and much altered in Queen Anne's time.