

Maypole May 23/59

One of the few remaining in the country, Paganhill's 87ft tall
maypole is ^{now} ~~to be~~ taken down today to be painted. This morning a squad of voluntary
workers started the preparatory trench digging and this afternoon it was arranged
for a local firm of contractors to hoist the pole out of the ground and take it
to the green belt opposite the Crown Inn where it will remain for about six weeks.

Maypole 2.

The present maypole was erected just prior to the Coronation in 1953.

Obtained from Earl Bathurst's estate it is not so tall as the previous one which, obtained from Cranham, was 120 feet when felled and was 100 ft above ground when trimmed and

erected. The new maypole was not painted when it was placed in position but the Maypole Committee

have decided it shld now be done and it is estimated that half a hundredweight of putty and three or four gallons of paint will be needed. The painting will all be done voluntarily and it is estimated that the total cost of the operation will be in the region of £40.

When it is re-erected there will be a celebration and dancing on the green.

There is no record of the date when the first maypole was erected but it is known there has been one in the ~~pe~~ site continuously for over 200 years except for a short period after May 20, 1804 when, during the usual Whitsuntide merrymaking the pole fell down and killed two children. The squire forbade the erection of another pole but after several years the villagers took the matter into their own hands and stole a tree from Penn Woods. The ringleaders suffered imprisonment for their act but there has bn a ~~pay~~pole there ever since.