

MAYPOLE THAT LEANS

Paganhill To Seek Advice

FOR the past few months residents living near the Paganhill Maypole have been concerned with its tendency to lean in the direction of Whiteshill. The trouble began after it was re-painted in 1947, and re-erected. At a public meeting held in the Recreation Hut, on Monday, a committee was formed to seek advice from local timber contractors to see whether anything can be done to the present Maypole or whether a new tree trunk will be needed.

The chairman (Mr. E. J. Wheeler) understood that the late Mr. V. Evans—who was Maypole trustee from 1922 until his death—had purchased a tree from

the same site as the present Maypole came from, in Prinknash Park. Suggestions to erect low railings, three shrubs and a memorial plate to the late Mr. Evans, were agreed to at the meeting. The committee was instructed to write to the County Council to see if they objected to these ideas being carried out.

The committee elected was as follows:— Mr. E. J. Wheeler (chairman), Mr. C. E. Birch (secretary and treasurer), Messrs. J. Jefferies, A. T. Luker, A. Jones, L. Seymour and A. R. Smith.

MAYPOLE TO BE PAINTED

Paganhill Family's Association

PAGANHILL Maypole is to be taken down and given a new coat of paint. Though no definite date has yet been fixed we are informed by Miss A. Blanch, whose family has been associated with the Maypole for something like 100 years, that it will be some time before next winter.

There has been a Paganhill maypole since time immemorial and it is one of the few remaining in the country. In 1804 two children were killed when it was being erected for the Whit Monday celebrations and put a temporary end to the annual custom. The 1891 pole was considered to be the last but it was replaced in 1910 and the present one was put up in 1929.

This pole is a particularly fine specimen and was found in Prinknash Woods after a thorough search of the district by the late Mr. Thomas Blanch, Miss Blanch's father, and Mr. Job Bayliss, the licensee of The Old Crown Inn. The larch tree, when cut was 120 feet high and weighed two tons, and its price of £10, like all other expenses, was raised by public subscription.

News of its renovation will be welcomed by the villagers of Paganhill because the event is always accompanied by a good deal of ceremony and merry-making. This year's ceremony will be graced, for the first time for many years, with the attendance of a "Mayor of Paganhill" (Mr. E. J. Wheeler), an office which has recently been revived after lapsing into oblivion for some years.