

A Short History of
Westbury House



John Ford

INTRODUCTION

IN that this is an attempt to string together material from a variety of sources and thus provide those presently living at Westbury with an outline of their surroundings, it may also serve the purpose of others interested to pursue their own line of investigation into this unique part of Hampshire.

A number of kind friends have afforded immense assistance. Without it one would not have got very far; and if the Reverend John Hurst, Paul Cave, Ramon Stone, Peter Silk, Christopher Holt, Miss Eileen Read and Miss Edith Whitehead, together with the files of the HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE, come readily to mind, this is not to forget the kindness of others, including the ladies at the Hampshire Record Office.

If it is not too presumptuous, the booklet is dedicated to all those who, down the years, have lived, worked and played at Westbury. It is being published at a time when one of the South of England's newest private nursing homes has recently completed the fourth and final unit of a complex to stand comparison with any in the land.

West Meon.
Autumn, 1984.

John Ford.

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Front cover. A recent photograph of Westbury House.

THE CHAPEL OF SAINT NICHOLAS AT WESTBURY HOUSE, WEST MEON.

AS is so often the case when, at long last and invariably much too late, funds are made available to preserve a fragment of the historic past, the indifference of earlier generations who have had it in their gift to prevent an already bad situation from getting worse, is quickly exposed in sharp relief.

This, in essence, is the sad story surrounding the little Chapel of Saint Nicholas in the grounds of Westbury House at West Meon. That a restoration scheme has recently been undertaken with the assistance of grants from the Department of the Environment, the Hampshire County Council, the East Hampshire District Council and Frasergate Limited, the present owners of Westbury, is much to the credit of all concerned. It is encouraging to learn that the Archaeological Section of the County Planning Department is at present undertaking a survey of Hampshire's historic parks and gardens and of deserted village sites, of which Westbury is one, in an attempt to discover a little more about their past.

The Chapel is officially designated by the Government as a scheduled ancient monument which confers legal protection to the site. It was never a Parish Church in the accepted sense — although there is ample evidence of a small settlement at Westbury, probably dating back to pre-history. As with several other not dis-similar Chapels which were once a feature of the Upper Meon Valley, Saint Nicholas looked to East Meon as its 'mother' church. In some cases, with the passage of time, these adherent Chapels were constituted Parish Churches. This was not the case at Westbury and so, with no regular incumbent appointed to an established living, it may not be altogether surprising that the record of its foundation, occupation and eventual decline is meagre in the extreme. Nor did its function extend to regular baptisms or weddings or burials. Thus, at the end of an interesting but ultimately somewhat disappointing search, there are simply a few fragments of what might have been and virtually nothing of what actually was.

In attempting to piece the story together it is as difficult as it would be unrealistic to separate the Chapel from the history of Westbury House itself. The House is well documented elsewhere and it suffices to say that it — although, apparently, not a Chapel — is on record in Domesday Book. By virtue of a variety of objects unearthed in and around the grounds of the present house, there is an abundance of evidence of much earlier occupation. A Bronze Age pot of around 1,200 B.C., flint arrowheads and pottery fragments of Saxon and earlier origin all testify to this.

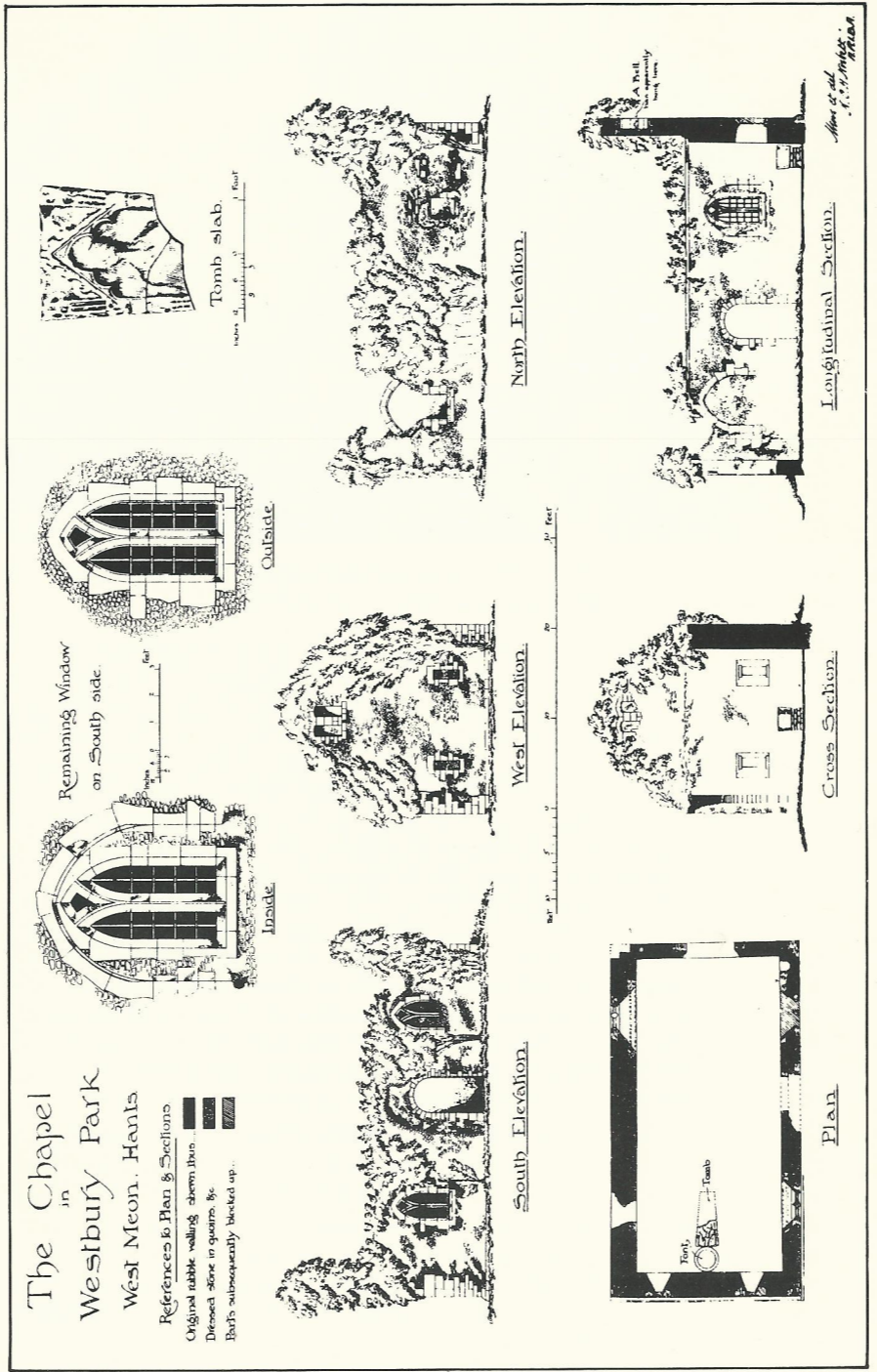
Although there is circumstantial evidence of some earlier place of worship on the site, the ruins of what little remains of the Chapel appear likely to have had their origin with Peter de Campania in the closing years of the 13th century. Peter comes into the story in a rather roundabout way; and one needs to begin



Saint Nicholas's Chapel as it appeared in a photograph published in HAMPSHIRE MAGAZINE of September 1968 (Reproduced by courtesy of Paul Cave Publications).

by establishing the involvement of Robert le Ewer in Westbury's affairs. Robert is first heard of in 1306 when, as the King's Yeoman, he provided the escort to the servants of King Edward I carrying money to the English forces in Scotland. Le Ewer, elsewhere known as Aquarius, almost certainly derived his name from the fact that, as recorded by the Monk of Malmesbury, 'he was wont to serve water in the King's hall'. Robert's life had many ups and downs, for he was in and out of favour with some regularity. In his time he held estate at Somerton, the domain of the Somersaetas whence the county of today derives its name. In 1309, Edward II granted him the manor of Warblington near Havant where, as the Lord, he was permitted to hold a weekly market and also an annual fair at nearby Emsworth. This displeased Isabella Bardolf who claimed to have inherited, by way of a rent granted to her grandfather by King John and subsequently confirmed by Henry III, the privilege which had been assumed by le Ewer and his colleague, Robert Pouke. Isabella accordingly sued the pair of them for trespass. She won her case in front of the Justices but the judgment was overturned by the King. Further action by Isabella resulted in her being dispossessed when Robert was granted the manor of Emsworth for life.

Robert le Ewer, meanwhile, had been appointed Keeper of Odiham Castle and, despite getting himself into various kinds of trouble which resulted in his removal from office, his value to the Crown appears to have been such that, by 1312, he had been re-appointed and accompanied the King to France. Thence he is lost to sight for four years until he re-appears as the husband of Margery, the widow of Peter de Campania, who seems as likely as anybody to have been the builder of Saint Nicholas's Chapel. Thus le Ewer came to hold Westbury in the right of his wife, Margery.



Drawing by N.C.H. Nisbett.

The years that followed saw Robert in rebellion, being pardoned, raising troops for the King, becoming the custodian of Devizes Castle and in command of the King's Infantry in the Welsh Marches. In 1322 he was licensed by the King to crenellate Westbury and became the Keeper of Itchel, four miles south of Farnham. Once again he was in rebellion and, after a series of exploits which amount to a story in themselves, was arrested as he sought to leave the country by way of Southampton. He died in prison sometime between 8th December 1322 and 8th January 1323.

The unfortunate Margery found sanctuary in the abbey of Saint Mary in Winchester where two of her sisters were already in orders. She was taken away and imprisoned. Some 18 months after Robert's death she was the subject of an enquiry the outcome of which gave her pardon for any involvement she may have had in her husband's rebellion. In due course, too, it was established that, as Robert had held Westbury on her behalf rather than in his own right, the property should be restored to her. Furthermore, she was awarded the not inconsiderable sum of £160 by way of damages.

Thus it may say quite a lot for the conception of English justice in the 14th century that, by 1328, Margery was once again in possession of her property with, by that time, her third husband. It is an equally pleasant case that, with Robert le Ewer dead, Isabella Bardolf's surviving son produced the Charter of Edward I's grant of Emsworth to his family and had his rights restored to him.

If Peter de Campania was, indeed, the founder of Saint Nicholas's chapel, it is no more than conjecture that the remains of a large stone coffin slab, depicted by N.C.H. Nisbett in a drawing he made for the Hants Field Club in 1891, may well have marked his last resting-place — or, perhaps, Margery's. It is equally fanciful to have regard for the possibility that it was here she married her Robert, the King's Yeoman.

Since Nisbett's drawing, further substantial deterioration has taken place and, whereas today only its bottom part remains, even as late as 1968 one of the southern windows was largely intact. It is the west end which is best preserved and this once contained a belfry 'with one hanging bell' according to an inventory of 1554 referring to East Meon and 'the chapelle of Westbury'. There is documentary evidence, too, that in 1703 the Chapel, although no longer used as such, was still virtually all in once piece. It was about this time that the Westbury estate underwent enormous transformation at the hands of the Cavendish family. Charles Bridgeman, a famous landscape architect of the day, followed the fashion and laid out the formal gardens. This, as happened in many other places throughout the land, almost certainly culminated in the sweeping away of anything that might have remained of an earlier settlement at Westbury and may account for much of the neglect surrounding the last 250 years of the Chapel's history. It may also explain why subsequent reference to it is sketchy in the extreme.

In 1936 the Chapel's ancient undecorated circular stone font was at least accorded safe keeping when, very appropriately, it was taken to the Parish Church of All Saints in East Meon and where it remains.

WESTBURY IN DAYS GONE BY.

IN attempting to piece together the fragmented story of Saint Nicholas's Chapel one is inevitably drawn to take consideration of those who were living in or around Westbury at the time the Chapel was built. If, then, one cannot get very far in that direction without linking the two, so is it impossible to examine Westbury without looking at it in the context of West Meon. Despite the Chapel having stemmed from its mother Church at East Meon, the settlement at Westbury and the families who have lived there invariably trace their occupancy to the lord of the manor of West Meon. The parish boundary between the two villages actually runs through the estate. Technically the House is in the East Meon parish; but it may not be convenience alone which maintains West Meon as its postal address.

As has been shown earlier, archaeological discoveries have established that the site was in occupation well over a thousand years before the birth of Christ. Similarly, Domesday Book takes due cognizance of Westbury. When Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) was the King of England, 'Westbyrie' was held by the Saxon, Ulnod. The manor at West Meon comprised some 20 hides, and a hide measured roughly 120 acres. The rental was £20. There follows a period of historical silence and the probability is that West Meon, like Corhampton, was plundered by the conquering Norman army. Twenty years after the Conquest, in 1086, the West Meon manor had been reduced by 8 hides, but its value had increased to £30. Whether this was done as some sort of punitive measure is not certain, but the men of West Meon found it necessary to protest at proposed taxation of an even higher level. The commissioners thought sufficient of the protest to record it.

At the time of the Domesday survey, Westbury formed part of an enormous barony held by Hugh de Port. His services to William the Conqueror netted him 55 manors in all, with Basing as the headquarters. De Port sub-let Westbury to a fellow Norman, Gozelin of whom, apart from having been the son of Azor, little appears to be known. Westbury itself then comprised some 360 acres. Occupancy after Gozelin's death is not recorded but, like the remainder of the de Port barony, it eventually passed to the St. John family, who were an extension of the de Port's in that William, the son of Adam de Port, took unto himself his mother's maiden name of St John. Towards the end of the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) the manor was part of the barony of Robert St. John, being held by John 'of Westbury' as a knight's fee.

Between Gozelin and John of Westbury, in the early 1100's, Westbury took a brief bow in the history of the nation. Robert, Duke of Normandy and the eldest legitimate son of the Conqueror, expressed considerable displeasure at having been passed over for the throne in favour of his brother, William Rufus. When Rufus was killed in the New Forest, Robert was again passed over and Henry, a yet younger brother, became King. Robert, back in Normandy from the Holy Land where he had built a reputation as a Crusader, assembled a small fleet and disembarked at Portchester. His army came close to Henry's army in the

upper part of the Meon Valley although it would seem that they did not actually engage. Negotiation led to the signing of the Treaty of Westbury. This conferred a pension on Robert and the recognition that he was Henry's rightful heir. It availed the tempestuous Robert very little for he could not refrain from continuing opposition and was eventually confined, blinded, in Cardiff Castle where he died in 1134 — just a year before Henry himself died.

It appears that John de Westbury's successor was William de Campania and that, in turn, William yielded to Peter de Campania and Peter's wife, Margery. Thus we return to the history of Saint Nicholas's Chapel and its association with Margery, her first husband, Peter and, subsequently to our King's Yeoman, Robert le Ewer. As has been shown already, Robert died within a few weeks either side of Christmas 1322 and that, in the course of time, Margery, released from prison, was back in full possession at Westbury. Certainly by 1328 Margery and her third husband, Nicholas de Overton, were in occupation and the manor of Westbury had been settled on them and on Margery's heirs. Margery died sometime prior to 1342 for, in that year, Margaret, the wife of James de Molyns, granted a reversion of the manor to Nicholas le Devenish of Winchester. There followed a number of relatively short-term occupancies of the manor with a variety of sons and/or heirs failing to reach their majority. The complex story holds relatively little of interest, save to the dedicated historian. Around 1428, Westbury passed from the remnants of the le Devenish family to the Fawconers. Henceforth the ground becomes considerably firmer.

The Fawconers or Fawkenors, whilst not of the nobility, were nevertheless the owners of substantial properties in Hampshire and Dorset. They were to be at Westbury for some 200 years. As Catholics, after Elizabeth came to the throne, life was far from easy for recusants; but, wisely, the family laid low, paid their recusancy fines and survived until, in 1694, the property was sold to Richard Markes of Petersfield. The purchase price was £4,000. Markes did a great deal of work on his newly acquired property — which may or may not have been standing on the site of the one which Robert le Ewer had fortified over 350 years earlier — enlarging it in the Palladian style. Markes let the property to a man from Exton, Lomer Shallet, between 1707 and 1715; and six Shallet children were baptized in East Meon church. When Westbury became too much for the Shallets, Markes let it to Admiral Philip Cavendish. A few years later, in 1722 and with Markes now dead, his widow and son, Richard, found themselves in financial difficulties. They sold Westbury to Philip Cavendish for £7,400. The difference in price, in excess of £3,000 over a comparatively short period, is probably indicative of the amount of money spent by Markes in improving the property.

Philip Cavendish was a life-long sailor and, at the time of his death in 1743 was a member of the Board of Admiralty. He held the post of Commander in Chief at Portsmouth from 1739 to 1742. In all, it suited him very well to have a substantial country home not much more than 20 miles from the Dockyard. He was an illegitimate son of the first Duke of Devonshire and this fact, coupled with his marriage to Anne Carteret, niece of the first Earl Glanville, a leading figure in the Government and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, saw that there was

lack of neither money nor influence. Cavendish's naval career spanned 49 years. He held a number of influential appointments during that time and, although once censured for breaking off an engagement with a Spanish squadron in 1719, nevertheless had earned a reputation for seamanship and courage in an earlier action when, in command of the frigate ANTELOPE he engaged a French ship of the line.

It was the Cavendish influence which transformed Westbury in a variety of ways. Reference has been made earlier to the impact of Charles Bridgeman, the noted landscape architect who, by 1728, has succeeded his mentor, Henry Wise, as Royal Gardener. Bridgeman's method departed from the then fashionable concept of enclosed gardens in favour of expansive views which could be enjoyed from indoors. The Admiral died suddenly in 1743 and his widow remained at Westbury for a further four years. There was no heir and she sold the property to another sailor, Admiral Sir Peter Warren, who had been her husband's friend. Sir Peter's family background was a good deal less glamorous than that of his predecessor. His father had been a land owner in a comparatively modest way in Ireland and the future Admiral had joined the Service as an Ordinary Seaman. He paid £8,500 for Westbury together with a further £1,000 for its contents. Like Cavendish, it was convenient for him to be reasonably close to Portsmouth and not too far away from his friend, Lord Anson, who had his home at Soberton Manor.

Sir Peter had a spectacular career and it culminated in his Knighthood of the Bath after the Finisterre action where he was Second-in-Command to Lord Anson. Aided by handsome sums of prize money and a marriage to Susanna de Lacy, a wealthy young American girl, he became one of the richest amongst the country's commoners. With some of his money he purchased a 300-acre farm on Manhattan Island. His heirs sold it; and one can but wonder what astronomical sum that freehold would command today. He gave to Westbury a reputation for magnificent hospitality and added very considerably to its acreage. Some five farms in East Meon together with others in Langrish and elsewhere in the neighbourhood made of it a sizeable estate. Death came to him unexpectedly whilst on a business visit to Dublin. He was 50 and is commemorated by a monument in Westminster Abbey which records, amongst other of his attributes and accomplishments, that he was the Member of Parliament for the City of Westminster.

Lady Warren inherited a third of the Westbury estate and the other two parts were left to the three daughters of the marriage. In turn, all of them married men of substance. The middle daughter, Susanna, married Lieut. General William Skinner and he, in due course, bought out the Westbury interests of his two sisters-in-law. The Skinners had one child, Susanna Maria who, in due course, inherited Westbury with, by that time, nearly 1800 acres. She married her first cousin, Major General Henry Gage, destined to become the third Viscount.

Viscount Gage is credited with having made Saint Nicholas's Chapel fit for family worship; and this is worth examining within the context of known events.

It has been shown that the Chapel, although no longer in use as such, was intact in 1703. Thus the building had been standing, without too much harm having come to it, for all of 500 years. Any substantial restoration might reasonably have expected to extend its life sufficiently to have found it in far happier shape than when Nisbett made his drawings no more than 100 years later and wrote 'Nothing remains of the roof except the wall plates in situ and three of the old tie beams now on the ground'. Nisbett made his inspection of the Chapel in May 1890. Susanna Maria had married Henry Gage in 1789. It is against this background that the likelihood and extent of any Gage restoration work merits assessment.

The couple's second son, Thomas, lived at Westbury until 1855 and, thereafter, Henry, the fourth Viscount, sold it to Mr John Delaware Lewis from whom it passed to Colonel LeRoy Lewis who died in 1931 aged 70. He is buried in West Meon churchyard.



Saint Nicholas's Chapel as it is today.



The South aspect of Westbury House before and immediately after the fire of 23rd November, 1904.



THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

THE tranquility of this quiet piece of the countryside was shattered in the early hours of 23rd November, 1904, when fire broke out. The *HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE* of the day reported that Westbury House had been 'totally gutted'; but photographs taken on the day after the fire indicate that, whilst damage was, indeed, extensive, it was the western end of the house which suffered. Those same photographs, examined in conjunction with others taken before the fire and after restoration, would seem to indicate that the eastern part of the building was relatively unaffected — if, indeed, at all.

One point to emerge very clearly from contemporary reports is that the owner, Colonel Herman LeRoy Lewis, acquitted himself as befitted a man who, a few years earlier, in addition to having been honoured as a Commander of the Order of the Bath, had also been decorated with the Distinguished Service Order for bravery in action in the Boer War. He climbed down a stack-pipe and, with the aid of staff roused from the stables, brought Mrs Lewis and their five children down from the windows. The two governesses were rescued by the same means. The housekeeper, Jane Henley, died in the fire and an elderly servant, who had served the family for 35 years, 'fell unconscious and died immediately'. Servants asleep upstairs made their way over the roof, whilst the cook — her name was Hayles — dropped from the leads on to the lawn and fractured her wrist. One girl, climbing down the ivy which covered that part of the house, lost her hold but, falling into some shrubs, was unhurt. The *HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE* estimated the damage 'at between £20,000 and £30,000'.

Colonel Lewis set about immediately to rebuild Westbury and, by the standards of the day, a thoroughly impressive job he made of it. The house had its own electricity supply, two boilers provided a hot water system, there was a lift and all the main rooms, together with the stables, were connected by an internal telephone system. Some idea of the scale on which families lived before the first World War can be had from the Estate Agent's description of the property when, in 1918, it came on the open market. There were seven maids' bedrooms and five for men servants to take care of the needs of the occupants of nine principal bedrooms. And the prospectus deems this to have been a 'medium sized residence'.

Westbury, up to the time of the departure of the Lewis family, had been a focal point for much of West Meon activity. The local branch of the Oddfellows' Friendly Society, so important, particularly in the country areas, before the advent of any form of National Health Service, was based on Westbury. It was Westbury Cricket Club, of which Colonel Lewis was the President, which, for many years carried the West Meon flag; and the ground itself was maintained as part of the estate. The pavillion still stands opposite the house on the northern side of the East Meon road.

When the estate was auctioned by Messrs. J. Carter, Jonas and Sons of London, S.W.1. at the George Hotel in Winchester on 15th July — Saint Swithun's Day — 1918, it was offered in ten lots. The total area of property

extended to 4,944 acres of which 557 were woodland. It embraced nine farms, 26 cottages, the Steward's House, four farmsteads and the Watermills at Drayton and at West Meon. Westbury House itself was in the catalogue as one lot comprised of three of the farms, Riplington, Peak and Old Down and Manor Farm as a single unit. The House itself was surrounded by 2,297 acres and 447 of these were woodland.

Although in July 1918 World War I still had several critical months to run, it affords interesting comparison with today's prices to note the pencilled remarks of Mr H.W. Silvester in his copy of the catalogue. The auction must have been a disappointment. Much of the estate, including Westbury House itself, remained unsold. However, considerable blocks of land were knocked down at £8:3:6d an acre for some of the relatively remote parts of the estate — without the rights to any standing timber — whilst top price of £20 an acre for smaller parcels which marched with the existing properties of neighbouring landowners. Mr Silvester's grandsons — the Silk brothers — have extensive holdings of farm land in and around West Meon.

Six years later, almost to the day — 16th July 1924 — the Westbury properties, now expressed in 32 lots, were again the subject of auction by Messrs Knight, Frank and Rutley of Hanover Square. This time the sale was held at the Red Lion in Petersfield and, whilst Manor Farm and Riplington Farm of about 380 acres apiece and Old Down Farm with 175 acres were sold, the House along with some 260 acres which more or less surrounded it, remained on offer. Likewise the 380 acres at Peak Farm and the 210 acres of Henwood, as well as several other sizeable lots, did not find an immediate purchaser.

In due course, the House and its immediate surroundings were bought by Mr Thomas Christopher Whitehead and he founded a well-known Preparatory School at Westbury House in 1926. After frantic months of preparation, ten boys formed the nucleus of a school and, with the passage of time and a well-earned reputation, the total reached 80 either in residence or as day-boys. During World War II the records of the Corporation of the City of London were afforded safe keeping stowed away in the Westbury cellars.

Mr Whitehead was the Headmaster of Westbury House for about 38 years and, after his death in 1962, Commander E.A.S. Manners, D.S.C., Royal Navy, himself a former pupil, continued to provide boys — and, latterly, a small number of girls — with their preparatory education. Commander Manners remained at the School until it closed in the late 1970's. Thereafter the house stood empty for a while. In due course it was purchased and, after an extensive programme of re-equipping, opened as an International Boy's School with its main burden directed to the middle eastern countries. Events conspired against the project. The outbreak of hostilities between Iran and Iraq brought with it a number of exchange control difficulties and these, together with other problems of varying degree, prevented the concept from developing as had been planned.

Accordingly the company who own and manage Westbury, and who had spent a considerable sum of money in providing all the modern facilities appropriate to a first class educational boarding establishment, had the

profound disappointment, as well as bearing the cost in terms of both time and money, of undoing much of their work in order to prepare it as an equally first class Nursing home.

Eventually, on 14th January 1982, Councillor David Lancaster, the Town Mayor of Petersfield, in the company of a number of distinguished guests, officially opened the south's newest and probably most beautifully situated Nursing Home. Thus Westbury and its remaining 160 acres embarked on an entirely new career. Over the centuries it has become part of England's history and England's heritage, and has afforded shelter to many. Yet who is to say that in its present role, its finest hour is not yet to come with the bringing of relief, shelter, comfort and healing at the hands of its dedicated and highly professional staff.



i.Davis, C.Hale, G.Paice, R.Tulley, R.W.Read, R.J.Treble, F.Sedgwick, G.Longhure
i.Greor, A.Beckingham, W.H.Frobie, M.P.S.Hie, R.W.Lewis, Col. L.R.Lewis, Miss L.R.Lewis, W.Tulloch, H.Pear
Cricketers at Westbury over 70 years ago.



WESTBURY IN 1984

ON Saint Valentine's Day 1984 the Residential Rest Home for the Elderly was formally opened in the name of MEONSIDE. Shortly afterwards, when it was appreciated that this might cause confusion with another property in West Meon, and in recognition of the lake down by Saint Nicholas's Chapel, it was changed to MERESIDE.

The HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE of 24th February 1984 carried the following news story, thus bringing Westbury's history right up to date:

JUST over two years ago Frasersgate Limited, the owners of Westbury House, West Meon, opened the splendid building, which is surrounded by some of the finest country in the south of England, as a Registered Nursing Home. Last week a new unit was added to the complex when a number of invited guests enjoyed a buffet luncheon.

The new unit, the fourth to be developed since Westbury House was converted from the Preparatory School that had existed for more than half a century, is a Registered Residential Home for the Elderly and occupies the entire second floor. Accommodation is arranged in either single or sharing rooms all of which are equipped with a call system, telephone points and hand basins. A number of the rooms have toilets en-suite. It has its own self-contained dayroom with a Nurse Station and is capable of looking after 24 residents.

This new phase complements the units which have been operative until now and means that, in all, 78 patients can be cared for at any one time. With a total staff of 96, which makes Westbury one of the largest single employers for several miles around, it is apparent that the claim to provide a high degree of care and personal attention throughout the twenty four hours is likely to be no idle one.

The original 30-bed unit, which includes a number of self-contained suites, was laid out to accommodate the convalescent and the physically frail.

Since then accommodation has been made available for up to 14 young chronic sick and, in a separate unit, a further 10 beds are devoted to psychogeriatric patients. Two physicians, who are virtually on constant call, make regular visits, and patients have the option of being treated privately or under the National Health Service. Those who wish to do so are attended by their own Doctors. If required, the services of physiotherapists, speech and occupational therapists and chiropodists are available, and facilities exist for dry cleaning and for hairdressing. Newspapers and periodicals are delivered daily and there is a shop service where personal requirements such as confectionery, postage stamps, toiletries and small items of stationery can be obtained. Westbury is visited by Chaplains of different denominations.

The provision of residential care for the elderly in circumstances in which trained nursing experience from the other specialised units within Westbury is immediately on hand, should it be needed in emergency, is likely to appeal alike to residents and to their families. At the same time, all the facilities of the library, the lounge and the dining room are equally available as is the landscaped grounds.

Left: Westbury Lodge, Grand Order of Oddfellows.

Thus the Westbury complex, so far as it concerns the main building, is virtually complete. Tentative plans exist for the possible development of some 1.8 acres enclosed by the high brick wall to the east of the House. Originally this was the kitchen garden. It offers a promising site for chalet-type accommodation including central recreational facilities and a resident Warden. We shall see!



House and Grounds as seen from the air. The Chapel Ruins, on the North Side of the River Meon, have the East Meon road just beyond them. The Lake is to the East.

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