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## Property – Auctions

# Manor hidden in the heart of town

WESTLECOT Manor, tucked away in an unobtrusive lane in Old Town, is one of Swindon's hidden treasures.

Not many people realise it is there, and even fewer know of its rich history. In 1538, Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries after his split with Rome, one of them was Lacock Abbey near Chippenham, which owned the west side of Swindon Hill, known as Wicklescote Manor.

The Goddards bought the land three years later and with it came the grand manor house.

They later added the other side of the hill, known as Hye Swindon, to their purchase. But it wasn't until 1589 that the manor house saw real life when Thomas Goddard and his new bride were given Swindon Hill as a wedding present.

Soon after the couple arrived at Wicklescote Manor, they changed the name to Westlecot and Thomas had his initials and the date carved into one wall of the house. It is still there today. Westlecot Manor was the family seat until Thomas Goddard moved into the more well-known mansion on the other side of the hill, now the Lawns are today.

It is believed the Cotswold stone manor house was empty for years until it was renovated in the 1980s. Who lived there during the middle years of the last century remains a mystery, adding to the air of secrecy surrounding the house.

But we do know the Goddard estate decided to sell the property in the 1980s and the manor has been a private residential home on and off ever since.

It is a residential home now, but the current owners, Margaret and Richard Brown, are planning to move on and the manor is on the market for £650,000.

And Mrs Brown says that they would prefer the place turned back into a private home, and believe a lordship of the manor may be available for the buyer. The cost of a conversion is estimated at around £100,000.

When you step up into the stone porchway and knock on the imposing oak door, you won't know what lurks inside.

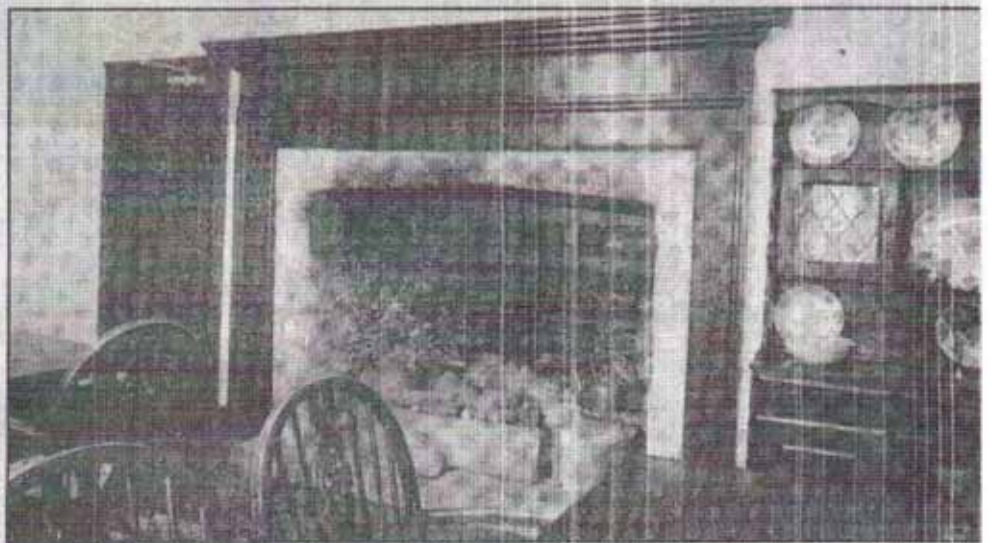
But once you enter, the atmosphere is warm and welcoming, and cosy despite the size of the

manor. The entrance hall, dining room, kitchen and living room lead off from the grand entrance hall. Upstairs, there are seven bedrooms and five bathrooms, and on the top floor is a four-bedroom flat with a kitchen and living room.

Most of the original leaded windows are still in place, and towering oak fireplaces dominate the downstairs rooms.

Most of the wooden fixtures – the staircase, ceiling and beams – are still the originals, taking you back to the days when Thomas Goddard proudly made the place his home.

Westlecot Manor is for sale with Henry Neate on (01793) 534534 and Dreweatt Neate on (01793) 489300.



**ELEGANT:** Westlecot Manor is full of period features like this massive fireplace.



**DESIRABLE:** The manor is a hidden gem in the heart of Swindon



**IMPRESSIVE:** The grand staircase leads to seven bedrooms



## Wiltshire



Mr. J. E. Gladstone, M.A., J.P., D.L.

**Gladstone.**—JOHN EVELYN GLADSTONE, M.A., J.P., D.L., Bowden Park, Chippenham; son of the late Captain J. N. Gladstone, R.N., M.P. for Devizes, and nephew of the late Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone; born in 1855; educated at Eton, and Christ Church, Oxford; M.A.Oxon.; Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire; High Sheriff of Wiltshire, 1897; County Alderman for Wilts; formerly Lieutenant in the Wilts Yeomanry Cavalry; unsuccessfully contested Spen Valley Division of West Riding of Yorkshire as a Conservative, in 1885. Married, in 1888, Gertrude Theresa, daughter of Sir Charles Hayes Miller, 7th Baronet, and has issue three daughters, Margaret Betty, Olive Mary, and Muriel Ivy.

**Goddard.**—FITZROY PEVERETT GODDARD I P D I

**Major Fitzroy Pleydell Goddard**, died Aug. 12th, 1927, aged 74. Buried in Swindon churchyard. Born Aug. 28th, 1852. Second son of Ambrose Lethbridge Goddard. Educated Christchurch, Oxford. Entered diplomatic service and acted as Queen's Messenger, carrying despatches abroad from 1885 to 1895. He was for many years an officer in the Wilts Yeomanry, and as such went out as a representative to the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth in 1901. He succeeded to The Lawn and the Swindon estate on his father's death in 1898. He was High Sheriff in 1907, Deputy Lieutenant and J.P., and for some years a County Councillor. He was President of the Swindon Unionist Association, and was made a Freeman of the Borough in 1924. He presented the Mayoral Chain of Office on the incorporation of the Borough in 1901. He was for a long while President and Chairman of the Victoria Hospital, to the funds of which he gave £1500. He had served as churchwarden at the Parish Church and was an active and earnest churchman. He was also a prominent Freemason. He married, 1895, Eugenia, widow of Mr. A. G. Sutton, who survives him. He leaves no children. He had always the good of Swindon at heart and was greatly respected by all classes, as the very large and representative gathering at his funeral showed.

Long obit. notice, with Canon Mayall's appreciation at the Parish Church, *N. Wilts Herald*, Aug. 19th, 1927.

Wilts. Obituary.

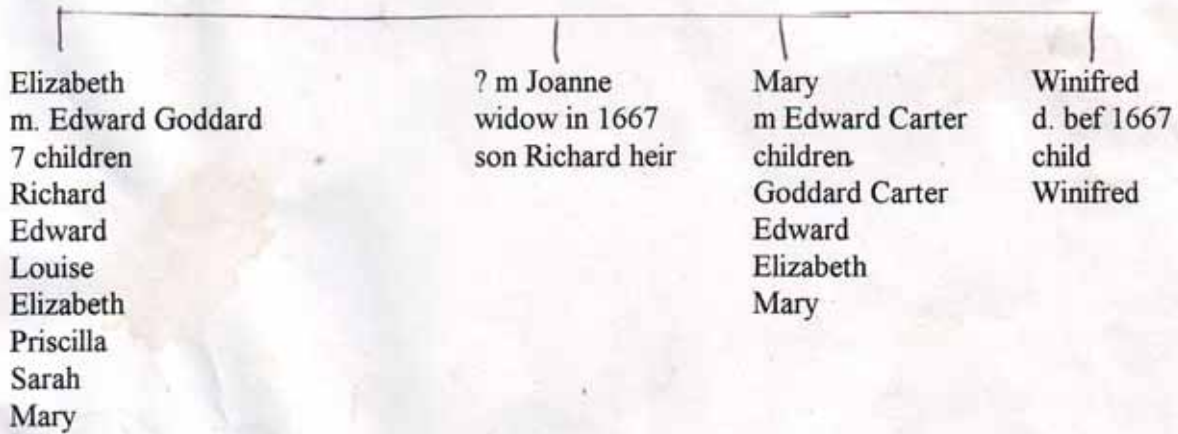
BLOCKLEY CHURCH

On wall, left as you enter, a shield with Carter quartered with Goddard of Swindon  
Inscription too dark to read without a ladder  
Also benefactors board on another wall.

Edward Carter of Upton 01219  
Amergen Legum Proffers.....  
died 1667 aged 45  
Maria Carter, daughter, died unmarried 2 dec 1675 aged 19

Goddard Carter of Alscott in the County of Oxon, Esq., by his will of 9 Nov 1723..... Upton  
Old. 05605

Richard Goddard of Clatford  
died 1668 buried at Preshute



See Jan / Feb 05 Newsletter

# PEDIGREE OF GODDARD OF SWINDON,

John Goddard, de Hye Swindon, vixit anno 1405, ut patet per Goddard, 1824: "Sciant presentes et futuri, quod nos JOHAN Thomas Polton, de Wambergh, dedimus, &c. Johanni Kalmer, de quæ nuper habuimus ex dono prædicti Johannis Palmer. Habenda dibus suis in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium, sigill. post Waltero Taylor, Thoma Smyth, Johanne Coleshull, Thom L. yome multis aliis. Data apud Hye Swyndon, an<sup>o</sup> r̄. r̄. Henrici r̄art i p two seals of red wax.]

**RICHARD GODDARD,** ♂ . . . .  
of Ogborn St. George.

... d. of ♂ Thomas, of ♂ Anne, d. of  
— Bradeston. Ogb. St. G. John Ernceley.  
Will proved 1538, in P.O.

A Son, = ... d. of  
... Ermyn.

William = Elizth. d. Dorothy, Vincent, Anthony, ♂ Joan, d. Alice, ♂ John Goddard  
of Ogborn St. George. of Hye Swyndon. of Hye Swyndon. 2d wife. ♂ of Stande 1





son, of Cam.

3d son.

brother.

bought Swin-

don in 1562.

from one of these is descended Thos. Hinton, of Chilton Park.

On a board in Cleve Church he is called Sir Robert Phetiplace.]

Wid. dated 1607.

in.

Thomas, of Standen, ob. circa 1604.

Margt. d. of George Barley, of Pottern.

Dorothy, of Chesebury.

Mary, d. of Anthony, widow of Lancelot Humber, 2d son.

Richard, of Upham, Will dated 1614.

James, Anne, d. of Hulbert.

John, Maria, d. of John Cleeve, 1628.

Alice, Edmund Bridges, Anne, Thos. Husse, Dorset.

Margt. Jno. Gardiner, co. Berks.

Mary, o. s. p.

John, Samuel, of Whiteparish, Bristol.

Elizabeth, Samuel, of Cox, of Bassett, rington.

Richard, Curant.

William, Joseph, Martha, Ruth, Benjamin, Timothy.

Edward, Priscilla, d. of John Doyley, of Chisel-Hampton, co. Oxon.

Richard, Elizabeth, d. of John Doyley, 2d son.

Edward, Priscilla, d. of John Doyley, 2d son.

John, Edward.

Edmond, Will dated 1676.

Elizabeth, Henry Lloyd of Down Ampny.

Charles, Susan, Henley.

John, Martha, Ann.

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