Lillibrooke Manor House and Lowbrooks Farm

The names Lillibrooke and Lowbrooks date back to the medieval period when the Lollebrooke or Lillebrok family held the manor of Lowbrooks. The Grade II listed manor house was built later in the Tudor era, with the wing on the right added later. The manor house was renovated between 2015 and 2023. The photo above shows it in 2015. See pp16-19 of the Civic Society's August 2023 Newsletter for the renovation.

This shows **Lillibrooke Manor** in relation to **Ockwells Manor**. In 1945 Sir Edward Barry who lived at Ockwells laid down covenants with the National Trust to protect it. These were extended in 1947 westwards from Thrift Lane over some of Lowbrooks farm land. The grassland around Lillibrooke Manor house (see above) would be the remaining fields of Lowbrooks Farm. The field beyond the hedge to the west of the manor house complex is to have homes built on it.

Holders of the Manor of Lowbrooks

C13th to end C 14th – De Lillebrook family
C15th to mid-C16th – Martyns of Athelhampton, Dorset

St Mary's Church, Puddletown, Dorset which has the Martyn Chantry where several medieval generations of Martyns are buried.

These are two of the Martyns that held Lowbrooks. Effigies of Sir Thomas Martyn (d.1485) (top) and his son William (d.1504) and his wife (bottom)

It is not thought that the Martyns lived at Lowbrooks. Most likely it was leased to tenant farmers. William Martyn is credited with building this Tudor manor house at Athelhampton (above), that is open to the public. It has stained glass in the great hall as at Ockwells.

Christopher, William's son, inherited Lowbrooks which would probably still be tenanted. This is part of his memorial brass at St Mary's Puddletown (above). He died in 1525. In 1541 Robert, his grandson, sold it to the trustees of Lady Elizabeth Englefield, widow of Sir Thomas Englefield.

Mid-C16th to mid-C17th – Englefield family

1541 – Robert Martyn sells Lowbrooks to the Trustees of the widow of Sir Thomas Englefield
1543 – Lady Englefield dies and leaves the manor to her younger son, John, and the custody thereof to her elder son Francis
1646 – William Englefield leases Manor to Henry Partridge to pay recusancy bills

Katherine Fettiplace, great-granddaughter of John Norreys Esq who built Ockwells, inherited it in 1524 after the death of her father, Sir Thomas Fettiplace, husband of Elizabeth Norreys. Most probably Katherine was married to Francis Englefield by 1541 and living at Ockwells, for in that year trustees for Francis's widowed mother Lady Elizabeth Englefield had acquired the manor of Lowbrooks, immediately to the west of Ockwells. The manor house was probably built by the Englefields, possibly by Francis for his brother.

Francis was knighted at the coronation of Edward VI in 1547 and became part of Princess Mary's household. In 1551 he was one of the men committed to the Tower for their refusal to make their mistress forbid the mass. However, in 1553 when Mary succeeded to the throne his career blossomed. By 1555 he had already moved to Englefield House and is credited with building the northeast range that includes the Long Gallery. When Elizabeth I ascended the throne in 1558 he went into exile in Spain dying in Valladolid in 1596. The cadet line seems to have remained at Lowbrooks in a house that has some similar features to Ockwells.

East front of Manor house

Tudor arch chimneypieces in brick and stone

Mid-C17th to mid-C19th – Partridge family
Mid-C19th – Henry Samuel Partridge may have sold to Lewis Rose
1858 – Lowbrooks sold to Charles Pascoe Grenfell

Henry Partridge is thought to have put tenants in at Lowbrooks, a practice continued by Grenfell.

From the 1817 Enclosure map of Bray.

Charles Pascoe Grenfell (left) bought Lowbrooks in 1858 and let it to the farmer James Darby. He already owned Ockwells next door. After he died in 1867 his trustees continued to lease Lowbrooks farm to Darby because his heir and grandson, William Henry Grenfell later Lord Desborough, was underage. Evidence from the new 1871 lease and the 1861 census shows Charles Pascoe built a new farmhouse for the farmer (below). The lease notes that the lessee shall not be liable for the repair of the old farmhouse (i.e. the Tudor manor house).

Dated 18th April 1891

The Grenfell Estate

Counterpart

The Surviving Trustees under the Will of the late Charles Pascoe Grenfell Esq. deceased

to

Mr James Darby

Lease of Lowbrooks Farm and Cottages adjacent in the Parish of Bray in the County of Berks

Commencing Michaelmas 1891

Term of years determinable as within 44

Expires Michaelmas 1935

Rent £593 a year payable half yearly

*Extract from the*1877 "Plan of the Taplow Court Estate the property of W. H. Grenfell " *drawn when he inherited*.

C20th – Grenfell, Barry and Barnett families

1918 – William Henry Grenfell, Lord Desborough sells Lowbrooks to Sir Edward Barry

1950 – After the death of Sir Edward Barry, Lowbrooks Farm and Lillebrooke Manor sold to Sidney H. Barnett

PARTICULARS.

LOT 1

The Valuable and Attractive Freehold and Agricultural Property

KNOWN AS

LOWBROOKS

Beautifully situate on the Main Road from Maidenhead to Waltham, adjoining the picturesque Hamlet

KNOWN AS

COX GREEN

and about 1¼ Miles from the Town and Station of Maidenhead.

IT COMPRISES

A Modern Residence

standing well back from the main road, built of brick and slated, and containing

ON THE GROUND FLOOR: Porch, Entrance Hall, Dining Room with tiled grate and marble mantel, Drawing Room, fitted in a similar way and opening into Small Conservatory, Cloak Room and Bath Room, Good Offices, comprising Large Kitchen, Scullery, 2 Larders, Dairy, Beer Cellar, and W.C.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR.—Large Landing, Bath Room, Linen Room, and 4 Bedrooms.

The Outbuildings

are built of brick and tiled and slated, and comprise:—

4 CONVENIENT COTTAGES

Store House, Nag Stable for 2, Cart Horse Stable for 6, Chaff House, Hay House, Stable for 4, Fodder House, Poultry House, Large Barn with cement floor, 2 Large Cattle Yards with Feeding Sheds, Bull House, Cow House for 20 Cows, with Feeding Passage, Large Corn Barn, 2 Covered Cattle Feeding Yards, Chaff House, Wagon and Implement Shed, 4 Loose Boxes, Range of Piggeries, Tool House, Gig House, Iron Hay Barn, Boiling House and Mixing House; also

A GOOD GARDEN AND LARGE ORCHARD.

There is a good supply of Water from a Well and the Company's Mains are in the road and can be connected at any time.

GOOD SHOOTING can be had for the size of the Farm, the adjoining Owners being preservers of Game.

The Property now forms

A VALUABLE DAIRY FARM

and from its position must increase

1918 map for Sale Catalogue. Lot 1 is Lowbrooks. The map shows some of the other farms being sold by Lord Desborough. Sir Edward Barry had already bought Ockwells next door.

LOT TWO

(Coloured Yellow on Plan)

The Extremely Attractive Period Residence

known as

LILLIBROOKE MANOR

Near MAIDENHEAD

with Garden and Orchard, comprising about

3 ACRES 3 ROODS 7 PERCHES

Approached from Kimbers Lane by a short drive, the delightful Tudor residence is built in red brick, partly timbered, with leaded lights, twin gables and mellow tiled roof. A heavy oak door leads to :

HALL. CLOAKROOM and W.C.

Oak panelled LOUNGE HALL with open brick fireplace.

DINING ROOM (South-East), 20ft. 3in. by 12ft., with open Tudor stone fireplace.

SITTING ROOM (South-East) 18ft. by 12ft., with open Tudor stone fireplace.

THIRD RECEPTION ROOM (West and East), 17ft. 6in. by 10ft. 9in., with open stone fireplace.

EXCELLENT MODERN OFFICES including Kitchen and tiled Scullery.

Half-tiled BATHROOM and W.C.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR :

BEDROOM No. 1 (South-East), 19ft. by 12ft., with lovely old Jacobean panelling and brick fireplace.

DRESSING ROOM adjoining and half-tiled modern BATHROOM with bath, basin, W.C. and heated towel rail.

SINGLE BEDROOM 2 (South-East). BEDROOM 3 (South-East) with fireplace.

BEDROOM 4 (South-East) with basin. DOUBLE BEDROOM 5 (South-East), 16ft. 6in. by 10ft. 6in., with open Tudor stone fireplace.

SINGLE BEDROOM 6 with basin. Second Modern BATHROOM, half-tiled, with bath, basin, heated towel rail and W.C.

OUTSIDE—Coal and Coke Stores, etc. Brick-built GARAGE FOR 2 CARS.

Main Electricity and Water are connected. Drainage is to a septic tank on the Tuke and Bell system, in the Orchard

THE GARDENS

to the rear of the house are simple but extremely attractive, and include lawn with rose beds enclosed by ancient brick walls, and beyond that a grass orchard of about **3 acres.**

This Lot comprises Ord. No. 1133 and part Ord. No. 1135 in the Parish of Bray, and is let on lease to Commendatore P. M. Salerni for 42 years from the 24th June, 1942, at a rent of £300 per annum, the Lessee covenanting to carry out all repairs except the main walls, roof and structure, which are the Landlord's responsibility. The Lessee has also covenanted to pay each year the sum of £25 towards the upkeep of the wall surrounding the property and towards the cost of maintaining the roadway from Kimbers Lane.

Rateable Value, £80. Unofficially Apportioned Tithe Redemption Annuity, £1 7s. 4d.

A right of way for all purposes over the roadway, part Ord. No, 1135 between Kimbers Lane and Lowbrooks Farm as at present enjoyed is reserved in favour of Lot 3.

The purchaser of Lot 3 will be responsible for payment to the owner of Lot 2 of one half of the cost of the maintenance of the said roadway.

LOT THREE

(Coloured blue on Plan)

THE PRODUCTIVE DAIRY AND MIXED FARM

known as

LOWBROOKS FARM

Conveniently situated only two miles from Maidenhead and with long frontages to parish roads. Extending altogether to about

171 ACRES 3 ROODS

The Gentleman's Farmhouse, approached from the drive to Lillibrooke Manor has recently been modernised and has an attractive elevation in brick, cream washed and with slated roof. The accommodation comprises :

HALL. SITTING ROOM (South and East), 18ft. 6in. into bay by 14ft.

DRAWING ROOM (South) 14ft. by 19ft. 9in. into bay.

CLOAKROOM with bath. KITCHEN with range. SCULLERY. Larder.

DAIRY. Store Room. Coal Cellar. W.C. Cooling Room.

ABOVE :

BEDROOM 1, 17ft. by 12ft. BEDROOM 2, 14ft. by 12ft. SINGLE BEDROOM 3.

BEDROOM 4, 13ft. 9in. by 14ft. 9in. BEDROOM 5, 13ft. 9in. by 15ft. 9in.

Main Water and Electric Light connected to the House. Drainage to Cesspool

THE SUBSTANTIAL RANGE OF FARM BUILDINGS

built round a large yard include : large brick, timber and tiled STORAGE BARN with covered cattle yard, another open cattle yard with 11-BAY SHELTER SHEDS, two brick and tiled STABLES, brick and tiled range of buildings with 3 CALF BOXES, FOOD STORE and COWSHED with feeding passage and standings for 20, brick built cart horse stable for 4 and loose box, timber garage, brick, timber and slate IMPLEMENT SHED and 4-BAY DUTCH BARN.

In Ord. No. 1152, there is a block of three red brick and tiled

COTTAGES

each occupied on service tenancy by a farm employee. One contains Living Room with range, Sitting Room and Three Bedrooms, and the other two each have Four Rooms. In each case Main Electricity is connected and Main Water to the Washhouse.

The Farm is in a high state of cultivation, and comprises an area of level, easily worked land.

It is let to Messrs. Smith, on an annual Michaelmas tenancy at a rent of £302 10. 0d. per annum.

A right of way for all purposes over part of Lot 2, the roadway pt. Ord. No. 1135 between Kimbers Lane and Lowbrooks Farm as at present enjoyed is reserved in favour of this Lot.

The purchaser of this lot will be responsible for paying to the owner of Lot 2 one half of the cost of the maintenance of this roadway.

1950 Sale Catalogue of Ockwells Manor, Lillibrooke Manor and Lowbrooks Farm. Sidney H Barnett also bought Ockwells Manor. "The Gentleman's Farmhouse" at Lowbrooks, built by Charles Pascoe Grenfell, has since been demolished.

Barnett put Ockwells on the market in 1955 and may have sold Lillibrooke Manor and Lowbrooks Farm around the same time. By 2015 the manor house and adjacent farm buildings were sold. Lillibrooke Manor is now an events venue that includes some of Lowbrooks Farm buildings (see barn set up for an event, below).

This show the garden wall and the outer perimeter wall.
The Kings Heritage Trail passes along this outer wall

The Lillebrooke Manor complex today

The Kings Heritage Trail is a walk in Maidenhead which includes some of the most important sites and landmarks in Maidenhead's history. The trail starts at Ockwells Park and goes past Ockwells Manor, Lillebrooke Manor and finishes at St John the Baptist Church in Shottesbrooke Park.

Ann Darracott
February 2026