



**NORTHWOOD HOUSE
AUXILIARY
HOSPITAL**

NORTHWOOD HOUSE AUXILIARY HOSPITAL

Date Built and Current Status:

1799 - Still Standing

History:

*Manor House
Catholic Seminary
School
Convent
Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital
Local Government Office
Pleasure Park
Events Centre*



Northwood House Hospital

Dates as Hospital:

1915 to 1919

Address:

Northwood Park, Ward Avenue, Cowes, Isle of Wight

In 1793 George Ward, a London merchant banker bought the estate of Bellvue House at auction which contained Bellevue house a modern brick dwelling and seventeen acres of land. This property was demolished in 1799 and the new one was built and named Northwood House and the grounds Northwood Park. The cellars from the original house are the only remains of the original property and were used to hide smuggled goods.

The changes to the house were designed by the famous London architect John Nash and the perimeter wall made using Bembridge limestone transported from Brading harbour. The original driveway to the house was nearly a mile long.

In 1813 George Ward started the Isle of Wight Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and started the first paddle steamer service between Cowes and Southampton. The company is today known as Red Funnel.

George donated 50 guineas toward a grand celebration for the poor of Northwood and Cowes to celebrate the Coronation of George IV in 1821. George died aged 78 eight years later leaving his estate, which was thought to be worth around £700,000 (approximately £40 million) to his eldest son George Henry.

In 1837 the house was then renovated with a new western wing, entrance pavilion and classical side being added. In 1845 Prince Albert visited Northwood to view the house and gardens which was considered to contain the finest collection of evergreens in England. When George died without an heir his nephew William George Ward inherited the house in 1849.

William; a theologian and mathematician converted from the Church of England to Catholicism and published many articles on ethics, religion and moral philosophy. In 1852 the house was leased for a period of 10 years to be used as a Catholic seminary. The following year Robert White occupied the house and it was used as an educational establishment.

The house was again occupied by William George in 1858, the same year that he gave some of the grounds to Cowes to be used as a playground and for public walks. He also planned a cricket ground possibly in memory of his late father William Ward who was a famous cricketer. Following this the house was briefly occupied by Mr Stevenson in 1864 and then by 1867 James Dunkin Lee having lain vacant for some time. In 1871 William moved the family seat to Totland building Weston Manor and Headon Hall at Alum Bay.

On William's death in 1882 the estate passed to his eldest son Edmund Granville. Edmund had made his family home at Egypt House in Egypt Hill, Cowes and the house lay empty for many years. Despite this it was used by the Royal Yacht Squadron for several balls for their president His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; Commodore of the Squadron. Attendees at these occasions included The Crown Prince and Princess of Germany, the children of Queen Victoria and the Maharaja of Cooch Bahar.

Following the sale of Weybridge School, Lord Petre used the house to accommodate around 50 boys from his Woburn school in 1884.

In 1891 Prince Henry of Battenburg held a grand ball to celebrate him being named Governor of the Island and keeper of Carisbrooke Castle. Several members of the royal family and over 300 notable guests were invited including Lord and Lady Tennyson.

Between 1901 and 1905 Northwood House was used as a convent for 80 Benedictine nuns who had been expelled from France. The ballroom was used as a chapel with the nuns never leaving the grounds. There were further visits from royalty including the newly crowned King and Queen in 1902 and the Queen of Saxony. The nuns left Northwood House in 1906 for their permanent home in Ryde.

In 1909 the park was turned into a 9 hole golf course.

When Edmund died in 1915 he had no heir so his estate passed to his younger brother Wilfrid Philip Ward, an essayist and biographer who was then living at Weston Manor in Totland. Wilfrid died the following year with the estate being valued at £10,658 (£628,000). It then passed to Captain Herbert Joseph Ward, who was living at Egypt House.

The following information has been extracted from *Northwood House and Park, Cowes on the Isle of Wight – A Guidebook, History and Tour* by Tim Wander.

In 1915 Northwood House was requisitioned by the War Office and used as a Red Cross military hospital during the war. Just after it opened in 25 wounded soldiers were transported from Netley hospital to Victoria Pier where they were transported by locals to the hospital.

Local volunteers from Northwood and Cowes had to be trained in first aid, home nursing and hygiene by approved medical practitioners in order for them to work at the hospital. It had a Commandant, a quartermaster, a superintendent and four cooks.

By 1918 1396 patients had been treated at Northwood with temporary buildings being set up in the Rotunda along with a chapel and mortuary; which is thought to be where the library is now.

The first soldier to die was on 24 October 1914 was Gunner Frederick William Turner Royal Field Artillery aged 40 from Stockport having suffered injuries at The Front after the battle of Mons. He was given a service with full military honours at nearby St Mary's Church. His widow and staff from Northwood Hospital were present. He was buried in Northwood Cemetery 28 October 1914

In 1915, Princess Louis of Battenberg and her daughter Princess Louise, who would later become the Queen of Sweden, visited the hospital to see the sick and wounded soldier. Later that same year, the soldiers were visited by Princess Henry of Battenberg and Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. Between 1914 and 1919, when the hospital closed, it had treated 1894 patients. The Red Cross continued to occupy Northwood House until around 1928 when it was used to treat casualties of the Spanish Flu and was latterly used for training and meetings.

In 1919 Captain Ward started to sell off the land and in 1929 gave the house and remaining land to the people of Cowes to be managed by the Cowes Urban District Council. The house was to be used as a Town Hall and Municipal Offices and the land converted into a park. In 1930 tennis courts were built.

During WW2 the house was used as a Red Cross First Aid Station and a base for Air Raid Precautions wardens with an air raid shelter also on the site. Additionally as part of the war effort the grounds were used in the "Dig for Victory" effort to grow vegetables. It is reported in the Portsmouth News on 20 February 1941 that, *"a concert was held at Northwood House to entertain the troops, although embarrassingly, only five soldiers turned up and the concert was cancelled"*.

A bowling green was added to the estate in 1947 and the current pavilion was built in 1983/84, when the existing one burnt down.

Following renovation of the downstairs rooms of the house the Isle of Wight Registrar's Office moved into Northwood House in 2004. In 2010, the Isle of Wight Council completely withdrew from Northwood House, with the Registrar's Office moving to Seaclose Park and other council functions being moved elsewhere.

In 2012 the Northwood House Charitable Trust Co Ltd took over the running of the estate where it is dependent on volunteers to operate and maintain it.

The history of Northwood House from Wikipedia.org

List of Volunteers at Northwood House Auxiliary Hospital

Name	Duties
Abbott, Arthur Edwin	Orderly
Abbott, Bertha	Laundry
Adams, William Richard	Orderly
Aitken, Phyllis Margaret	Ward Maid
Arnell, Winifred May	Nurse
Arnold, Amy Violet	Ward Maid
Atkey, Leonie Dashwood	Nurse
Atkey, Nora Winifred	Nurse
Aubyn, Marie Le Cerf	Ward Maid
Baker, Leslie Gordon	Orderly
Ball, Dora	Nurse
Baring, Eva Hermione	Commandant
Bartlett, Ada	Laundry Assistant
Barton, William	Orderly
Bate (Bare), Dorothy	Ward Maid
Beken, Frances May	Nurse
Bell, Madge	Nurse
Bellamy, Daisy	Cook
Benson, Mary Ann	Nursing Officer Demonstrator
Bint, William Ewart	Orderly
Booker, A S	Orderly
Bradbury, Wilfred	Orderly
Brading, Charlotte Fanny	Laundry Assistant & Ward Maid
Bray, John Henry	Orderly
Brown, Ruth Marjorie	Nurse & Entertainment
Bull, Hylda Christiania	Nurse
Bull, May	Nurse
Burton, Frank	Quartermaster
Calloway, Frederick	Orderly
Chatfield-Clarke, Leslie	Commandant
Cheverton, C	Orderly
Cheverton, Joseph	Orderly
Chinchen, William Graham	Orderly
Civil, Thomas Harry	Orderly
Clark, Ernest Harold	Orderly
Clarke, Leslie Chatfield	Commandant. Wounded and Missing
Clarke, R Sutton	Orderly & Quartermaster
Clayton East, Agnes Emma	Nurse
Coffin, Harold	Orderly
Cole, Annie Agnes Courtman	Nurse
Cooke, Benjamin John	Orderly
Cooper, Percy	Orderly

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Name	Duties
Coundley, Rosannah	Laundry Assistant
Cragg, Thomas	Orderly
Crates, W. J.	Orderly
Creeth, Emily Kate	Nursing Orderly
Crisp, Edward Herbert	Orderly
Crook, Katherine Mary	Nurse
Cullin, Henry Barton	Orderly
Dare, George Blake	Orderly
Dashwood, Constance Alice	Night VAD
Day, Mildred Fanny	General Service
Debenham, Arthur William	Orderly
Debenham, Dorothy Hilda	Nurse
Denness, Rosalie	Nurse
Dennis, Arthur Edward	Orderly
Denton, Percy	Orderly
Derham, Lena	Cook & Nurse
Dewis, Charlotte	Nurse
Diamond, Ethel May	Nurse
Dodman, Henry Wallace	Orderly
Dyett, Louisa	Nurse
Edwards, George Henry	Orderly
Elsey, Ella Mary	Assistant Cook
Fearon, Nora Elizabeth	Nurse
Fellows, Freda Elizabeth	Assistant Cook
Foot, Frederick George	Orderly
Forster, Annie	Nurse
Forster, Norman	Orderly
Foster, (Blank)	Orderly
Foster, Annie	Ward Maid
Fox, Lucy	Charge of Linen
Francis, Harry Joseph	Section Leader & Orderly
Francis, Margaret Lilian	Ward Maid & Nurse
Gates, George William	Orderly
Gauge, Florence	Laundry Assistant
Gibson, Norah Christabel	Nurse
Godfrey, Harry	Orderly
Godfrey, Patience	Commandant
Goodwin, Minnie Maria	Assistant Cook
Graham-Hutchison, Marjorie	Nurse
Grist, Henrietta Ann Matilda	Laundry Assistant
Groundsell, James H	Orderly & Quartermaster
Hain, Jessie Louisa	Assistant Cook

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Name	Duties
Hale, Thomas George	Orderly
Halliday, Nellie	Nurse
Halliday, Olive	Ward Maid
Halliday, William	Orderly
Hamer, Arthur Edward	Orderly
Harrison, Louisa Constance	Nurse & Ward Maid
Harrison, Mary Le Mesurier	Nurse
Havelock, James William J	Orderly
Hayles, Horace Abiathar	Orderly
Haywood, Marguerite Stella Katherine	Nursing Orderly, Quartermaster, Nurse & Cook
Haywood, Rose Evelyn Howard	Nurse Orderly
Haywood, Violet Yalden	Nursing Orderly & Cook
Hewitt, Augusta E	Nurse, Masseuse & Quartermaster
Hieatt, Charles Aitchison	Orderly
Higgs, Nellie	Nurse
Hill, Arthur Douglas	Orderly
Hobbs, Harry	Orderly
Hollingworth, Maud	Nurse
Hollingworth, Sybil	Ward Maid
Hudson, Helen Maud	Quartermaster
Hunt, William Henry	Orderly
Jackman, Harry	Orderly
Jackson, Nellie (Helen Frances)	Laundry
Jackson, Thomas George	Orderly
James, Gordon Dycer	Orderly
James, William	Orderly
Jenour , Dorothy Margaret	Ward Maid
Jessop, Judith	Knitting & Needlework
Jones, Arthur Ernest	Orderly
Jones, Edward George Rowland	Orderly
Jones, Elizabeth Jane	Laundry
Jones, Mary	Nurse
Keat, Frederick J	Orderly
Kirby, Arthur	Orderly
Knight Bruce, Gladys	Nurse
Learmouth, William Albert	Orderly
Lee, Constance	Nurse
Lee, Ernest Charles	Orderly
Lee, Frances	Nurse
Lee, George Alfred	Orderly
Lintern, Henry John	Orderly
Lobnitz, Helen Burton	Nurse

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Name	Duties
Lock, Jane Helen	Ward Maid
Loe, Ellen Jane Windle	Kitchen Assistant
Long, Elsie Florence	Laundry Assistant
Lowry, Ethel Mary Louisa	Matron & Surgical Sister
Mackett, Charles H	Orderly
Marriott, Nora	Ward Maid & Nurse
Marsh, Margaret Alice	Nurse
Martin, George	Orderly
Marvin, Sylvia Gertrude	Nurse
Masters, Elsie M	Nurse
Mathews, Edward	Orderly
May, Henty	Nurse
May, Lucy Goddard	Nurse
McEwan, Ada Maria	Nurse
McHardy, Miss (Emily Lees)	Matron
McMillan, Gertrude Annie	Nurse
Meager, Emma	Assistant Cook
Merriott, Frank Edward	Orderly
Mew, Fred	Orderly
Mew, Winifred	Nurse
Milner, B	Orderly
Mitchell, Margaretta	Nurse Sister
Moore, James	Orderly
Moore, William John	Section Leader
Morris, Ethel Louise	Nurse
Newman, Richard James	Orderly
Newman, Robert David	Orderly
Nicholls, Lily	Scullery Assistant
Northcott, Rt	Orderly
Nye, William Toon	Orderly
O'Hanlon, Elizabeth	Cook
Papillon, Rose	Nurse
Parsons, Ella	Ward Maid
Perry, Agnes	Nurse
Please, George I	Orderly
Please, William H	Orderly
Plummer, Ralph P	Orderly
Potter, Ida	Nurse
Quennell, Emily	Laundry Assistant
Ratsey, Mary Peake	Nurse & Hon. Secretary
Rees, The Rev. John Avan	Orderly
Reeves, Robert Charles G	Orderly

List of Volunteers at Northwood House Auxiliary Hospital

Name	Duties
Richardson, William	Orderly
Robertson, Mary	Quartermaster
Rubie, Frederick Frank	Orderly
Saunders, Ardine Hannley	Orderly
Saunders, Ethel M	Nurse
Saunders, Olive	Nurse
Sheddew, Evelyn	Quartermaster
Shepard, Wilfred	Section Leader
Shergold, Percy	Orderly
Sibbick, Albert Edward	Orderly
Smith, Donald James	Orderly
Smith, Winifred	Nurse
Spilman, Henry William	Orderly
Stephens, Henry	Orderly
Stone, Bessie	Laundry Assistant
Vincent, E E	Orderly
Wadham, John	Orderly
Wagner, Frederick William	Orderly
Wakely, Philip	Orderly
Ward, Herbert	Orderly
Warner, Ida	Nurse
Watson, James Bertram	Orderly
Watts, Jane	Assistant Cook
Watts, William Rowley	Orderly
Waud, Mabel	Nurse
Waud, Mabel E	Ward Maid, Nurse & Quartermaster
Webb, Nelly	Laundry Assistant
Weeks, Arthur E	Orderly
Westbrook, Herbert	Orderly
Wheeler, Archibald Henry Haven	Orderly
White, Alfred Lidney	Orderly
White, Charles	Orderly
Willsteed, Ernest	Orderly
Willsteed, Rowland	Orderly
Wilson Smith, Beatrice	Nurse
Wise, Amelia	Cook
Woodford, John Edward	Orderly
Woodin, Phyllis	Night VAD
Woodroffe, Muriel	Nurse
Woosnam, Ethel	Sister, Matron & Lady Superintendent