

LINDRIDGE PARK



BISHOPSTEIGTON

:

SOUTH DEVON



The Italian Gardens

LINDRIDGE MANSION HISTORY

THE OWNERS

- 1044—1549. The Bishops of Exeter for 505 years held Lindridge which was part of Taintona or Bishopsteignton. The first Bishop owner was Leofric, 1044 ; the last Bishop owner was Veysey (1519—1549).
- 1549—1551. Sir Andrew Dudley, Knight in Attendance on Edward VI.
- 1551—1572. Richard Duke, of London and Otterton.
- 1572—1603. Queen Elizabeth.
- 1603—1608. King James I.
- 1608—1612. Robert, Earl of Salisbury.
- 1612—1614. William, Earl of Salisbury.
- 1614—1618. Richard Martin, Recorder of London and Associate of Shakespeare and Jonson.
- 1618—1620. Thomas Martin, Mayor of Exeter.
- 1620—1640. William Martin, Prominent Royalist (Monument in Bishopsteignton Church).
- 1640—1659. Richard Martin, quaint floor slab in Bishopsteignton Church.
- 1659—1660. Elizabeth Martin, married the First Lord Clifford.
- 1660—1683. Sir Peter Lear, Merchant Adventurer of Barbadoes.
- 1683—1705. Sir Thomas Lear, M.P. for Ashburton (Arms in dining room ceiling).
- 1705—1737. Sir John Lear, Sheriff of Devon, 1708 and 1710.
- 1737—1739. Mary Comyns, Sir John Lear's daughter.
- 1739—1746. Rev. Dr. Finney.
- 1746—1748. John Baring
- 1748—1765. John Baring
- 1765—1777. John Line
- 1777—1818. L/Col. Henry Line Templer
- 1818—1832. Rev. John Templer, of Stover, Rector of Teigngrace.
- 1832—1883. James George John Templer.
- 1883—1920. Capt. John George Edmund Templer.
- 1920—1927. Lord Cable.
- 1927—1934. Lady Cable.
- 1934—1951. Lindridge Estate Ltd.
- 1951—1953. Lady Ruth McCarthy Benthall.
- 1953—1962. Trustees of M. P. Benthall.
1962. John R. Brady, Esquire.



LINDRIDGE PARK
60 ACRES OF DELIGHTFUL GARDENS
INCLUDING ITALIAN & WATER GARDENS
200' SWIMMING POOL
CHARMING XVIIth. CENTURY MANSION
(STATE ROOMS OPEN)
OPEN EASTER - THEN MAY 1st - SEPTEMBER 30th
(EXCEPT SATURDAYS)
REFRESHMENTS PICNIC LAWNs

The Magnificent Main Entrance Gates

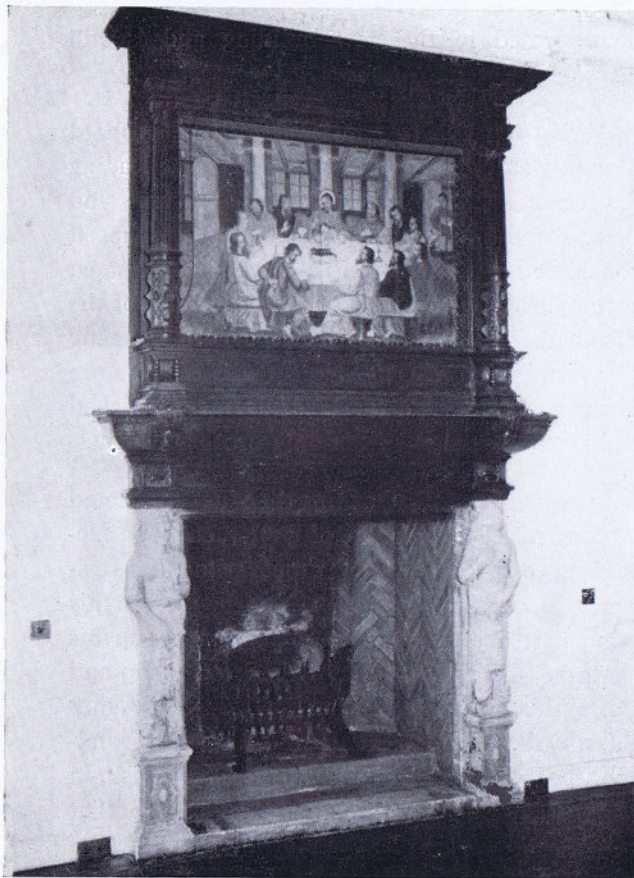
LINDRIDGE is one of Devonshire's oldest Manors, dating from 1044 when it was owned by Leofric, Bishop of Exeter. At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 it was included in the Manor of Taintona or Bishopsteignton as it is now called, and after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 it passed into the possession of the Crown, and in 1549 was given by the young King Edward VI to Sir Andrew Dudley, a Groom of the Royal Bedchamber. In those days it was common practice for Court favourites to be blessed with Royal gifts of land.

The adventurous knight did not keep the manor for long and in 1551 it was purchased by Richard Duke of London and in 1572 reverted to crown property being owned by Elizabeth I and later James I. In 1614 it was purchased by Richard Martin of the Middle Temple together with the Manor of West Teignmouth for £2,900, a princely sum in those days. The Martins were an ancient and honourable family and Richard, who had prospered as a lawyer, decided in 1617 to make this a worthy seat for his family by building a new house covering over an acre of ground. The old Tudor house was not destroyed but

incorporated in the new building and is still traceable.

During his rise to fame and fortune, Richard Martin was the associate of many of the leading figures of his time, including Shakespeare and Ben Jonson the Poet Laureate. He was himself considered to be one of the cleverest and most accomplished individuals of the latter part of the Elizabethan period, and was the hero of many "Tavern" gatherings. He died in 1618 before seeing his great plan for Lindridge accomplished and was succeeded by his only brother Thomas.

Thomas Martin had at this time just completed his term of office as Mayor of Exeter, but upon succeeding to the estates and property took up residence in the family seat at Lindridge. But his occupation lasted only two years, and upon his death in 1620 the property passed to his son and heir William Martin. He in 1628 married Agnes Cove, a local girl, and this union of two prominent local families worked well for the Parish, in which they both took a great interest, so that Lindridge became the hub of life in Bishopsteignton.



The intriguing painting on wooden panels of the "Last Supper" above the Great Fireplace in the Main Hall

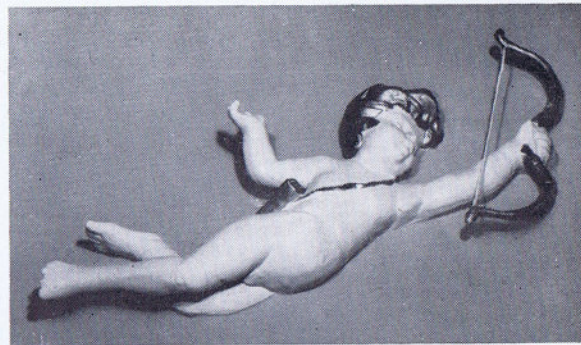
William Martin was a great Royalist and upheld the cause of Charles I. His zeal for the Royal cause made him and his family the objects of much persecution, but this in no way swayed their faith in the rights and powers of the Sovereign. In 1639 he marched northwards together with his neighbour Hugh Clifford of Chudleigh, who commanded a regiment of foot soldiers, to fight for the King against the Scots. The privations he suffered in the field so weakened him however that he returned to Lindridge where he died on March 2nd, 1640.

Richard Martin, a brother of William Martin, next succeeded to Lindridge, but although he was a prominent citizen of Exeter he did not, like so many of the Martins, become Mayor. According to the Latin epitaph in Bishopsteignton Church he was a man of many parts, being in turn a clever linguist, having a wide knowledge of science, being witty in speech and a clever musician. Added to this he was a gentleman of good manners and saintly character, and it is not to be wondered at that he was imitated because of his many virtues. He died in 1659 which ended the Martin's con-

Peter Lear rose to a position of fame and fortune which, even in his wildest dreams as a youth, he would have considered impossible. His title was continued and the arms he was granted may still be seen on the stained glass window which dominates the fine stairway leading to his magnificent Ballroom.



The Morning Room. The Ballroom, Morning Room, Dining Room and Main Hall have all been recently restored to suit the requirements of the House now that it is open to the Public



A close view of the delightful Cherub which is the historic centre-piece of the Morning Room.

Sir Thomas Lear was only eleven when he inherited Lindridge in 1683 from his uncle, with whom he had lived for several years. On March 17th, 1690, at the age of eighteen, he married Isabella, daughter of Sir William Courtenay, first Baronet of Powderham Castle. Powderham is still the family seat of the Courtenays and is some 10 miles from Lindridge. To celebrate this joining together of two such powerful families, the delightful Cupid with bow was made in the centre of the Morning Room ceiling, the scene of the wedding breakfast. The bow is aimed at the Courtenay crest and the Arms of Lear impaling Courtenay were also put on the ceiling just prior to the marriage. Since then at least two similar wedding breakfasts have been held in this historic room, in 1727 and 1918.



The beautiful staircase dates from mid 18th century

Sir Thomas became M.P. for Ashburton but he died in 1705 at the early age of 33, his wife dying in the same year. Having no children the title and estate passed to his brother John who became the third Lear baronet. Sir John was unfortunate in having a roguish steward and lacked the business acumen of his uncle, Sir Peter Lear. The combination of these two resulted in the loss of much of the Lear fortune, and although Sir John was Sheriff of Devon in 1708 and 1710 he was constantly involved in law-suits and was not very successful in financial matters.

Sir John Lear died in 1737, and an inventory of his estates and properties made at the time makes an interesting comparison with present day values. The cattle on Lindridge Estate were as follows : 16 Oxen, 16 Steers, 7 Cows, 2 Bulls, 5 Heifers, 2 Rams, 33 Ewes, 13 Lambs, 11 Young Wethers and 30 Pigs, total value £160. This puts the average price of each animal at about 24/-.

The 120 Deer in the Park were valued at £100, and four Horses called Gray, Peter, Daisy and Longback, £24.10.0. An even greater bargain is the next item : A little Bay Horse, a lame Mare, a Bay Horse, a Colt and an Old Coach Horse, £6.10.0.

After the death of Sir John Lear the estate passed to his daughter Mary, but three years later in 1740 she sold the house to the Rev. Dr. Finney who came to live here. Thus the connection of the Lears with Lindridge ceased. In 1747 the house was sold for £8,000 to John Baring of Exeter, renowned throughout the Empire as merchants and financiers.

John Baring came to Exeter in 1709 from Germany where his father was the Lutheran Minister at Bremen. He was only thirteen and was apprenticed to an Exeter maker of the then famous serge cloth. His keenness and ability soon enabled him to establish a business of his own and in 1729 he became a naturalised British subject and married a Miss Vowler, daughter of a wealthy grocer. They were blessed with five sons and a daughter, and John Baring became established as one of the leading citizens. In 1737 we read that he was one of only three persons in the city who kept a carriage and pair, the other two being the Bishop and the Recorder. He bought Lindridge with the intention of enjoying the quiet country retreat after his busy city life, but unfortunately died the year afterwards in 1748.



The magnificent Sir Peter Lear's Ballroom, dating from 1673. The Unicorns surmounting the fireplace denote the Lear Crest. See page 6.



The centre-piece of the Italian Gardens is this delightful pond flanked by the two beautiful lead figures almost life size

John Baring junior was only seventeen when he inherited the Baring estates, but he also inherited his father's business intuition and under his care the family woollen industry expanded. About 1759 Exeter was the greatest wool market in England, chiefly due to the exertions of the Barings. John Baring became M.P. for Exeter in 1766, a position he held for 26 years, but prior to this Lindridge had been sold to John Line, the busy city life demanding a home more easily accessible.

John Line took an active part in the life of Bishopsteignton and the present bell in the turret of the house is inscribed "J. Line Esq. 1772. Thomas Bayley, Founder." He became a Justice of the Peace for Devon but died suddenly in 1777. A year later his widow married the Rev. John Templer who became Rector of Teigngrace in 1783 in succession to the Rev. Gilbert Yarde, who had the misfortune to be murdered by his former gardener, one John Greenslade. Having been dismissed by his employer, the gardener asked the Rector for a character reference. This was only given after strong insistence by the former gar-



This fascinating carved stone figure may be seen below the terrace

dener, and was written in Latin. In due time the unfortunate gardener applied to several gentlemen for employment, but he noticed that after reading the reference their manner changed and he was refused employment. His suspicion was finally aroused sufficiently for him to have the note translated and it read, "Gone from me and fit for no man."

This so incensed the former gardener that he vowed he would take his revenge. Early one morning he hid near the rector's house and started crowing like a cock. The rector was awakened by the noise, quickly dressed and went to the poultry house. Finding nothing there he walked down a cart track to a place known as "Four Gates," where Greenslade was hiding behind the hedge. Leaping out he struck his former employer a terrific blow on the head with a holly bush bludgeon, and then robbed him of twelve guineas and an antique gold watch.

The rector died three hours later without regaining consciousness and Greenslade escaped unnoticed and was quite unsuspected. Some time

later he was foolish enough to show the watch to another man who recognised it, and by this he was brought to trial at Exeter and on August 18th, 1783, was hanged on a gibbet on Little Haldon at the junction of the two roads which lead down to Luton. He was the last man hung on Haldon and was buried there. It was on Whiteway Hill, near the scene of the tragedy, that a mail coach was robbed while on its way to Plymouth on November 17th, 1816.

The Rev. John Templer's residence at Lindridge totalled 54 years. He was a keen sportsman and was the first to have a pack of hounds in the district. In 1815 the bridge over the river between Teignmouth and Shaldon, dating from the 16th century, was rebuilt and he took a keen interest in the work. Remains of an earlier 13th century bridge were found and under this were parts of a wooden 11th century bridge which in turn was built upon remains of a Roman bridge which rested on piles of oak driven deeply into the river bed. The Rev. J. Templer obtained some of this wood which had remained in the river bed for the incredible period of nearly 1800 years and con-



The beautiful Lily Pond, with its unique stone bridge and lovely figure of Dick Whittington carved from stone, is surrounded by a circular hedge of clipped yew

structed a table which may still be seen in the house bearing a brass plate giving the extraordinary history of the wood which is now some 1900 years old.

The Rev. J. Templer was a great practical joker, and he laid the seeds for one of the greatest jokes of all time knowing that the full impact would not be felt until after his death, surely a jest in the grand manner. For many years he made it a practice, when in personal conversation with his relatives (of whom there were many) of saying "Look here! If anything should happen to me, it will be all right for you. You are in my will, but remember, not a word to anyone, keep it perfectly secret." He died in 1832 aged 81, and his funeral had the largest attendance ever known in the district. After the last rites were over and the time for reading the will came, there was a large gathering of relatives waiting to hear the pronouncement of their good fortune. It was a lengthy document and, as the good man had promised, all were mentioned in the will, but all his property was left to a little boy, James George

John Templer, his nephew. It did not satisfy some of the relatives and the appointed trustees refused to act, but after much trouble and delay the will was finally proved in his young nephew's favour.

Being too young to take advantage of the property left to him, the house was let to various families by the trustees, until he came of age and married, whereupon he took up residence at Lindridge and became a leading figure in the affairs of the neighbourhood. He died in 1883 and the property passed to his eldest son who became a Captain in the Highland Light Infantry and served in the Egyptian War of 1882.

It is interesting to note that Captain Templer was the first person to use a motor car in the district, and that Mrs. Galabin of Tapley, nearby, was the last person to use a carriage and pair in the village.

For several years Lindridge was leased to Lord Cable and later sold to him in 1920. His family



Feeding some of the Shetland Ponies in the Park

were merchants in India for nearly half a century and he was born in Calcutta in 1859. Over the last 300 years several of the residents of Lindridge have been merchant adventurers in the finest sense of the word, their resource and industry adding greatly to the advancement of the British Empire.

In 1916 Lord Cable was High Sheriff of Devon and in 1917 he made Lindridge into a Red Cross Hospital for wounded officers. His only son, Lt. Pickersgill Cable, died in the service of his country in 1915, having volunteered for service at the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.

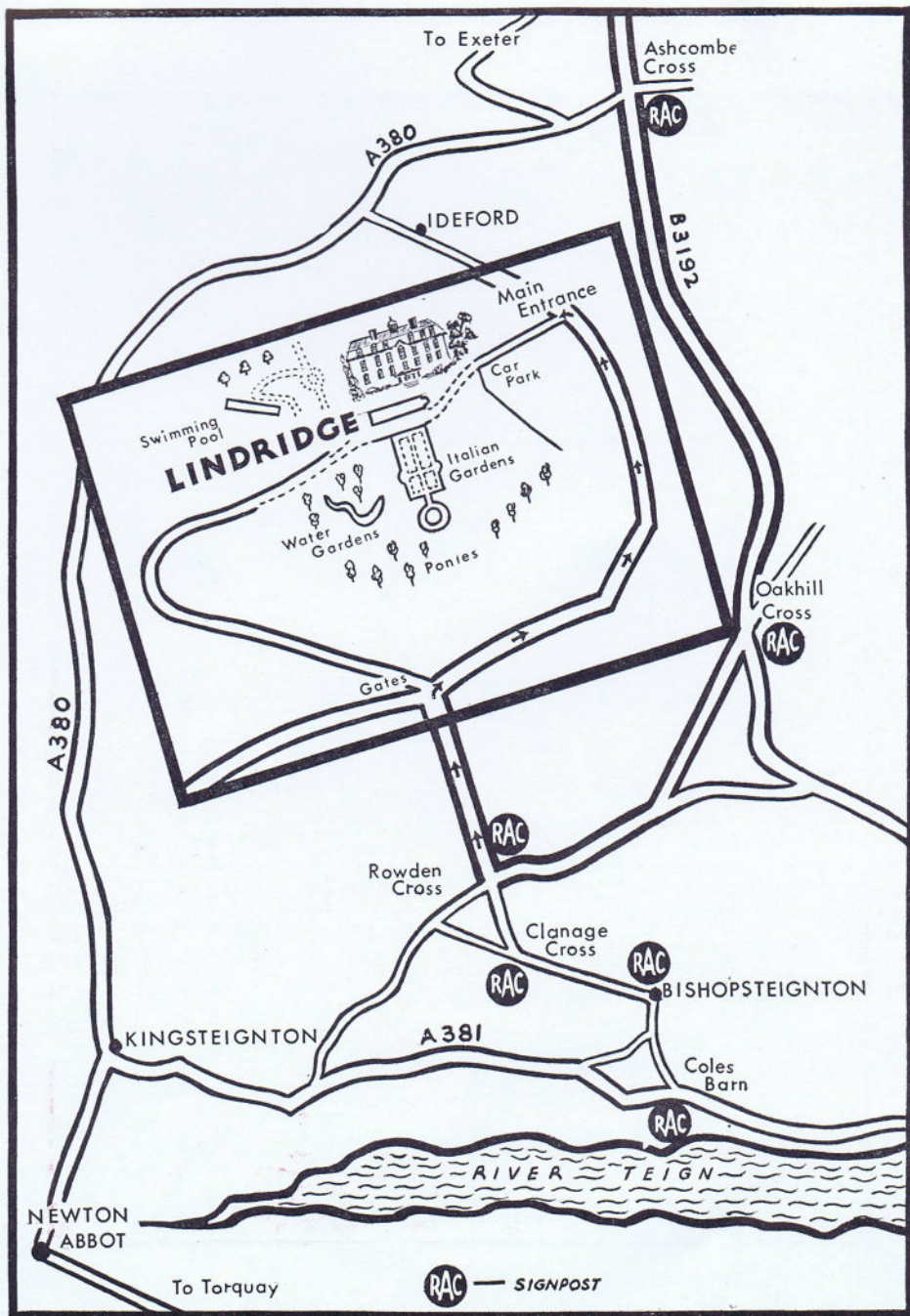
In 1962 the property was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brady, and after considerable restoration this fine and historic house was opened to the public at Easter 1963, together with the Landscape, Italian and Water Gardens, which combine to make Lindridge one of the showplaces of the country, a sight no visitor to South Devon should miss.

The Mansion, Gardens and Swimming Pool open Easter (Saturday, Sunday and Monday). Then daily May 1st to September 30th (except Saturdays) 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Inclusive admission, Adults 3/6, Children 2/-.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR PARTIES

Estate Controller :
Bishopsteignton 226

Follow the R.A.C. signs off the A381 Newton Abbot-Teignmouth Road and off the A380 Exeter-Newton Abbot Road.



LINDRIDGE PARK



BISHOPSTEIGNTON

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SOUTH DEVON