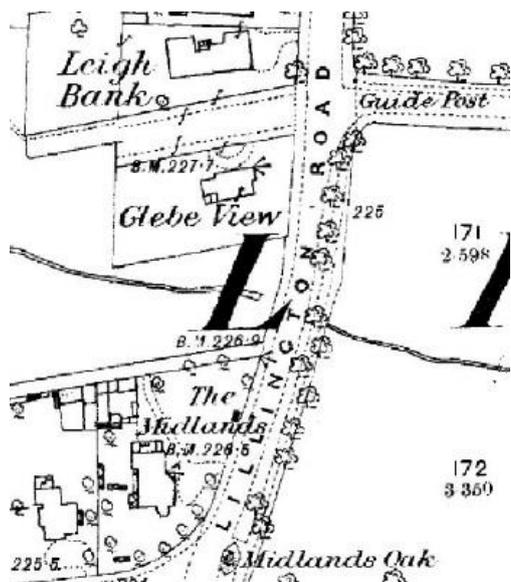


Glebe View (later known as Beverley Lodge), 41 Lillington Road.



In 1886, 'Glebe View,' a large late Victorian residence opening on to the Cubbington Road end of Woodcote Road, was set close to farmland belonging to Sir Wathen Waller. To the east, the road led to Lillington village, the Ladies' nine-hole Golf Club and Cubbington, and to the west were the fields, which later became Leamington Cricket Club. To the north and south were comparable substantial villas, stretching back towards Leamington and on towards Coventry. Glebe View was occupied from 1891 onwards by three sisters, the Misses Jane, Mary and Hannah (aka Annie) Caughey, who came from Blackburn, Lancashire, and were of independent means, thanks to their late father's progression from house & land agent to property and landowner. Jane and Hannah eventually moved round the corner to no 11, Lillington Avenue, with just two servants, a cook and a housemaid. Jane died there in 1914. Hannah died in 1922, and was buried according to her wishes, in Blackburn.

In 1900, and renamed Beverley Lodge, Glebe View became the home of Miss Emily Louisa Ashton Rigby. In 1901, three of her nieces, Mary Louisa, Violet and Norah joined her from their home in North Wales. Miss Rigby was the daughter of Thomas Ashton Rigby, a wealthy wine and spirit merchant from Huyton, Lancashire, whose name can still be found on a public house and Rigby's Buildings, Dale Street, Liverpool. Thomas Rigby died a very wealthy man. Hardly surprising, then, that Miss Rigby and her nieces are all described in contemporary documents as "of independent means" and could afford to indulge themselves. Norah became one of Leamington's early car owners, and can be seen here in a photograph of 1916 at the wheel of what may be a Coventry-built car, the Calcott Coupé. (Miss Rigby advertised a Calcott Coupé for sale in the Courier in 1921). When Beverley Lodge was sold in 1926, the advertisement in the Warwick and Leamington Gazette highlighted an 'Excellent Garage' as well as a tennis court and extensive gardens. It also boasted a bicycle shed and a fowl house. In 1920, one of Norah's brothers, Harold Rigby, a motor engineer from Croydon, was reported to have "cycled" across the English Channel from Folkestone to Calais on a bicycle attached to a pontoon, in a little more than twelve hours. He repeated the feat the following year. The taste for extreme sports is not new!



Both Louisa Emily Rigby and her niece Violet died in 1921. (Violet is buried at Lillington). Norah stayed on at Beverley Lodge until 1924, when she sold the house and contents and moved to Poole, Dorset, where she died in 1967 aged 78, having outlived all eleven of her siblings.

Charles Edward Pearson OBE, a London stockbroker, took Beverley Lodge in 1925, with his sister and two small daughters aged 5 and 3. Sadly, he died later that year and the house went up for sale again. S A Hunter of 3 Vicarage Road lived at Beverley Lodge for a short while, and then in 1930, F E S Clayton, whose family ran the Cannon Iron Foundry of Bilston, Staffordshire moved in. Mr Clayton died in 1953, and his wife Beatrice in 1968. The house was demolished in 1973, making way for the modern houses fronting Lillington Road and the bungalows on the southern side of Warren Close.

Margaret Rushton

*Based on information supplied by M L Ryan, Archivist at Leamington Cricket Club;
Other Sources: Warwickshire Historic & Current Maps; National Archive Census Returns;
Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucester Graphic Sept 1921; Warwick & Leamington Gazette, Sept 1924;
Blackburn Standard; Leamington Spa Courier*