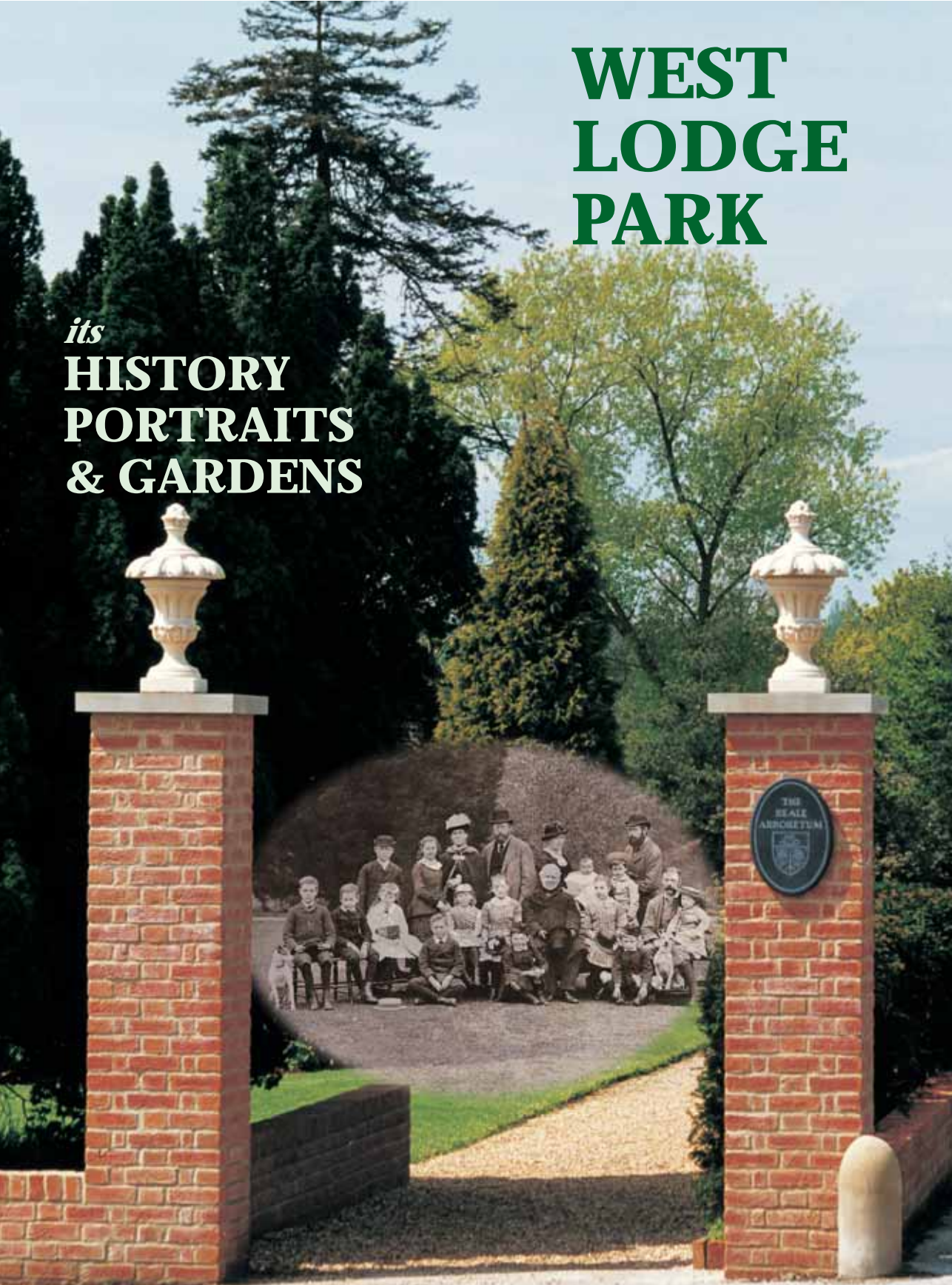


# WEST LODGE PARK

*its*  
**HISTORY  
PORTRAITS  
& GARDENS**



*by Trevor Beale*



West Lodge Park  
*"A pretty retreat for gentlemen"*  
JOHN EVELYN – 1676.



# WEST LODGE PARK

*its*

## HISTORY PORTRAITS & GARDENS



I acknowledge with thanks help from David Pam, whose book *The Story of Enfield Chase* is a mine of information; from Irene and Elizabeth Cater, for fascinating photos from their family album; from Margaret and Henry Laurance, for photos and information about their grandfather Alfred Mosley; from Michael North Lewis for the photo of his parents; from Graham Dalling of the Local History Unit of the London Borough of Enfield, for much information; from St Edmundsbury Borough Council (Manor House Museum) and Mr Christopher Reeve for information about Mary Beale and her self-portrait; from the National Portrait Gallery for permission to reproduce their pictures of Queen Elizabeth I, John Evelyn and the Duke of Chandos and from Jo Hill for invaluable secretarial assistance. Photos by Michael Boys, Paul Brooking and Arthur Barham. Designed by Chris Watson.

*Trevor Beale*

# THE HISTORY

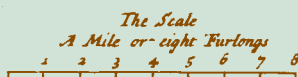
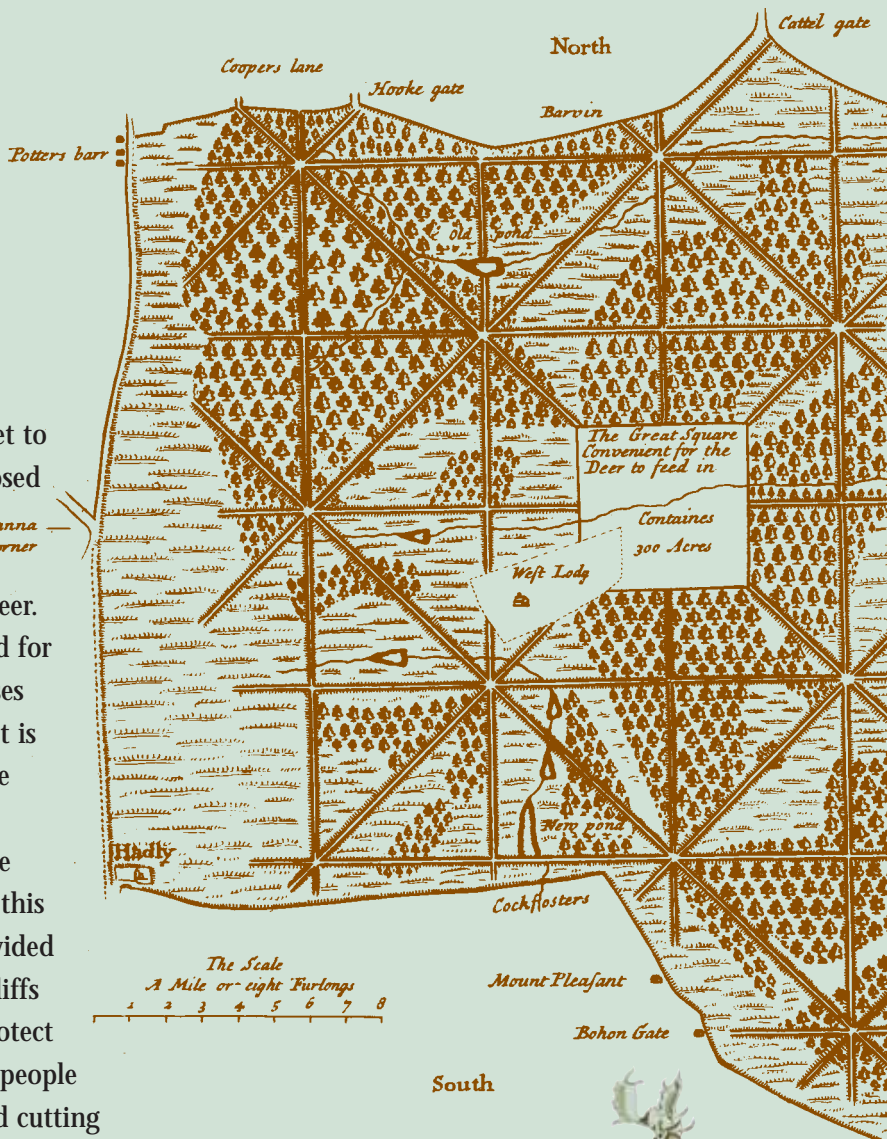


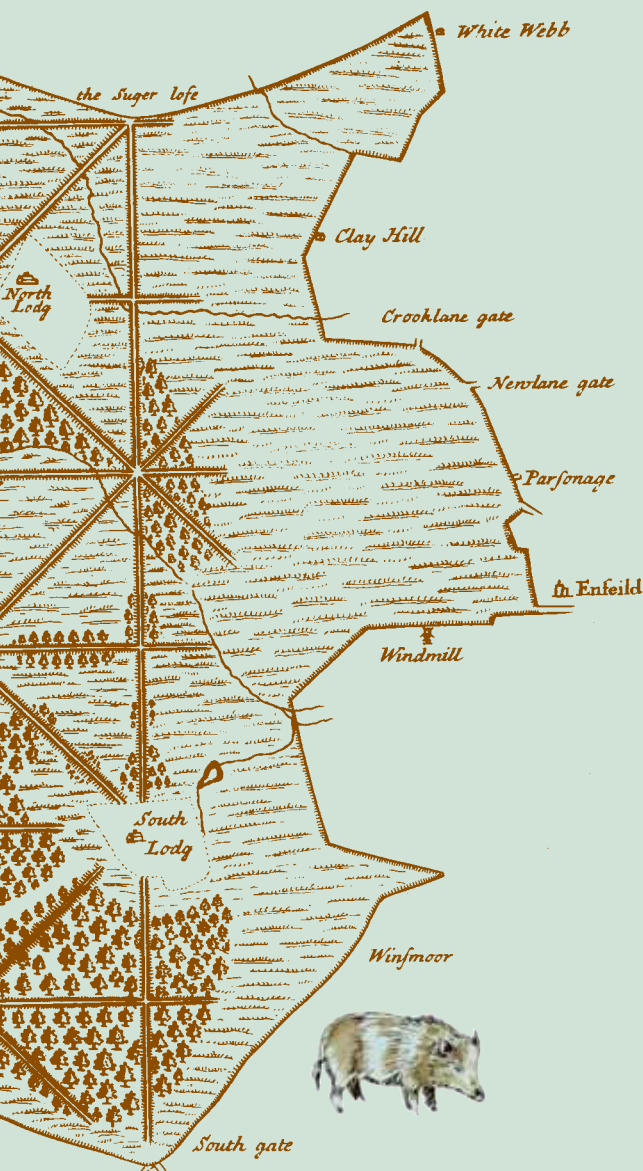
**he** Enfield Chase, an area of 8,000 acres stretching from Barnet to Edmonton, was enclosed in 1136 by Geoffrey de Mandeville, and stocked with fallow deer. In 1419 it was divided for administrative purposes into three parts, and it is believed that the three lodges, East, South and West Lodge, were originally built about this time. The lodges provided residences for the bailiffs whose duty was to protect the Chase from local people poaching the deer and cutting down the trees for firewood.

The Chase passed to the Crown in 1421 after Mary de Bohun had married King Henry IV, and remained part of the Duchy of Lancaster for five centuries. In Tudor and Stuart times it was used for hunting deer and sometimes wild boar. King Henry VIII, who loved hunting, once stayed for a week at West Lodge with his Queen, Catherine of Aragon, and the keepers who were accused of cutting down too many trees explained that large fires had been lit to keep warm

the company of noblemen and gentlemen waiting for the king to return from his hunting.

When in 1557 Queen Elizabeth I (top right) was living as Princess Elizabeth at the Bishop's Palace at Hatfield, it is recorded that she was escorted from Hatfield to Enfield Chase by a retinue of twelve ladies





It is also recorded that within a week of his coming down to London from Scotland to be crowned, King James I dined at West Lodge which, it was said, had been “very prettily trimmed up” by John West, the keeper. His son Charles I is the last monarch recorded to have stayed at West Lodge and to have hunted in the Chase.

in white satin, on ambling palfreys, and a hundred and twenty yeomen in green, on horse back, so that she might hunt the hart. On entering the Chase she was met by fifty archers in scarlet boots and yellow caps, armed with gilded bows, each of whom presented her with a silver-headed arrow, winged with peacock’s feathers.





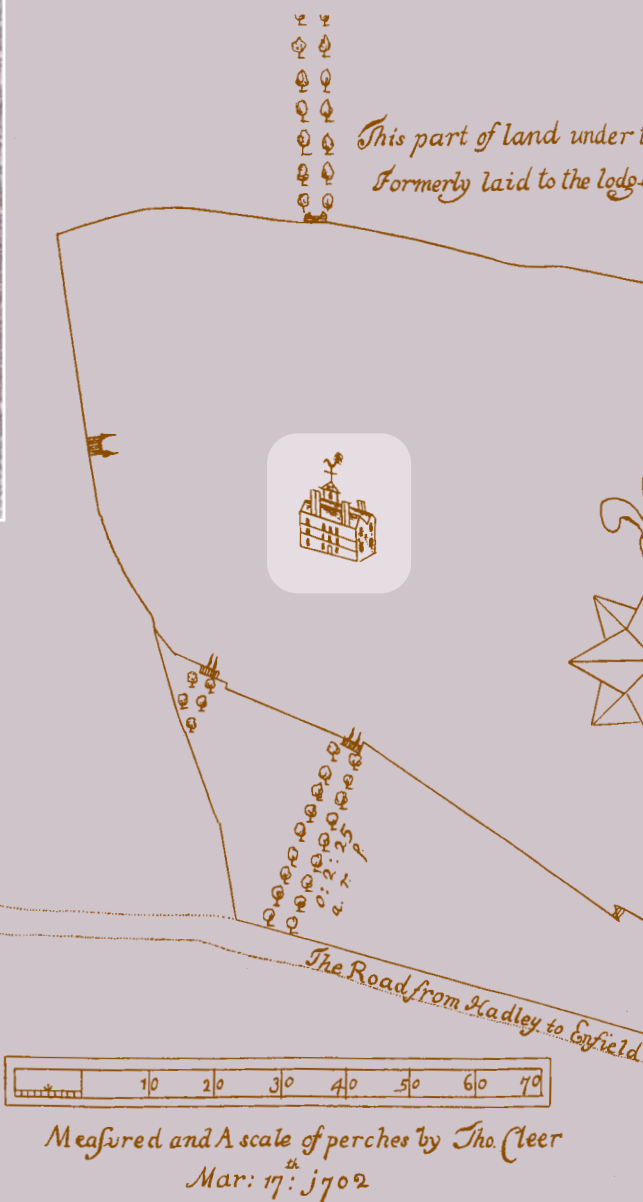
**O**ne of the more famous occupants in the 17th century was the Hon. Henry Coventry. A loyal friend of Charles II during the Cromwellian period, he went into exile with the King and on his return



was appointed Secretary of State - the office which is equivalent these days to Prime Minister. History records that he was one of the few Secretaries of State during Charles II's reign who served the King and country really well, and he held the office for eight years. Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary in November 1667 - "Harry Coventry hath got more fame and common esteem than any gentleman in England hath at this day and is an excellent and able person".

Henry Coventry took West Lodge in 1673 as his country residence, and began to replant the trees, many of which had been cut down during the Commonwealth.

In 1677 he had his portrait painted by Mary Beale (see later). This portrait now hangs in the state dining room at Longleat, Wiltshire, the seat of the Marquess of Bath, who kindly gave permission to have the copy made which now hangs in the hall at West Lodge Park. Henry Coventry died in 1686.





**John** Evelyn was a writer of some three dozen works, the most famous being his *Diary*, which was not discovered and published until over a century after his death. He also wrote *Sylva*, a treatise on practical arboriculture, which generated interest in trees and landscape gardening. A friend of Samuel Pepys and Sir Christopher Wren, he was active at the court of Charles II and was elected secretary of the Royal Society in 1672.

*This writing is the west lodge and was  
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John Evelyn travelled to West Lodge on 2 June 1676 to visit Henry Coventry, and wrote in his diary:

*2 June. I went with my Lord Chamberlaine to see a garden at Enfield towne; thence to Mr Sec. Coventry's lodge in the Chace. It is a very pretty place, the house commodious, the gardens handsome, and our entertainment very free, there being none but my Lord and myselfe. That which I most wondered at was, that in the compass of 25 miles, yet within 14 miles of London, there is not an house, barne, church, or building besides three lodges. To this Lodge are three greate ponds and some few inclosures, the rest a solitarie desert, yet stor'd with not lesse than 3000 deere. These are pretty retreats for gentlemen, especialy for those who are studious and lovers of privacy.*

# THE PORTRAITS



**est** Lodge Park contains a collection of the paintings of Mary Beale (1633 - 1699). In the 17th century it was not possible for a woman to take an apprenticeship, but she is thought to have been informally taught by her father, a keen amateur painter, and the painters Robert Walker and Thomas Flatman, as well as gaining the support and friendship of Sir

Peter Lely, the leading court painter in the time of Charles II. Mary Beale was the first woman in England to have established herself as a successful professional painter, achieving a fashionable reputation for her portraits.

The picture above, which is not in the Beale collection, is a self portrait of Mary Beale, showing her artist's brush and palette.





**C**arrying out research on Henry Coventry, who lived at West Lodge in the 1670s, Edward Beale, the hotel's proprietor, travelled to Longleat House to see a portrait of Henry Coventry, a distant ancestor of the Marquess of Bath. He was intrigued to find that the portrait was painted by his namesake Mary Beale, and he began, from about 1964, to build up a collection of her paintings which now hang in the principal rooms of the hotel. Representing the nobility and gentry of the time of Charles II, the collection includes two copies made by Mary Beale of originals painted by Sir Peter Lely of King Charles II and his mistress Barbara Castlemaine, and a rare example, in the unidentified portrait of a

lady above, of a picture signed by Mary Beale.

The connection between Mary Beale, who acquired her surname on her marriage in 1652 to Charles Beale, and the Beale family of West Lodge Park, cannot be proved beyond doubt, as the parish records for the early 17th and 16th century have only partially survived. However, it is known that Charles Beale's grandfather William married in Hertford in 1586. Ancestors of the West Lodge Park Beales lived in Hertfordshire at that time and William was one of their four most frequent male Christian names, so it seems very likely that the two families were related.



**T**his fine portrait in a heavy hand-carved frame hangs in the hall at West Lodge Park. It represents Margaret Blagge, a maid of honour at the court of King Charles II and was painted by Mary Beale in 1674.

Margaret Blagge and the writer John Evelyn carried on a platonic but intense friendship, although he was over thirty years older than her and married. For a while she acted as tutor to Evelyn's son, who described her as "my pretty, pearly, pious governess". Evelyn used to visit her every Tuesday to discuss religious matters, and they signed a pact of eternal friendship which Margaret broke when she secretly married Sidney Godolphin (later Earl Godolphin, Lord Treasurer) without informing Evelyn.

She died young in 1678, giving birth to her first child. Both her husband and Evelyn were shattered by her sudden death. Sidney never married again, and Evelyn wrote in his diary: "For witt, beauty, good nature, fidelitie, discretion and all accomplishments, the most choice and agreeable person that ever I was acquainted with."

This portrait was selected for an exhibition organised for International Women's Year in 1975 under the name of "The Excellent Mrs Mary Beale". A companion portrait in a similar frame also hangs in the hall. This represents Sir John Evelyn, cousin of the writer. Both portraits were for many years in the possession of the Evelyn family.



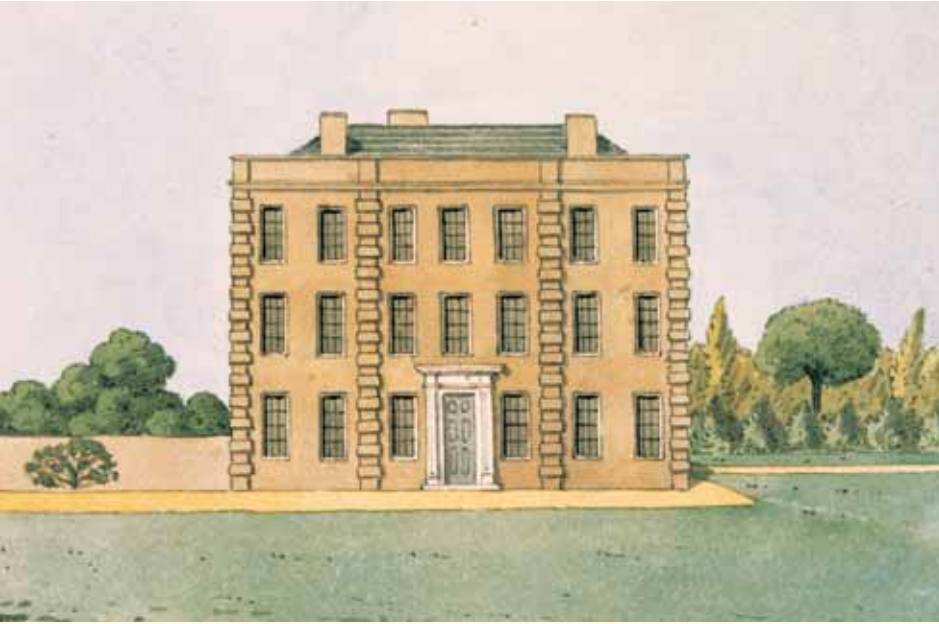
**T**his painting by Mary Beale of an unidentified sitter was formerly in the collection of the Hon. David Astor.

Mary Beale's family life had two features uncommon in the seventeenth century. Firstly she married for love, at a time when arranged marriages were common. Secondly she became the full time breadwinner of the family, while Charles Beale was the househusband, overseeing the domestic arrangements as well as arranging the sittings. He kept a diary in which he recorded all the details of the work of his wife, whom he always referred to as "my dearest heart".

At the peak of her popularity in 1677

Mary Beale produced 83 portraits in the year. Even though she sometimes painted from dawn to dusk in her "paynting roome" she needed help to maintain this output, so the family worked as a team, with her husband mixing the paints and preparing the canvases and her sons Charles and Bartholemew painting the sculptured ovals inside the rectangular frames which are a characteristic of her work, and also finishing off the drapery. To further speed up production Mary Beale had some plaster casts of arms and hands made, some of them from her own arms, which could be copied later after the sitter had left.





*Left: West Lodge as repaired and refaced in about 1720 by General Pepper, who lived there till his death in 1725.*

*Below - The Duke of Chandos*



**From** 1694 to 1716 West Lodge was owned by the disreputable Sir Basil Firebrace, who was at one time sentenced to imprisonment in the Tower of London for bribery and fraud. He managed to sell the office of the Keeper of the Chase in 1716 to Major General John Pepper by assuring him that it would bring in profits of £964 per year. In reality, General Pepper had to spend £2,000 of his own money on repairing and restoring West Lodge, described as a large house with barns, stables for more than 30 horses, and 8 acres of fruit trees and vegetables, and he never recovered his investment.

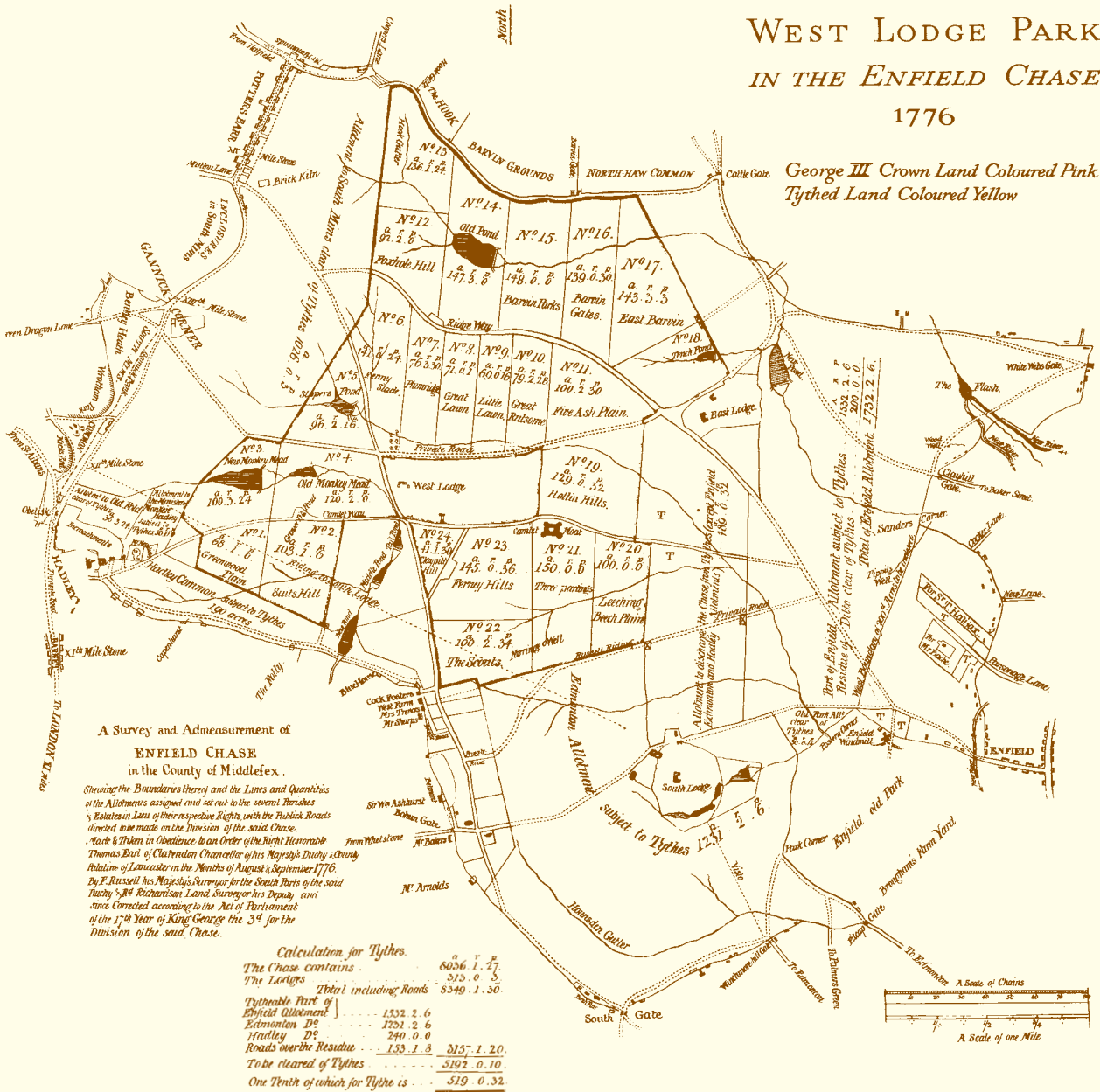
The next owner of West Lodge was James Brydges, the first Duke of Chandos, who had made his fortune in only a slightly less disreputable way than Sir Basil Firebrace, by being Paymaster-General to the Army from 1706 - 1712, during the War of the Spanish Succession, and getting rich on the profits. He built himself a magnificent house at Edgware called

Canons, and maintained a private orchestra of 27 players for which Handel wrote the Chandos Anthems. Like General Pepper, he hoped to make profits from his position as Chief Ranger to the Enfield Chase but struggled for years against poachers and thieves, including some of his own servants.



# WEST LODGE PARK IN THE ENFIELD CHASE 1776

George III Crown Land Coloured Pink  
Tythed Land Coloured Yellow



On his death in 1744 the property passed to his son Henry, the 2nd Duke. Like his father, he did not live at West Lodge but at his main residence at Edgware. His estate passed in 1759 to his son, the third Duke of Chandos, and his widow held the lease of West Lodge until 1808.

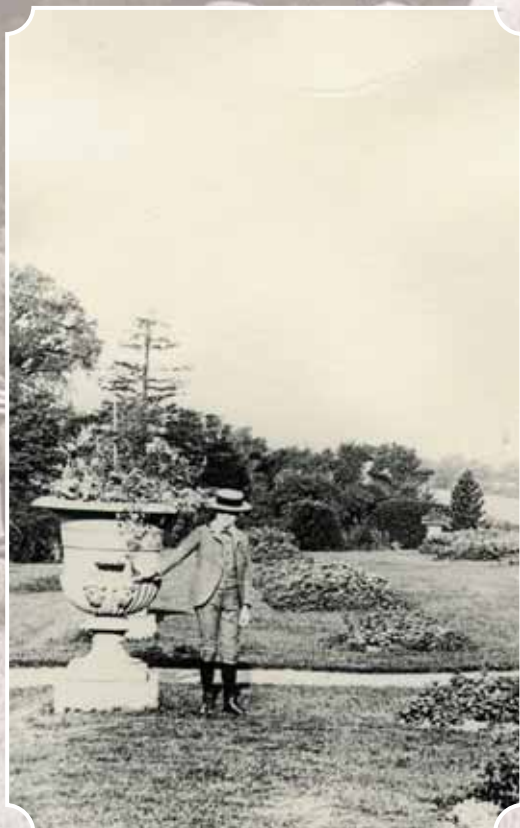
*The plan above shows the proposals by the Duchy of Lancaster in 1776 for splitting up the Enfield Chase. About 60% of the land was granted to adjoining parishes, the Duchy*

*keeping the remainder. Most parishes then sold their entitlement to local farmers, who used it for agriculture. Only at Hadley was the parish allocation preserved intact and run by trustees for the benefit of the parish, which it still is (Hadley Common and Hadley Wood).*

Thus, after nearly 650 years, the Enfield Chase ceased to exist as a hunting forest and West Lodge became a gentleman's country seat, losing its responsibilities for the protection of the Chase.



**T**he old house had been extensively repaired twice, in 1583 and in 1720, but it was over 400 years old when in 1832 the walls moved several inches in one night to the great alarm of the occupiers and it had to be demolished. The tenant, Archibald Paris, had taken a lease of West Lodge in 1827 with a covenant to rebuild. He carried out the terms of the covenant and rebuilt West Lodge in an attractive Regency style. The new building was complete by 1835, incorporating Tudor panelling from the old house around the main staircase. Archibald Paris lived at West Lodge until 1850. The pony and trap was used to take people to Hadley Wood Station after it opened in 1885 with a stationmaster and four other staff.







**John** White Cater took the lease of West Lodge in 1850 and lived there till his death in 1889. He was a distinguished banker, becoming Chairman of the London and Brazilian Bank. In his time many fine specimen trees were planted, including the sequoias which dominate the skyline.

The photo below, taken in the 1880s shows John White Cater with his large family. A census survey of 1851 shows that, apart from six members of the family, there were five indoor servants plus a gardener, two coachmen and a farm steward living at West Lodge, in addition to non-resident staff.





**Charles Cater**, the son of John White Cater, relaxing with his family over afternoon tea provided by three servants. The young people have just been playing tennis on the grass court which was originally on the lawn in front of the hotel. This photo dates from the 1880s.

The other picture shows Cockfosters Road, then strangely free from traffic, and one of the two entrance lodge cottages which were rebuilt in 1964.







**ix** gardeners were employed in Victorian times to look after eight acres of grounds, including orchards, vegetable gardens, a nut tree walk, large greenhouses, a vinery and a peach house. The front drive was originally an avenue of elms, replaced in the 1920s by the present lime trees,

while the fine oak tree in front of the hotel has been dated to 1840.

The side view of the hotel (below) shows flower beds and a range of conservatories. (This photo was taken before dormer windows were added to the second floor in the 1920s).







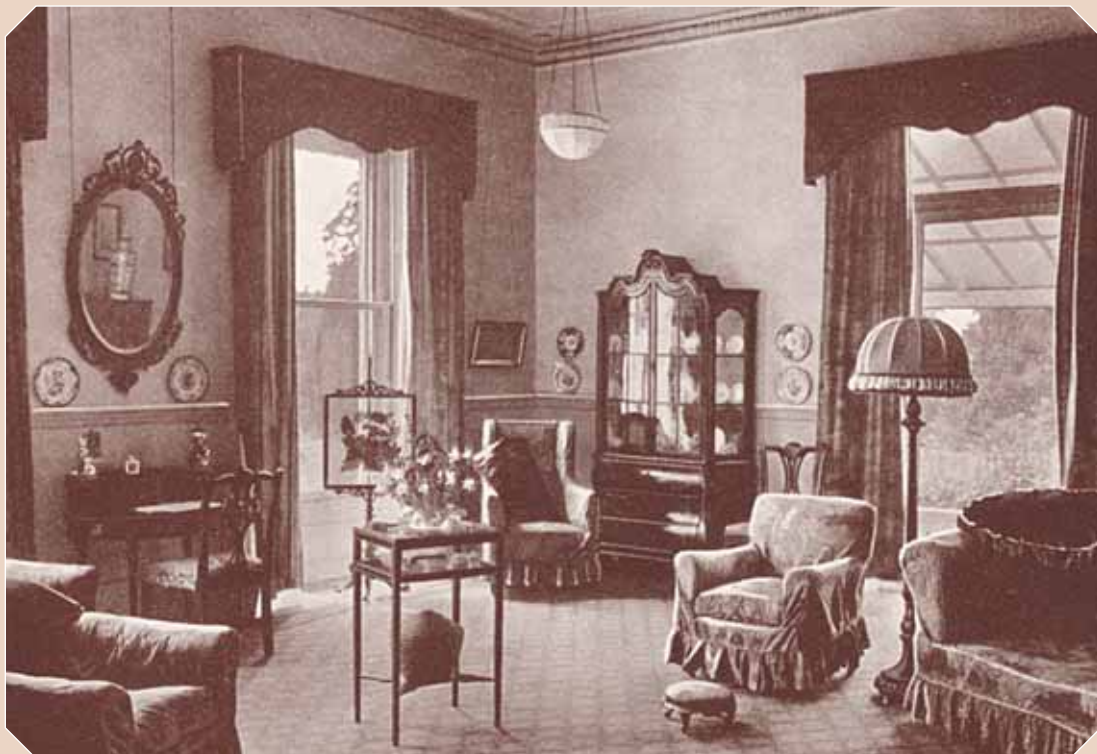
**The above photo shows Alfred Mosely** (1855 - 1917). Going to South Africa to seek his fortune in the Kimberley diamond rush of the 1870s, where he met Cecil Rhodes, he acquired a claim which struck lucky and made him a rich man. Returning to England, he established himself as a diamond merchant in Hatton Garden, and took over the lease of West Lodge in 1890. A philanthropist, he equipped a hospital in South Africa at his own expense, and campaigned on behalf of the British Empire, for which he was awarded the C.M.G. Having endured many miserable hours at school studying Latin and Greek, he organised a visit in 1907 for 700 English school teachers to study the latest teaching methods in the U.S.A. As a final act of generosity he made West Lodge available as a rest home for nurses taking leave from the First World War.

**The first man to convert West Lodge** into a hotel was Ernest North Lewis (below with his wife Nancy). Taking a lease in 1921, he built an extension three years later containing a dining room and eleven bedrooms, which raised the total number of rooms to 28. The hotel was described in its brochure as being run by “gentlepeople for gentlepeople”. Many guests were people retired from the professions or the services and their wives, but those who were still in business were driven in the hotel car to catch the 9.08 and 9.45 am trains from Hadley Wood Station, and were met on their return from the City in the evening. Ernest North Lewis also added the word ‘Park’ to the name ‘West Lodge’ to add dignity. He sold the hotel in 1938 and moved to Burford, when he acquired the Lamb Inn. Edmund Victor took over West Lodge Park and ran it during the second war, maintaining the standards in spite of great shortage of staff. In 1942 the profit on a whole year’s trading was only nine pounds.





**This photo, taken about 1895,** shows the room known then as the Drawing Room and now as the John Evelyn Room, during the time of Alfred Mosely, who lived at West Lodge with his wife and six children. It is a typically cluttered Victorian interior, and must have been a nightmare to dust. Compare the photo below of this room in the 1930s.



**Residents in the 1930s and 40s** paid an all-inclusive sum ranging from £5 to £15 per week for accommodation and full board, including breakfast, morning coffee, luncheon, afternoon tea and dinner. The hotel was not licensed, but guests were allowed a bin in the cellar for their own wines. At 1pm and 7pm the waiter on duty sounded a gong on the front staircase and pulled a rope ringing an outside bell to summon guests for lunch or dinner. Until the Second World War, gentlemen were expected to wear dinner jackets in the evenings.

In the dining room, adorned with hunting trophies from Africa, permanent residents had their regular tables around the walls, leaving

a few tables in the middle for occasional visitors, who were scrutinised carefully by the residents.

This wages list (left) dated 28th October 1944 reveals wage rates which were not exactly glittering. Several staff, including maids, porters, waitresses and waiters, were paid only one pound per week, though they were provided with full board and lodging, and a note in the ledger states "participates in gratuity".

In 1944 the total wages bill for the whole hotel staff, which included a scullerymaid and a land girl, was £45.13.0. By comparison, the weekly wages bill in

1999 had risen to £22,000.

Occupation	Wage
Scullerymaid	2 4 4
Handyman	4 10
Night Porter	1 10
Day Porter	1
Chef	7
Head Gardener	3 10
2nd Gardener	2 10
Land Girl	2 8
Housekeeper	3 10
Chambermaid	1 1 7
Waitress	1
Kitchenmaid	1 15
Pantrymaid	2 1 7
Maid to Attend	1
Nurse	1 10 10
Part Time Hand	2 10
Waiter	1
Maids	1 1 7
Chambermaid	1 1 7
Porter	2 18 6
	<hr/> 45 13








**The lounge** was a popular place to sit, as it was warmed by a generous log fire. Although officially discouraged, some of the more formidable elderly female guests used to reserve their own favourite arm chairs. Those who had an account with Harrods used to have a book delivered weekly from its lending library. Trevor Beale recalls that the Harrods van used to come up the front drive on Tuesday with a book for Mrs Wright, but Miss Davies preferred to change her book on Fridays, so the van would make a second visit with another book later that week.

In the bed-rooms, however, there was no central heating and guests had to put a shilling in the slot of their meter to make their gas fires work.



**West Lodge Park**  
Residential Hotel

TELEPHONE  
BARNET  
9293

HADLEY WOOD  
NEAR BARNET  
HERTS

RESIDENTIAL TERMS include early morning tea, breakfast, luncheon, tea and dinner. There is no surcharge or service charge.

All rooms have a pleasant outlook over the hotel grounds, with hot and cold running water, gas or electric fires, and Post Office Telephones. Television in Drawing Room.

Residential Terms, inclusive £10 : 10 : 0—£13 : 13 : 0 weekly, per single room.  
£18 : 18 : 0—£27 : 6 : 0 weekly, per double room (twin beds).

Room and Breakfast 21/-, 24/-, 27/6 per person.

MEALS—Breakfast 4/-.  
Luncheon 5/- (Sunday 5/6). Coffee 6d.  
Tea 2/6.  
Dinner (including coffee) 7/-.

Meals in bedrooms are charged 1/- extra per person per meal.

Garages 1/6 and 2/6 per night.

Special terms for children occupying parents' room.

No allowance can be made for meals not taken in the hotel or for temporary absence. Rooms must be vacated by 12 o'clock on the day of departure. No dogs can be allowed in the hotel in any circumstances. No charge is made for use by residents of tennis court, putting or croquet lawns.

1/4/53

One eccentric lady preferred to sit outside her bed-room in the corridor where there was a radiator providing free heat.



*The room now called the Coventry Room  
as a reading room in 1935.*

**Edward Beale** bought West Lodge Park in March 1945 and moved there with his wife Betty and son Trevor. He was then 41, and had rescued his family bakery and catering business Beale's Ltd., which dated back to 1769, from near closure during the depression of the 1930s. For some years the hotel continued to operate as a private unlicensed hotel serving mainly permanent residents, and making little or no profit. Then in 1958 Edward Beale, aided by his brother John, decided to raise the standards. The permanent residents moved elsewhere, central heating was installed, and a start made on building private bathrooms en suite. A bar was added, an

expensive chef hired, the restaurant opened to non residents, and banqueting for weddings and other functions encouraged.

Edward Beale lived at West Lodge Park for over fifty years, pursuing his vision of achieving the highest possible standards for the hotel with energy and enthusiasm. He formed the hotel's collection of pictures and took particular pleasure in creating an arboretum out of a ten acre field that was originally let out to a farmer. The arboretum became his pride and joy, and he never tired of showing it to visitors. Edward Beale devoted much time to public affairs, and was awarded the C.B.E. in 1966. He died in 1998 at the age of 94.



**For 35 years** the Hotel had only two General Managers. Douglas Lunn (right) greeting a bride and bridegroom, managed West Lodge Park from 1957 to 1969. He was a popular master of ceremonies at wedding receptions, for which the hotel became much in demand. He also started the tradition of live piano music in the restaurant, playing regularly himself.



**Under John Phillips**, who managed West Lodge Park from 1969 to 1992, the hotel rose from three to four star status. It also became well known when the England football team began to use the hotel as the team's base to train before international matches. The above picture shows Ron Greenwood, the England team manager, with John Phillips in 1982. West Lodge Park is still used by top football clubs playing in the F.A. Cup Final and other London matches.







**Head Chef Peter Leggat** and his team of chefs celebrating in 1997 the award by the A.A. of two rosettes for good food.

In 1944 the wages schedule recorded only one chef, and the proprietor's wife filled in on the chef's day off. By 1956 the number of chefs had risen to three, by 1967 to five, by 1974 to eight and by 1999 to twelve.

**The Open Days** of the gardens and arboretum at West Lodge Park have raised several thousand pounds for cancer and environmental charities. The conducted tours by experts are always a popular feature. In this photo Derek Honour (right), consultant to the Beale Arboretum, discusses the blue cedar with a group of visitors.







### **The Caradoc String Quintet**

performing in one of the concerts of classical music started in 1974 by Trevor Beale, encouraged by Sarah Francis of the London Harpsichord Ensemble. The formula of a reception followed by a dinner in the Cedar Restaurant and a chamber music concert in the Lancaster Room proved very successful, and over 150 concerts have been held. Artists performing at West Lodge Park have included Dame Felicity Lott, Julian Lloyd Webber, Marisa Robles, Manoug Parikian, Raphael Wallfisch, Leslie Howard and the Alberni, Coull, Medici and Vanburgh String Quartets.

**Michael Portillo** planting a Spanish Oak at a tree planting ceremony in 1991 for local Members of Parliament, watched by (l. to r.) Trevor Beale, Ian Twinn, Lord Harris of High Cross, Lord Parkinson, Tim Eggar, Sir Sydney Chapman and Edward Beale. Many other distinguished people have planted commemorative trees at West Lodge Park, including nine Lord Mayors of London.



**Trevor Beale** came to live at West Lodge Park as a boy of ten. After Cambridge and qualifying as a barrister, he joined the family firm of Beale's Limited in 1958, becoming managing director in 1970 and

chairman in 1990. He retired in November 1999.

In the photo he is shown in front of the three extensions to West Lodge Park which he organised - centre, the west wing and restaurant (1972, architect John Reid), right the conservatories (1994, architect John Owen Ward) and left, the Orangery and below, Chestnut Lodge (1998, architect Simon Chadwick of Archer Partnership).



**All the extensions added to West Lodge Park** have been planned not only to harmonise with the Regency building of the main hotel and the seventeenth century Cedar Lodge, but also to merge in with the existing landscape. The Orangery was built around the 100 year old yew tree, and Chestnut Lodge (right), which contains seven luxury bedrooms, was fitted in without disturbing existing oak trees.

The cupola of Chestnut Lodge is surmounted by the weathercock formerly gracing the roof of Beale's Restaurant in Holloway Road, the headquarters of Beale's Limited from 1889 to 1969.





**The Prime Minister** being welcomed to West Lodge Park by Grevile Bridge and Andrew Beale in 1998.

Grevile Bridge (centre) joined Beale's Ltd in 1988 as financial director, becoming managing director in 1994 and

worked as managing consultant for five years with the accountants Pannell Kerr Forster.

Andrew Beale (right), the eighth generation of the family to enter the firm, studied at Lancaster University and the



chairman in 1999. He gained a first class diploma in hotel and catering management at Battersea College before joining the five star Grosvenor House Hotel as an assistant manager. After development and operational experience with two large hotel groups, he and his wife opened their own restaurant in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, after which he

Swiss Hotel School in Lausanne. He then worked in the Hotel Eden au Lac, Montreux, Switzerland, the Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver, Canada, the Holiday Inn Queenstown, New Zealand, and Hunstrete House Hotel near Bath before being appointed general manager of West Lodge Park in 1992 and director in 1996.

# THE GARDENS



*A memorial in classical style to Edward Beale has been built to provide a focal point at the end of his Arboretum.*

**The** spacious grounds around West Lodge Park extend for over thirty five acres, and include lawns, open parkland and woods. A major development took place in 1963 when Edward Beale, acting on a suggestion by Derek Honour, then trees advisor to the Greater London Council, decided to create an arboretum. Taking advice also from Frank Knight, formerly director of R.H.S. Wisley, he laid out ten acres of parkland with two main grass rides leading through groupings of specimen trees and shrubs of the same family – oaks,

limes, pines, larches, rowans, dogwoods, birches, magnolias etc. At one end a maple glade was formed, and collections of ceanothus and buddleia add colour. Specimens of particular interest include a fine swamp cypress, a 200 year old strawberry tree, a weeping Brewers' spruce and a rare Kentucky coffee bean tree. There are now over 800 varieties of trees and shrubs in the Beale Arboretum, including national collections of hornbeams and elaeagnus. A full list and plan is available at the hotel.









**The lake in front of the hotel was created originally as a fish pond to vary the diet of venison served to the members of the royal party returning to West Lodge after a day's hunting in the Enfield Chase. Nowadays it is a home for goldfish and moorhens, and is a popular background for wedding photos.**



In compiling this brief history of West Lodge Park I have been struck by the way two themes have recurred down the centuries. The first is how each successive owner has felt the urge to make improvements – whether it was Henry Coventry planting trees, General Pepper re-facing the exterior, Archibald Paris rebuilding the house, Ernest North Lewis adding hotel bedrooms or my father creating the arboretum.

The second theme that recurs is the leafy seclusion of the estate, in spite of being only 12 miles from Piccadilly Circus. Railways, underground lines and motorways have spread their tentacles around London and yet the place remains a rural enclave. Let us hope that it remains for many years to come as John Evelyn described it in 1676 “A pretty retreat for gentlemen, especially for those who are studious and lovers of privacy”.

*Trevor Beale*





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