



NEWSLETTER

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Cadhay has again been busy with a record level of bookings and twelve wedding celebrations. It has been very reassuring to see so many people returning. The improvements to the house have continued and this year we concentrated on the Living Room. The painting in the style of Vernet has been moved up to the Roof Chamber and two modern paintings by Sargy Mann have brightened up the room very considerably with the help of LED wall lights. The portraits have been moved around so that Newton and Barbara William-Powlett hang together with their younger daughter Sara. In the Dining Room the portrait of Lord William-Powlett has been replaced by James Reibey, grandson of the convict Mary and grandfather of Lottie William-Powlett (Sugar Plum) whose estate in Tasmania was sold to help to purchase Cadhay.



Painting by Sargy Mann

Many of the leaded windows in the house have been taken out and re-leaded as they were showing signs of age and were often fixed on iron bars which were rusting and splitting the stonework. It is one of those jobs which is remarkably time consuming but you will hardly notice the difference. The windows in the rooms below the Long Gallery will be completed this winter and it should not need doing again for several generations.

Cadhay has continued to be an attractive venue for visitors on open days and more people are coming just to enjoy the gardens. They did look fantastic this year not least because the weather was so kind.

Sadly two of our longest standing cleaners, Cathy and Sarah, left us during the year. Cathy was offered



Dave holding forth

a full time job in the Priory, a residential home in Ottery where Betty, the Cadhay housekeeper for sixty years, now lives. Jo has joined the cleaning team and Mike, who was working one day a week in the garden with Dave, is now working four days a week. For some time Mike was a stockman for Prince Charles and he has considerable experience operating farm machinery which we now need in order to be self sufficient with woodchip for heating the house.

Barton William-Powlett

Sadly Barton died very suddenly in August. He was playing tennis at his home in Essex and had a heart attack. Barton was the son of Peter who was the youngest son of Barton and Sugar Plum William-Powlett who bought Cadhay back in the 1930's. As the most senior William-Powlett, Barton inherited the family silver but not the house although he gave me tremendous encouragement in getting the house back on its feet. This is my tribute to Barton at his funeral celebration

'Born in 1938, Barton hardly saw his father, Peter, until his return from a Japanese prisoner of war camp at the end of the war. His mother took him and his sister Mary down to stay at Cadhay with his William-Powlett grandparents. They were joined by two aunts and all their children. Finding himself the youngest of eight children, six of them girls, you can see how Barton came to realise at an early age that he was rather special. For two years no-one knew what had happened to Barton's father

but his mother refused to believe that he would not come back thereby sacrificing her widow's pension. For her it must have been a difficult time, although she and her children did have the only warm room in the house over the kitchen. For Barton it was blissful being in a huge adventure playground with cousins to amuse him and this sense of adventure never really left him.



Barton on Pansy's lap

It must have been a rude shock when he was sent to Horris Hill prep school near Newbury after the war. It is my only grievance with Barton that he made a success of it, getting into Winchester. He singularly failed to alert his family that Horris Hill was a totally unsuitable school for future generations of delicate young men like me, sent there some years later in the forlorn hope that we might somehow emulate his success.

My earliest memory of Barton is visiting the Mews garage behind the family house in St Leonards Terrace. Mary tells me that the garage was bought to house the Bentley but it seems entirely plausible to me that Peter bought it just so that Barton could build his Lotus Elite. This had been bought in kit form to avoid purchase tax and it took shape in Barton and Judith's bedroom in what became their London house.

Barton's star studded career continued at Oxford where he met the love of his life. For many generations the William-Powlett way of life had far outstripped the ability to finance it and they were strongly encouraged to marry wealth. Such was the strength of Judith's beauty, charm and intellect that Barton set aside these expectations and somehow managed to secure her hand despite strong competition.

Reverting to form after their marriage Barton bought a horse and hunted twice a week, as would be expected of a William-Powlett, whilst Judith



Barton and Judith's wedding day

studied for the last year of her degree. After two years at MIT, he did have a brief excursion into the world of work having six years in business with the likes of RTZ and wrote a series of articles for the Times.

Realising that the direction he was heading and his true nature were some way apart, Barton had the courage to set aside his stellar trajectory and set up his own business initially converting Commer vans into Camper Vans. Barton went on to use the experience of establishing his own business to help others do the same through the auspices of the Princes' Trust and eventually to try (unsuccessfully I suspect) to help the Trust itself to embrace new technology and systems. Barton had a very healthy attitude towards technology. He took great pride in being an early adopter and the new Tesla Electric Car (0-60 in 3.7 seconds) is just the latest manifestation.

I always felt with Barton that his real strength lay in his uncanny ability to encourage others to achieve things they never realised they were capable of. It is a wonderful gift and, as you can imagine, it engenders huge loyalty from those that have been given a helping hand matched only by the loyalty Barton gave to those he took under his wing.



Barton in the courtyard

Barton was able to pursue the great interests he had in life many of which I shared. One of these was woodwork which we were both introduced to at the dreaded Horris Hill. I once made the mistake of telling Barton that one of his creations was 'quite professional'. He was disappointed with this assessment as his craftsmanship was clearly superior to anything a professional could achieve.

His lifelong passion has been Cadhay, the house where he spent his formative years and most of his school holidays. Cadhay meant a great deal to him and, having traced the Powlett involvement in Cadhay back to the 16th Century, he was determined that the house should stay under family ownership. When his cousin Oliver died over ten years ago leaving the house to me, Barton could see that I was a bit flakey so he set about stiffening me up. He attended critical meetings with English Heritage and, having finally got me on track, he and Judith worked tirelessly to help ensure that the house had a good future under family ownership (albeit under the wrong surname) and make sure that it was great fun. Somehow Barton has found time to renew all the wires for climbing plants attached to the house and garden walls. There must be over a mile of wire and even Dave has had to reluctantly admit that they are truly professional even if his precious flower beds were trampled on.



Two of many wires

Barton has spent hours researching the architectural history of the house and his findings, recorded in what Judith refers to somewhat disparagingly as the Key to the Scriptures, are rather more convincing than those of the historians. His interest and boundless enthusiasm has been an inspiration to the guides, and together with the delicious tea that Judith produces, has ensured that we have the best motivated team of guides in the country. To quote from one of them 'My memories of Barton are his dry wit, acute shrewdness, genuine warmth and

love of Cadhay and his W-P tribe. Life was a big adventure to him and he shared the joy in a way that was both generous and gentle - a quintessential English Gentleman.'

Another great interest for Barton has been family and not just the immediate family. Between them the eight children who lived at Cadhay during the war have 22 children of their own and it is still a closely knit group. Last August Barton organised a gathering of the Cadhay war children and they were invited down on the proviso that they came with a minder from their family. Only Barton could have arranged an ancestral tour of Devon which was one of the highlights of the week. It has been Barton's interest in us all that has helped to keep us so close.

A few months before Barton's father died he took me to one side and said 'If you are looking for a role model you need to look no further than Barton'. There are not many fathers who could or would say that about their son but it is the best advice I have ever had. Barton was a true professional not in the conventional sense but in the way he lead his life.'

Leopold McLintock

In September Canada announced that the wreck of HMS Terror and Erebus had been located which is of considerable importance in establishing Canada's rights to the North West passage between Canada and the Arctic.

The McLintock bedroom in the West Attic is named after Sir Leopold McClintock who was commissioned by Lady Franklin to find out what had happened to her husband Sir John Franklin. Franklin at the age of 60 had been given command of an expedition to find the North West passage in 1845 in two small vessels, Terror and Erebus, with 129 officers and men who never returned. Between 1848 and 1854 a number of expeditions were funded by the Admiralty initially to rescue Franklin's expedition and latterly to discover its fate. When the Admiralty finally refused to fund any further searches in 1854, despite relics of Franklin's expedition being found amongst eskimoes, it fell to Lady Franklin to fund the final expedition. She appointed McClintock to command the Fox which set sail in 1857 and was caught in ice. They set out in sledging parties sometimes in temperatures as low as minus 48 degrees and it is these journeys which completed the discovery of the coastline

of North America and found the only navigable North West passage for ships. They found a tin cylinder which announced the fate of Franklin's expedition which had died of starvation. Now that the ships have been located it is hoped that they can be raised and more can be discovered.

The Fox escaped from the ice in August 1859 and returned with McClintock himself working the engines until they could get under sail as the engineer had died. They returned to a hero's welcome and McClintock was knighted by Queen Victoria. He is the grandfather of Barbara William-Powlett who lived at Cadhay during the second world war and until her death in 1997.

Catharine Barton

The portrait of Sir Isaac Newton hanging in the dining room came into the hands of the William-Powletts as they are descended from his niece, Catherine Barton, who acted as his housekeeper when he was running the Royal Mint. According to salacious scandalmongers she was the mistress of Lord Halifax but research by one of our guides shows that on his death he left her a fortune (property, household furniture, a stock of jewels and £5,000 in cash 'as a token of the sincere love, affection, and esteem I have long had for her person, and as a small recompense for the pleasure and happiness I have had in her conversation'.

Weddings and events



Kathryn and Benedict

We had twelve wedding celebrations during the Summer and they were all different but every one of them worked brilliantly. They were helped by the wonderful weather and many couples chose to get married outside. The wedding registrars are intending to allow the wedding service anywhere in the garden as long as the legal part is carried out in a licensed building but we anticipate that couples will still choose to do everything in Bothy and little water garden as it is such a tranquil space.

Woods

We clear felled the Sandpit which is the small wood that you can see from the end of the back drive and took out the Larch from Cadhay Bog. Much of the Larch was saleable but we have kept everything else which will be chipped once it is dry enough and used to heat the house and cottages. We plan to replant the area in Cadhay Bog with Oak and the Sandpit primarily with Alder which does not mind the damp conditions and can be coppiced for woodchip.



Thomas More's table

There is now some oak from Cadhay Wood in the Tower of London after the completion of a table to go into Sir Thomas More's cell which adjoins the Queen's House.