

history
in the
making



NEW LODGE
WINDSOR



The Inspiration of History

New Lodge is a neo-Gothic country house, located in the Berkshire countryside between Windsor and Ascot. Designed for the Belgian ambassador, Jean Sylvain Van de Weyer, by architect Thomas Talbot Bury, New Lodge now has a Grade II* listing. The entrance gates, piers and adjoining terrace walls and steps, designed by T Cubitt, merit a separate listing of Grade II.

Thomas Talbot Bury is known for his Gothic architecture in the style of his mentor and master architect, Augustus Pugin.

The grand staircase at New Lodge was described by 'The Builder' magazine in 1860 as 'late Gothic in details, but at first sight has the character of an Elizabethan work'.

The specification for the Victorian house included the very best materials available at the time; Portland stone, Bath stone and York stone, Cornish slates and English oak. The build cost over three times the original budget. This tradition of high quality using local craftsman has been maintained by successive owners over the years.

New Lodge enjoys 55 acres of space with extensive grounds accessible to occupiers. Over the decades a great deal of planting has taken place, with an outstanding collection of Wellingtonia trees being planted by members of the royal family including Queen Victoria, Edward VII and King Leopold of Belgium.

An avenue of elms was planted by the parents of Queen Mary, the Duke and Princess Mary of Teck. The Van de Weyer's took inspiration from the picturesque landscaping when they planted the additional

scheme, with natural landscape and meandering paths, although this landscape had disappeared by 1972.

The connection to the previous owners still remains through the monument and gravestones on the nearby site of All Saints Church, also built by Thomas Talbot Bury for Jean Sylvain Van de Weyer, which was demolished in the 1960s.



Royal Masters

New Lodge is owned by the monarchy and occupied by a number of different members of the royal family or their senior retainers.

King George II
by Sir Godfrey Kneller, Bt 1716



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The Van de Weyer Legacy

Jean Sylvain Van de Weyer redevelops New Lodge into the prominent house which dominates the estate today; and builds the stable block. In 1884 the estate is inherited and enhanced by Victor, the eldest son of Jean Sylvain Van de Weyer. Garden Cottage is added between 1875 and 1899. Victor dies in 1915 with New Lodge as the centre of a 3,720 acre estate, including 16 farms, an inn, numerous cottages and extensive tracts of meadows and woods.



An Orphanage

House is sold to Barnardo's as an orphanage for £24,000. Numerous internal modifications are made at this time, including extra toilets, wash rooms and changing rooms and 16 dormitories upstairs.



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Information Centre

New Lodge becomes office accommodation for the first time as headquarters of information specialist, Barbour Index, part of the CMP Information Group. In 1990 Barbour Index restores the garden monuments to a plan by Peter Izod Partnership; in 1991 the walled garden becomes a car park; in 1993-4, the stableyard area is redeveloped on the original footprint, and in 1995 the stone entrance is reinstated.



1500

1700

1798

1857

1916

1942

1956

1972

2004

The Great Windsor Forest

New Lodge is located in the former Windsor forest, which has been recorded as a hunting ground since Anglo-Saxon times. The forest was at its largest in the Middle Ages with a circumference of 120 miles. The name, New Lodge, first appears on a map in 1607, as one of seven forest lodges built to entertain royal hunting parties and house the monarch's forest management staff. It is one of the grandest hunting lodges, built in Italianate style, and the home of Lord Raleigh.



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Americans and Belgians

New Lodge is granted to Princess Sophia Matilda of Gloucester & Edinburgh, who sells in 1834 to William Lyon, a captain in the army, for £3,490. In 1841, it is sold to Joseph Shipton, who sells in 1852 to Joshua Bates, a merchant banker from Weymouth, USA. His daughter, Elizabeth, marries Jean Sylvain Van de Weyer, the Belgian ambassador and one of the architects of Belgian independence, who goes on to become the country's first foreign secretary.



Lady Emily Georgiana Van de Weyer.

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The End of The Estate

Captain William Van de Weyer sells the whole estate in 70 separate lots. The house is bought by Dr Venables, who leases the house in 1925 to New Lodge Clinic to become an exclusive private clinic. At the start of the War in 1939, New Lodge Clinic sublets the house to accommodate refugees.



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The School of Transport

New Lodge becomes commercial again, as a residential study centre for the British Transport Commission (BTC), which purchases the house for £25,141 and spends £138,000 modernising the facilities. New Lodge opens for courses in 1959 after the extensive conversion and becomes known as the British Railways School of Transport. British Transport Hotels uses it to train staff until 1964.



An Ancient Friend comes of Age

New Lodge is sold to commercial developer, Marchday Group plc. An inappropriate courtyard extension is removed and a glazed contemporary café is constructed in the courtyard. Marchday creates a series of elegant, fully equipped business suites within the 30,000 sq.ft building; offering modern wireless network capability. Marchday maximises the original features of the building to provide palatial meeting rooms and conference facilities equipped with multimedia. The gated entrance is upgraded with 24 hour security, CCTV and a video entry system.





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For further information on the architectural history of New Lodge, visit www.newlodge.co.uk

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