



**UNDERWATH
AUXILIARY
HOSPITAL**

UNDERWATH AUXILIARY HOSPITAL

Date Built and Current Status:

Unknown - Still Standing

History:

*Private School
Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital
Residential Home
Holiday Home*

Dates as Hospital:

Unknown - 30 April 1919



Underwath House. J Griffin.

Address:

St Lawrence Manor, Woolverton Road, St Lawrence, Ventnor

St. Lawrence was referred to in early history as St. Lawrence-under-wath, which may have been an old word for "cliff"; Underwath House (or Undercliff House) was built in Woolverton Road in St Lawrence.

When the house was built is not known however in 1898 Mr Edward Fairbrother Shepherd M.A was using it as a preparatory school receiving boy boarders. It was described as being a five minute walk from St Lawrence Railway Station and a prospectus was available. William Plowman; Mr Shepherd's gardener lived at the nearby lodge. In 1901 the house is on the 1901 Ordnance Survey.

In 1910 an advert was placed for a housemaid / between maid with a private family at the Underwath with applications to M Ratcliffe. A year later on the 1911 census the following were listed as being at the Underwath and it was classed as a holiday house.

Name	Age	Occupation
Gertrude Mansfield	50	Matron Of Holiday House
Alice Hatcher	17	Domestic General Servant
Lily Wilde	15	Visitor – Scholar
Louie Cranston	14	Visitor – Scholar
Annie Bayes	13	Visitor – Scholar
Violet Gordman	11	Visitor – Scholar
Katie Gordman	9	Visitor – Scholar
Alice Ohare	9	Visitor – Scholar
Edith Gander	13	Visitor – Scholar

During WW1 the House was bought into service as a Red Cross Auxiliary hospital. Unfortunately the only information that is known of its time as a hospital is that Elizabeth Davies the Matron of The National Chest Hospital acted as Commandant for the hospital and it closed on 30 April 1919.

The Underwath as a place is named many times in the Isle of Wight County Press however as a property it is not for a number of years it starts to be named. In November 1948 the following appears in the County Press. The Act of 1948 had imposed upon county councils the obligation to provide residential accommodation for old people in need of care, but not in need of hospital nursing; this provision was specified in Part Three of the Act and hence the homes came to be known, - and are often still known - as Part Three Homes. Several such homes were set up on the Island over the years, the first one being St. Lawrence Dene and Underwath (which were joined by a covered walkway) and one that housed women and the other men.

UNDERWATH.
comprising 15 bed-rooms, spacious games-room, large garage, and a GARDENER'S COTTAGE with most attractive grounds of over 2 ACRES, held at £220 per annum, will be included.
THE WHOLE will be offered as a GOING CONCERN with the VALUABLE FURNISHINGS, Esse cooker, 2 refrigerators, good quality plate, linen, and china (inventory of which may be inspected prior to sale). VACANT POSSESSION on completion. Electric light, main water, central heating, telephone and fitted basins (h. & c.) to most bed-rooms.
The above will be offered for Sale by public Auction at the Rose Inn, Ventnor.
Full particulars and conditions of Sale in due course of Messrs. Lamport, Bassitt & Hiscock, solicitors, Newport, or
W. G. MITCHELL & CO., FRANCIS PITTIS & SON, joint auctioneers.

In 1953 it was necessary for £204 to be spent on the two properties in alternations and improvements, 36 years later in 1989 St Lawrence Dene and The Underwath were closed by the Isle of Wight Council.

£500,000 sought for former nursing home

THE ONE time residential home St Lawrence Dene — controversially closed last year by the IW County Council — has now been put up for sale.

Bids in excess of half a million pounds are expected for the two mid-Victorian houses and bungalow which make up the former home in the Undercliff.

Handling the sale on behalf of the council is Watson Bull and Porter. The sale will be by tender, with a closing date of May 11.

Some 34 residents had to leave the home last year after the council closed it in a controversial bid to cut costs.

It was formerly a private residence and then a hotel before becoming a county residential

home in 1949.

Watson Bull and Porter has already started a nationwide advertising campaign and says interest has been expressed from several quarters.

Always known as St Lawrence Dene, the sale actually comprises two large stone houses, the second being known as Underwath. The two are connected by a covered walkway and are surrounded by grounds of some 2.55 acres. Also included is a small 1930s bungalow.

Watson Bull and Porter's managing director Ivan Jeffery said it was an exceptional sale.

"It is not often two such fine properties, of such a size and in such excellent condition come up for sale. This really is a unique opportunity," he said.

In the 31 May 2013 the County Press reported a request for a change of use was submitted to the Isle of Wight Council from a hotel to private residence. The Underwath had now also been renamed to St Lawrence Manor.



Photograph: St Lawrence Manor (Underwath House) 2019. K Goodchild

The underwath is now being hired as a corporate & family house party venue and is described as a *Large Victorian Manor House on the coast with panoramic views – sea, coast, countryside. Spacious facilities for big groups, cosy areas for smaller groups, plenty of private space; Large 10 seater hot tub – all year – fabulous in winter!; Outdoor swimming pool (July and August); 20 foot (7 metre) banquet table; Huge games room with bar, American pool, table tennis; Access to tennis court by prior arrangement; Outdoor dining terrace & barbecue shelter – panoramic sea view; Fabulous location by round Island coastal path - 5 minute walk to secluded cove; Huge lounge, 50” flat screen TV, SKY+ Sports, Movies, WiFi; 11 en suite bedrooms, 18 individual beds (sleep 21); 2nd lounge can be used as bedroom with 2 double sofa beds (2-4 additional guests).*

List of Volunteers at The Underwath Auxiliary Hospital

Name	Duties
Aimes, Maude Elizabeth	Nursing, Orderly & Cooking
Bailey, Geraldine Fanny Rebecca	Quartermaster
Barrett, Muriel Ysabel	Nursing Orderly
Bourgeois, Julie Josephine	Housework & Nurse
Bull, Hylda Christiania	Nurse
Canton, Elizabeth	General Service
Cashmore, Marjorie Ruth	Ward Maid
Cochrane, Mary	Nurse
Coode, Joan Elizabeth	Nursing Orderly
Creeth, Emily Kate	Nursing Orderly
Davies, Elizabeth	Commandant
Dring, Helen Marion	General Service
Emmett, Miriam	Cook
Gemmell, Mary Edith	Probationer Nurse
Gilbert, Hilda Mary	General Service
Green, Ella Fasham	Housework & Quartermaster
Gunner, Grace Margaret	General Service
Haywood, Marguerite Stella Katherine	Nursing Orderly, Quartermaster, Nurse & Cook
Haywood, Rose Eveline	Nursing Orderly
Haywood, Rose Evelyn Howard	Nurse Orderly
Haywood, Violet Yalden	Nursing Orderly & Cook
Hearn, Grace	General Service & Nurse
Holmes, Lilian Jessie	General Service
James, Olive Mary	Teas
Keely, Aimee Geraldine	Pantry Work
Lock, Helen	General Service
Lock, Isabel	General Service
Mason, Winifred Kate	Nurse
Maude, Eva Eleanor	Matron
Pinnock, Winifred Mary	General Service
Rand, Aileen Grace	Nursing, Cooking, General Service & Assistant Quartermaster
Rayner, Clara Sophia	Sister
Roberts, Ada Ann	Assistant Cook
Roberts, Gwladys Ann	General Service
Roberts, Victoria Irene	Nurse
Rogers, Emily Millicent	Nurse
Shrubsole, Winifred Mary	Nurse, Cooking & General Service
Shuttleworth, Beatrice Burnley	Probationer Nurse
Sommerville, Ellen Isabella Christine	Nursing, Cooking, Pantry Assistant & Quartermaster
Sprake, Amelia Lily	General Service
Sprake, Mabel	General Service
Stacey, C Winifred	Assistant Commandant
Stern, Theresa	Nursing Sister
Stevens, Constance Ada	General Service

List of Volunteers at The Underwath Auxiliary Hospital

Watt, Dorothy Muriel	General Service
Wilkinson, Mildred	General Service
Williams, Gwladys Mary	General Service

Particulars & Tender Document

'THE DENE'
& 'UNDERWATH'
ST. LAWRENCE
VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT

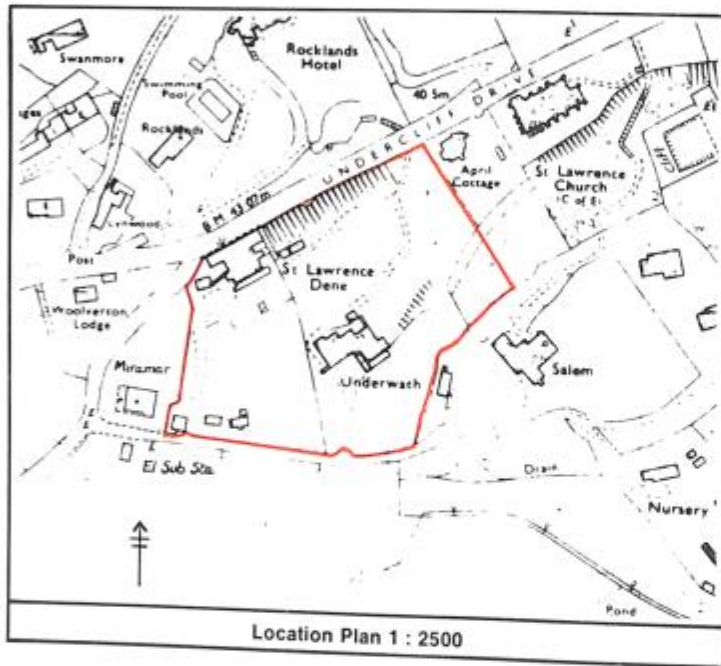


St. Lawrence, Isle of Wight

A late Victorian Directory describes the St. Lawrence Undercliff thus:

"The woody and rocky declivities of the romantic Undercliff descend to the waters of the Channel to the South and are sheltered on the North by a steep range of limestone rocks or upper cliffs rising precipitously to the height of 90 to 130 feet and crowned by ranges of lofty downs rising several hundred feet higher. On the shores of pleasant coves washed by the waters of the channel are a few fishermen's huts resting on green swards beside streams which tumble their sparkling waters into the sea. In these sequestered nooks countless ages of men lived, laboured and died. Celt, Roman and Saxon fearing to leave any traces of their rule, where Nature had made her mark with such indelible power".

Since that time man has dared to leave a slightly more permanent trace of his passing but the area has remained essentially unaltered and the two adjoining properties we offer form part of that vista to our grandfathers.



The properties occupy a site wholly to the South of the main road about 2.55 acres in extent which enjoys full south aspect along with the wonderful local micro climate which causes plants to bloom about one month ahead of the rest of the Island, which is itself well in advance of the adjoining mainland. Splendid view of fields and coastal footpath in the foreground to the sea beyond.

Nearby is an attractive church built in 1878. The smallest church in England built probably during the reign of Richard 1st is not far away. The nearest town is Ventnor about 2 miles to the East with the County town of Newport about 10 miles to the North and various ferry ports about a half hour drive.

General Remarks

Viewing	Strictly by appointment through the Agents, Messrs Watson Bull & Porter, telephone (0983) 821818. Neither the Agents nor the Vendor of the property shall be responsible for any expense that may be incurred in visiting the property should it prove unsuitable or has been sold or withdrawn.	Electricity	Southern Electricity High Street, Ryde Isle of Wight Tel (0983) 62231.
Services	Mains water, drainage, and electricity are connected.	Water	Southern Water 58 St Johns Road, Newport Isle of Wight Tel (0983) 526611.
Local Authority	South Wight Borough Council 30 Pyle Street, Newport Isle of Wight Tel (0983) 523627.	County Council	Isle of Wight County Council County Hall, Newport Isle of Wight Tel (0983) 821000.
Tenure	Freehold and with vacant possession on completion of the purchase.	Leisure	For all Sports and Leisure Societies contact Isle of Wight Sports Council Golf - Sandown and Freshwater 18 holes Ventnor, Newport, Cowes and Osborne 9 holes Sailing - Cowes, Bembridge and Yarmouth all with excellent facilities Flying - Private Airports at Sandown and Bembridge Fishing - Various Trout lakes and excellent Deep Water Fishing from various locations.
Directions	From Ventnor take the A3055 towards Niton and drive past the Botanical Gardens and the new Rare Breed Park. The property is situated on the left hand side about two miles from the town centre of Ventnor Newport 9 miles Ryde 12 miles Yarmouth 15 miles.		

Kind permission of Janet Griffin.

Four additional hospitals were also used during WW1 however these were not run by the Red Cross and did not have VADs working in them.



Brook Hill House

Brook Hill House in Brook was built between 1910 and 1915 and was lent by Brigadier-General The Rt. Hon J.E.B. Seely and used as a convalescent home for officers.

Photograph: onthemarket.com



Golden Hill Fort

Golden Hill Fort in Freshwater was a barracks built between 1863-1872. and had its own hospital.

In 1914 33 Company Royal Garrison Artillery was based at the Fort

Photograph: rightmove.com



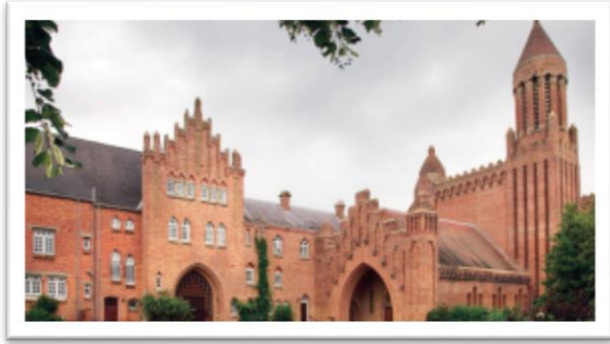
Osborne House

Osborne House in East Cowes – Built between 1845 and 1851 and was the residence of Queen Victoria.

After Victoria's death King Edward VII no longer wanted it and decided that it should be turned into a convalescent Home for Army and Navy Officers.

It was opened in January 1904 in its new role.

Photograph: bbc.co.uk



Quarr Abbey

Quarr Abbey in Ryde is a Benedictine Monastery that was completed in 1912 and although it was used as a Auxiliary Hospital during WW1 there were strict entry requirements put in place by the then Abbott:

Only Belgian soldiers were taken as they spoke the same language as the monks and were of the same religion.

Additionally no women were allowed in the Monastery so there were no VADs.

Photograph: quarrabbey.org