

SIXTH EDITION  
SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021





# The Kinnelogue

The Newsletter Of The Friends Of Kinnel Hall

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE FRONT PAGE?

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### **BREAKING NEWS**

THE OWNER OF KINMEL HALL  
HAS ASKED TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS  
OF KINMEL HALL WHO CAN HELP HIM RESTORE  
HER





**FRIENDS OF KINMEL HALL  
NEWSLETTER  
6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION  
10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**



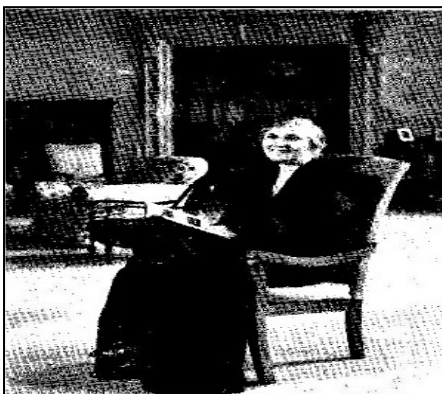
**TRAGEDY**

**2011 + 2021**

**TRIUMPH**



Greetings To All  
THE FRIENDS OF KINMEL HALL  
To The Sixth Edition Of Your Newsletter  
In This Of The Newsletter Alongside more of  
The History of the hall  
We need to ask for all the members of  
The Friends Of Kinmel Hall  
For their urgent assistance with research that we are doing  
In relation to the History of that Amazing Building





The Owner of Kinmel Hall has expressed his wish to include as much about the History of the amazing building.

Sadly, the display set up by Miss Southon (Elaine Boxhall) in 1984 is no longer useable due to various factors including damp and neglect over the last 20 years.

In order to be able to do this we are asking all Old Clarendonians who receive The Kinmelogue to do two things for us over the coming months.

- 1.) To ask the Old Clarendonians to reach out to any O.C's that are not on the list at the end of this magazine that they are in contact with and bring them up to speed with what is going on at their old home. There are photos of the exterior of the Hall to clear up any misconceptions that may exist as to what is going on in the Park. The photos were taken by the Auctioneers earlier this year.
- 2.) To ask ANYONE who has items such as photos, brochures, artefacts that relate to the History of the Hall during any of its 'Seven Lives' that they would be willing to loan/donate to the new display that the owner wants to include in the restoration of the Hall. Items such as photographs and or brochures can be scanned and returned to the owners if they so wish.

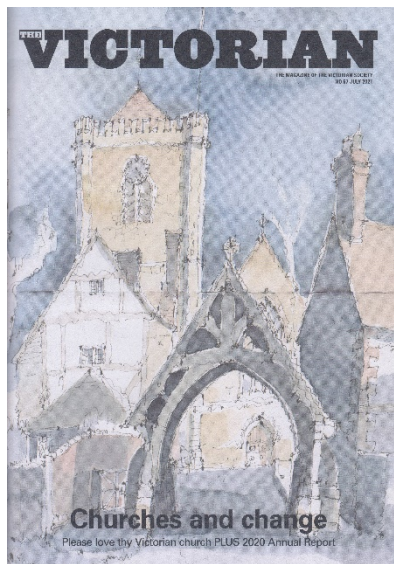
We are already aware of certain items that are in safe keeping until they can be returned to the Hall when she is watertight and in a position to display them. We are not in a position to disclose what some of these items are at this time, but we can assure readers they are worth the wait to see them displayed. One item was shown in last month's edition, and it is shown again later in this edition - with the answer.











## ***The Welsh palace at risk***

*Kinmel Hall in Conwy was remodelled on a huge scale in the 1870s by William Eden Nesfield, in a part Hampton Court, part French spirit. Faced in the red brick and cream-coloured stone, the huge house sits under steep Mansard roofs and tall chimneys which create a chateaux-like profile. Like many great Victorian country houses, Kinmel Hall has had a rocky road in the twentieth century, but its current condition is a national disgrace. After many different uses, since 1999, the Hall has been largely unoccupied and its condition declined, increasingly rapidly, to its current badly neglected state.*

*The Friends of Kinmel Hall was recently formed to campaign for the preservation of the hall and has played a major role in highlighting its plight nationally.*



*In May, Paul Hughes, chair of the Friends, reported: 'Kinmel Hall has been sold at auction for £950,000 after serious concerns were aired about whether it had a future'.*

*The new owners will need yet greater funds to protect and restore the building. Auctioneers Allsop's have*

*confirmed that the buyer of this Welsh masterpiece in Conwy was local, and the Friends are hopeful that a new and more positive*



*chapter has begun. If you would like to support the Friends of Kinmel Hall, please contact Mr Hughes on:*  
[nesfieldscrown@outlook.com](mailto:nesfieldscrown@outlook.com).

## **NEWSFLASH**

THE OWNERS OF KINMEL HALL HAVE LAUNCHED A  
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN  
WHAT THEY ARE DOING

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/159922206050548>



Clarendon School for Girls was started in a house called 'Clarendon' in Malvern, by Miss Flint who was the Headmistress. Miss Flint was replaced by Miss Swain who was responsible for the move from Malvern to Kinmel Hall in 1948. Likewise, Miss Swain was replaced by Miss Houghton whilst Clarendon was still at Kinmel Hall, and she oversaw the move to Haines in Bedfordshire following the Fire in September 1975. The desk in the enclosed photograph is the one item that links all three Headmistresses and is STILL in North Wales! It was rescued from the Fire – probably by the Liverpool Salvage Corps but then vanished until its existence was brought to the attention of a member of The Friends of Kinmel Hall. All that has been changed on her is the Leather top which is now Black Leather. Even the keys are still with the desk and all the locks work.

The desk was manufactured by a company in Shropshire that ONLY made furniture for Churches and Schools and the desk dates to the 1800's



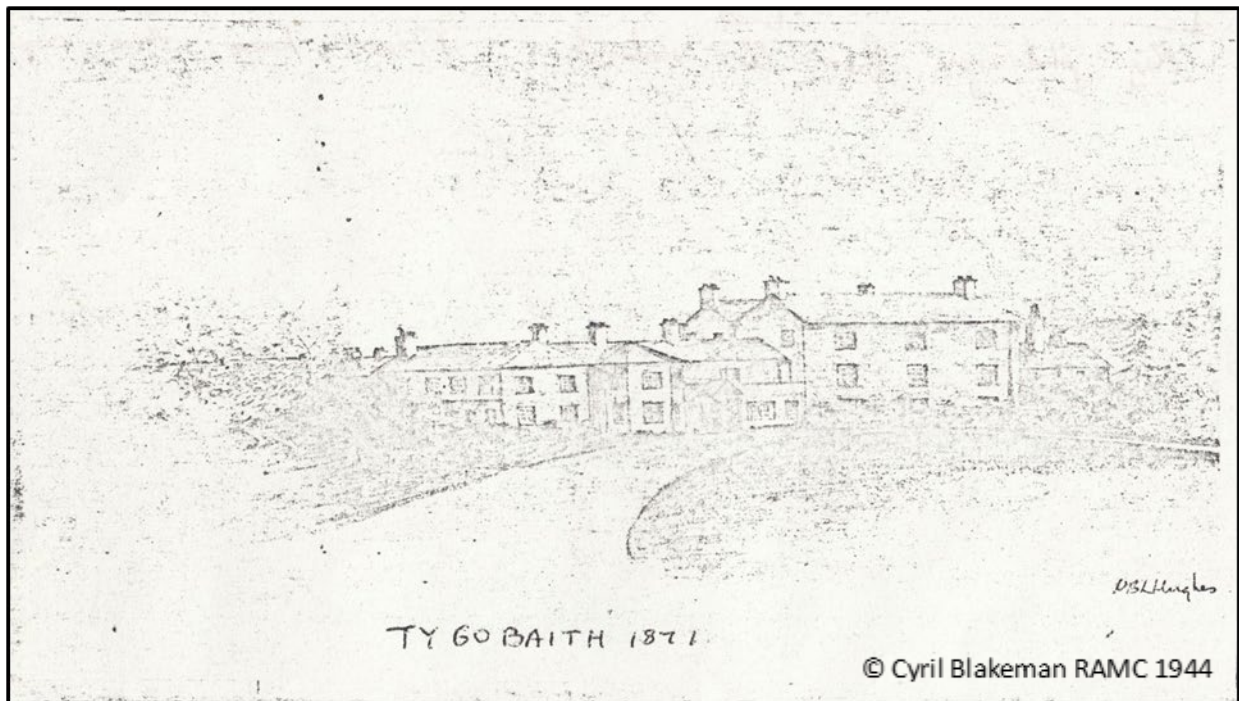
## Ty Gobaith – House of Hope

*Described as 'a spacious and commodious villa within the park'.*

*It was used to house servants and at the time of the 1871 Census a sawyer and labourer (father and son) were living there.*

*During extensive alterations to Kinmel Hall in the 1870's HRH – Hugh Robert Hughes resided at Ty Gobaith in order to oversee the work. At that time, it was described as '**small but beautiful**'. Once the alterations to the Hall were complete, Hugh Robert Hughes had Ty Gobaith demolished because he wanted 'no other house on his land'*

Source: - Barbara Lawson-Reay



The interior is rich in panelling, in plaster work, and in chimney pieces. The hall fireplace is especially noticeable for the splendidly decorative effect gained by the panels of the overmantel, which reaches to the ceiling, being enriched with carved shields with their quarterings emblazoned in their heraldic colours ; the result is very striking indeed.'

Source: -THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW: NOVEMBER MAY, 1897.



## ***HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF!***

<https://www.savebritainsheritage.org/campaigns/item/737/PRESS-RELEASE-BVI-registered-company-neglects-historic-Wiltshire-mansion>

### **PRESS RELEASE:**

**BVI registered company neglects historic Wiltshire mansion**



**Repairs order essential to prompt absentee owners to sell.**



**ORANGERY 1999**



**ORANGERY 2020**



Zeals House is the last grand country house in Wiltshire, surveying a panorama of gloriously unspoilt Dorset country, just two hours journey from London. The ancient grade I listed manor house is a prize example of a house that has grown over the centuries, and for 500 years belonged to the same family.

The house is stone built with gables and tall chimneys enriching the silhouette and boasts a series of handsome bay windows with stone mullions.

It was a centre of Royalist support in the civil war, and King Charles II was given refuge here on his escape to the coast.

Since 1968, the house has been sold four times, and is now standing empty and deteriorating rapidly. Several ancillary buildings in the grounds survive and are grade II listed, including two gate lodges, an orangery, dovecote, stables, granary, and icehouse.

Marcus Binney, executive president of SAVE Britain's Heritage, says: "This splendid property will readily find a restoring purchaser in the present market. It is not too large to be a family home and the numerous outbuildings are suitable for working from home and for holiday lets. It is a scandal that Zeals has been callously left to decay, and Wiltshire County Council will be failing in its duty if it does not serve an urgent repairs order on the owners."

Julian Orbach, one of the authors of the forthcoming new Pevsner Guide to Wiltshire, says: "This is an opportunity for anyone looking for a historic country house with all the trimmings, in a lovely situation, not overlooked by neighbours with easy access to London".

The romance of the house is captured by a 1909 advertisement in the Field magazine:

'To be let, furnished, a beautiful old Tudor residence together with 3,400 acres of excellent shooting. The Mansion, standing in a grandly timbered park on high ground...contains handsome outer and inner halls, a suite of fine reception rooms, splendid billiards room, about twenty bedrooms, bathroom, and first-class domestic offices; stabling



for ten, two large coach houses; squash racket court; gardener's cottage; two lodges. Large kitchen garden, glasshouses, and pleasure grounds, with large lake affording boating and fishing. ‘

During the Second World War, an airfield was created at nearby St Martins Farm, with Zeals House requisitioned as a base and mess for the RAF officers. After the war, Zeals became a school for boys until in 1956 the family, now the Troyte-Chafyn-Groves, ended the lease and moved back in.

In 1968, the house was purchased by Alex Garnet Phippen, ending the unbroken possession of the Chafyn family since 1452. The Phippen family restored the 17th century Orangery and the Dovecote.

In 2010 the 100-acre property was sold to the present owners, SKE Holdings Ltd, a company registered in the British Virgin Islands for £2.9 million. It has been suggested that the mysterious owners may be connected to the owners of Kinmel Hall, known as the Versailles of North Wales, which was recently sold at auction for £900,000 after Conwy County Council moved to serve a repairs order.

The house retains a number of historic interiors including extensive 18th century wood panelling and marble fireplaces.

The earliest record of a house on the site dates from 1304, when it appears to have been surrounded by a defensive moat. The Chafyn family first appear at Zeals House in 1452, and the last member of the family only left in 1968.

Zeals evokes the description of Brideshead in Evelyn Waugh's famous novel: "I loved buildings that grew silently with the centuries, catching and keeping the best of each generation, while time curbed the artist's pride and the Philistine's vulgarity, and repaired the clumsiness of the dull workmen".

Zeals is the only place name in Wiltshire beginning with a 'Z', although this should really be an 'S' as the name comes from the Old English 'sealh', meaning a small willow.



So why have we included this Press Release in this edition of  
The Kinmelogue I hear you ask!

The reason is because Save Britain's Heritage is correct in what they believe. SKE Holdings stands for Sibel K Erkman! As some of you may know Zeals House is located about 30 minutes' drive from Monkton Combe School. It was also the home of one John Anthony – the person who bought Kinmel Hall in 2011 at auction with the intention of restoring her. Because of his health problems he had to pull out of all of his work engagements which meant Kinmel fell into the hands of his Sister in Laws – Sibel and Cigdem Erkman – and we know how that ended up!

1. ADAM HITCHINGS	66. JOHN ROBINSON
2. ALISON RICHARDS	67. JONATHAN FENTON-VINCE
3. AMANDA VENABLES	68. JOSHUA VINCE
4. ANDREW BENNETT	69. JOY CRANSTON
5. ANDREW DAVIDSON	70. JOY SCOTT
6. ANDREW SUMNER	71. JUDITH ALFREY C.A.D.W.
7. ANDREW WILLIAMS	72. JUSTIN ALBERT
8. ANDY MCKINNEY	73. KATE REES
9. ANNE SMITH	74. KATHRYN ROBERTS CADW
10. BARBARA WHITBY	75. KEN MOORE
11. BBC CORRESPONDENT	76. LISA FIDDES
12. BEN OAKLEY	77. LISA TASTEVIN
13. BETTY WATTS	78. LORD JULIAN FELLOWES
14. BIRGITTA WILSON	79. LORD LANGFORD
15. BRUCEND DELIA BICKERTON	80. LORD LIEUTENANT OF CLWYD
16. CARL YAPP	81. LORD MOSTYN
17. CATH STEWARD	82. LUCIE CARAYON
18. CHARLIE CULVERWELL	83. LUCY E WILLIAMS
19. CHRIS BLANDFORD	84. LUISA PETERLONGO
20. CHRISTINE J ORME	85. MARGARET DUNN
21. CHRISTOPHER BROOK	86. MARGARET RUTH ALFORD
22. CLLR PAULINE H WILLIAMS	87. MARIAN MARTIN
23. CLLR ALAN HUNTER	88. MAROUSSIA OAKLEY
24. CLLR ANDREW WOOD	89. MARQUISS OF ANGLESEY

25.	CLLR CHARLES MCCOUBREY	90.	MARTIN JONES
26.	CLLR DELYTH MCRAE	91.	MARY SOLDAN
27.	CLLR MARK BAKER	92.	MATT OSMONT
28.	CURTIS SHEA	93.	MICHAEL FITT
29.	DARREN MILLAR	94.	MICHAEL TREE
30.	DAVID CHATTERLEY	95.	MICHELE TURNER
31.	DAVID GALLACHER	96.	MIRIAM HAGEN
32.	DAVID HALL	97.	NICHOLAS KINGSLEY
33.	DAVID PRICE	98.	NICK MORRIS
34.	DAVID VINCE	99.	OLIVER VINCE
35.	DEBBIE VINCE	100.	PAMELA TOWILL
36.	DELYTH MCRAE	101.	PAULINE JONES
37.	DESIREE PENNINGTON	102.	PENNY ICKE
38.	DIANA MALSHER	103.	PETER HARE
39.	DICKON FETHERSTONHAUGH	104.	PETER HOWELL
40.	DOROTHY AGNEW	105.	PETER WELFORD
41.	DR AMY BOYINGTON	106.	PROFESSOR NEIL JACKSON
42.	DR H W FLEMING	107.	REV TIM HALL
43.	DR JOHN E DAVIES	108.	RHODA MCGOWAN BONEY
44.	DR JONATHAN BERRY CADW	109.	RICHARD ADAMSON
45.	DR MARK WEBB	110.	RICHARD BADDELEY
46.	DR PETER WAKELIN	111.	RICHARD BARLEY
47.	DR R PAUL EVANS	112.	ROB SHELLEY
48.	DR SHAUN EVANS	113.	ROBERT THOMAS
49.	DWYNWEN	114.	ROGER TURNER
50.	EDDIE VASS	115.	ROSIE BURTON
51.	EDWARD BLAKEMAN	116.	SALLY JONES
52.	FRANCIS DOWNER	117.	SARAH CASRSON FITZWATER .
53.	GARETH LLOYD-DAVIES	118.	SIMON BAYNES MP
54.	GILL SMITH BOYES	119.	STEPHEN WEEKS
55.	GWEN STAVELEY	120.	STEPHEN WELCH
56.	HAY CASTLE	121.	SUE HILLIER-SMITH
57.	HEATHER JONES	122.	TIM & SIMONE VINCE
58.	IAN LANG	123.	TIMOTHY COOKE
59.	JACOB VINCE	124.	TOM ELLIS
60.	JAMES DREW	125.	TOM LLOYD
61.	JEREMY MUSSON	126.	TREVOR OSBORNE



62.	JO BENNETT	127.	VALERIE PALMER
63.	JOHN GOODALL	128.	VANESSA THORPE
64.	JOHN LAWSON-REAY	129.	VICKI
65.	JOHN RIPPIN	130.	VALERIE OXLEY

*‘That a building of this importance should be left in such an endangered state is a blot on the nation’s conscience. Action must be taken to ensure proper repairs and a plan for its future use, and as things stand it would seem that state intervention is the only course.’*

Jeremy Musson



‘A horse, a horse,  
My kingdom for a horse’

***Within this venerable pile they still show a room, about thirty feet long, by eighteen wide, Said to have been occupied by Oliver Cromwell, during a visit he paid at Kinnel to his Friend and comrade, Sir John Carter, the same that had acquired the estate by his marriage With Miss Holland, whence the wits of the time took occasion to say, in reference to Carter’s original occupation of a draper, that the Colonel had ” carried off’ the best piece of Holland in the county.” Ever since this memorable visit, Oliver’s spur\* has been careful Preserved by the Kinnel family, the relique having for many years past been Kept in the church for greater security.***

Source: - A Visitation Of The Seats Of The Noblemen And Gentlemen  
Of Great Britain And Ireland.