

THE STORY
(OF
HARRY ELLARD)

by
Samantha Mackintosh

PLAN

Harry Ellard's Estate Plan

1. Who he was: (when he died, how old he was)
2. What he owned.
3. Compton Verney.
4. Broadstone Manor
5. The Acres
6. The Vintage Cars
7. His Factory.
8. The Farms.
9. Where he lived

HARRY ELLARD

Harry Ellard was almost a millionaire he owned a mansion, and mini mansion, also forty Vintage cars, he owns 560 acres, with a huge lake at the bottom.

He owned a factory which was full of old paper, machines that didn't work: and worst of all, bits of furniture. Harry Ellard was a hoarder, he loved old vintage cars, and he had forty of them. But they weren't all whole cars. They were bits of cars, wheels, doors, windows and steering wheels. He had two tanks both of which were the type used in World War Two, he

out of the factory when they were sold.

All of his vintage cars were put on show for three days and auctioned in front of thousands of people, and television cameras

used these tanks to demonstrate his armour piercing weapon he developed for the army in the War. The tanks were kept at the factory, and although they were old and rusty, Harry Ellard loved engines and looked after them so well, that the men he employed, could start the engines first time, and drove them out of the factory when they were sold.

All of his Vintage cars were put on show for three days and auctioned in front of thousand of people, and television camera's

2
and raised a considerable amount of money, to the delight of his fellow workers.

Harry Ellard used his skills in the factory as well, he had hand-built many of the steel-pressing machines that were used for the Newspaper Industry. Some of these machines have been sold and are still in use.

Harry Ellard had a number of houses in which he lived, at various times, but spent the last few years of his life at the Regency Club Hotel situated on the Stratford Road
Solihull.

BIRMINGHAM Evening Mail

By far the largest evening sale in the Midlands

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1984 15p

Riddle of the millionaire recluse

Midland millionaire recluse Harry Allard has died at the age of 84... leaving behind the riddle of exactly how much he was worth.

Mr. Allard (right) a skilled engineer and self-made man — began his working life in his father's

back garden workshop in the Black Country.

His property empire mushroomed over the years — ranging from humble workers' homes in the industrial Midlands to a deserted manor house in the Cotswolds.

The ex-recluses are now setting about the task of finding out exactly what he left... but it will run into millions of pounds.

Mr. Allard, who never married, lived out the last years of his life in one room of a club he owned at Solihull, which became known as "Harry's Folly."

He died in hospital on Christmas Day. The funeral took place yesterday.

● The astonishing story of Mr. Allard's life and death is told in full on page three.



Ex-beauty queen tells of eccentric's girlfriends

Lifelong bachelor Harry Allard, the 84-year-old multi-millionaire eccentric, once came close to marrying a former beauty queen in Birmingham.

And she revealed today why he bought a 100-roomed stately home in the Midlands.

Miss Margaret Wheate, now a 43-year-old community worker living in Wyndhurst Road, Stechford, said: "I went to live in London and Harry came to see me."

"He asked me to marry him and go back to Birmingham, but I declined. I knew he was a rich man and I thought seriously about it."

"But I came to the conclusion that he was generous, was a great fun, fine to be with, but I did not love him."

Companion

Miss Wheate won the Miss ABC Cinema title in Birmingham during the mid-thirties when she was a constant companion of Mr. Allard for six years.

But like another companion, Mrs. Gwendoline Keenan, now 58, and living in Silverdale Road, Sheldon, she said: "Harry collected girlfriends the way he collected everything else in those days. We were not the only ones."

In his final years, Mr. Allard — one of the richest men in the Midlands — became a

'I turned down offer to marry rich recluse'

by ROBERT MOORE

near recluse, living in one small room at the Regency Club in

Lea Village. The house, which he owned,

Friends said that while he never seemed to dispose of anything he collected, he did change his girlfriends frequently in his younger days.

Miss Wheate is now a book-keeper and does

community work for the Merfield Centre in Lea Village.

She unsuccessfully fought Hodge Hill and Erdington wards for Labour in municipal elections in recent years.

She threw new light on one of the many mysteries of Harry Allard: why he bought the stately home



Miss Margaret Wheate... "I did not love him."

Compton Verney in South Warwickshire and left it standing empty for nearly 20 years.

"He went to an auction to buy the Adam fireplace, one of several lots," said Miss Wheate. "But when he saw it he thought it would be a crime to rip it out."

"So he bought the whole estate to go with it — all 200 rooms, the lake and parkland. That was Harry. If he fancied anything he bought it."

Like the carpets piled to the ceiling in a bungalow he owned in Birmingham where he had another room filled with pianos and pianolas.

Estate

And it is believed that stored away somewhere are two huge carriers for Churchill tanks which Mr. Allard bought on a whim.

Miss Wheate said: "He also had a big collection of antiques. I bet they are still around."

She recalled going out on frosty nights from

the Regency Club to help him put heaters under his cars — no fewer than 12 Legendaries.

That collection grew over the years to more than 20 vintage cars. "I can still remember Harry taking me by car to his Broadstone estate in the Cotswolds and telling me he would everything we could see on either side of the road," said Miss Wheate.

Tea dance

"His Broadstone Manor House was full of crockery. He wanted to create an agricultural college but nothing came of it."

Mr. Allard would meet Mrs. Keenan, then Gwendoline Perry and in her late 20s, for afternoon tea dances two or three times a week at the Grand Casino Ballroom in Corporation Street, Birmingham, since demolished.

"He sat and talked on the balcony and rarely danced," she said. "Lots of girls were after him but he kept his distance."



Former beauty queen Miss Margaret Wheate, with actor Ian Carmichael at the Elstree studios in the 1950s.

OF HARRY ELLARD

MIDLAND NEWS

The Birmingham Post, Thursday, January 5, 1984

Eccentric leaves millions to charity



Mr. Harry Ellard with Tommy Cooper in 1954.

An eccentric multi-millionaire, Mr. Harry Ellard, who was one of the richest men in the Midlands, has left the bulk of his estate to charity, it was revealed last night.

Beneficiary

The executors of the 86-year-old bachelor's affairs are staying silent on the identity of the charity — which could stand to inherit several millions of pounds.

By ROGER BOURKE

Mr. Ellard, who in his last years became a near-recluse, was a multi-millionaire whose property holdings ranged from factory workers' homes to one of Warwickshire's finest stately homes, Compton Verney.

Yet he lived in a small single room at the Regency Club at Monkspath near Solihull, and drove an 11-year-old Austin 1300 car whenever he left the club.

Mr. Timmins, a bachelor in his 50s, holds a management post with the pressings firm his uncle built up, H. Ellard (Wednesfield) and lives in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton.

Mrs. Ward, who is married with two children, lives near Maidstone, Kent.

Self-made

Mr. Smart said Mr. Ellard was a very clever engineer and a self-made man who built up a thriving engineering business from humble beginnings in his father's back garden workshop in Wednesfield.

With the wealth he acquired from his business, Mr. Ellard went on after the Second World War to invest heavily in property.

Probably his most valuable property is the 1,700-acre



Compton Verney, Warwickshire, a 100-room mansion.

Broadstone Estate near Chipping Norton in the Cotswolds — estimated to be worth at least £1.5 million.

He also owned two smaller Cotswold farms, with a combined value estimated at £1 million, and the 180-room Georgian mansion of Compton Verney

near Kineton in South Warwickshire, once the ancestral home of the Lords Willoughby de Broke.

"Our biggest problem is that we have not been able to obtain all the deeds to the various properties," said Mr. Smart.

OXFORD JOURNAL

Thursday May 23, 1985 Page 17

MILLIONAIRE WHO MADE OUR LIVES A MISERY

FARM hand John Lovegrove gave 40 years loyal service to millionaire recluse Harry Ellard ... and wasn't left a penny in the old skinflint's will.

Now John, 67, and his wife Margaret have been ordered out of their home on the late Mr Ellard's 2,300-acre Broadstone Hill estate near Chipping Norton.

"The estate is being sold and solicitors have ordered us to leave the tied cottage where we've lived for 28 years," said John. "Mr Ellard left millions. The least he could have done was to have given us the house for our old age."

By MARTIN WHITE

Margaret said: "The cottage is in a terrible state, like everything else he owned. We haven't even got mains water — we have to pump it from a spring 100 yards from the house."

"Sometimes, when the spring's run dry, we've had to wash in rain-water. But we don't want to move to a council house after all these years."

Light

"Two recent burglaries here. Our daughter Ruth still lives with us. It's not as bad as some of Mr

OLD FOLK FACING EVICTION AFTER 28 YEARS

Ellard's cottages. We've lived in one with no electric light.

"The solicitors wrote on May 2 and told us to leave by June 1. But we'll fight that all the way."

Mr Ellard, who lived in Staffordshire and was seldom seen in Chipping Norton, died in 1983.

"A lot of the estate is like a ghost town," said solicitors R H Chilton, of East Grafton, Nuneaton.

They will sell the estate, which includes eight farms, at the Rushdell Road, Oxford, on July 3.

Mr Ellard's will calls for the proceeds — estimated at £3 million — to be given to the Freemasons, who last year gained



EMPTY 'ghost town' cottages

£100,000 from the sale of Mr Ellard's 97 old cottages.

One of the Lovegroves' neighbours, who would not be named, said: "The houses on the Broadstone Hill estate have been a real eyecore for years."

A spokesman for

West Oxfordshire District Council said: "We've told Mr and Mrs Lovegrove that we may be able to find them a house in Eynsham. But they can't be forced to leave unless the law orders take out a court order against them."

Roger and in

LABOUR councillor Roger Duffin was elected as the new Lord Mayor of the City of Oxford this week. He is a widower but has a young son, Oliver, to be his Lady Mayoress.

Death of multi-millionaire who drove a banger and lived in a single room



Compton Verney — it was left standing empty.

Simple life of Midlands' Mr. Rich

by ROBERT MOORE

The death of eccentric collector Harry Allard, one of the richest men in the Midlands, has left his executors with a headache.

They have to sort out the affairs of an 84-year-old bachelor who in his last years became a near recluse, living in a small single room and driving an ancient Austin 1300.

Yet Harry Allard was a multi-millionaire whose property influence spread across the Midlands from workers' houses in the Black Country to a deserted manor in the Cotswolds.

He even owned one of Warwickshire's most notable stately homes, Compton Verney, which he never lived in and simply left standing empty.

Exclusive dining club

He died in hospital in Solihull on Christmas Day. His funeral was at Robin Hood Cemetery yesterday. A nephew, Mr. Nigel Timmins, was his nearest relative.

He lived at the Regency Club, off the Stratford Road, at Monkspath, near Solihull, a restaurant and banqueting complex which became known as "Harry's Folly."

He turned the 200-year-old building, once a priory, into an exclusive member's-only drinking club.

Since then he had ambitions to open a hotel at the rear and has had builders in permanent work there for years.

"He wanted to make it into a 90-room hotel but somehow never got around to opening it," said a friend.

Over the years he built up a valuable collection of about 30 pre-Second World War cars which are in secret storage in the Black Country.

He drove an old Austin 1300 whenever he left the single room at the Regency Club where he lived alone, cared for by the club staff of about seven.



Harry Allard owned a valuable collection of cars but drove this old Austin 1300.

Although he became a near recluse he still took an active interest in his Allard Pressings company on the Allard Trading Estate at Wednesfield.

He also owned several of the houses in which workers live nearby, an empty factory at Ogley Mill, Burntwood, and a bungalow and farmland at Great Barr, Birmingham.

Most valuable property

Probably the most valuable property is the 1,700 Broadstone Estate near Chipping Norton in the Cotswolds, administered by a farm manager.

Judged on current land values it would be worth at least £3.4 million — and that is not counting Broadstone Manor itself.

Mr. Allard bought it many years ago as a ruin, re-built it and left it standing empty.

Mr. Allard also owned two other smaller farms in the Cotswolds — one estimated to be worth at least £600,000 and the other £500,000.



Harry Allard with Tommy Cooper in 1951 and, pictured below, with comedian Derek Roy when he appeared at the Regency Club in 1957.

Mr. Allard paid £28,000 at auction in 1958 for the 100-roomed 18th century Compton Verney mansion and parkland, near Kineton in South Warwickshire.

Once the ancestral home of the Lords Willoughby de Broke, the estate is in a valley separated by two lakes.

It is regarded as one of Warwickshire's premier beauty spots and was once the setting for a filmed performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Mr. Allard planned to convert it into a country club but eventually thought it a risky venture, being so far from centres of population.

It still stands empty and the estate — which includes one of the lakes — would probably be worth at least £500,000 today.

Coachload of workers

A coachload of workers and employees from the Allard engineering firm at Wednesfield joined the 170 mourners at Mr. Allard's funeral.

They and the farm workers have been assured that the business will continue until possibly sold as going concerns.

Mr. Norman Smart, one of the executors, declined to say who will inherit the bulk of Mr. Allard's estate. There were a number of beneficiaries, he said.

Mr. Smart added: "I knew Mr. Allard for many years. He was a clever engineer, a self-made man beginning in his father's back garden workshop in Warren's Brook, Wednesfield."

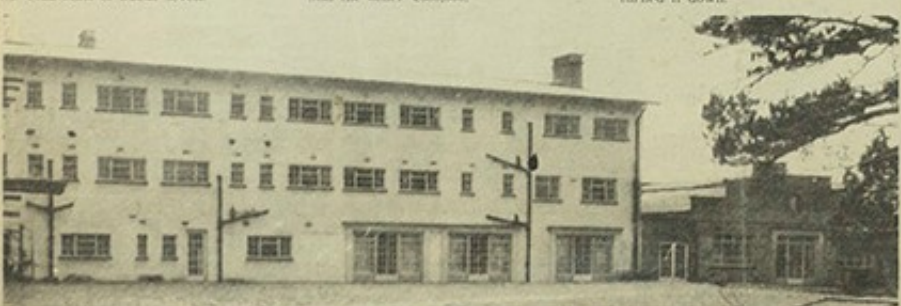
"He was a caring employer, too. He became a bit of a recluse as one might expect of a man of his age. We think he was 84 but we suspect he might have been older. We are still looking for proof."

"Mr. Allard became a collector but he was also a businessman and he never collected anything that has not increased in value."

"I once asked him why on earth he bought Compton Verney. He said he did not know. He liked it, could afford it and it gave him pleasure. A good offer was made for it a few years ago but he turned it down."



Harry Allard's only living relatives, nephew and niece Mr. Nigel Timmins and Mrs. Jennifer Ward, pictured at his funeral.



The Regency Club, which became known as Harry's Folly.

THE REGENCY CLUB

The Regency Club

Harry Ellard lived at the Regency Club, off the Stratford Road, at Monkspath, near Solihull, a restaurant and banqueting complex which became known as Harry's folly.

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COMPTON VERNEY

Compton Verney
Historical note.

As it situated on the Fosse Way, the Estate, or more likely the Compton Pools, were probably known to the Romans.

Certainly there was a house and perhaps a chapel on the bank of the North Pool before the existing house was built in the eighteenth Century.

The Estate derives its name from the Verney family who owned it until earlier this century. Before 1584 Margaret, Sister of Sir Fulke Greville, 1st Baron Brooke of Warwick Castle, married Sir Richard Verney. When, in 1628, Sir Fulke died unmarried, the then dormant barony



of Willoughby de Broke passed to Sir Richard and the family name was changed accordingly. The first Baron Willoughby de Broke had won his peerage in 1491 when he took part in the Victory of Bosworth and afterwards served King Henry VII as Marshal of the English Army. During the, the Estate was used as a military establishment and the late owner, Mr Harry Ellard bought it in 1958.



Front View



Rear View



Lake



The chapel



2 EVENING MAIL, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1984

NEWS FOCUS . . .

The Mail's national and international

THANKS A MILLION!



Harry Ellard

Rich recluse leaves bulk of cash to a charity

A national charity is expected to be left the bulk of the estate of multi-millionaire Harry Ellard, the 84-year-old Solihull industrialist and property owner.

Mr. Norman Smart, an executor of Mr. Ellard's affairs, said: "There is one ultimate beneficiary to the will. It is a national charity, but I do not think at this stage I should tell you any more."

The will, dated August 5, 1983, includes sizeable personal legacies to his two only living relatives, his nephew, Mr. Nigel Timmis, and his niece, Mrs. Jennifer Ward.

Mr. Timmis, a bachelor in his 60s, holds a management post with the pressings firm his uncle built up, H. Ellard (Wednesfield) Ltd., and lives in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton. Mrs. Ward, married

and with two children, lives near Maidstone, Kent.

"Of the individual legacies, they have been left more than anyone else," said Mr. Smart.

Other individual legacies will go to some past and present employees of H. Ellard Ltd. and some employees of the Regency Club at Monkspath, Solihull,

owned by Mr. Ellard, where he lived as a near recluse in a single room in his last years.

Mr. Smart said: "I think Mr. Ellard has looked after his employees and ex-employees very well."

The sole caretaker of Mr. Ellard's beautiful stately mansion in Warwickshire was a sad and lonely man today.



The lone occupier of Ellard's derelict but beautiful mansion Compton Verney, caretaker John Schumann

Forty-year-old John Schumann revealed he was one of the few people who regularly met the recluse multi-millionaire.

He spoke of Mr. Ellard's secret love for the derelict, eerie, but still magnificent, Compton Verney mansion near Kineton

in south Warwickshire.

Every week up until his death, Mr. Ellard drove alone to the 100-room mansion he bought in 1958, just to stand in the grounds.

"No one has lived here since the last war," said Mr. Schumann. "But Mr. Ellard

had a secret fascination for it."

"We became quite good friends," said Mr. Schumann, who now wonders what the future holds.

"I don't know what will happen to the house now. It's very sad," said Mr. Schumann.

An apology

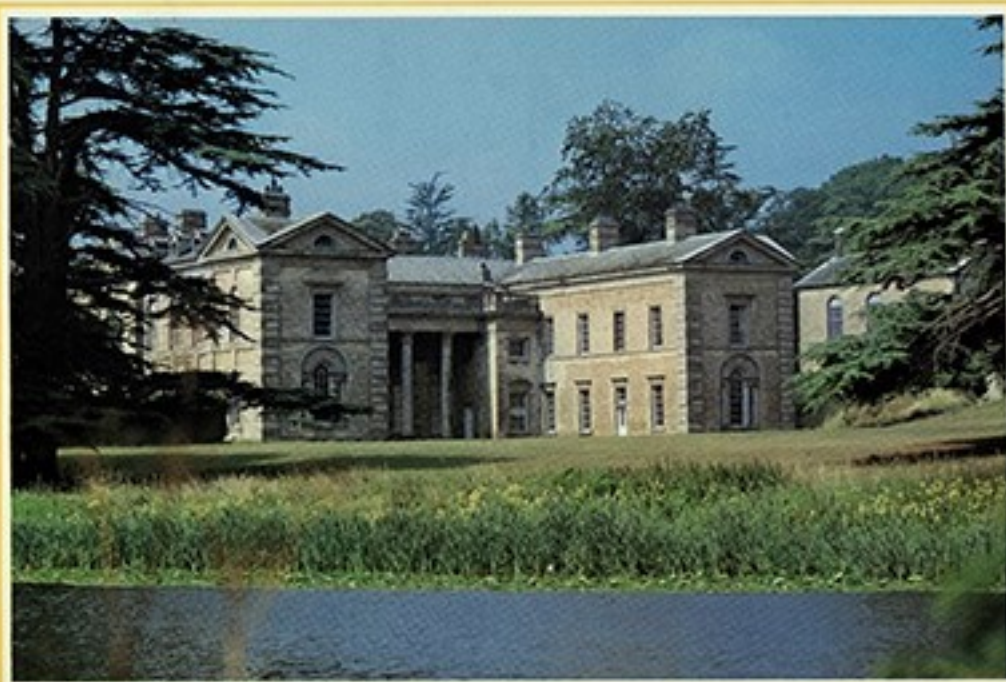
It is regretted that our reports on this matter yesterday referred to Mr. Ellard as Mr. Allard. We apologise for this error.



Compton Verney

Near Stratford-upon-Avon

An historic private estate of about 117 acres in the heart of the Warwickshire Hunt.



"The greatest beauty of Compton Verney is its superb position by a large lake, crossed by a Georgian three-arch bridge. There are ample cedar trees about as well, and this whole setting may well be the work of Capability Brown, who designed the Chapel."

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner - 'Buildings of England'



Compton
Verney

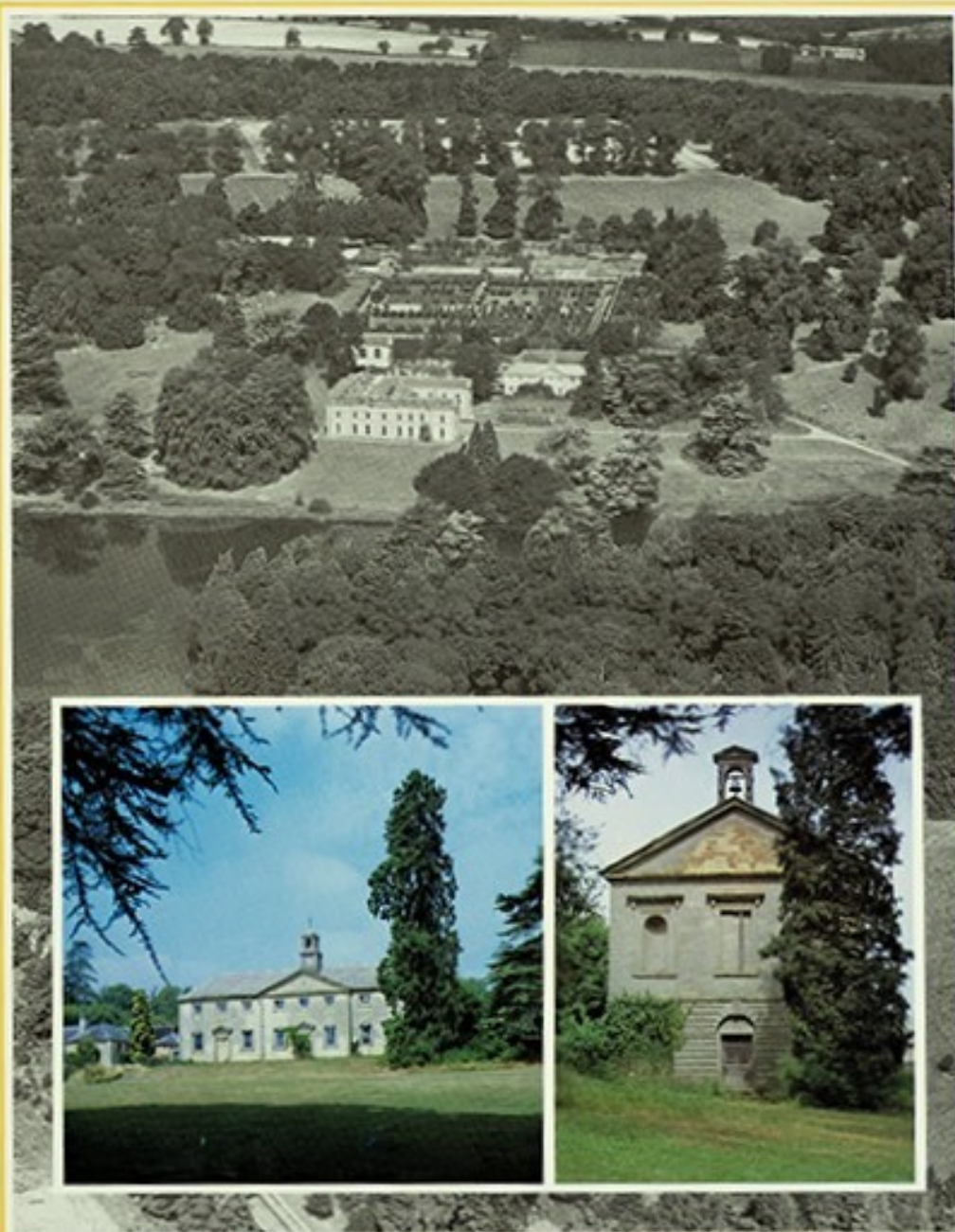
Location

Compton Verney is situated close to the Roman road, Fosse Way, on the B4086, between Stratford-upon-Avon and Banbury. It is about 75 miles north west of London and 28 miles south of Birmingham. Access to the excellent Midlands motorways is easy and the M40 extension, when completed, will be within 4 miles. Birmingham International Airport and the National Exhibition Centre are about 30 miles distant.



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The stables

The chapel

Description

The principal buildings on the Estate are:

MANSION ■

8 principal reception rooms, entrance hall, kitchen and other service rooms on the ground floor; 9 principal bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 staff rooms and other service rooms on the first floor; a suite of 3 rooms and a bathroom on a mezzanine floor; 14 rooms on the second floor.

STABLE BLOCK ■

A hollow, square building with 2 coach houses, 2 boxes, some stabling and a number of rooms at first floor level.

CHAPEL ■

About 57'6" x 27'9"

BUTLER'S COTTAGE ■

2 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, external wc, adjoining laundry and brewhouse.

GARDENER'S COTTAGE ■

3 rooms, kitchen, bathroom and external wc.

WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN ■

In all over 2 acres.

WEST LODGE ■

4 rooms and kitchen.

COMPTON NORTH POOL ■

An important sporting lake affording excellent fishing and boating. About 13.5 acres. Crossed in two places by Georgian, three-arch bridges carrying the private estate drive and the B4086.

ARABLE LAND AND PASTURE ■

About 62.5 acres let on an annual tenancy.

MATURE WOODLAND ■

About 22 acres.

GARDENS AND GROUNDS ■

About 32.5 acres.



For guidance only.

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A millionaire's legacy day's television

By Robin Young

When Mr Harry Ellard, a millionaire bachelor, died on Christmas Day, aged 87, he left many pet projects uncompleted - about 90 vintage cars and vehicles which he had stored in a factory for up to 50 years so that one day he might rebuild them.

The collection, to be auctioned next month, includes 21 Lagondas, seven Invictas, four Healeys and four Aston Martins. Their conditions range from the more or less sound to wrecks.

Mr Ellard, who lived near Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, served an engineering apprenticeship with Henry Meadows, of Wolverhampton, whose engines powered many of the Lagondas and Invictas he was especially interested in. Mr Ellard became a substantial shareholder in Meadows when he opened a metal-processing factory in Wednesfield, near Wolverhampton. Part of the building was used to store old vehicles.

His interest in cars, particularly their design and engineering, continued into old age, and



Mr Ellard: Died on Christmas Day.

he was still buying vehicles in the 1960s.

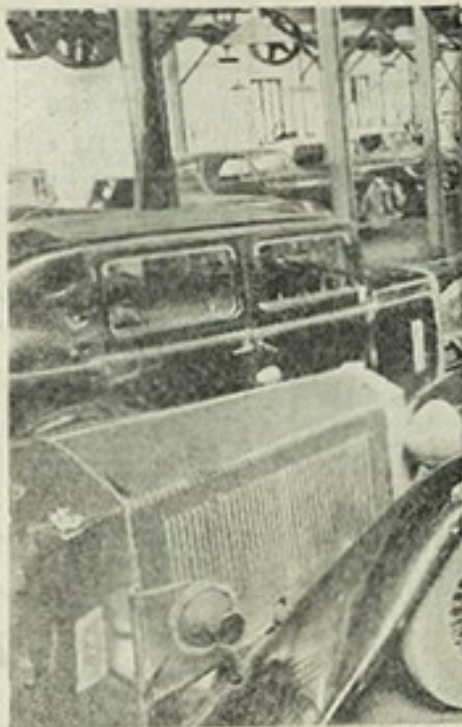
Mr Ellard did restoration work on some cars, and used several. A 1939 Lagonda drop head coupe, one of the last to be built, lacks its running boards, it is said, because Mr Ellard's girl friends laddered their stockings on them.

Mr Christopher Ironmonger, of the auctioneers, Colliers Bigwood and Bewley, estimates that the pride of the collection, a 1930 Rolls-Royce with French coachwork, will fetch £10,000 to £13,000.

The collection is expected to realise more than £100,000 though some vehicles are in scrap condition and a 1935 Morris 10 cwt van, in rough condition, might fetch only £100.

Besides 50 cars, the collection includes tractors from 1928, two cement mixers, and a motor cycle Mr Ellard built out of spare parts in 1919.

Two Valentine tanks, with dismantled turrets, and two Citroën vehicles, used for towing barrage balloons are for sale but have not yet been extricated from the factory.



Waiting for restoration: Some



MG two-litre Tickford



Classic Pair: A Lagonda 3



Ms Hammet and Derek Halligan (BBC 2, 9.30 pm)

● **FIRE AT MAGILLIGAN** 9.30pm. Harry Barton's net on the Northern Ireland problem makes no bones about it: it is not sectarian strife, that is, it is not a prisoner-of-war. Mr Barton does not write plays. You have only to see his radio play *Hoopoe Day*. Gies Cooper award winner, realize that. *Fire at Magilligan* is something of *Hoopoe Day* quality, although it helpfully constructs a naturalistic framework within which the ideological takes place: prison visitor's magistrate gives a lift to the hitch-hiker on whom, 10 years earlier, she had passed 50. The director, Jan Sargent, up with exactly the right images to complement the bleakness of the play's position.

BBC 2

8.05 *Open University: Experimental Philosophy*. 8.55 *Semi-conductors and the Sun*. 7.20 *Sacred Places*. 7.45 *The Athabasca Glacier*. Ends at 8.10. 9.00 *Cee-fax*.

4.00 *Daytime on Two: You and me*. For the very young. 10.12 *Cee-fax*. 11.00 The story of rivalry between two islands. 11.15 *Cee-fax*. 12.05 The seventh of eight programmes featuring excerpts from French-speaking television networks. 12.30 The basic laws of mechanics in action during a visit to a circus.

2.55 An explanation of gas laws, diffusion and Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution. 1.20 The origin of X-ray Spectra. 1.45 *Cee-fax*. 2.01 Some of the creatures to be found in a freshwater pond. 2.18 A day in the life of a working girl living with her family in a poor part of a Brazilian city (subtitled). 2.40 Primary school children visit the countryside and a farm museum.

3.00 *Wimbledon 84*. Coverage of the third day's play, introduced by Harry Carpenter. The commentators are Dan Maskell, John Barrett, Gerald Williams, Barry Davies, Mark Cox, Bill Threlfall, Ann Jones and Virginia Wade.

7.45 *News* summary with subtitles. 7.50 *Spotlight*. The first of a new series of five one-man shows features Bill Maynard. He talks about his career which began when he was 10 years old playing the ukulele, singing and dancing. Injury curtailed a professional football career and he turned to show-business full-time, introduced by Gordon Peters and recorded at the College Theatre, Melton Mowbray.

8.30 *The Travel Show*. A new series presented by Paul Heiney includes on-the-spot reports from leading Mediterranean resorts beginning with Corfu. Kathy Roseford is the lucky reporter. Another new item is a hitch-hiker's guide to Europe. This will be provided by Manchester University student, Matthew Collins, who will have only £150 to spend in

CHANNEL

8.00 *Countdown*. The second final of the words and game pits the number seed, Northampton housewife, Christine against the number to seed, Peter Skiba of Surrey.

8.30 *Bewitched*. "Comely, coven as Aunt Clara" that old age is having effects on her sorcer chaotic results.

8.00 *Passage to Britain: Chinese - 'We Are 1'*. The penultimate of the series tracing the immigrant community in Britain concentrates Chinese, a people virtually unknown in this country until the mid-when they began to arrive mostly from Hong Kong. programme explores Chinese community's successfuly maintained strong family, large economic infra-structure within the British con-

8.30 *Wheels, Wings and* presented by David V. Sarah Temple-Grove programme includes of the Bristol Power Grand Prix and a pro Steve Kerton who has a power boat the indestructible, film of sea rescue involving windsurfer, and the aircraft enthusiast with his own aeroplane garage.

7.00 *Channel Four News* report from Laverham from Britain's largest Halvergate in Norfolk Nature Conservancy claim that it is losing to save Britain's wetlands and marshes.

7.50 *Comment*. The point filed this week by Sir President, Lord

8.00 *Brookside*. Money occupies the residents Close tonight with H. trying to raise a mortgage. Teresa and Matty find the £200 they need for social security, and shelling out for Barn

A millionaire's legacy of broken dreams up for sale

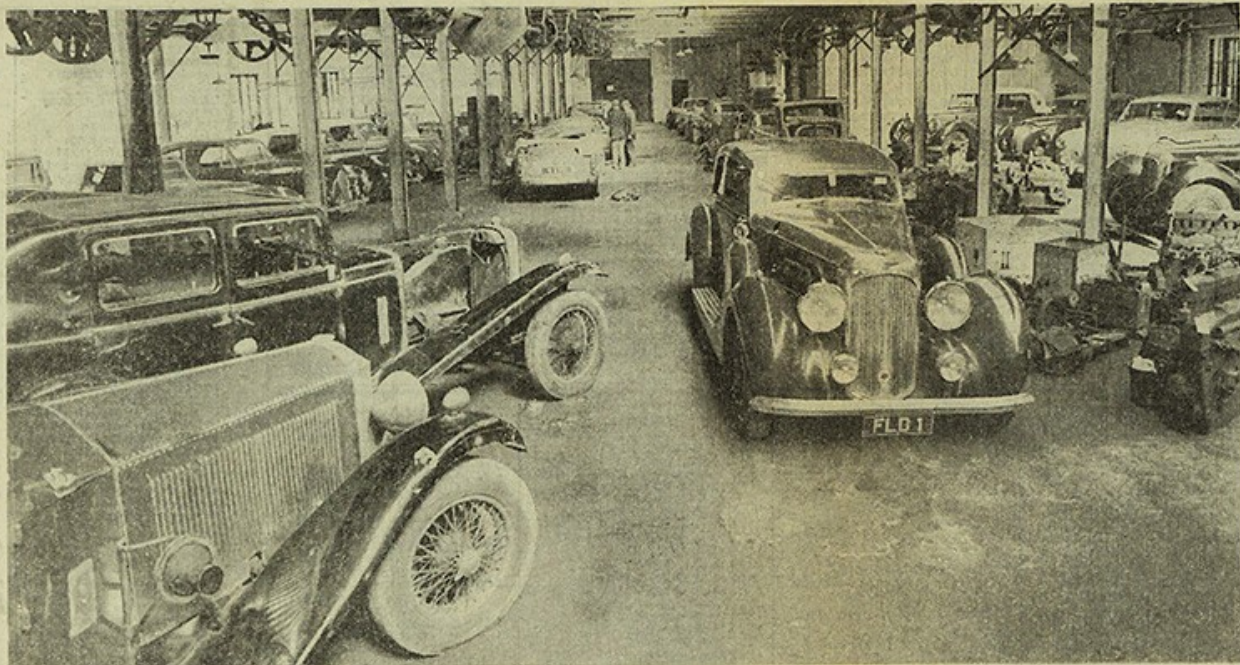
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Waiting for restoration: Some of the Ellard collection stored in a factory at Wednesfield, near Wolverhampton.



Mr Ellard: Died on Christmas Day.

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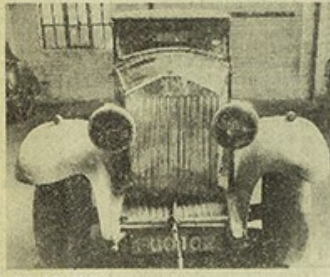
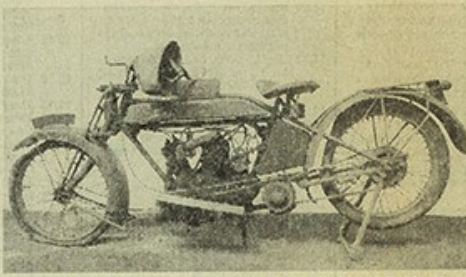
Mr Ellard did restoration work on some cars, and used several. A 1939 Lagonda drop head coupe, one of the last to be built, lacks its running boards, it is said, because Mr Ellard's girl friends laddered their stockings on them.

Mr Christopher Ironmonger, of the auctioneers Colliers Bigwood and Bewlay, estimates that the pride of the collection, a 1930 Rolls-Royce with French coachwork, will fetch £10,000 to £13,000.

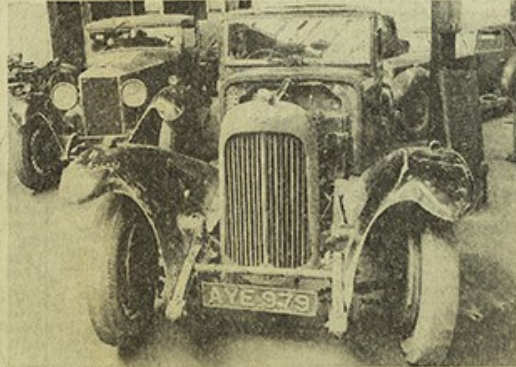
The collection is expected to realize more than £100,000 though some vehicles are in scrap condition and a 1935 Morris 10 cwt van, in rough condition, might fetch only £100.

Besides 50 cars, the collection includes tractors from 1920, two cement mixers, and a motor cycle Mr Ellard built out of spare parts in 1919.

Two Valentine tanks, with dismantled turrets, and two Electrac vehicles, used for towing barrage balloons are for sale but have not yet been extricated from the factory.



MG two-litre Tickford coupe, 1937; Mr Ellard's motor cycle, 1919 and Rolls-Royce 20/25, 1939.



Classic Pair: A Lagonda 3-litre 1956 four-door saloon (left) and a Lagonda 4 1/2-litre car in the workshop.

Birmingham Evening Mail - 27 June 54



Part of the Ellard collection stored in an old Wednesfield factory.

Millionaire's old cars go on sale

One of Britain's strangest collections of old cars was left behind by West Midlands millionaire and well-known eccentric, Harry Ellard, when he died on Christmas Day.

The 57-year-old bachelor had built up a huge pool of 90 vintage vehicles over a span of half a century in the hope that one day he would manage to restore them.

Since his death they have been gathering dust in a factory warehouse at Wednesfield, Wolverhampton — but now they are to finally go under the hammer.

Charity

They will be sold next month and are likely to add well over £100,000 to the Harry Ellard estate, which has already contributed more than £4 million to a Freemason's charity.

The cars form only a small part of the Ellard empire, which included numerous Midlands factories, farmland and property.

The strangest possession of the Solihull industrialist was a beautiful though derelict Warwickshire mansion at Compton Verney.

But the cars, which include 21 Lagondas, seven Invictas, four Healeys and four Aston Martins — come a close second and are expected to attract buyers from all over Britain and abroad. A 1930 Rolls Royce, with French coachwork, is likely to fetch at least £10,000.



A Lagonda 4 1/2 litre car in the workshop.

THE BROADSTONE ESTATE

The Broadstone Estate

Harry Ellard also owned two farms, and a Manor House called Broadstone Manor in Chipping Norton. Oxfordshire.

The farms known as old Chalford farm comprising of 502 acres mainly arable farm land, and Broadstone Hill farm- 290 acres dairy and arable land.

These farms have now been sold, but Harry Ellard spent many a happy hour at these properties, and they also supplied the meat and vegetables, for the Regency Club, when large functions were held there.

Broadstone Manor was burnt down in 1943 and was rebuilt by Harry Ellard himself, to its original glory.



It has large airy rooms and plenty of
bathrooms! with beautiful leaded windows.
There are also cottages at the rear of the
property, and it once had stables and its
own brewery!



Rear View



Old Cottages and Stables



THE BROADSTONE ESTATE

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THE GRAND CHARITY BOOK

THE GRAND CHARITY

of the United Grand Lodge of England

THE ENDING

All his workforce were very loyal, Many worked for him for more than 40 years both at his factory and his farms. His farm manager in Particular had worked for him for more than 42 years. To those long serving employees he left legacies in his will but the bulk of his money he left to the Grand Charity of the Grand Lodge of England. Although this Charity is mainly for masons it also assists of non-masonic charities each year to the extent of £75,000. When all the assets of the estate are sold, the charity will benefit to the extent of somewhere between £3m and £4m pounds.

