

# MOOR PARK

The story of how a royal palace became a park with an 18th century mansion, fine houses, woodlands, schools and golf courses



Alan Jamieson



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an 18th century mansion, fine houses, woodlands,  
schools and golf courses

by  
Alan Jamieson



## *Perfect modern homes in a fine old timbered park*

In the pure upland air of Moor Park you may choose your perfect home and pay for it upon convenient terms . . . . A home equipped with every known device for your comfort and convenience. You may see such houses any day for yourself . . . . They are here awaiting your occupation.

Great expanses of greensward and woodland are yours to roam at will. Tennis courts, croquet lawns and three 18-hole golf courses call you to stretch your limbs . . . . Or, if you would laze, there is a stately eighteenth century mansion for your country club. Come . . . . Moor Park Station on the Estate is but 26 minutes from Baker Street or Marylebone, and if you first ring up Rickmansworth 217, we shall be glad to meet you and take you round. Failing this, write for an illustrated booklet to

Estate Manager **MOOR PARK** Hertfordshire

*Metro-land advertisement in 1925*

# **MOOR PARK**

## **The history of Moor Park and its estate**

This booklet on the history of Moor Park from its origins as a royal palace to the creation of an 18th century mansion and then to the construction of an estate of fine houses, golf courses and schools emerges from documents and records, maps, articles and books, augmented by interviews and by personal recollections. The publishers, Moor Park (1958) Ltd are most grateful to everyone who helped in the search for information and in particular Susan Bennett, Geoff Brown, Mike Peters, Peter Powell and Suzanne Smith who were most helpful.

Photographs and maps are produced by courtesy of Moor Park Golf Club Ltd, Martyn Pedrick, Alan Jamieson, Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood Preparatory School, Transport for London and Ordnance Survey.

© Published in 2012 by Moor Park (1958) Ltd,  
2a Main Avenue, Moor Park, Northwood HA6 2HJ

Written by Alan Jamieson

Designed by Steve Tatler

Printed by Hill Garwood Printing Limited, Watford

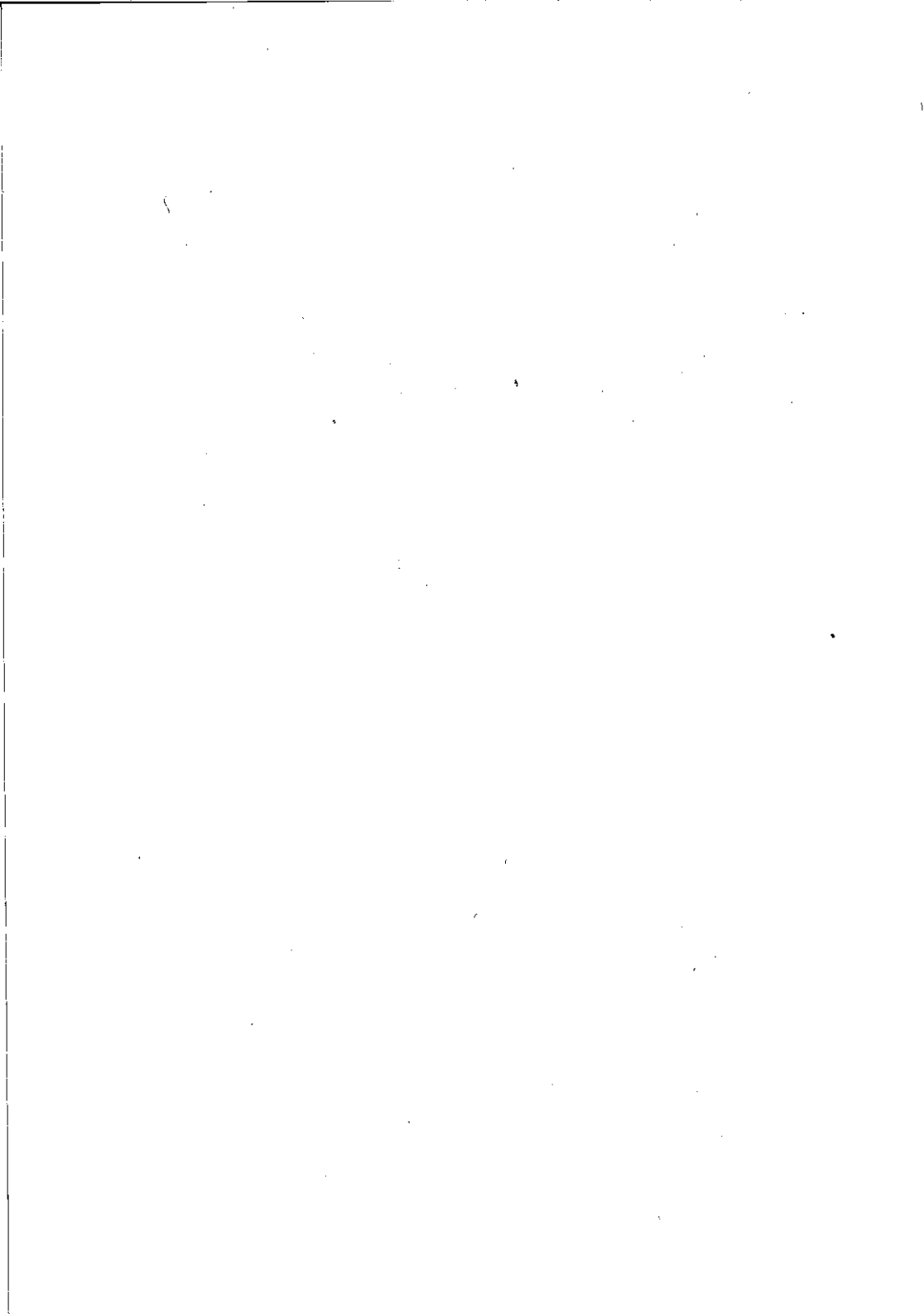
ISBN 0 946513 36 8

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## **The Manor of the More and Moor Park Mansion**

Famous faces, famous place. The people and events in Moor Park's long story feature strongly in the history of England. The roll-call of names includes King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, the aristocratic Russells and Bedfords, the round-the-world sailor Admiral Anson, Capability Brown the landscape gardener, the fabulously rich Grosvenors, a soap magnate Lord Leverhulme and the generals who planned the assault at Arnhem. Not many estates – wherever they are in the UK – can muster such a varied collection of national personalities linked to dramatic events.

It is tempting to begin with Henry VIII and his queens but Moor Park's origins go much further back in history. The greens of the golf course have provided evidence of much earlier settlers. Archaeologists have discovered stone age flints, bronze age tools and the foundations of dwellings to show that there were residents here from 3000 years ago. The Romans, too, found the high ground a suitable place for a settlement; excavations have revealed pathways, walls, dwellings and perhaps a bath-house.

The first big 'name' in Moor Park's history might be Offa. He was King of Mercia in the 8th century and his lands included manors along the rivers Chess and Colne, including the Manor of the More. 'More' is not the modern 'moor' but is from an Old Saxon word 'mor' meaning marsh, for the manors were on marshy ground fringing the rivers. Back to Offa: a violent king, he killed his son-in-law on his wedding day and, later penitent, transferred ownership of his manors to the Abbey of St Albans. Monks moved in until the Normans arrived and the Manor of the More was quarrelled over by knights until in the 15th century it passed into royal hands. Moor Park's modern road names now start to appear: in 1515, Thomas Wolsey, the son of an Ipswich butcher who had risen high in the Church, transferred the ownership of the manor from the Abbey of St Albans to himself. Cardinal

Wolsey, the Lord Chancellor of England, apparently enjoyed his visits, extending the buildings and raising the status and name of the manor to 'palace'.

This is not the present mansion. The More was on meadows now occupied by Northwood Preparatory School; a roadway linked the palace to Rickmansworth with a gatehouse on what is now Sandy Lodge Road to guard the entrance to the estate. The site had many advantages: good for defence and communications with a water supply from the river and springs. Wolsey evicted a farmer, Tolport, enclosed his land, turning it into a park and built a road to Watford. King Henry VIII regularly visited the More and in 1525 signed a peace treaty there with England's old enemy, France.

After Wolsey's fall from power in 1529 the More was seized by Henry VIII who granted it to Sir John Russell (later the first Earl of Bedford) – two more names for the roads – who owned Chenies Manor as well as a hunting lodge on Batchworth Heath. Russell was a reluctant steward-caretaker for Henry VIII although he did create a hunting park where over 500 deer roamed the grounds of the palace which in 1535 was repaired, redecorated and made more comfortable – a residence fit for Henry's queens, three of whom, Catherine of Aragon, Katherine Howard and Anne of Cleves, stayed there.

### **Aristocratic owners**

After the glories of its Tudor years, the More gradually deteriorated and decayed, with the last remnants finally demolished about 1650. As one writer put it, 'no stone survived.' The site became grazing land for a farm, Moor Farm, and in 1982 Northwood Preparatory School took over. After excavations had revealed the old palace's foundations, the site was in 1997 scheduled as a 'historic monument' by English Heritage.

The second 'great house' was built by the Bedfords on higher ground on the site of the present mansion. It was apparently an



elegant brick house surrounded by fishponds, woods and with a gamekeeper's lodge to deter poachers. The house earned the praise of Sir William Temple, a Stuart diplomat, who spent his honeymoon in it and wrote in excessive praise of, 'Moor Park, the sweetest place I think that I have seen in my life, at home or abroad.' (Note it is now 'Moor Park' and no longer the 'More').

Aristocrats lived a fine hunting, fishing and shooting life at Moor Park – their names and their links to the house and park are described in a later chapter because their names live on in the roads – Bedford, Russell, Pembroke, Ormonde, Anson. However, the nobility disappeared in 1720 when the estate was sold to a commoner, Benjamin Styles, a get-quick-rich investor and shrewd financier, 18th century version.

### **The mansion of Benjamin Styles**

The South Seas Trading Company was set up in 1711 to attract investment in potentially profitable monopoly trading in the 'South Seas'. Thousands flocked to buy bonds in a venture that promised large, swift dividends. One of the investors was Benjamin Styles who gambled his fortune and made a shrewd decision to sell all his bonds before the 'Bubble' burst and other investors were ruined. Styles walked away smiling to Moor Park which he purchased from the Duchess of Monmouth.

The house that Styles looked at in 1720 was not the elegant stone mansion we see today. In the 1680s the Duke of Monmouth had built a house, 'as good a piece of brickwork as any in England', a brick house, 'seven bays wide and five bays deep'. Styles wanted something grander than a mere Duke's house and so he called in the artist-architect Sir James Thornhill with an army of workmen to transform it. To the old house he added extra bays, Corinthian columns, colonnades, stables, a brewhouse, servants' quarters, coach-houses, dining-room and a massive front portico. Inside, the main hall, salon, staircase and other rooms were decorated in the baroque style which brings

hundreds of visitors each year to gaze at the tromp-l'oeil dome and dramatic wall paintings. However, Thornhill's slow progress and the excessive cost of construction annoyed Styles who dismissed him and used his Italian workmen to finish the mansion – but still at a high cost which eventually exceeded £150,000, a fortune in those days.

Benjamin Styles died in 1739 and his family sold the mansion and park in 1754 to Admiral Lord Anson, famous for his voyage around the world in a tiny ship, the Centurion. Anson enjoyed being outdoors on land as well as at sea and he brought in Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to landscape the park with the lakes, hillocks and clumps of trees that challenge today's golfers. The Admiral added the apricot, brought from the East, to his extensive garden – he had fed his seamen on apricots to ward off the dreaded scurvy. The 'Moor Park apricot' became an expensive delicacy at 18th century dinner parties: a Jane Austen character discusses its qualities in *Mansfield Park*, 'It is a Moor Park apricot... and I know it cost seven shillings.' Jane Austen – another famous name to add to Moor Park's long list of admirers.



*Moor Park mansion in the 1770s with wings and colonnades*

## **The ultra rich Grosvenors**

The aristocrats continued to admire – and to buy. Sir Lawrence Dundas, who built a teahouse at the Rickmansworth gate, was the next 18th century owner. Dundas, an arts patron filled the mansion with expensive tapestries and furniture and employed the famous architect Robert Adam to design the elaborate ceiling of the dining room (later painted by J.P. Cipriani), now gazed at in awe by today's visitors as it was by another royal guest, the Prince of Wales (later King George IV) in the early years of the 19th century.

The longest family occupation was by the Grosvenors-Westminsters. They were in the super-rich category, owning swathes of property in London's Mayfair and Belgravia. Moor Park remained with several generations of the family from 1828 to 1919; one of them, Lord Ebury, enjoyed his lordship of the manor, attending church in Rickmansworth and giving the town the Ebury Rooms. A keen golfer, he constructed his own private golf course, ushering in another major change in Moor Park's long history. When he died in 1918 at the age of 92, his heirs sold the estate in the following year to Lord Leverhulme, not an aristocrat of the old school but a rich soap manufacturer from Port Sunlight.

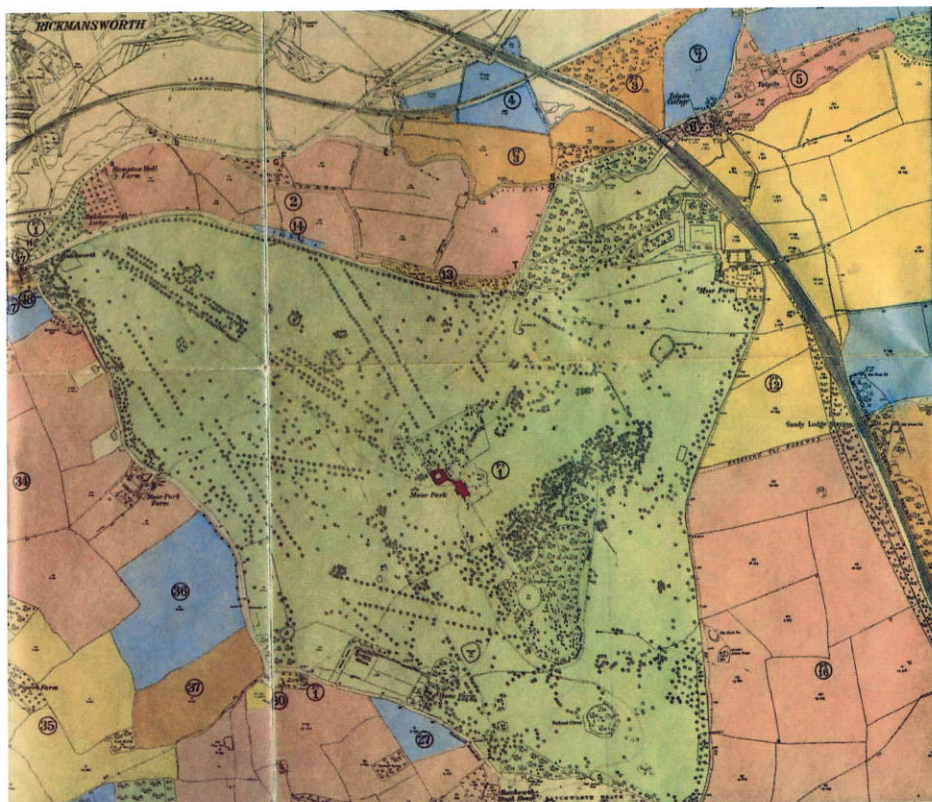
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### **Lord Leverhulme's purchase in 1919 - and sales**

William Lever, a grocer by trade, made his fortune from soap. His factory at Port Sunlight in the Wirral manufactured Lux, Lifebuoy, Vim and other domestic cleaning products. He built a model village for his workers and in 1922 his philanthropy was rewarded with the title of Viscount Leverhulme. He set up MacFisheries in Scotland, bought T. Wall, the sausage-makers, and opened up plantations in the Belgian Congo. The Lever Brothers business eventually grew into a giant soap and food manufacturing company that carries his name, Unilever.

Lord Leverhulme didn't restrict himself to soap and sausages. In 1919 he cast his calculating eye on Moor Park, buying it from the last of the Grosvenor-owners, the 3rd Lord Ebury. His scheme was to develop the park in two ways, one as an exclusive country club and secondly for housing. Not, however, with boring rows of semi-detached houses like those that had been built elsewhere along the line of the Metropolitan Railway and other railway lines out of London, but grand houses with driveways, large gardens and tree-lined roads leading to the station, designed for wealthy London-bound commuters. A new Lever Brothers organisation, a property department, was set up to handle the business and the London auctioneers, Knight, Frank and Rutley, arranged the sale of farms, fields and buildings. At that time, Moor Park – mansion and park – was far larger than the present-day estate; it extended over an area of 3000 acres, including the 'Roughs' (then a shooting estate, now Eastbury Farm's houses), a 400-acre deer park, 240 acres of woodland, ten farms, two public houses and golf courses on both sides of the railway.

The prospectus for the 1919 sale has survived. It provides a fascinating glimpse into the old buildings: Batchworth House, for example, was the home of widowed Lady Ebury. Overlooking the White Bear pub (owned by the estate) it had an Edwardian



*The estate map of 1919*

'upstairs, downstairs' feel, with a morning room, dining room, drawing room, seven bedrooms, butler's pantry, smoking room, 'boot hole', servants' hall, boudoir, stables with a coach-house and two cottages in the grounds for her staff. In the 1920s and 1930s, once sales had been completed, Moor Park entered into a new age of development, bringing about the roads and houses of today's estate.

### **'With every device for comfort'**

Most of the farms on the estate were sold to the tenants. Two of them, Grove Green Farm and Moor Farm, lying between the golf

course and the railway, were swiftly sold on for development. The builders moved in during the 1920s: Main Avenue, Sandy Lodge Road and Wolsey Road were laid to assist access to the station and Sandy Lodge Lane – the link road to Hampermill Lane – was widened. Housing plots were offered for sale in brochures that stressed in glowing terms the special qualities of architect-designed houses. Successful house sales with prices ranging from £2400 to £3200 led to more building on Russell and Pembroke roads with names taken from Moor Park mansion's noble past owners.

The language of the brochures set the tone for the best of Metro-land. Here, from 1920s leaflets, are some gems:

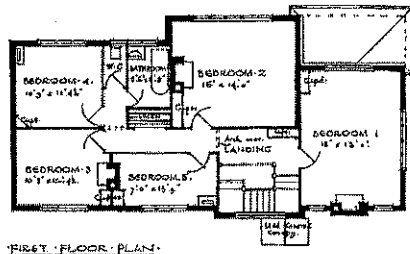
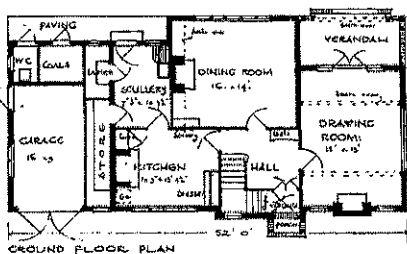
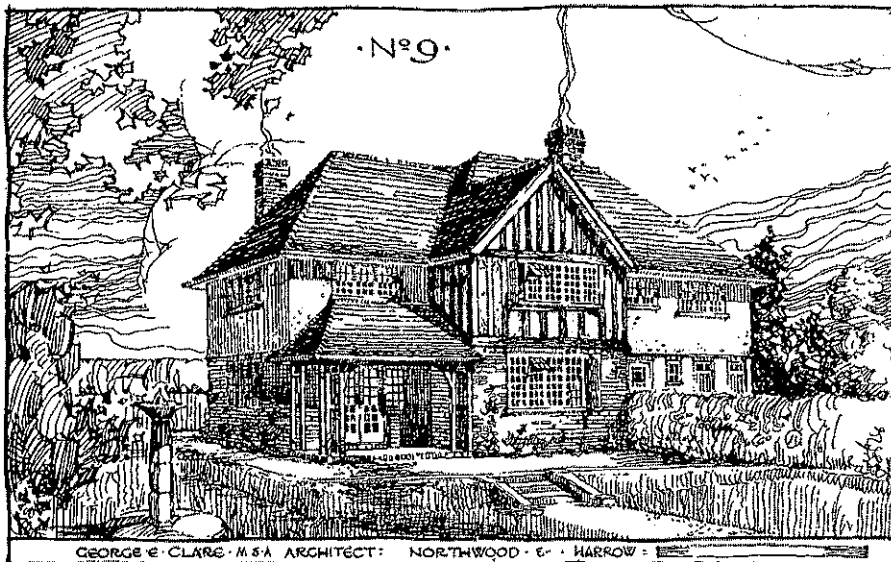
*'Highly exclusive and architecturally-designed houses on huge plots'*

*'Combining the facilities of London with rural amenities'*

*'Each house could be adapted to suit the purchaser's requirements with every device for comfort and convenience'*

*'Here one may enjoy quietude and seclusion (without isolation) with all the amenities of residence in an old English park, yet without the responsibility of its ownership'.*

A page from a brochure thought to be published in 1924 is reproduced here. By today's standards, the house looks modest, but in 1924 it was luxurious accommodation – not many British house-owners then could have a patio, terrace or verandah, garage, driveway and five bedrooms and be in a park with golf and tennis on the doorstep. And, by today's standards, the price of £3,200 seems very reasonable. After 1924, house-building accelerated with substantial detached residences designed by George E. Clare, in his brochure described as, 'constructed to last a century without the need for anything but minor repairs.'



**Design No. 9.** This compact and roomy house, with garage and spacious verandah, is constructed as follows. Foundations and surface: Cement concrete. Walls: Brick face cavity walling up to first floor, solid walling and cement roughcast above, with "half timber" finish to gable as shown. Solid pitch-pine posts to verandah and beams in drawing-room. Roof covered with Brossley pattern tiles on boarding. Windows: Solid frames, steel casements, and lead-lights. Joinery and fittings of good quality throughout; hanging cupboards in all bedrooms, and landing; also

dresser and store cupboard in kitchen and servery between dining-room and kitchen. Drainage connection to main sewer; water supply from main in road. Electric-light wiring throughout, left for fixing fittings. Gas laid on to gas cooker and to two gas fires in bedrooms. Hot-water supply to sink, bath, and lavatory basin. Internal decoration, painting and distemper, in shades to match purchaser's selection. The site enclosed with fence to side and back, and with oak trellis fencing and gate to the front. The illustration shows the garden front elevation.

*It should be noted that the size of the sites upon which these houses are built may be varied to the purchaser's requirements with a slight alteration in price.*

The price of this house is £3,200 including fencing, drains, and all fittings shown.

Easy terms of payment can be arranged.

A sales brochure, about 1924

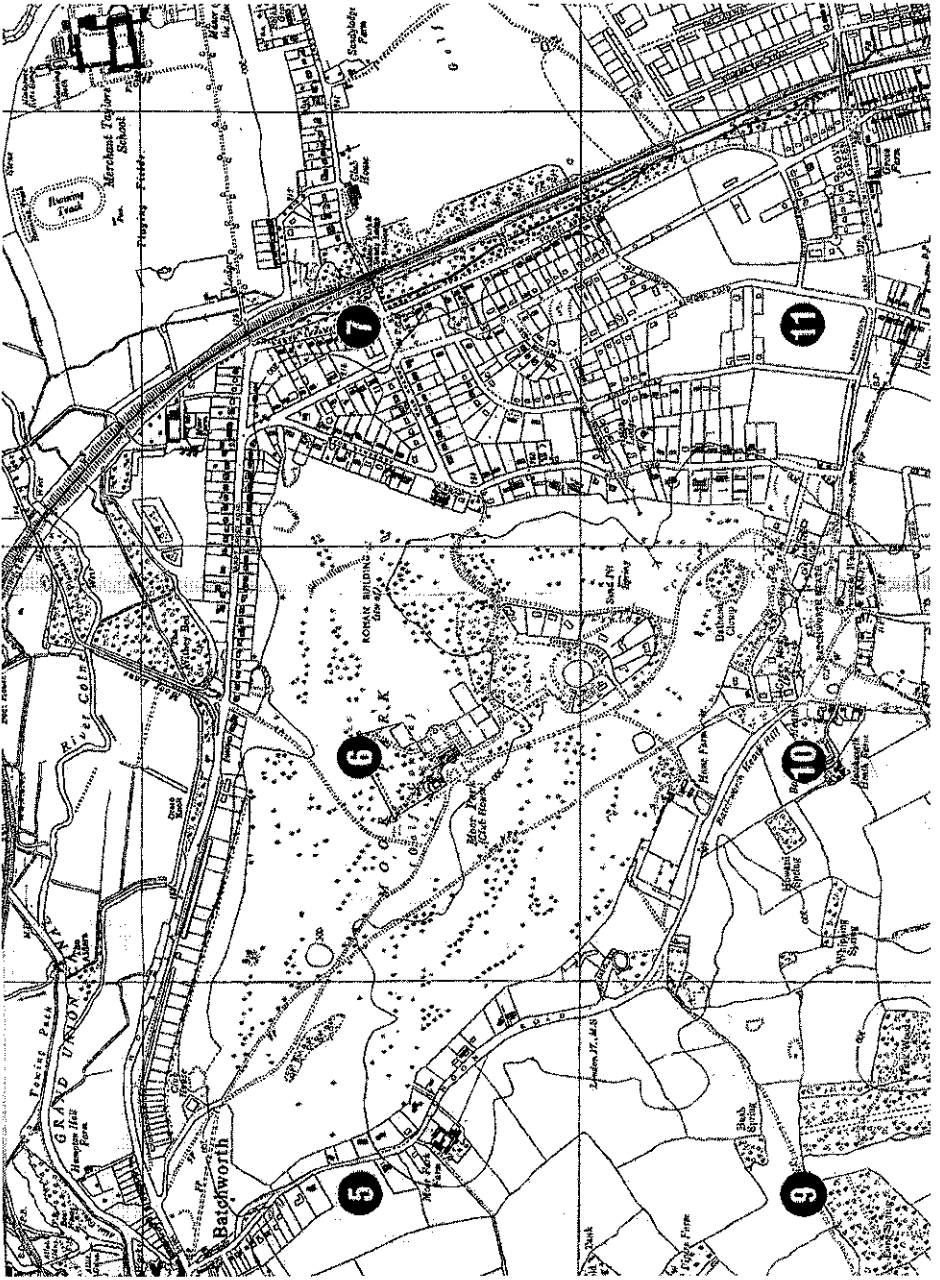
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## **The growth of Moor Park and the arrival of the golf clubs**

In the 1920s sales were disappointing with only a few plots sold and houses built on Sandy Lodge Road and Main Avenue. After the slow initial phase of road building and house sales in the 1920s, development continued more quickly in the 1930s. Main Avenue provided a direct link between the mansion and the railway station. In the 1919 map of Lord Leverhulme's sale, a pathway leading to the station is marked 'Reserved for Roadway' – this was to be Main Avenue. No other estate road is named on the map. Sandy Lodge, Astons, Wolsey and Pembroke roads were the next to be laid, establishing the north-south and east-west pattern of today's roads. Also in the 1930s the cross roads of Bedford, Russell, Thornhill and Heathside were constructed with plots advertised and sold for fine houses. The shops on Main Avenue were built in the 1930s, supplying essential services such as grocer, greengrocer, butcher, chemist, newsagent, estate agent and hairdresser. Later, a garage was added at the rear of the shops, and with changing times and needs, a delicatessen and then restaurants appeared. However, as late as the 1950s and 1960s, there were still plots for sale with no houses on them. Not until the 1980s was Moor Park estate 'complete'.

Over 70 years there were also changes in management. In 1919 the Lever Brothers property department controlled sales. This department was then replaced in 1923 by a company, Moor Park Ltd: it handled plot sales broadly in the area we know today as Moor Park until the 1950s. Lord Leverhulme had also created, in 1920, Moor Park Golf Club Ltd, a company designed to manage the estate and convert it into a country club for tennis and golf with dining room and bars for its members. In 1937, when further housing development on the





Moor Park in 1952

estate was being discussed, Rickmansworth UDC stepped in to buy 350 acres and the mansion, leasing it to the golf club.

After the damage caused by soldiers stationed in the mansion during the 1939-45 war, repairs were needed and restoration work began but a group of irate ratepayers objected to District Council money being spent on a club for an exclusive group of golfers and the freehold was sold in 1994 to Moor Park Golf Club Ltd and a charity, the Moor Park Mansion Heritage Foundation, was made responsible for the paintings, wall decorations and other items of historic value.

In 1958, with the remaining undeveloped plots on the estate sold off to smaller developers, Unilever was looking to close down its Moor Park Ltd company. With the assistance of Unilever, the residents set up an estate management company, Moor Park (1958) Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, its members being



*House for sale in the 1930s: 6 beds, bath, 3 reception, garage, garden, £3,650*

the freehold owners of residential properties on the estate together with Merchant Taylors' School. The roads, verges and spinneys adjacent to North and South Approach, along with the benefits of the covenants attached to all properties in Moor Park and some nearby roads were transferred to Moor Park (1958) Ltd, together with the related maintenance obligations.

In 1981 and 1983 the fields adjacent to Batchworth Lane on either side of Russell Road were transferred to Moor Park (1958) Ltd with contractual and planning conditions, requiring that they should be preserved as open spaces. This was at the time of the development of Old Gannon Close, Russell Close, Nevil Close and Oxford Close. The development of these Closes and nearby houses on Russell Road represented the completion of green field development in Moor Park.

### **The golf clubs**

The first golf ball to be struck at Moor Park was probably by Lord Robert Grosvenor, 1st Lord Ebury in the 1880s. When he died in 1893 his son, the 2nd Lord Ebury, demonstrated the same family enthusiasm when, on returning from London, he left his carriage at the Batchworth Heath entrance to the park and clouted balls on his homeward trek to the mansion. A course was laid out from Bathend Clump, with eight holes running down to the river Colne and the remainder on the way back to the mansion. Trees were a particular hazard and many were felled to make the course slightly easier. Moor Park was a very private course and Lord Ebury only invited his friends and business colleagues to play it.

### **Moor Park Golf Club**

By 1913 Lord Ebury's private 18-hole course had been opened to members of Rickmansworth Golf Club: but no play on Sundays, ladies couldn't play after 2 p.m. on any day, guests were to pay a shilling a day if accompanied by a member. The clubhouse was not, of course, in the mansion but in a humble timber shed in the gardens of Rickmansworth Lodge at the

Rickmansworth gate to the park. An outstanding player was Agnes 'Aggie' Harwood who at the age of twelve was playing to a handicap of ten. Lord Ebury wisely picked her as his competition partner. In her twenties, Aggie won national championships, eventually spanning her golfing career over 80 years.

The shrewd Lord Leverhulme transformed the park in the 1920s by creating a country club of three golf courses, tennis courts and a croquet lawn with the mansion as the clubhouse. In May 1923 Moor Park Club was officially opened with an annual membership fee of ten guineas. The professional was an outstanding golfer, Sandy Herd, who had won the Open in 1902; he continued until his retirement in 1946. In 1937, Rickmansworth Urban District Council, irritated by post-Leverhulme developments, bought the 350-acre estate including the mansion, with a 40-year lease to a new company Moor Park GC Ltd. At the RUDC's insistence, one of the three courses (the East) became public, with the High and the West remaining with the club. Subsequently, Moor Park became one of the most prestigious courses in the UK, hosting the Bob Hope Classic and other international competitions. During the 1939-45 war the mansion was requisitioned for military use with armed sentries on guard and caravans on the course. In 1945 the golfers returned and the freehold was sold in 1994 to the golf club, freeing the local authority, now Three Rivers District Council, from financial responsibility.

### **Sandy Lodge**

James Francis Markes, engineer, merchant and gold prospector in Australia created Sandy Lodge Golf Club. He lived in Murray Road, Northwood and played golf at Neasden but he had his eye on the sandy soil and level ground of the local farm, then part of the Grosvenor-Ebury estate of Moor Park. In 1908 he drew up a prospectus and looked for partners; finding them the new club was registered in May 1909 and a syndicate of members

negotiated a 21-year lease of 145 acres of ground from Lord Ebury, himself a golfer. Debentures at £100 each were issued and sold giving the purchasers free membership for the 21 years of the lease. Markes wisely asked Lord Ebury to be President, with his son Robert Grosvenor as Vice-President. A year later, in 1910, Sandy Lodge Halt on the railway line was opened (mainly due to Markes's persistence in pressing for it).

Francis Markes controlled the construction of the course, assisted by Harry Vardon, the professional golfer who won the Open Championship on six occasions. On the opening day, in July 1910, Vardon played a round with James Braid, another famous golfer. The first members were mainly Londoners – lawyers, stockbrokers, dentists, City businessmen and journalists. Players generally arrived by train. A member later recalled: 'On Sunday mornings, the members used to rush up from the station to the first tee in their haste to put a ball in the starting tin.' During the 1914-18 war the club remained open and playable, with some of the ground cultivated for growing potatoes and vegetables. Markes (who died in 1953) ruled the club he had founded in autocratic fashion for 40 years including the 1939-45 war years. He was at the club every day and not surprisingly his wife cleared off.

During its history, now beyond a hundred years, Sandy Lodge Golf Club has provided Walker Cup and Ryder Cup captains, Curtis Cup and Ladies' Open champions and a British Boys' champion: the club continues to be a significant and vital partner in Moor Park's history.

## **The Metropolitan Line, the station and Metro-land**

The railway story begins in 1887. The Metropolitan Railway Company (MET), ambitious to expand beyond central London, had built tracks from Baker Street to Pinner and in 1887 the north-west line reached Rickmansworth. There was no stopping place at Sandy Lodge-Moor Park; the steam trains hurtled non-stop from Pinner to Rickmansworth and passengers had to warn the driver to stop at Northwood. For Moor Park, they walked.

At that time, Moor Park was owned by Lord Robert Grosvenor, 2nd Lord Ebury, son of the Marquis of Westminster. In 1862, the 1st Lord Ebury had taken the leading role in pressing for and building a four and a half mile line from Rickmansworth's 'flimsy and leaky' wooden station, across the Grand Union Canal, to Watford. (The line closed in 1952). It is not surprising, therefore, that the Eburys were pleased with the Met line from London. However, Lord Ebury was not pleased enough to agree to a Moor Park halt; apparently he feared an influx of day-trip visitors and golfers who might threaten the tranquillity of his estate.

There are two stories about the opening of the first station. One is that Lord Ebury repented. Returning from the House of Lords or from the Grosvenor business premises in London, he was met at Northwood station by a coachman with his carriage. A keen golfer, he was driven to the Batchworth Heath entrance to the estate, dismounted, changed into golf clothes and played a few holes on his way 'home' to the mansion. Reluctantly, he agreed to a railway station, not for his own use but for visitors to another course on the 'other' side of the line, Sandy Lodge. The second story is that James Francis Markes, a local businessman who lived in Murray Road, Northwood, was from 1905 planning a golf course at Sandy Lodge. In 1908 the golf club opened and Markes pressed the MET for a stopping place at Sandy Lodge for the convenience of golfers coming out from London. For

whatever the reason, a 'halt' was opened in 1910, the 'Sandy Lodge Halt', built at low cost and with two wooden platforms, linked by a timber footbridge. The halt cost £555 to build, using old sleepers for the platforms. There were no extravagances such as a waiting room, water or toilets. For these conveniences, passengers had to wait until 1923. Passenger numbers increased in 1925 when Moor Park became a convenient interchange for the Watford and Croxley Green branch line and the rickety wooden bridge still presented a hazard to travellers.

In 1923 it took a double name, Moor Park and Sandy Lodge (and from 1950, Moor Park only). A year later, in 1924, the British Empire Exhibition was held at Wembley. Suddenly, developers saw an opportunity for 'estate' housing developments. A subsidiary company of the MET, the Metropolitan Railway Country Estates Ltd, was a major player, building housing estates in Rickmansworth (the Cedars), the Chalfonts, Chorleywood and on Moor Lane, Rickmansworth. Houses were available from £500 to £950 freehold and by 1939 the MET estates company had built over 4,000 houses. Meanwhile, Lord Leverhulme had, from 1923, offered plots for houses on the Moor Park estate and so there was more traffic from the Moor Park railway station.

In 1933, the Metropolitan Railway Company ceased to exist, replaced by the London Passenger Transport Board (LPTB) and the trains were repainted with new lettering and livery. The steam trains had attracted day-trippers and 'spotters'; famous locomotives such as the 'Jersey Lilly' and the 'Earl Haig' hauled Dreadnought coaches, swathed in clouds of steam, through Moor Park station. The excitement did not disappear with electrification; electrification reached Rickmansworth by 1925 but steam locomotives still ploughed down the line until 1962, with spotters on the platforms. During the 1939-45 war, the station was busy with soldiers and airmen travelling from London to Moor Park mansion, used by Airborne generals and their staff

for planning the invasion operations. However, it was in the 1970s, with poems and a television programme on the delights of 'Metro-land', that international fame came to Moor Park.

### **Metro-land**

'Metro-land' was an imaginative idea conceived by the Metropolitan Railway's publicity department in 1915. The name was used to describe the suburban area north-west of London with Harrow as its 'capital'. Metro-land was seized on as the title of an annual official guidebook published from 1915 to 1932. In the last edition, when few houses had been built at Moor Park, the editor described its major attraction as: 'three golf courses have been laid out in the spacious park on the side of the railway, and a good start has been made with one of London's most beautiful residential districts.'

The name appeared again in the novels of Evelyn Waugh; in *Vile Bodies*(1930), there is a fictional Lady Margot Metroland but the name passed into national consciousness when John Betjeman (Poet Laureate from 1972-84), who had already written poems about the delights of Neasden and Harrow, took the train from



*Moor Park station in the 1930s with wooden platforms and the crossover bridge*



Baker Street to Amersham and eulogised in a 1973 film for the BBC in wry, affectionate words on the attraction of suburbia. Earlier, in a 1954 poem, *The Metropolitan Railway*, he had written:

‘They saw the last green fields and misty sky  
And, with the morning villas sliding by  
They felt so sure on their electric trip  
That Youth and Progress were in partnership.’

In 1973 John Betjeman wrote a longer poem, *Metroland*, in which he expressed whimsical admiration for Moor Park’s clubhouse:

‘Did ever golf club have a nineteenth hole  
So sumptuous as this?  
What Georgian wit classic gods have heard  
Who now must listen to the golfer’s tale  
Of holes in one, and how I missed that putt.  
Would Jove have been appointed Captain here?  
See how exclusive thy estate, Moor Park.’

‘Metro-land’, born in 1915 and made famous by John Betjeman, endures as a name to inspire images of romantic beauty in leafy lanes, houses with large gardens and roses around the door, golf clubs and tennis courts, wayside stations with smiling staff. Not entirely accurate, perhaps, with the relentless tide of housing developments, but with a temptation in the commercial brochure: ‘with fast trains, only 27 minutes from central London.’ John Betjeman was tempted to add a few lines about a favourite station:

‘When I was young, there stood among the fields  
A lonely station once called Sandy Lodge  
Its wooden platform crunched by hobnailed shoes  
And this is where the healthier got out.’

Healthier, perhaps, but with the price of its detached, roses-round-the-door houses, the wealthier too.

## 5 The Schools

One of the glories of Moor Park is that there are two very fine schools on its doorstep.

Merchant Taylors' School was the first to arrive. The school, founded in Suffolk Lane in the City of London in 1561 in Queen Elizabeth I's reign, was later at Charterhouse Square. It grew to become a distinguished school of 500 boys but in cramped conditions and with out-of-town sports fields. The headmaster from 1927 was Spencer Leeson, a determined and resourceful master. An inspection in 1928 revealed that 75 per cent of the boys travelled from north and north-west London. Leeson pressed for a move – in the face of some opposition from many old boys – and a contract for the purchase of the freehold of 250 acres was signed with Unilever Property Company in 1930. Architects were appointed with the famous designer Sir Giles Gilbert Scott as consultant architect and W.G. Newton FRIBA as architect and work quickly began at the Sandy Lodge site.

In June 1931 the foundation stone was laid by the Duke of York, later King George VI, with Duchess Elizabeth of York accompanying him. In May 1933 the dramatic move was made from Charterhouse Square to Sandy Lodge, into brick buildings, a Great Hall and light and airy classrooms. A boarding house, the Manor of the Rose, named after the first home of the school in Suffolk Street in the City of London, took in boys who could not travel daily to school.



*Merchant Taylors' School*

The school continued to grow as one of England's premier schools with outstanding academic and sporting records. Today, there are 870 boys in spacious and elegant buildings. Recently the Old Merchant Taylors' Society Memorial Clubhouse, together with its own sports facilities and cricket pavilion, was opened, reflecting the loyalty that Old Boys' feel towards their school. Moor Park is fortunate to have such a fine school on its borders.

### **Northwood Preparatory School**

The pupils of Northwood Preparatory School play rugby, football and cricket on ground once trodden by King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, Sir Thomas More, Archbishop Wareham – all statesmen of the Tudor age. Not many schoolboys can say that. Under the playing fields lie the foundations of a palace, the Manor of the More, said by the French ambassador of the time to be, 'more splendid than Hampton Court.' However, the buildings decayed, squatters moved in and the Tudor palace was eventually demolished.

Move on 400 years. Maps of 1826, 1919 and 1959 show the land as 'Moor Farm' with orchards and grazing fields, the old palace's moat filled in with clay and earth from workings on the railway and from nearby roads. Meanwhile, in Northwood, a preparatory school for boys of 5 to 13, opened in 1910 by Francis John Terry in the vestry of St John's church, had moved to Eastbury Road. The school expanded until in 1978 the 150 boys were struggling in the cramped conditions of the house with insufficient space for sporting activities. The governors looked around for an alternative site: a section of Merchant Taylors' site was a possibility but the idea came to nought and then, suddenly, a freehold area of 13 acres at Moor Farm on Sandy Lodge Road appeared on the market. Francis Terry had died in 1935 and the headmaster in 1978, John Sudbury, moved quickly with his governors to raise funds for the purchase of the farm, aided by the sale, over several years, of the school's Northwood premises.

In 1982, the school, still known locally as 'Terry's' moved into Moor

Park. Teaching accommodation was in a converted long shed, 'the largest cowshed in Hertfordshire.' Occasionally, cattle wandered across the playing fields. Stables were converted into a sports pavilion. In recent years impressive additions have been made, including a junior school, arts centre, sports hall, science block, library and theatre, with the buildings modelled on the old farmhouse style of Moor Farm. The school's Centenary was marked with a celebration, visitors noting the outstanding sporting and academic achievements of the school, now with 285 boys (Mr Terry started with six boys in 1910), a valuable partner in Moor Park.



*East Barn – which became the assembly and dining hall in 1982*

Recently, the school enjoyed being in the public gaze. Sixty years ago, in 1952, a group of Merchant Taylors' pupils, led by 15-year old Martin Biddle, who later became a professor of archaeology at Oxford, excavated a site at Moor Farm. They found glass, pottery, foundations, roof tiles, coins, adding up to over 200 items which were presented to the British Museum. In 2010 the archaeologists returned, again led by Professor Biddle and two years later a Channel 4 Time Team television crew arrived to film an excavation at the site of Henry VIII's Manor of the More. A geophysical survey revealed the full extent of a very large palace and more digging brought forth another collection of objects.

## 6

### **What's in a name – Moor Park's roads**

Some of Moor Park's roads take their names from aristocratic lords and ladies who lived in the manor, palace or mansion – Wolsey, Russell, Bedford, Ormonde, Pembroke, Anson. Other names reflect distinctive aspects of the estate's history – Aston, Thornhill, Old Gannon. A third group have geographical or topographic origins – Askew, Batchworth, Sandy Lodge, Heathside, Home Farm, Main Avenue, North and South Approach. Moor Park's roads and others not part of the estate but on its borders all have a story attached to them. Here their mysteries are revealed.

#### **Anson Walk**

Lord Anson, Admiral of the Fleet, bought the park and mansion from the heirs of Benjamin Styles.

By the time he arrived in 1754 he was 57 and in poor health. He walked the grounds and brought in a horticultural expert, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, to create a more dramatic vista of hillocks, shrubberies, trees and lakes. An avenue led to the Pleasure Gardens with a lily pond and a Greek-looking Temple of the Winds. Lord Anson sat in silent contemplation at the Temple, reflecting on his distinguished naval career and on the £80,000 he spent on the house, gardens and park, until he died in 1762.

#### **Askew Road**

Research and early maps have not revealed a farmer or tenant called a Mr Askew, but one possibility is that the road is named after him. Residents believe a more extravagant theory which is that when the underpass below the railway was built and the road was widened from a footpath that led to Sandy Lodge golf club and on to Hampermill, it was 'askew', that is not straight or level, with three bends in it before reaching Sandy Lodge Lane:

this view is supported by a former MTS architect. The first houses were built along the road in the 1930s.

### **Astons Road**

Astons Lodge was described in the 1919 sale documents as a pair of cottages. Aston must once have been a tenant or farmer who lived there, perhaps several centuries ago. In 1919 the two cottages each had a sitting room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a coal-house and 'a good garden' but not a piped water supply for the cottagers had to collect their drinking water from a spring near to the park's boundary fence. 'Astons Lodge, part of a large dairy farm, Grove Farm, on what was then Claypit Lane and is now Batchworth Lane, is shown on early maps between the present-day Russell Road and Astons Road.

### **Batchworth Heath/Lane/Hill**

Batchworth is a name that features strongly. There's a heath, hill, farm, mill, lane, bridge and house. The name comes from a 12th century family, the de Batchworths (sometimes Bacher as on an 1826 map) and in 1269 the family was granted the right to hold a Charter Fair on every 17 May on the heath. In later centuries the heath became common land until it was swallowed up in the estate of the Manor of the More. In the 19th century, fine houses such as Batchworth House and Batchworth Heath House were built, sold in Lord Leverhulme's 1919 sale. Ye Olde Greene Manne has been on the heath as a public house since 1728 with a blacksmith's forge next door. As for Batchworth Lane, on earlier maps it was Claypit Lane, a long road linking the heath, past Grove Farm and the 'Roughs', a wild area popular with shooting parties venturing out from the mansion; today it is the Eastbury farm estate of houses.

### **Bedford Road**

Bedford and Russell roads are historically interlinked because Sir John Russell, a favourite and a courtier of King Henry VIII, was granted the manor and the park by the king after the fall of

Cardinal Wolsey in 1529. Russell became Earl Bedford and the family held on to the estate until 1626, through three generations of Russells-Bedfords although their fortunes ebbed and flowed throughout the Tudor period. It was the Duchess of Bedford who brought a touch of glamour to the park's story. She was Lucy Harington, a sparkling woman who served for sixteen years as Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Anne, wife of King James I. The Bedfords built a large manor house to replace the old Tudor one: it was on the site of the present mansion but the Bedford house's bricks are now long gone or are hidden behind the painted walls of the 18th century house. The Duchess, a generous patron of the arts, almost ruined the family by spending lavishly on the new house's gardens, household furniture and decorations. When the Duke of Bedford died childless in 1627, the house was sold to the Earl of Pembroke. After Leverhulme's sale in 1920, Bedford Road was part of the 1930s development.

### **Heathside Road/Close**

When Heathside Road was built in 1937, it was to be called Grove Green Road from the farm once on the site. But there were other Grove Roads and so Monmouth Road was suggested. The Duke of Monmouth had been the owner of Moor Park in the 1680s but, a rebel and traitor, he was executed in 1685 and so the builders decided that Heathside, after Batchworth Heath, was safer and less contentious. Heathside Close was built later.

### **Home Farm Road**

Home Farm at the side of the golf course was one of the largest of the ten farms in Lord Leverhulme's sale of 1919. There was a fine house, farm buildings, a cowshed for 14, cake store and granary. Home Farm came up for sale again in a 1959 auction and Home Farm Road was built by the developers who bought it.

### **Main Avenue**

In the 1919 map of the estate, there is a road marked 'Reserved for Roadway'. This became Main Avenue, a prosaic name among



the more aristocratic ones of Moor Park; its elegance, however, is assured by its avenue of lime trees. It is thought that Main Avenue was the first road to be built – making it easier for the new residents to walk to the station on a roadway rather than a footpath. The first homes were built in the 1920s and 1930s, the shops in 1934.

### **Moor Lane**

The old Moor Lane led from Rickmansworth to the Manor of the More (where Northwood Preparatory School now stands). In the 16th century, Cardinal Wolsey diverted the road so that he could extend his manorial home. In the 1920s, the construction of Sandy Lodge Road effectively reinstated the road diverted by Wolsey.

### **North Approach/South Approach**

After Main Avenue, these roads were built in the 1930s to link Sandy Lodge Road and the golf club at Sandy Lodge with the railway station. The developers of Moor Park apparently preferred the more ordinary name of 'Approach' (approaching the station) than a Russell or Wolsey of a more noble heritage.

### **Old Gannon Close**

In 1982, William Old, a local builder and a resident living in Astons Road, was looking for a suitable name for a new close. He chose his own name Old, adding Gannon from Rena Gannon, his wife's maiden name.

### **Ormonde Road**

In 1663, three years after King Charles II's accession, James Butler the 12th Earl and 1st Duke of Ormonde bought Moor Park. Butler was descended from a Ralph de Boteler who, by coincidence, had owned the Manor of the More in the 14th century. James decided that 'Butler' was a name more useful in his career as an English courtier than an earl with a French name and title. However, he took office and was raised to be Duke of Ormond, using the Moor Park palace for entertainment and the



vigorous pursuit of deer and game that roamed his estate. But he owned the manor for only seven years, selling it to the Duke of Monmouth. The present Ormonde Road was built from 1937, linking Bedford and Wolsey roads.

### **Park Close**

This road and its houses were built following the sale of Home Farm in 1959.

### **Pembroke Road**

In 1627, the park and manor were purchased by William Herbert, 3rd Earl of Pembroke, a leading courtier and friend of King Charles I. He was Lord Chamberlain and Chancellor of the University of Oxford, with Pembroke College named in his honour. He is another aristocratic owner in Moor Park's long list but he lived here for only a few years. In 1630 he over-celebrated his 50th birthday, eating and drinking until a few minutes before midnight, when 'seized with a fit of apoplexy, he fell back and expired'. His younger brother assumed ownership; he enjoyed the company of a lively wife, the Countess of Dorset, who left him 'after twenty years of ceaseless quarrelling'. The plans for Pembroke Road were approved by Rickmansworth UDC in May 1925 – it was one of the first roads built after the 1919 sale.

### **Russell Road/Close**

The Russell family members were Tudor grandees. Sir John Russell, owner of Chenies and its estates, was in 1529 given the lordship of Rickmansworth, along with the tenancy of the Manor of the More and its park by a grateful King Henry VIII. For its upkeep, the King provided Russell with an allowance of four pence a day – quite insufficient, as Russell later complained – to pay for gamekeepers to prevent poachers from seizing deer, game and fish. The Russells – later the Earls of Bedford – held on to the manor for over a hundred years, building a fine new palace, the second one in Moor Park, to replace the old and deteriorating manor-palace, demolished in 1574.

## **Sandy Lodge Road/Lane**

Apart from Moor Park itself, Sandy Lodge is probably the oldest name in the estate. The name is on maps of 1766 and 1826, when Moor Park was sold at auction by a Mr Hoggart. In 1908, 140 acres of Sandy Lodge Farm were leased by Lord Ebury to Francis Marke for 21 years, 'for the purpose of the golf club', opened in 1910. The 1919 map shows the extent of the golf course and its clubhouse, Sandy Lodge Lane and the station. 'Sandy' is because of the soil, 'Lodge' for the cottages that were there in the 18th century. Sandy Lodge Road, the continuation of Moor Lane, was one of the earliest roads to be developed in the 1920s. Sandy Lodge Lane is older; it had a farm and cottages on it before the Leverhulme sales of 1919.

## **Temple Gardens**

In the mid 18th century, Lord Anson employed the famous landscape gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to create a park to the south-east of the mansion. It became the Pleasure Gardens, a large amphitheatre with trees, shrubs and a water-lily lake. A huge temple, with four Greek columns, stood at the edge of the lake. This, the Temple of the Winds, was faced with Portland stone to match the great mansion. Admiral Anson happily sat on a bench outside his temple, gazing at the wild fowl and jumping fish, reflecting perhaps on his victory over a French fleet in 1747. In 1930, damaged by a gale, the Temple of the Winds was demolished to make way for the houses of Temple Gardens but the lake, shrubs and trees remain.

## **Thornhill Road**

Sir James Thornhill, artist, surveyor and builder, was employed by Benjamin Styles in the 1720s to fashion and decorate the mansion in classic Palladian style. Irritated by the cost, Styles dismissed Thornhill and employed Italian artists and builders to finish the job. Sir James is credited with the baroque plasterwork on the mansion's interior and the tromp-l'oeil in the main hall,



*The Temple of the Winds and the Pleasure Gardens in 1912*

painted to resemble a dome. House-building on Thornhill Road began in 1931.

### **Wolsey Road**

Plans for the development of Wolsey Road were passed by Rickmansworth UDC in May 1925 and house-building began immediately afterwards. The road was named after Cardinal Wolsey, the chief minister of King Henry VIII in the 1520s. Wolsey's residence was the Manor of the More in the valley of the river Colne where Northwood Preparatory school now stands. After Wolsey's fall, the Manor crumbled and was demolished in the 17th century. Rejoice, residents of Wolsey Road: not many roads in England are named after a Lord Chancellor, Cardinal and Papal Legate.

## Moor Park and Arnhem

Moor Park has enjoyed the company of some very distinguished visitors. However, two of them stayed at the mansion for a period of a few weeks only, in September 1944, but their presence made a huge impact on events in the later stages of the Second World War.

Thousands of golfers and visitors have walked past a faded plaque at the main entrance of the mansion hardly noticing what it says, that from February 1944 to October 1945 the 1st Airborne Corps had their headquarters in the building. Before and after D-Day senior officers of the Airborne had been planning a series of air assaults on northern France but the Allied advance had been so swift that seventeen different plans had been cancelled. But now the time had come for a daring air invasion.

Two generals were at Moor Park. They were Lt-General 'Boy' Browning, commander of the 1st Airborne Corps, the dapper husband of the famous novelist Daphne du Maurier and a war hero with the DSO and Croix de Guerre, and Major-General Roy Urquhart, newly appointed as commander of the air assault to be directed at the bridge across the Rhine at Arnhem in Holland. General Browning had a room in Moor Park mansion; General Urquhart lived in a caravan on the golf course. Tents and caravans covered the grounds with men flooding into Moor Park by car and by train, marching from the station to their billets. The golfers had long since been driven off. In the first floor room, once the bedroom of Lady Ebury, officers constructed a large sand table showing the Rhine, German forces, Arnhem and the landing areas. As well as men from the Parachute Regiment, there were officers from the infantry, artillery, medical staff and signallers. The weight of over fifty men with their kit and the sand table caused the floor to sag and crack. Consternation! Below was the Thornhill Room with its famous and extremely valuable

painted ceiling by Antonio Verrio of the sun god Apollo racing across the heavens – a national treasure. Hastily, the sand table was dismantled and moved to the ground floor, the sag eased and the soldiers, not usually regarded as art-lovers, were much relieved. Today, visitors to the mansion's Arnhem Room with the Parachute Regiment's flags on the walls can imagine these dramatic events.



*The Arnhem Room in Moor Park mansion*

The day before General Urquhart flew in a glider to Arnhem, he recorded in his memoirs, 'I took out my golf clubs and played a few holes at Moor Park' – British *sang-froid* at its coolest. Over 11,900 men went to Arnhem for a battle that lasted nine days; the bridge was taken and briefly held but faced by two German Panzer divisions, the survivors surrendered or, with General Urquhart among them, escaped across the Rhine. In 1945 Moor Park was returned to the golfers with the plaque at the entrance reminding us of one of the most memorable stories in Moor Park's history.

## The Woodlands

From its beginnings in the 1920s, successive managers of the estate have followed a policy of keeping land free and open, not exploiting it and not crowding it. The 1920s and 1930s developers planned things so that each house had a wide grass verge, dotted with trees and shrubs. The 18th century mansion owners had planted oaks, Britain's traditional tree. Chestnut, London plane and lime trees were the preferred trees for the new roads of the Moor Park estate. Having matured, these trees along with other varieties planted later now provide green avenues, lopped and pollarded, sanctuaries for birds and squirrels.

### The Withey Beds and the Spinneys

The Spinneys are woodlands with a stream, lying between North and South Approach and the railway line. As with the Withey Beds, they were marked out as non-housing areas, a rich habitat for woodland flora, birds and animals. Animals seen here – and indeed throughout the estate – include foxes, badgers, muntjacks, voles, shrews, hedgehogs, squirrels and rabbits. Bird-watchers enjoy watching many species from their gardens; the birds include kestrels, owls, woodpeckers, bats, herons, geese and the more common garden species.

'The Withey Beds' appear on early maps. They are wetlands lying between Moor Lane and Sandy Lodge Road. 'Withey' is a tough, flexible branch of willow used in medieval times to bind hay bundles, make baskets and used as firewood. The 'beds' are the marshy wetlands on which the willow grows. The 18 acres of The Withey Beds have since 2003 been owned and are maintained by Three Rivers District Council as a local nature reserve, open to the public. Within the Beds is swamp, marsh, grassland, standing and fallen dead wood trees, open ditches and the river Colne – a rich breeding ground for birds and rare insects.

## **Trees**

Ever since the days of the Russells, Bedfords and Grosvenors, Moor Park has had woods, coppices, spinneys and tree-lined roads. The estate's management look after 2800 trees, making a major attraction – and a daunting responsibility. The trees include oak, hornbeam, cedar, maple, sycamore, chestnut, pine, lime, spruce, fir, poplar, birch, beech, larch, London plane and willow – and each one is cherished: when one dies a replacement is swiftly planted in its place. And, if we add more than a thousand additional trees in residents' gardens, Moor Park can boast a small forest.

There are two open fields adjacent to Batchworth Lane; they have remained free of housing and are maintained as open spaces by Moor Park (1958) Ltd. Furthermore, although this chapter is on Moor Park's own open spaces and woodlands, it should include mention of bordering open ground. To the east of the railway is Sandy Lodge Golf Club and on the hill are the two courses of Moor Park Golf Club with another, the Rickmansworth public golf course, backing on to Sandy Lodge Road. Added together, the golf clubs' fairways add another 300 acres of open space on the frontiers of Moor Park.

## **A Conservation Area**

In 1995 a proposal was drawn up by the Residents' Association and Moor Park (1958) Ltd to designate Moor Park as a Conservation Area. The reason was to protect the unique 'Metroland' environment and to prevent developers from despoiling the open spaces and woodland. There had been occasions when government planning inspectors had allowed out-of-proportion and out-of-character housing developments on appeal from opposing views by Three Rivers Council and Moor Park (1958) Ltd. Conservation Area status was considered to be very useful in controlling this kind of housing development. The proposal was approved and Moor Park became officially a Conservation Area, meaning that in addition to normal planning

requirements, formal approval from Three Rivers Council is needed for partial or total demolition or external cladding to any building or for tree demolition and lopping.

The Conservation Area does not include the golf courses or the schools but it does include Temple Gardens and all of the estate's roads, verges, trees and woodlands. 'Conservation' is not intended to prevent new, ambitious architectural ideas from being implemented within the estate but new buildings have to conform to rules that protect Moor Park's character and appearance from depredation.

### **The Green Belt**

In 1947 the government invited local authorities to suggest proposals for a 'Green Belt' of countryside in their development plans. This was based on concepts set out in the 1944 Greater London Plan which contained a series of town planning policies to counter post-war urban sprawl. The fundamental purpose of Green Belt policy is to prevent sprawl by keeping land permanently open. The essential aspects of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence. Among the purposes of a Green Belt are to prevent neighbouring towns and settlements merging into one another, to assist nature conservation, to help in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment, and to preserve the special character and setting of historic towns and villages. In the 1970s the government extended the London Metropolitan Green Belt northwards to include most of the open and undeveloped areas within Hertfordshire.

Although the Green Belt does not include the built-up parts of Moor Park estate, it does draw a tight line around its outer edges in order to operate safeguards against the outward spread of suburban development. Green Belt status is another valuable asset in helping to protect Moor Park's special character, especially the surrounding woodlands and open



spaces, and by preventing housing and other forms of development encroaching from surrounding built-up areas that would damage the character of the estate.

## **The Future of Moor Park**

The protection, conservation and management of Moor Park estate is the responsibility of Moor Park (1958) Ltd with the support of Three Rivers District Council, and with the schools and golf clubs on its borders. The unique quality of the houses, whether they are those that were first built in the 1920s and 1930s or have been built in later times, is that each one is different. There are no rows of identical detached or semi-detached houses. Furthermore, architectural styles have not stood still; Moor Park has new houses of unusual and distinctive design. Each year, Moor Park (1958) Ltd and Three Rivers Council consider 60 or more planning applications, each one demonstrating size and features that would have astonished Sir James Thornhill when he planned the new mansion in the 1720s.

The estate's management company owns 55 acres of freehold land, more than six miles of privately owned roads, open spaces and woodlands with 2800 trees. Each property on the estate is subject to a Covenant which protects the main parameters of the building and the use of the land. Together with Conservation Area status, the Covenants are a valuable asset in protecting the ambience and charm of the estate. On its borders, the governors and managers of the schools, golf clubs and of Moor Park Mansion are keenly aware of their historical and environmental duties as well as their educational and sporting objectives. Moor Park today presents a vastly different face from the Moor Park of the 1919 map but it has survived and no doubt will continue to develop as an estate of historical significance as well as a splendid place to live.



## Further reading

The most substantial history of Moor Park is *Moor Park, the Grosvenor Legacy* by Martyn Pedrick, 1989, which has proved to be extremely useful for this booklet. Earlier brief histories are *Moor Park* by Robert Bayne, 1871, reprinted 1977; *A Series of Photographs of Moor Park* by Alvin Langdon Coburn, 1915; and the *History of Moor Park* by Hilary E. Armitage, 1964. Metro-land is described in *London's Metro-land* by Alan A Jackson, 2006. Available from Moor Park Golf Club are two publications, an information booklet on *Moor Park Mansion* by Susan Bennett, and another booklet, *Moor Park and the Battle of Arnhem*, by Alan Jamieson.

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*Homes and Gardens advertisement, 1937*

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