

A historical map of the Kings Court estate, showing various buildings and features. The map includes labels for 'Cottage', 'Kitchen', and 'Lodge'. It also shows a large area labeled 'KING'S COURT' and 'THE HISTORY'. The map is detailed with numerous trees and property boundaries.

KINGS COURT

KING'S COURT THE HISTORY





CONTENTS

P5 - Kings Court

P6 - Auction

P7 - Residents

P8 - Masonic Lodge

P9 - The Wallis Family

P10 - Jug of Sunderland Ware





KINGS COURT

In 1894, William Lodge Wallis (born in 1856) and wife Mary Wallis had Kings Court built. They had previously sold land at Eastleigh to London South Western Railway.

Kings Court was a grand Victorian house with extensive grounds, a smoking room, a gun room, a housekeepers room, a morning room and boot room. The house also had a kitchen, a stable block and a cottage. The distinctive point on the corner tower has been removed for safety reasons and the verdant approach replaced by a car-park, but visitors are still greeted by the “delightful hall with galleried staircase” described in 1938.

The main entrance to Kings Court was a driveway past the Keepers lodge. In the 1930's, the lodge was extended and became a restaurant, initially known as King's Court Roadhouse (now known as King's Court Restaurant).



AUCTION

Kings Lane passed through William Lodge Wallis' estate so he proposed in 1889 to divert the lane by having a substitute path in its stead. However, his proposal did not meet approval. Soon after, George Alfred Purkess of Langleybury Lodge walked up Kings Lane and so action was bought against him in the high court of justice. William lost this case and, as a result, moved to Eyeworth Lodge in Brownhill Road.

On the 22nd of April 1904, there was an auction for Kings Court following William and Mary Wallis' decision to move. The auction was held at the Mart, Tokenhouse Yard in London. The solicitors for this auction was Spencer Chapman and Co and the auctioneers were John D. Wood and Co. The suggested price for this auction was £2,200.

The house was described as 'a handsome, modern, well-fitted family residence' in the auction poster (shown below left).



RESIDENTS

1888 - 1902: W. Baxendale

1902 - 1903: George A. Cooper

1904 - 1907: Earl & Countess Cottenham

1907 - 1911: Francis Gerald Stewart

1911 - 1927: Colonel Heathcote Stisted

1927 - 1935: Charles Walker Studd

1935 - 1938: During these years, Kings Court was a girls school named 'Kings Court College' with A. Mortimer Gunnell as Principal. On the 20th of July of the year 1938, the girls school was sold at an auction for £2,300.

1940 - 1941: During this year, Kings Court was used for Union Castle hire offices.

1960's: Kings Court was used as a furniture repository and warehouse for Pick Fords LTD.

1966 - Present: Masonic Centre. In 1968, 'Kings Court Restaurant' (originally 'King's Court Roadhouse') was opened by two chefs.



MASONIC LODGE

In 1969, Provincials Grand Master R.L Bond decided, along with John Bramwell Deacon, John Fowler, Eric Sparrow and Ian Turner that there should be a Masonic Centre for those in Chandlers Ford and near-by areas considering the lodge in Albion Place (in Southampton) was being used to it's capacity. They decided it needed to have 'comfortable and adequate facilities for the preparation and serving of meals'.

John Bramwell Duncan bought the house in the name of his family company (Superior Properties Ltd) due to not having the sufficient funds needed to run the masonic lodge. He went on to form Kings Court Limited Company to raise money to buy back the centre. In order to raise money, brick and goblets etc were sold.

Part of R.L Bond's and others plan for opening this Masonic Lodge was to construct two temples and two dining rooms (one with a capacity of 180 and another with 75). However, the plan was to only construct one of each to begin with. There were also committee and robbing rooms, kitchen facilities and a small flat, all to be a part of the Masonic Lodge. The parking space was to hold 150 cars.

The estimated cost was £125,000. The first £11,000 of this sum of money was obtained by the company and the rest of the money (£114,000) was to be obtained with the help of the Brethren and their lodges, chapters and other Masonic bodies.



THE WALLIS FAMILY

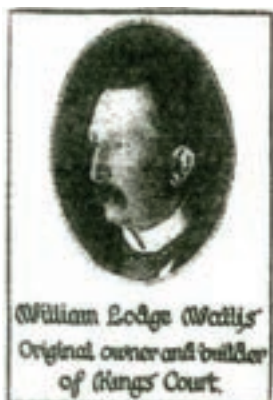
The Wallis family can be traced back to the 1500's in the time of King Henry VIII. They were farmers and also millwrights. They had a tenancy on a small farm that belonged the manor of North Stoneham. The farm was on the corner of Woodslide road and Leigh Road in Eastleigh.

Thomas Wallis married Gertrude Garnett. The Garnett family were farmers and wheelwrights. They had the tenancy of home farm which also belonged to the manor of North Stoneham.

The Wallis and Garnetts would have had a very good business making and repairing wheels and carts and other farm equipment.

In 1678, the Garnetts have up the tenancy of home form. It was taken over by John Wallis. John Wallis married Rachael Gater from the Gater family of Allington West End (Southampton). They owned Gater Mill at West End. John and Rachael had six children, two of which died in infancy. John died in 1705. His eldest son John took over the tenancy of home farm. Rachael Wallis died in 1735.

The home farm was vacated by the Wallis family after the death of John Wallis. Johns son was living at Chicken Hall Farm in Bishopstoke. He married Ellan Newman. They had a son (William Lodge Wallis) who was born in 1856.



William Lodge Wallis (left)

Mary Wallis (right)



JUG OF SUNDERLAND WARE

On the 18th of August 1974, Mrs J.M. Cuss sent this letter to Hugh Toole, the chairman of the Masonic Club at Kings Court.

“Dear Mr Toole,

On the recent death of our cousin, Miss Phyllis Wallis, the last surviving daughter of Mr William Lodge and Mary Eleanor Wallis, who built Kings Court, my sister, Mrs Esther Reed, and I have inherited some of the treasures of what was left of their home.

We felt we would like to some form of souvenir in Kings Court in remembrance of the family, Mrs Wallis having been our Mother’s sister, and ask the Masons of the New Temple at Kings Court to accept this jug of Sunderland ware, circa 1795, for their Hall, with the added wish that the picture of William Lodge Wallis should be hung somewhere in the house which was built with such hopes and aspirations.

The story behind the jug, inscribed with Masonic references, is that it was given to Mr. Wallis in settlement of a debt owed by impecunious Masonic friend of his and so it seems appropriate that you should have it. We hope that you will accept this gift with our best wishes.”




The jug of Sunderland ware, kindly given to the Masonic Centre by Mrs J.M. Cuss and Mrs Esther Reed.



The picture of William Lodge Wallis hung in the house.





FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND TRUTH.
WHEN FRIENDSHIP LOVE AND TRUTH ABOUT
AMONG A BAND OF BROTHERS,
THE CUP OF JOY GOES GAILY ROUND,
EACH SHARES THE BLISS OF OTHERS
SWEET ROSES GRACE THE THORNY WAY
ALONG THIS VALE OF SORROW;
THE FLOWERS THAT SHED THEIR LEAVES TODAY
SHALL BLOOM AGAIN TOMORROW!
HOW GRAND IN AGE HOW FAIR IN YOUTH
ARE HOLY FRIENDSHIP LOVE & TRUTH



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