The Limes

The Limes and the Tinleys

Before 1857

By 1857, the site on which the house would be built was owned by the Countess of Dudley. Her sons, the Tinleys, had probably inherited land and property in the area, and it was set aside for use in iron smelting, construction and agriculture. Before his death in 1849, Thomas Dudley Tinley passed the property to his eldest son, Thomas (1803-1873) who sold it to a carpenter and farmer named William Arthur Foster in 1842.

Subsequent Owners

The Foster Family

In 1842, William Foster (1819-1925), son of William and Sarah, took over as the collier proprietor and iron master. After some years at Trimhady, he moved to The Limes towards the end of his life. His wife Eliza remained there with their son, William Henry Foster (1832-1926), until her death in 1889. When William married in 1851, his address was still The Limes, but between 1866 and 1871 he and his wifeJessie lived with his family in Cheltenham.

The Tinleys

Eliza’s father was Richard Tracey, who had served as a soldier in the Napoleonic Wars. In 1867, Eliza married John Mc Nab Balcolley, who served as a Shipping Officer for thirty years. In 1880, he was appointed to the post of Assistant Shipping Officer for the Trinity House Board. He died in 1905.

The new house

The Tinleys

In 1883, as well as being a shipowner, Eliza was a generous woman, and she passed away in 1893, aged 50.

The Changing Uses Of The Limes

Up to 1929: A Private Residence

A new mansion, probably the property’s main house, was built in 1867 by Eliza and John. It was a large house with many rooms, including a library, dining room, drawing room, music room, and a large garden. The house was designed by the architect Sir Charles Barry, who also designed the Houses of Parliament in London.

After 1929

The Tinleys

In 1929, Eliza died, and her widow, Lucy (nee Foster), decided to sell the house. She had lived there for 50 years, and it was a place of great significance to her.

The Limes

The Tinleys

The original building retains the name of The Limes, and it is a Grade II listed building. It is one of the oldest surviving houses in the area, and it is now a private residence.

Further Information

For further information about the owners of The Limes, internet searches are recommended.

Research by:
The Foster Family, Jonathan Sloane (http://digital03body-ruton.org.uk/FORMER)
The Future, webpages concerning Greville-Treaddor (Margaret Greville-Potter) and Kate Mangan (Batterhead Potter). With thanks to Merrow and Cormac Law, Ron Baker, Dudley, and Worthington’s Audley Service. Additional research to Steve Bailey and Mary Riley (Buckley and Martin Jones (All Saints Church), Fridgeley.)

The Limes, from Conservation Greenwich in the late 1930s.