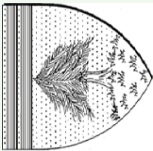


The House at Nymans



Anne Messel

The only daughter of Leonard and Maud, Anne lived at Nymans with her brothers Linley and Oliver. After her father Leonard's death in 1953 Anne took over the house and gardens, and moved here permanently as a widow in 1979. She lived in the house until she died in 1992 and the rooms are shown as she used them.



Welcome to the home of the Messel family. Once a grand Regency style house it was transformed in the 1920s into a dramatic Medieval Manor House, only to be partially burnt down in February 1947. Underterrered the Messels created the current arrangement of rooms out of the remains. They are shown as Anne, Countess of Rosse, the last of the Messels to live in the house, used them.

7. Book Room



There has always been a Book Room as well as a Library at Nymans. The surround of the TV set was created by Anne's brother Oliver.

Oliver is celebrated as one of the greatest British stage designers in history and some of his paintings are displayed at Nymans.

2. Garden Hall

The Piano was designed and made for Anne's grandfather Ludwig by Broadwood. The family moved in an artistic circle of friends including the lyricist W.S. Gilbert who Ludwig's children referred to as Uncle Schwenk.



The photos of the family displayed on the piano are on loan from Anne's son, Lord Snowdon, and include some of his own work.

Leonard and Maud Messel

Anne's father, Leonard, inherited Nymans in 1915 and set about remodelling the house in a medieval style. His wife Maud visited the West Country looking at examples of medieval architecture to include in the design.



Ludwig Messel

Anne's German grandfather, Ludwig, bought Nymans as a country retreat for his family from their busy life in London.

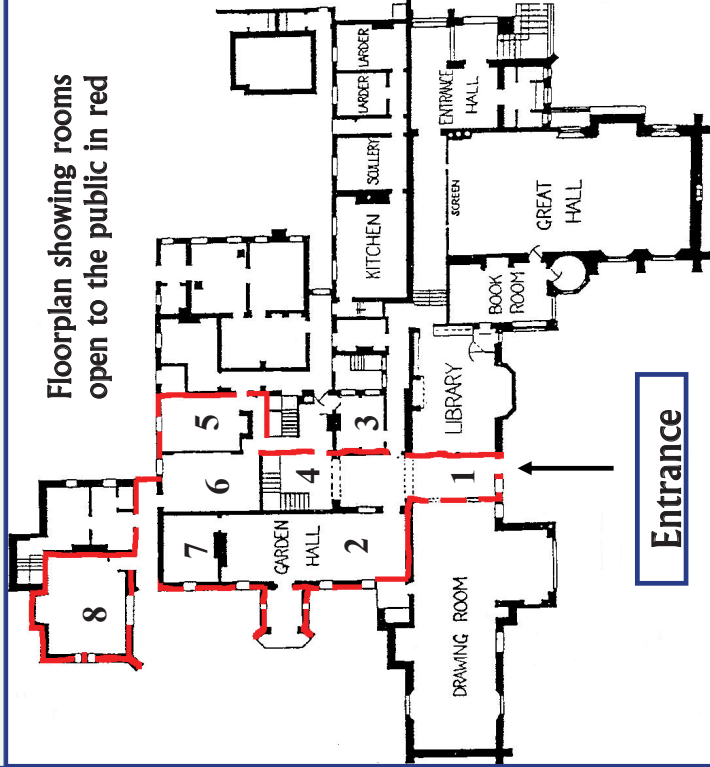


8. Library



Anne used this room as a study, writing at the desk with a view to her private forecourt. The Library was Anne's favourite room at Nymans and directly below her bedroom. The breakfront bookcases are filled with books on gardening, collected after the original library and its more significant contents were lost in the fire.

Floorplan showing rooms open to the public in red



Entrance

1. Garden Link

Look through the windows to what was once the Drawing Room. Above is where the fire started. On the wall is the architect's vision for the Great



5. Dining Room

The passage to the Dining Room is hung with portraits of Anne's grandfather and father drawn by her brother Oliver.



The Dining Room was originally part of the Servants Wing but was converted after the fire. The family would have used the Spode supper set after the servants had retired to bed.

4. Old Staircase Hall

Before the fire the main staircase stood here. Above, a gallery landing encircled it, leading to the bedrooms. The tiled section of floor shows the footprint of the staircase.



3. Housekeeping Room

This room explores the staff who cared for the house at Nymans.



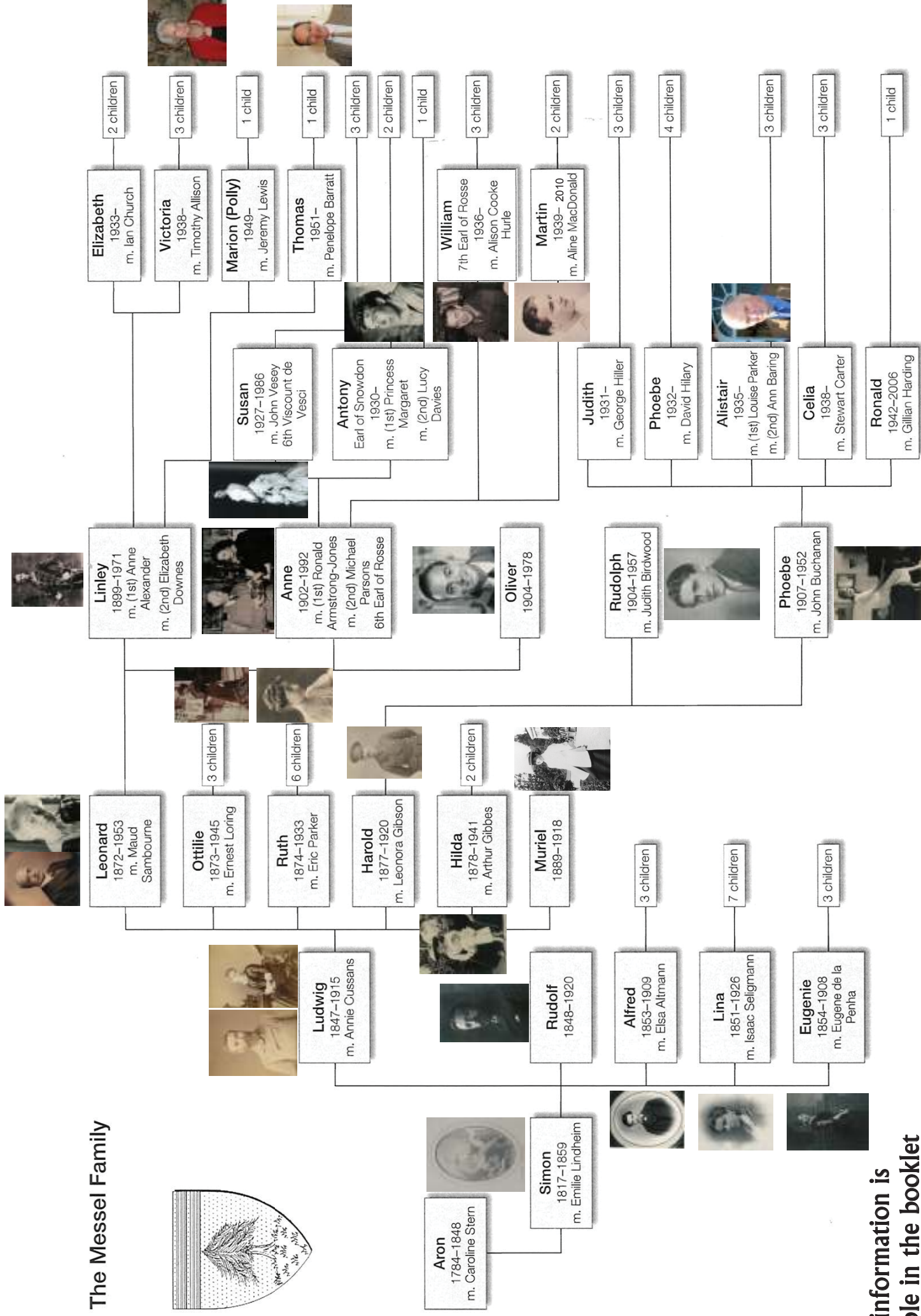
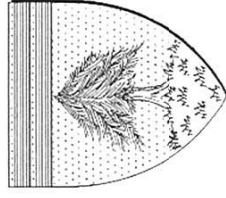
6. Gun Room and Passage

This room used to house guns and armour which gave it its name. The phonebooks hint at Anne's enduring connection to Ireland developed through her marriage to the Earl of Rosse.



The passage through the Gun Room door leads to the Motor Door where cars would drop off visitors. The umbrellas and walking sticks were owned by all 3 generations of Messels who lived at Nymans.

The Messel Family



More information is available in the booklet 'The Nymans Story'