

Stop Press

Weston Manor Revisited

Members of the Association visited Weston Manor, a former Basque girls' colony on the Isle of Wight near Totland on 3rd August 2003. The house is situated on a hill overlooking the sea and is surrounded by splendid gardens. Bulletin No. 8



(July 1937) of the NJCSR tells us that 114 girls were sent there. They stayed for two years and were cared for by the Sisters of Nazareth from Southampton.

Weston Manor was built in 1869 for William George Ward, a friend and neighbour of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1840, then became one of the prominent figures in the Oxford Movement before being converted to catholicism in 1845.

On arrival, we were introduced to Brother Francis, who showed us round the manor. Of special interest

was the private chapel attached to the house and built in 1871. On the right near the altar was a small plaque set into the wall and a statue of Our Lady of Begoña holding a small child. This is a copy of the statue in the Basilica of Begoña in Bilbao. The following words are written on the plaque: "Our Lady of Begoña. Presented to Mr Wilfred Ward on June 19th 1987 by the former Basque refugees who, as children, spent two years at Weston Manor during the Spanish Civil War 1937-1939."

Weston Manor is now a care home for adults with learning and physical disabilities, run by the Companions of St Martin's Trust.



Who are these girls?



...if you know their names, please call *

Carmen: do you remember...



Can you spare a few hours?

Voluntary help needed to help administer our membership list.

The person will need

- to be familiar with Microsoft Access
- to have worked with databases
- to have his/her own computer
- to work closely with our Secretary Natalia Benjamin

The work should involve only a few hours per week.