Flete House

We had a fabulous visit to Flete House courtesy of Marcia in April 2022. The interior was lovely and the history fascinating.

Flete House is a beautiful Grade 1 listed country house, in 12 acres of grade 2 listed landscaped grounds. The house and stables have been impeccably restored and refurbished and now comprise 29 exclusive self-contained apartments.

With roots in Saxon times, the Manor of Flete was held by the Damarell family from 1066 until the time of Edward III. The earliest part of the house dates from the sixteenth century, and was substantially rebuilt around 1620 for Sir Charles Hele. The Hele family held the house until 1716, when the estate passed to the Bulteels. Additions were made to the house in both the early and the late eighteenth century. The house was heavily remodelled in the Gothic style in 1835 by John Crocker Bulteel, which obliterated the early and late eighteenth century classical work and added castellations.

In 1878 the architect Richard Norman Shaw undertook extensive building works for Henry Bingham Mildmay, remodelling and extending the house, while retaining the sixteenth/seventeenth century house to the south west.

Flete House was used by the City of Plymouth as a maternity hospital during and after the Second World War. At the start of the war, the estate was in the hands of Lieutenant-Colonel, the Lord Mildmay of Flete. The first baby was born on 14 July 1941, and by the end of 1941 there had been a further 124 births. Lord Mildmay remained in residence at the House until his death in 1947 and was apparently often seen in the Wards.

Dave Hill of the pop group Slade was one of the babies born at the House, in 1946. The hospital closed on 8 May 1958, less than a month after the last baby was born there, and the house was returned to the Mildmay family in 1959.

In 1979 Flete House was used as the location for the BBC TV series *Penmarric*, the house represented the house of the title

*The Library*



*Billiard Room*



*The Library*



*Dining Room*



*The Italian Garden*



*Lounge*



*Lounge*