

Redland Past Revisited for the Redland Directory - No. 27
15c Bristol Bishop provides aspiration for 19c Schoolmaster.

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In Redland Past 13 I referred to the tradition of educators establishing schools in the leafy suburbs of northwest Bristol. However in that article I missed one of the largest and enigmatic undertakings – the boy’s preparatory school called Waynefleete. Established by the Reverend W.H. Wilkinson the school was named in honour of William Waynefleete Bishop of Winchester, founder of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Lord High Chancellor of England. The school was built on the site of Vincent Lodge by William Larkins Bernard, a famous school architect. Originally the private home of Jacob Wilcox Ricketts a famous Bristol entrepreneur, upon his death it passed to Daniel Fripp and then in 1884 to Reverend Wilkinson who used the Site for his large and imposing redbrick school. Opened in 1886 it was obviously intended to attract the sons of Bristol’s great and the good who aspired to send their offspring to the equally great English Public Schools. Although Waynefleete school has long gone the building survives subsumed in a larger building. Around the main three storey bay windows are crests of England’s Public schools, for which the pupils were being prepared. So far Diane and I have identified six of the seven crests. Clockwise from the side adjacent to the main entrance they are as follows: Shrewsbury, Marlborough, Rugby, Harrow, Charterhouse, Westminster. **Can you identify the seventh for us?** After a relatively short time, in 1897 the school was sold to E.P Wills who then gave it to the City for use as a convalescent home for Bristol’s hospitals. Opened by Queen Victoria in 1899, it became a maternity hospital in the 1950s, then offices for the area health authority and now today as regional offices for Parsons Brinckerhoff who gave me permission to take photographs. Next month I will continue with an account of another little known and interesting aspect of the site.



Westminster



Shrewsbury



Rugby



Harrow



Charterhouse



Marlborough



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