

NETHERWOOD

Netherwood in the parish of Shipley was built about 1890 by the Rev George Law Harkness who lived there for thirteen years prior to its purchase by the Misses Hopton in 1903. The architect was William Wood Bethel. It was built of stone from the Sun Oak quarry in St Leonard's Forest. Carved oak mantelpieces, copied by Miss Harkness from the original designs of Pierre Post for the house of Prince Maurice of Nassau at The Hague, are a feature of the principal rooms. They were carved at Mechlin in Holland.

"He [Rev. Harkness] used frequently to assist Rev G E Rogers both in Church and in Parish Visiting at Southwater, where his kindly services were much appreciated."

The Parish Magazine for the Rural Deanery of Storrington, Southwater Section March 1917

The house was occupied from 1927 to 1989 by the Buller family. Admiral Sir Henry Buller was a long-serving Captain of the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert (from 1922 to 1931). He was Groom in Waiting to King George V and, later, Extra Equerry to King George V, King Edward VIII and King George VI. His wife, Lady Hermione Buller, was the daughter of the Seventeenth Earl of Moray. In October 1952 their daughter, Patricia, married Commander Peter Ashmore, an Extra Equerry to Queen Elizabeth II, in Shipley Church.



A brass plate in the front pew commemorates the attendance of the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. Many Southwater children lined the road through the village to see the royal party pass by.