

Timeline

- 1836** William Munro purchases land around Stoke Lodge and the house is built in 1836.
- 1841** Occupied by merchant Thomas Bowman and his wife Mary and son John.
- 1851** Occupied by attorney and solicitor George Pope, his wife Sarah, son John and daughters Sarah and Louisa.
- 1881** George Pope is now 75, a retired widower.
- 1889** Stoke Lodge is altered
- 1891** Occupied by merchant William Budgett, wife Georgiana and daughter Evelyn.
- 1901** Occupied By Tobacco manufacturer Edward James, wife Mabel and son Gilbert.
- 1911** Occupied by Cocoa manufacturer Claude Fry, wife Marion, daughter Helen and son Maurice.
- 1947** Stoke Lodge is sold to Bristol City Council by Emily Butlin.
Stoke Lodge is a Nursery Nurses College
- 1980** Stoke Lodge becomes home to Bristol City Council Adult Learning.



Stoke Lodge

a little bit of history

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About some of our residents

1836 The Munro Family

William Munro was the man responsible for purchasing pockets of land around Stoke Lodge and building the House in 1836.

William and his wife Mary Anne had 12 children and their oldest child, also called William Munro had an impressive career as a soldier (ultimately becoming General Munro) at the same time as cultivating a considerable reputation as an amateur botanist. Service in India, Canada, the West Indies and the Crimea provided him with the ideal opportunity to collect and study local plants. He established botanic gardens at some of the military stations where he served, and encouraged his soldiers to grow their own vegetables.



William senior's will suggests he wasn't entirely pleased with all of his 12 children leaving sons Henry and Lewis out of the will. He describes their 'folly and dastardly behaviours' and clearly thinks time they spent in Oxford and India had cost him enough!

However he does seem to be proud of William junior. Calling him 'dear and dutiful'.

The Budgett Family

It is reported that Georgiana Budgett may be the woman responsible for the invention of Red Cross Parcels. In 1915 she was shown a letter sent home to Bedminster from a German prison camp, telling of the terrible conditions and insufficient food. As secretary of the local Red Cross she started a prisoner of war fund to raise money to send food and clothing to Bristol and Gloucestershire captives. Parcels were 10lbs and along with food contained a postcard to recipients could confirm they had received it. By the end of the war there were over 1000 men receiving three parcels a fortnight and by 1918 Mrs Budgett and her army of volunteers had to raise £40,000 a year. She was referred to as the soldiers 'fairy godmother'.



Georgiana's brother in law John Budgett was a zoologist who died at 31 from blackwater fever and malaria after four expeditions to Africa he also has a South American frog (Budgetts Frog) named after him following an expedition.

The James Family

Mabel and Edward married in 1883. Edward was a councilor, alderman and high sheriff. He was lord mayor twice (in 1904 and 1907). He was director of the Imperial Tobacco Company into which his firm, Edwards, Ringer and Bigg, had been merged. He was knighted in 1908.

Edward and Mabel's son Burnet George James was a lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corp. He was educated at Charterhouse School and played cricket for Gloucestershire in 1914. He was killed when his plane was brought down with engine problems on a reconnaissance flight in 1915.

