



**SEELY RED CROSS  
HOSPITAL  
GATCOMBE HOUSE**

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## ***Date Built and Current Status:***

*1751 – Still Standing*

## ***History:***

*Country Estate  
Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital  
Offices  
Private Home*

## ***Dates as Hospital:***

*19 October 1914 to 30 April  
1919*

## ***Address:***

*Gatcombe House, Gatcombe  
Near Newport, Isle of Wight*



Gatcombe House. [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

Gatcombe House is based in the small parish of Gatcombe three miles south west of Newport. The original building, known as Gatcombe Manor, existed in the days of King Edward the Confessor (1042 – 1066) when it was held by one of three brothers who each owned their own “hall”. Gatcombe Manor was likely to be on or around the site of the current house, the other 2 halls presumably being the nearby Great Whitcombe Manor and Sheat Manor.

At the time of the conquest the Manor passed into the possession of William Fitz Stur, in whose family it remained for the next 200 years. The Manor was then passed by marriage to the Lisle family and then to John Bramshott, again by marriage in 1446. Following another failure of the male line it was then jointly owned by two sisters Margaret, (who married John Pakenham) and Elizabeth Bramshott (who married Dudley). Following Dudley’s beheading for corruption in 1510 the Estate at Gatcombe was reunited by John Worsley of Appuldurcombe in 1576, and later passed to his second son Edward Worsley.

The Manor remained in the Worsley family until Sir Edward’s great grandson, also called Sir Edward Worsley, decided he wanted to make Gatcombe a more fitting and imposing seat. The house in its present stone building was erected in 1751. He died before he had time to complete the house, which then passed to his son Sir Edward Meux Worsley, who died in 1782. The estate left the family as their where only two daughters left to inherit the estate. Jane and her husband Colonel Alexander Campbell were in possession of the House from around 1805 to 1843 when it was purchased by Alexander Baring, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Ashburton before coming into the hands of Sir Charles Seely in 1874.

Sir Charles Seely, Baronet, father of Colonel J E B Seely, MP, lately Secretary of State for War, who was at the front, lent and equipped Gatcombe House, as a hospital for wounded soldiers in October 1914. There are fifty beds.

The Newcastle Journal Tuesday 13 October 1914

As can be seen from the press cutting from the Isle of Wight County Press on 31 October 1914 the first wounded soldiers arrived at Gatcombe House on Saturday 19 October 1914, arriving by "private motor-cars".

Further to the appeal for gifts the Isle of Wight County Press reported on Tuesday 5 January 1915 that "his Majesty the King sent a hamper of Game for the wounded soldiers."

Later that year on Saturday 20 November the Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser noted that "*the young Mayoress of Newport, Isle of Wight, Miss Christabella Millgate, who is 16, and her schoolgirl friends have given up their prizes and prize-giving party in order to purchase an invalid chair for wounded soldiers at Gatcombe House, Red Cross Hospital, Isle of Wight.*"

**WAR HOSPITAL "MENTIONS." —**  
Amongst the names of those brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War, by the Chairman of the Joint War Committee, of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England for valuable services rendered in connection with the establishment, organisation, and maintenance of Hospitals, are those of Colonel E. W. Cradock, The Castle Auxiliary Hospital, Ryde, and Sir Charles Seely, Bart., Gatcombe House Auxiliary Hospital, Newport.

### WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT GATCOMBE HOUSE.

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Yesterday (Friday) afternoon another party of 31 wounded soldiers from the Alexandra Military Hospital, Cosham, were received at Gatcombe House. Amongst them were nine Belgians, who aroused great interest on their arrival at Newport Railway-station. They were wearing various uniforms, several having British caps and jackets on. They are thick-set, fine looking men of medium height. The wounded men were conveyed to Gatcombe House in private motor-cars.

### APPEALS.

The wounded soldiers at Gatcombe House would be grateful for the gift of some indoor games and offers of conveyances for drives. Mrs. J. A. Gibson will gratefully acknowledge contributions.

The Isle of Wight Observer Saturday 12 April 1919 reported that Gatcombe Hospital would close on 30 April 1919.

In August 1926 the Seely family sold Gatcombe House to Sir Robert Hobart for £10,000 (approximately £410,500). Gatcombe was still in the Hobart family in 1942 and in July 1951 it was given Grade 2 listed building status;

meaning that it was of special architectural or historic interest, warranting every effort to preserve it.

Gatcombe was opened to the public when Mr and Mrs Robert Thornton acquired the house in 1981. Christopher Scott took it over in 1985, refurbished it and set up offices for his development and planning consultancy, architects, chartered surveyors and estate agents selling up-market properties. It was refurbished again, having since changed owners and became a private home. In September 2003 the property was placed on the market once more and was bought by Ian and Sally Clifton and sold for a price in the region of £3.7 million. Four years later the property was back on sale once more but the current owners are unknown.

## List of Volunteers at Gatcombe House

Name	Duties
Attwell, Margaret	Probationer Nurse
Barney, Florence	Ward Maid & Probationer Nurse
Beckingsale,	Nurse
Black, Emily Ethel Godwin	Lady Superintendant (Untrained). Acted as nurse under Trained Sister
Black, Mary Doris	Ward Maid
Blake, Beatrice Agnes	Ward Maid
Blake, Brenda Margery	Assistant Commandant
Boger, Dorothy	Ward Maid
Brannon, Kathleen Maud	Probationer Nurse
Brett, Isabel Helen Seymour	Nursing Practitioner
Brooks, Elizabeth Constance Masters	Assistant Cook
Carson, Alice Beryl	Nurse
Chapman, Lilian (Possibly Lilia)	Cook
Cooper, Ethel Elaine	Ward Maid, Kitchen Maid & Nurse
Corsellis, Helen Mary	Ward Maid
Creeth, Emily Kate	Nursing Orderly
Critchley Salmonson, Dorothy May	Nurse
Crook, Katherine Mary	Nurse
D'Albiac, Cecily Florence	Ward Maid, Probationer Nurse & Nurse
Day, Mildred Fanny	General Service
Dean, Esme Katherine	Ward Maid
Edsell, Agnes Theodora	Ward Maid
Edsell, Ivy Mary	Ward Maid
Field, Dorothy	Ward Maid
Fitzgerald, Agnes Mary Philomena	Ward Maid
Foss, Annie	Cook
Gibson, Lilian Mary	Commandant
Gibson, Margaret Menzies Hewlett	Ward Maid & Assistant Cook
Gunner, Letitia Mary	Ward Maid
Haggie, Margaret Helen	Cook
Hall, Grace	Probationer Nurse
Haywood, Marguerite Stella Katherine	Nursing Orderly, Quartermaster, Nurse & Cook
Haywood, Rose Eveline	Nursing Orderly
Hills, Daisy Livingstone	Ward Maid & Cook
Jones, Annie	Knitting & Needlework
Julius, Muriel	Dispenser
Lamotte, Dorothy Mary/Mary Dorothy	Ward Maid & Probationer Nurse
Lucy, Annie	Quartermaster
Marsh, Mildred May Elizabeth	Nurse
Maslen, Alice Harriet	Cook
McCracken, Sarah Emily	Sister

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Mitchell, Margareta	Nurse Sister
Mogg, Dorothy Faith	Ward Maid
Osman, Annie	Cook
Pring, Kate	Cook
Rich, Winifred Daisie	Probationer Nurse
Scott, Helen	Commandant
Shorthose, D	Ward Maid
Shorthose, Isabel Lydia	Ward Maid & Driver
Simpson, Helena	Nurse
Spalding, Dorothea	Masseuse
Stevens, Constance Maude	General Service
Stone, Millie	Cook & Needlewoman
Tilling, Frieda	Ward Maid
Wadham, Clara	Probationer Nurse
Welby Pryer, Kate	Ward Maid & Probationer Nurse
White, Louisa	Probationer Nurse
Wild, Ethel Eileen	Nurse
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