

## *History of Mellington Hall Hotel*

*There is evidence of settlement in the Mellington area for over 1000 years. Mellington is mentioned as 'Millington' in Domesday Book 1086 as a moated Saxon House on the old estate. The oldest recorded owner of Mellington & surrounding area was the 2<sup>ND</sup> Marquess OF Powis, William Herbert.*

*The present Hall was built in the Gothic Revivalist Style. Started by the Browne Family after the original house on the estate burnt down & was completed in 1876 by the Wright family.*

*The wrights owned Mellington Estate, which totalled 1923 acres, from 1873 to 1903. It was Phillip Wright's passion for building that led him to employ a local architect Evan Powell. Powell was the designer for many of the gothic revivalist buildings in the Montgomery area. Phillip Wright was responsible for extensive alterations and enlargement of the estate. He was responsible for most of the building as it stands today including the carriage entrances & estate lodges; he built the stables, swimming bath block & circular cast iron staircase that winds down to an unconsecrated chapel & the rooms for the men servants. He had the tower, five additional rooms and the nursery leading up to the tower built for the five of his seven sons that at that time were living at home. Due to his keen sense of duty he also built the Mellington School & refurbished the parish church.*

*Most of Phillips Wright's childhood was spent at Osmaston Manor. There are many similarities between here & Mellington. Features common to both houses include the tower block, the design of the interior rooms & a well-preserved extensive wine cellar. They both had billiard rooms & William Morris rooms & made the use of Carara marble for flooring, fire places & pillars.*

*In 1903 it was then sold to Sydney Rankin Heap but it is believed the hall had stood empty for a number of years & Sydney Heap had to renovate the house & bring the plumbing & electricity up to date. Central Heating was installed as well as carrying out the essential renovations Sydney Heap was determined to decorate the hall lavishly & bring it up to date with the modern Victorian expectations. They had four tennis courts built as well.*

*The heap family crest can be found in two distinct places, one on the gate entrance at the bottom of the drive & the other on the front of the entrance to the hall. The motto translates as 'Peace & Harmony', an appropriate testimony to the Mellington Hall Hotel of today.*

*Sydney & his wife Francis had five children in total, all of whom lived at Mellington until they married. In 1957 Sydney Heap died at the Hall. He was buried in the Churchstoke Parish & one month later there was a sale of the Hall & Mellington states. All the surrounding estate farmers were offered to buy their farms but none did. So the estate was sold in its entirety & the contents divided amongst the children. This was to be an end of an era as it was sold for the third time & made into a country club & ceased to be a private estate. The hall today is run as a successful hotel & restaurant with a large holiday home situated within the grounds.*

