

# GOODWOOD HOUSE

2010



*The Goodwood House Party*

Summer Exhibition: 7<sup>th</sup> June – 27<sup>th</sup> September

# THE GOODWOOD HOUSE PARTY

Over the last three hundred years, Goodwood has played host to many famous people, including members of the Royal family. The Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, first visited Goodwood in the early 1860s, and thereafter was a frequent guest in the summer for Raceweek. Other guests included his wife, Princess Alexandra, his mistress, the Hon. Mrs George Keppel and his son, the future George V. As the front door was opened to welcome these guests, it was as if a live performance begun that became known as the country house party. Everyone knew their role from the Duke of Richmond to the scullery maid and it was against the magnificent backdrop of Goodwood that the house party took place.



*Goodwood House, circa 1905, photographed when Edward VII was staying. The King's flag, recently discovered in the attic, is flying.*

Some guests stayed for a long weekend while others, often members of the extended family, stayed for as long as six weeks. In the Victorian and Edwardian periods, these house parties usually took place towards the end of July for Raceweek,

traditionally the last fixture in the English social 'season'. This exhibition will tell the story of these house parties, including some of the old photographs taken of the guests and principal rooms, visitors' books, footmen's liveries and Royal gifts.



*Above: Raceweek House Party at Goodwood, 1st August 1866. Guests include the young Prince & Princess of Wales and the Earl of March (later the 7th Duke of Richmond & Gordon). Taken from the photograph album of Lady Caroline Gordon Lennox, daughter of the 6th Duke.*

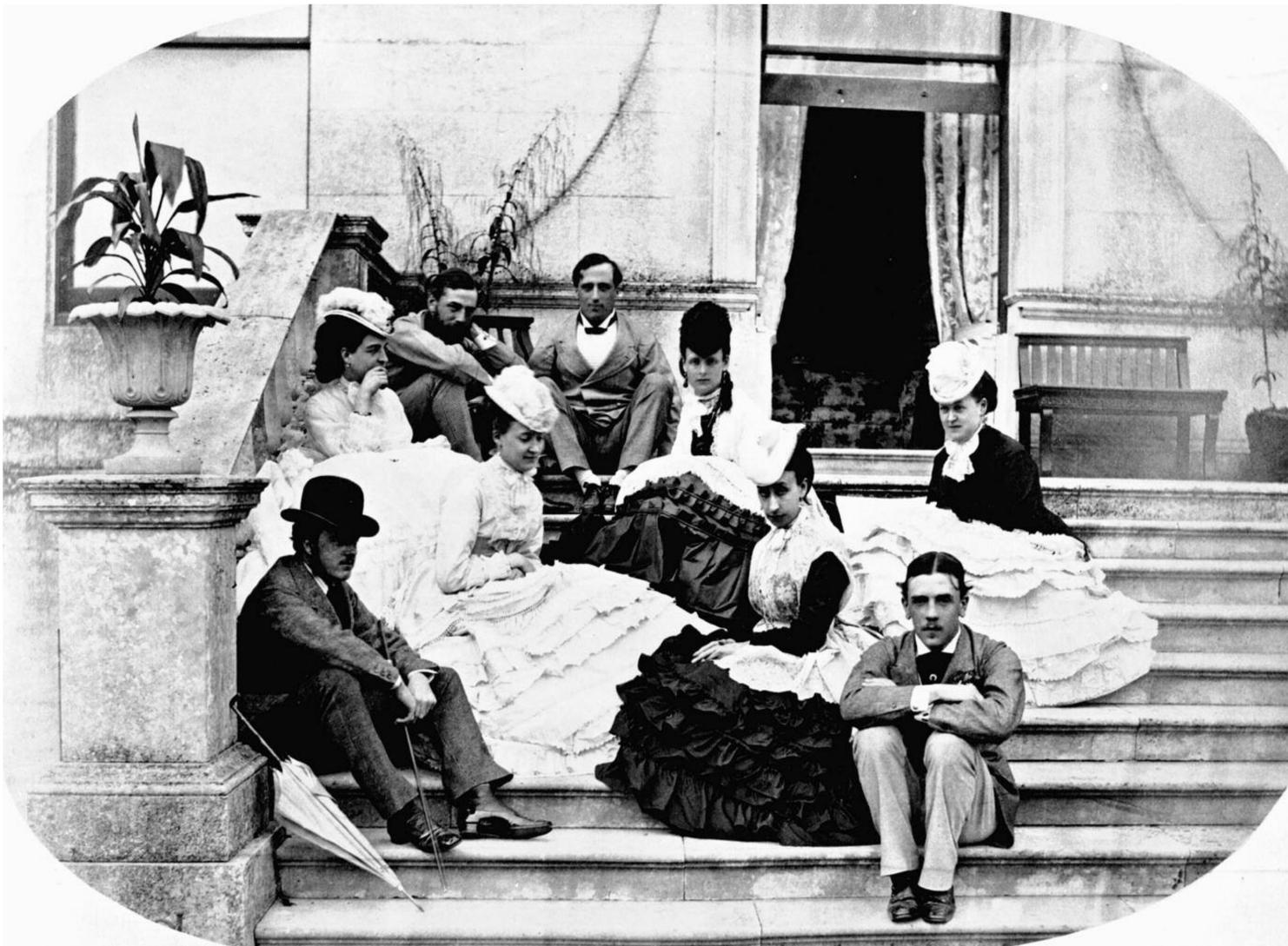
*Left: Raceweek House Party at Goodwood, 1905, with Edward VII, Queen Alexandra and the 7th Duke of Richmond & Gordon.*

# THE COUNTRY HOUSE PARTY

Country houses have always had guests to stay, but before the advent of railways, long distance travel was not easy. This meant that when guests came to stay, they would usually stay for many weeks, if not months, and fit into the daily routine of the family. The invention of the steam engine and the ensuing network of railways that spread across the country changed all of this and suddenly travel became much easier and more comfortable. This meant that people could come and stay for a much shorter period of time; these social gatherings in country houses across the land have become known as country house parties. Their heyday lasted from the death of Prince Albert in 1861 to the outbreak of the First World War.



*Gordon Castle, Morayshire, the Scottish seat of the Dukes of Richmond & Gordon, where the family spent the summer after Raceweek. It was sold in 1935.*



*A summer house party group on the library steps at Goodwood, 1870, with the Hon. Miss Vesey, the Hon. H. Molyneux, Sir Frederick Johnstone, Bt. Lady Caroline Gordon Lennox, the Countess of March, Lady Florence Gordon Lennox, Viscount Macduff (later Duke of Fife), Lady Algernon Gordon Lennox and Lord Langford.*

## A Small World

The world of the aristocracy was a small one. Most of the country's political and social influence, as well as its wealth, were concentrated in the hands of 600 or 700 landowning families. In 1883, the Duke of Richmond & Gordon owned a total of 286,411 acres, most of which was in Scotland centred on Gordon Castle. Many of these landowning families were connected by marriage which strengthened ties already made through attending the same schools and colleges or the summer events which made up the London season.

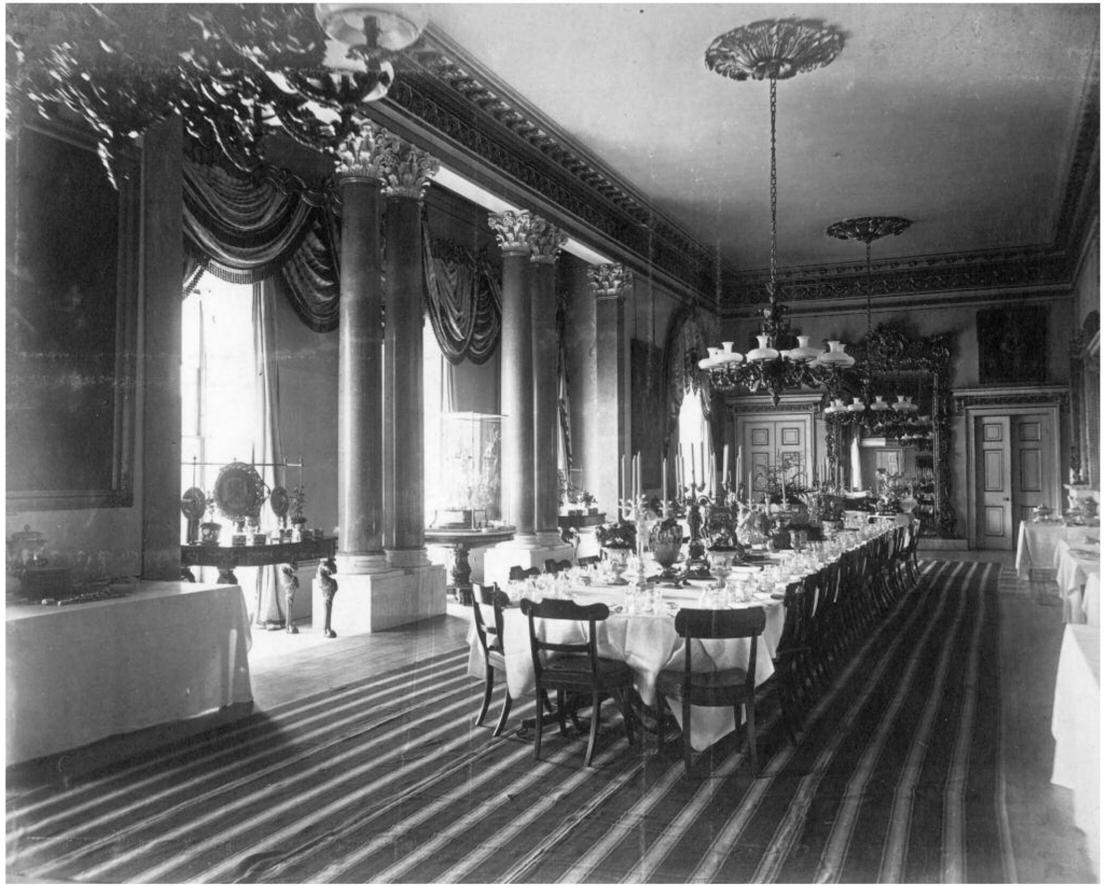
# THE COUNTRY HOUSE PARTY

## The Country House

The country house was at the heart of these large estates which were in themselves a small empire, often almost self-sufficient. Most estates had their own laundry, workshop, stable yard and kitchen garden. They were run by an army of servants who either lived in the house or were tenants on the estate. There was a strict hierarchy with upper and lower servants and indoor and outdoor divisions.

## Hosts & Hostesses

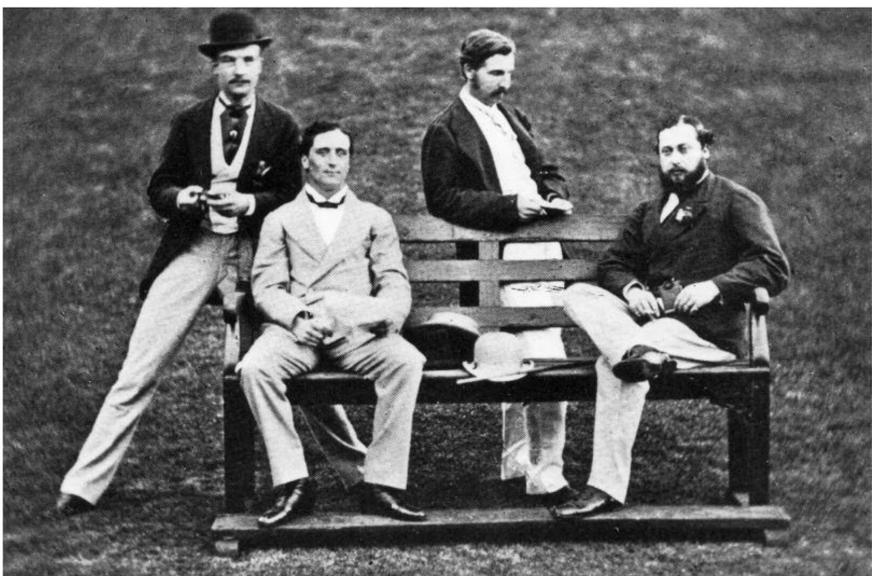
As with every generation, there was a fast set that became known for their extravagant lifestyle and racy living. Prince Albert Edward, or Bertie, as the Prince of Wales was known, was at the epicentre of this group, known as the Marlborough House Set after his London residence. Probably as a reaction against his strict upbringing, the Prince of Wales rebelled against his mother, Queen Victoria's rigidity and gathered around him a mixture of members of the aristocracy and nouveau-riche bankers and industrialists. With the purchase of Sandringham in Norfolk, the Prince and Princess of Wales established a fashion for house parties that threw any former style of



*The ballroom laid up for a banquet, circa 1880.*

## Sport

The principal entertainment at these house parties was sport. In the autumn and winter this meant game shooting or fox hunting, while in the spring and summer guests partook of fishing, horse racing, tennis, cricket and croquet. Lavish meals were laid on and during those times when people were not engaged in sport, amateur theatricals were put on, cards were played, letters were written and books or magazines were read. At Goodwood, house parties usually took place at the end of July and beginning of August for Raceweek, which has since become known as 'Glorious Goodwood'.



*The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) with friends at Goodwood, 1868. Left to right: The Hon. O. Montague, Sir Frederick Johnstone, Bt., General Sir Arthur Ellis, The Prince of Wales.*

country entertaining into the shade. Formidable hostesses vied for attention in this rarefied existence. Among these were the 'Double Duchess' (German-born Louise von Alten who became Duchess of Manchester and later Duchess of Devonshire), the Marchioness of Londonderry, the Marchioness of Ripon and the Countess of Warwick.

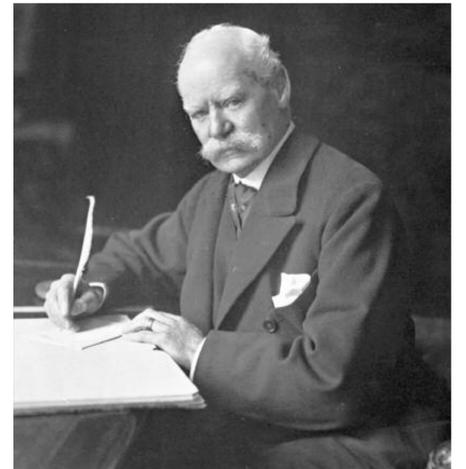


*Playing tennis on the lawn at Goodwood, circa 1905.*

# GOODWOOD A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

## The 7th Duke of Richmond

A hundred years ago, Goodwood was the home of the 7th Duke of Richmond & Gordon, the great-grandfather of the present Duke. He had inherited the Dukedom on his father's death in 1903 by which time he had been a widower for sixteen years. His first wife, the beautiful Amy Ricardo had borne him five children (including the future 8th Duke) and his second wife, Isabel Craven, a further two daughters. One of these daughters, Lady Muriel, wrote *When I Remember*, (1936) the story of her childhood at Goodwood. In the absence of a wife, the Duke's sister, Lady Caroline acted as hostess. Later, his daughter, Lady Helen took on the running of the Raceweek house party. She was to become the Duchess of Northumberland.



*The 7th Duke of Richmond & Gordon, a widower for forty years, who lived at Goodwood from 1903-1928.*

## Inside Goodwood

Edward VII was a regular guest whose forceful opinion was responsible for the dismantling of all the Egyptian detailing in the Egyptian dining room and the taking down of the Temple of Neptune & Minerva, which reportedly blocked the view from his bedroom of the Orangery. Photographs of the main rooms in the house show typical room arrangements for the Edwardian period: large indoor palms and flower arrangements, haphazard groupings of furniture, comfortable easy chairs and sofas, and newspapers strewn on tables.

## The Day's Activities

Most house parties lasted from Friday to Monday and were formal affairs, with sport as the main activity. As host, the Duke, had very much of a say when it came to the disposal of his guests' time. Prayers were at 9 o'clock, breakfast was at 9.15. This was a hearty affair according to Lady Muriel with:

*'tea and coffee, bacon, grilled kidneys on toast, fish, kedgerie, eggs poached, boiled, and fried, scrambled and done up in every form – were the hot basis. For those who preferred a solid and appetizing second course, there were devilled bones, chicken and game, cold game pies, colossal York hams, pickled fish, and potted game, or any other sort of spiced delicacy the chef might consider likely to tempt the appetites of the bold cavaliers and the delicate ladies who thronged the festive board.'*

The morning was filled with sport – hunting, shooting, tennis, cricket or croquet depending on the season – or more leisurely pursuits such as letter-writing, reading or painting. A solid lunch was often taken outside, even during the winter, and then at a quarter to three the afternoon's activity commenced. The gentlemen went back to their sport, while the ladies might go for a tour in a wagonette to a place of interest such as Chichester Cathedral or somewhere with a good view.



*Above: The Yellow Drawing Room, circa 1906. This room was used by the guests after dinner.*

*Right: The Tapestry Drawing Room, circa 1906, with indoor ferns and a haphazard arrangement of furniture, typical of the Edwardian era.*



*Below: The south front of Goodwood, circa 1880, showing the lawn set up for croquet, a favourite game for Victorian and Edwardian house party guests.*



# GOODWOOD A HUNDRED YEARS AGO



*Lords Bernard & Esmé Gordon Lennox, sons of 7th Duke, with their brother-in-law Major William Beckwith at Goodwood.*

Tea followed the expedition for both the ladies and gentlemen, described by Lady Muriel as ‘the hour of flirtation, delicately discreet, in which Victorians and Edwardians alike excelled’. After tea, everyone returned to their bedrooms to dress for dinner.

Dinner was very formal, the hostess pairing up her guests according to precedence. Again, Lady Muriel described the repast: ‘There were invariably two soups and, if salmon was in season, a choice of fish. A bird followed, high (if game was in season), if not chicken or duck, with attendant etceteras to efface the absence of succulent putridity.’ Champagne, wine and port were drunk in large quantities, gentlemen being known by the quantity they drank, for example a ‘two-bottle or three-bottle man’.



*Amy Ricardo, Countess of March. She was the first wife of the 7th Duke of Richmond & Gordon (then styled Earl of March) who died aged only 30.*



*Above: Park Lodge, showing the picturesque veranda that was subsequently removed. The wooden gates were replaced by the present gates which were erected as a memorial to Lord Settrington and Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox who were both killed in the First World War.*

*Right: Rare colour photographs of the Kitchen Garden (now part of the Goodwood Hotel) and the lawn outside the Ballroom, circa 1911.*



After dinner, the ladies withdrew to the yellow drawing-room while the gentlemen remained at the table to drink port. When they rejoined them in the drawing-room, cards were played (the card room at Goodwood got its name because Edward VII used it for cards) and songs were sung. During Raceweek, the Duke would hire an orchestra for dancing, with guests from local house parties joining them. Sometimes the guests might put on a little play. In January 1894, the house party performed ‘A Pantomime Rehearsal’. Later, when the ladies had gone to bed, the gentlemen might play billiards.

## To Scotland

Each year, the day after Raceweek, the entire family and household staff, boarded a specially hired train to take them from Goodwood to their Scottish home, Gordon Castle. Here they indulged their passion for fishing, shooting, deer-stalking and the beautiful countryside that made up their Scottish estates.

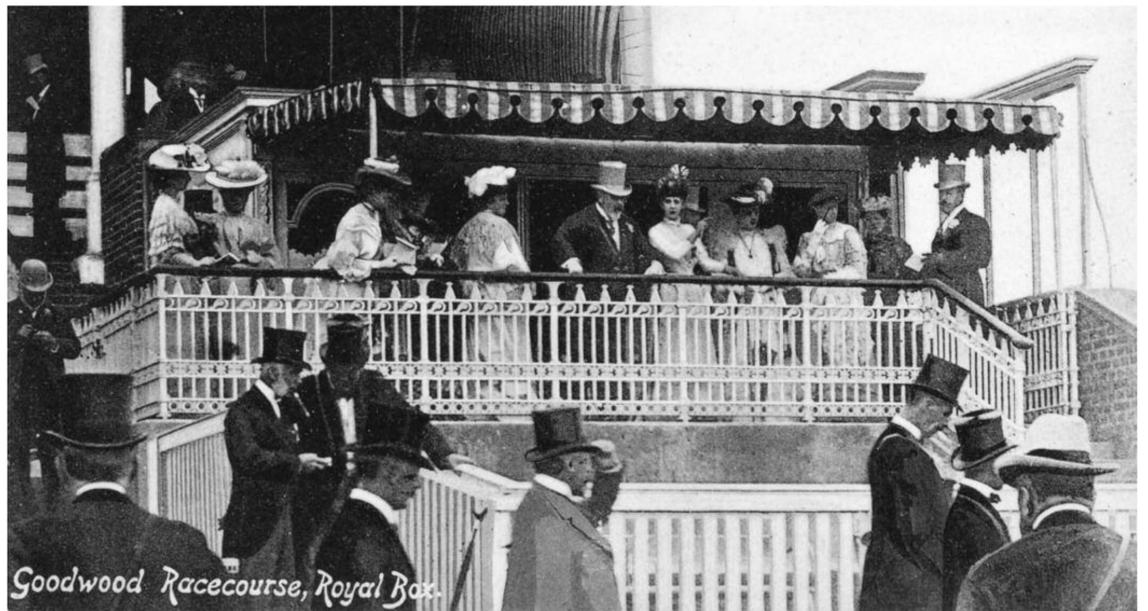
*House party guests mounting a wagonette to go to the racecourse.*



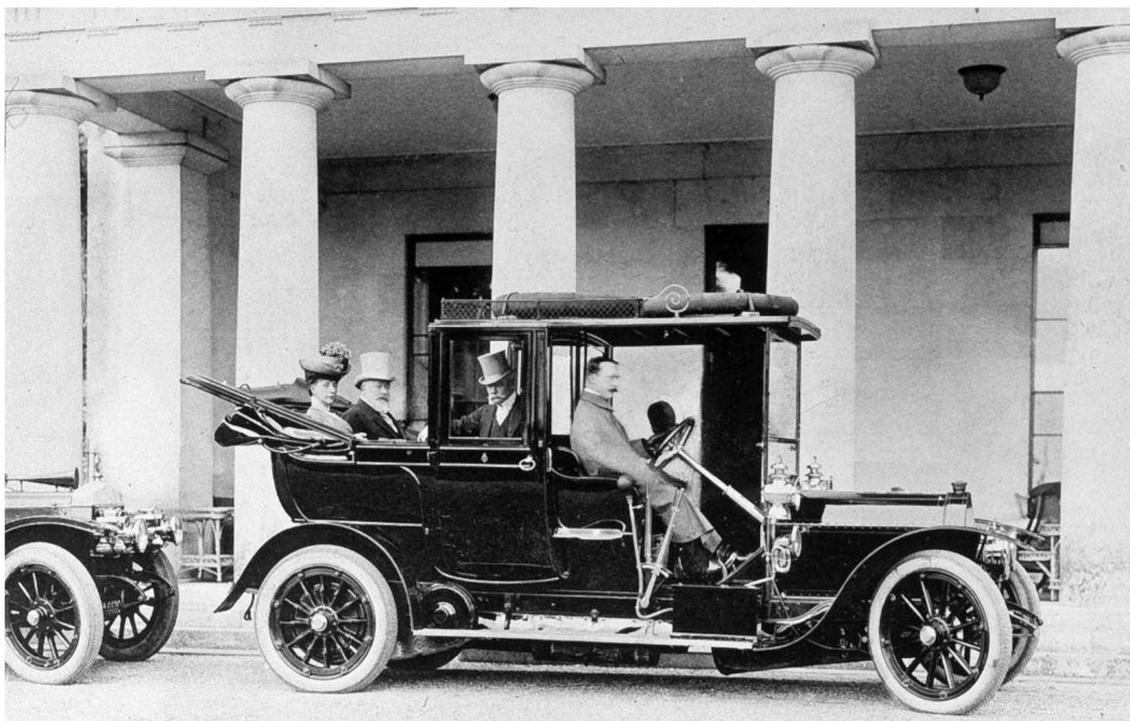
# GLORIOUS GOODWOOD RACEWEEK

*“...high summer seemed to reach its zenith when the crowds gathered along the course, the sunlight flashed on the gay colours of the women’s dresses, and the thudding batter of the horses’ hoofs sounded on the turf as the race rushed by. England in sport, England in summer, England unconcerned, gay, on holiday, England at her best”.*

(Lady Muriel Beckwith, daughter of the 7th Duke of Richmond)



*The Royal box, with Edward VII in the centre wearing his white top hat, and Queen Alexandra beside him.*



*Edward VII leaving Goodwood House for a days racing.*



*Raceweek House Party at Goodwood, 1904 showing Edward VII wearing a white top hat. Some of the gentlemen in the back row are still wearing black top hats as they have been unable to get hold of a white one in time.*

The first race meeting at Goodwood took place in 1801. After the success of that private race meeting, the 3rd Duke of Richmond held a public race meeting the following year, held over three days. Racing has continued ever since, the highlight of the season being Raceweek which takes place at the end of July.

## **The Prince of Wales**

As the racecourse developed, especially during the 5th Duke’s tenure, Raceweek became an integral part of the aristocratic social season. From the 1830s about forty people would stay at Goodwood. The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) stayed regularly at Goodwood from the 1860s until his death in 1910. He was a keen race goer (in 1890 he attended twenty-eight race meetings) and had a successful stable which included three Derby winners. His patronage of the racecourse greatly increased its popularity; as the *West Sussex Gazette* commented in 1866:

*‘This year we found either more aristocratic ladies, whose gay and fashionable attire formed an extra embellishment to the brilliant equipage, or that they more frequently went to the course. This perhaps, was induced by the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales, who, as is well known, honoured His Grace the Duke of Richmond by becoming his guests.’*

# GLORIOUS GOODWOOD RACEWEEK

## Fashion

*The Lawn at Goodwood*, painted twenty years later is filled with the leading aristocrats and celebrities of the day, including the composers, Gilbert & Sullivan. Edward VII had a soft spot for Goodwood and soon felt that his beloved race meeting was being undermined by the young dandies and fops who were attempting to turn it into a fashion show. The King started with a roundabout approach by sending a message to the Turf Club the week before the races asking them to inform their members to come in 'pot hats' or straw hats. The members failed to comply. A couple of years later he decided that more direct action was necessary and he wore a 'pot hat' and a shooting coat. This was commented upon, but nothing changed. In 1904 he took advantage of the custom that male fashion would follow the king and turned up with a white silk topper instead of the regulation black one. Male followers of fashion were



*The Lawn at Goodwood* by Walter Wilson and Frank Walton, 1886. The scene shows the Prince of Wales talking to the Duchess of Montrose. The 6th Duke of Richmond can be seen helping Lady Leveson Gower climb up the grass step.

sent scurrying back to the capital as London hatters were begged to supply the 'royal model' overnight. Two years later he completed the sartorial downgrade with a switch from morning suit to lounge suit, with the choice of a white bowler/derby, a Panama or an ordinary straw hat. Being freed of the stiff collar and long skirts gave Goodwood a much more relaxed, holiday feel than any other racecourse; an atmosphere that it has retained to this day. This is probably what prompted Edward to dub his favourite race meeting 'a garden party with racing tacked on'.



*Raceweek House Party at Goodwood, 1906 showing Edward VII wearing a bowler hat and lounge suit.*

## A New Stand

Taking advantage of the presence of the King and leading society figures, a Privy Council meeting would always be held during Raceweek in the Tapestry Drawing Room at Goodwood. A new stand was also built in 1903 with a Royal pavilion attached at the paddock end for the King. At the other end, Queen Alexandra had a box with an underground passage connecting the two. No expense was spared for either box: the King's lavatory was made of monogrammed marble.

# BELOW STAIRS

Large house parties at Goodwood could never have taken place without a considerable number of servants working hard behind the scenes. In most country houses, the staff were divided into two teams: the males headed by the house steward and the females under the command of the housekeeper. Another team operated outside, which included those working in the stables, gardens, gate lodges, and laundry.

Within each team, there was a strict hierarchy. The most important staff were known as the 'Upper Ten' and the others as the 'Lower Five', although these figures bore no relation to the numbers of servants in the house. The 1901 census gives us a good glimpse of life at Goodwood 'below stairs', as the world of the servants is sometimes called. The household consisted of thirty-three people, which included the 6th Duke of Richmond's daughter, Lady Caroline and two granddaughters, the Hons. Muriel and Helen Gordon Lennox.



*The Goodwood indoor staff, including butler, housemaids and footmen photographed in the 1920s.*



*Goodwood staff taken in the 1890s, showing Jack Collins, groom (back row, second from right) and his wife Frances (back row, fourth from right).*

## The Upper Servants

The **house steward** was John Cheeseman. Lady Muriel wrote about him in her book *When I Remember* (1936):

*'No one, either of the family or amongst the household, would have questioned his comings and goings, his decrees, or his right to entertain on a liberal scale, whomsoever he chose to invite into his room. Dignified and awe-inspiring, he moved about with authority, even the children treating him with due respect.'*

The steward was responsible for paying wages and bills, ordering household supplies, organizing travel arrangements, and keeping accounts.

Beneath the house steward was the **groom of the chambers**, Henry Thatcher. He rang the bell for morning prayers and had to make sure everything was in order in the house, both upstairs and down, with particular attention to fires, writing-desks, lamps and candles, as well as the security of the doors and windows.

Next in the pecking order came John Osborne, the Duke of Richmond's **valet**. He would have woken the Duke up in the morning, bringing hot water for shaving, and laying out his cloths for the day. He also packed and unpacked for the Duke, bought tickets, arranged transport, and only went to bed after his master.

William Twigg was the **under butler**, responsible for the wine, silver, proper conduct of meals, checking the fires in the main rooms, sorting the mail, ironing the paper, and receiving visitors and taking their visiting cards.

The **housekeeper** was Susan Washington. Lady Muriel described her:

*'Mrs. Washington, the housekeeper – or Washy, as we called her – was a great character, and had an extraordinary knowledge of the family history...She was a wonderful show-woman, and it was one of her duties to pilot people round the house. Washy never missed an opportunity of glorifying the family.'*

The housekeeper kept the housekeeping accounts and the keys to the storerooms, and engaged female staff. Beneath the housekeeper, but with some independence, was Annie Hayes, the **lady's maid** who, in the absence of a Duchess, would have looked after the Duke's sister, Lady Caroline Gordon Lennox. She was responsible for making sure her mistress was always looking immaculate and would have travelled with her, packing and unpacking like the valet to the Duke.

At Goodwood, there was a French **chef**, Albert Rousseau. Lady Muriel remembered him 'as a sweet old man with a faint French accent, who always wore his cap at a jaunty angle on the side of his head, and, when in full chef's rig, his steel hanging like a sword at his side'. The 6th Duke gave him the nickname, Monsieur Jean Jacques, after the famous French philosopher of that name.



*Nanny Amery, who was the children's nanny from about 1906 to 1911.*

# BELOW STAIRS



*The Goodwood 'chippies', 1910. This includes Bill Barber (second from right standing), Jim Welch (middle front), Fred Parker, Chiz Hawkes and Walt Hudson.*

## The Lower Servants

For the men, these comprised three **footmen** (David Blakeley, John Taylor and Walter Gibbins); an **usher** (Philip Eldridge); a **steward's aide** (Charles Morgan); a **baker** (James Hammond) and three **gardeners** (Robert Ward, Harry Bennett and Andrew Lisle). The footmen would have looked resplendent in the Richmond yellow and red livery. They washed the silver and glass after meals, ran errands and delivered messages, did 'carriage duty', accompanied the ladies on shopping expeditions, answered the door, looked after the fires, carried the tea, drew the curtains, lit the lamps and attended the gentlemen.

Lady Muriel wrote about Philip Eldridge, the hall usher, who had 'mutton-chop whiskers' and behind his back was known as 'Flip Flops'. He was 'absolute monarch of the servants' hall... A rigid disciplinarian, he had strict views regarding deportment and manners to which he made all his satellites conform'.

She wrote regarding James Hammond, the baker, that her 'chief memory is of seeing him walk daily into the still-room [where puddings were prepared] bearing a tray laden with every kind of delicious biscuit, scone, and cake. So far as we were concerned, the still-room had the most overworked door in the house.'

For the females, the 'Lower Five' comprised five **housemaids** (Susan Spence, Helen Lennan, Marion Hudson, Ina Lennox, Maud Burrows); Fanny Hubbard, the **still room maid**; three **kitchen maids** (Maud Taylor, Eliza Soshera, Grace Reavesley); Florence Harris, the **scullery maid**; Annie Innes, the **school room maid** and Lydian Long, a **needlewoman**.



*Mrs Wackford, Mrs Emmerson, Mrs Kennet and Mrs Bromham outside Molecomb Cottages.*



*Molecomb Cottages.*

## Third Tier of Servants

Despite the quantity of servants working full time in the house, outside assistance was sought for 'rough work'. Again, Lady Muriel described the situation:

*'... every Friday morning at Goodwood an army of charwomen [cleaners] bore down on the place and came to the assistance of the regular staff. These women had a special character of their own, and amongst them I remember Mrs. Faith with a high starched lace cap; Mrs. Best with no cap but a face like a little russet apple and bright brown eyes; Mrs. Budd, who prided herself on being psychic and who was always full of reminiscences; and Mrs. Humphreys, who was plump and very active.*

*Buckets of water and huge pieces of soap were distributed, and there followed a great scrubbing of back stairs and passages. Later in the day they all walked home through the Park, each carrying a large parcel which we always thought contained at least sufficient food for the week-end...'*

## The Governess

As there were children in the house, there was a Scottish governess called Miss Katharine Moffat, whose status was above that of the housekeeper. The children called her 'Moffy' and, wrote Lady Muriel, she 'was an unparalleled success because she loved us and we loved her. ... She became part of the household, a person whom the guests, who came for fishing or shooting, found as charming as ourselves, and there were few of them who failed to find their way into the schoolroom for a quiet hour with Moffy'.



*Robert Emmerson, the Head Gardener, and George Wackford his assistant, mowing the lawn at Molecomb with Ginger the horse.*

## Entertainment

Every Friday night the servants' hall had a dance after supper, music being supplied by one of the stablemen who had a concertina, sometimes accompanied by a fiddler. They read magazines, such as *The Family Friend* (for females) and attended annual events such as the servants' Christmas ball. Life at Goodwood was, relative to today, very self-contained, with perhaps the longest journey servants made being that between Goodwood and Gordon Castle in Scotland.

# GOODWOOD GUESTS

The family photograph albums and Goodwood visitors' book reveal the faces and names of those who stayed at Goodwood. These include members of the Royal Family, the Duke of Richmond's own family, good friends and leading figures from society, politics and the racing world.

## The Duke of Richmond's family

At any house party there were always members of the family staying. The 7th Duke of Richmond & Gordon (1845-1928), who was a widower for much of his life, loved to surround himself with his relations. These included his sons, the Earl of March and Lords Esmé and Bernard, and his daughters Ladies Evelyn, Violet, Muriel and Helen. Once married, the number of family members visiting Goodwood increased considerably.



*Below: Five generations of the Richmond family: Lady Sophia Cecil, daughter of the 4th Duke of Richmond; the 6th Duke of Richmond; the Earl of March (later 7th Duke of Richmond); Lord Settrington (later 8th Duke of Richmond); and the Hon. Charles Gordon Lennox, elder brother of the 9th Duke of Richmond.*

## Famous guests

As might be expected, most of the guests who stayed at Goodwood were members of the British aristocracy and landed gentry. Their elegant signatures, penned with bravura, fill the visitors' book. Guests included Edward VII & Queen Alexandra, George V and Queen Mary, the Princesses Victoria and Maud. Some of them were well known society figures in their day such as Henry Chaplin, a great friend of the Prince of Wales from his Oxford days, who was one of the Turf's larger-than-life patrons in the 1860s and 1870s. His fiancée, the beautiful Lady Florence Paget (a niece of the 5th Duke of Richmond and nicknamed 'The Pocket Venus') jilted him in favour of the wild young Marquis of Hastings who died ruined by gambling debts a few years later.

The 6th Duke of Portland was Master of the Horse to Queen Victoria and married to the Scottish beauty, Winifred Dallas-Yorke. He later recalled an amusing incident when he threw himself down into a chair to watch his wife finish dressing, only to discover to his horror and extreme discomfort that he had sat on her tiara.



*Above: Raceweek House Party at Goodwood, 1906 showing Edward VII (seated in the centre wearing a bowler hat). Behind him stands the Marquis de Soveral (known as the 'Blue Monkey') and the 7th Duke of Richmond with the Earl of Durham peeping through. The Hon. Mrs. George Keppel is seated on the far left, and the Marchioness of Londonderry second from far right.*



*Left: The Library, circa 1880. This was a favourite room for the 6th Duke of Richmond's family and many house party photographs were taken on the steps outside in the Victorian era.*

A face (similar to the actor David Suchet playing Hercule Poirot) that frequently appears in the Edwardian house party photographs is that of the Marquis de Soveral, Portuguese Minister at the Court of St. James's. A great friend of Edward VII, he was the darling of Society, who gave him the nickname, the Blue Monkey. As he was not interested in sport, he was quite happy to entertain the ladies while their husbands were outside.

# GOODWOOD GUESTS

Another great character, who stayed at Goodwood during the reign of George V, was the 5th Earl of Lonsdale. This extravagant aristocrat was a great friend of the family. His nickname was the Yellow Earl after his yellow carriages and livery which were used to carry him from Goodwood to the racecourse. He always brought two carriages, with six or seven horses and postilions dressed in yellow livery. These would all have been housed in the Goodwood stables, where there were stalls for sixty-four horses and accommodation above.



Above: The 5th Earl of Lonsdale (1857-1944), known as the 'Yellow Earl' because of his yellow carriages and livery, was a regular guest at Goodwood.

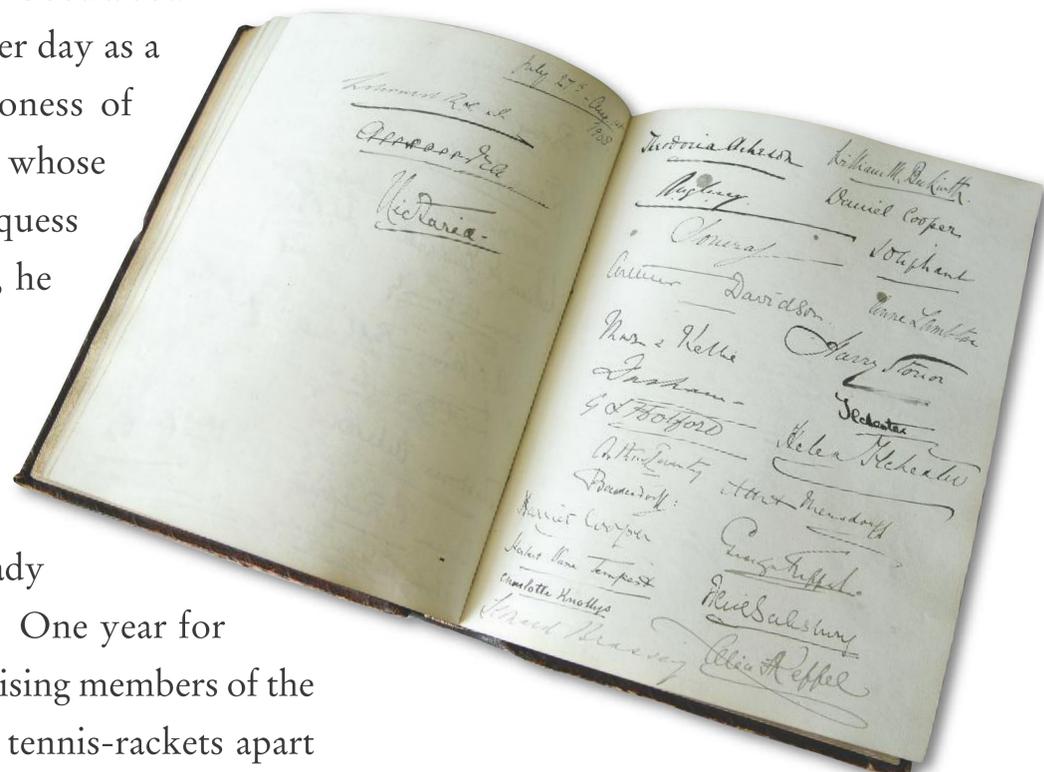


Left: The 'Double Duchess' a famous hostess and regular guest at Goodwood, photographed in 1857 at Gordon Castle, the Scottish home of the Dukes of Richmond & Gordon. Left to right: Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the 7th Duke of Manchester, the Hon. Col. James MacDonald, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Duchess of Manchester.

Below: The Goodwood visitors' book with Edward VII and Queen Alexandra's signatures on the left and the Hon. Mrs George Keppel's on the right.

Among the well known ladies who came to Goodwood was the Double Duchess, born Louise von Alten, she married firstly the 7th Duke of Manchester and then the 8th Duke of Devonshire. She can be seen in the painting *The Lawn at Goodwood* standing next to the 6th Duke of Richmond. She was famous in her day as a Society hostess, as was another Goodwood guest, the Marchioness of Londonderry. Lady Londonderry was the leading political hostess, whose affair with the dashing Harry Cust, led her husband, the 6th Marquess of Londonderry, to stop speaking to her. For the rest of his life, he communicated only through a third party.

The Hon. Mrs George Keppel was a regular guest at Goodwood for Raceweek. She was the most famous mistress of Edward VII and is the great-grandmother of HRH the Duchess of Cornwall. Lady Muriel remembered her as having a pleasant word for everyone. One year for Raceweek a party of bats was found in her room. The most enterprising members of the house party set off to remove them; they armed themselves with tennis-rackets apart from one guest who seized a croquet mallet.



# ROYAL VISITORS

Goodwood has been host to many members of the Royal Family over the last 150 years, usually for Goodwood Raceweek at the end of July. The most regular guest was Edward VII, who first came to Goodwood as Prince of Wales in the early 1860s.

## George IV & William IV

It was only by a whisker that George IV did not make the first public race meeting held at Goodwood. However, by the 1820s, he was a regular at the meeting and won the Goodwood Cup in 1829 with his horse Fleur de Lis. His brother, William IV, also enjoyed racing at Goodwood, having inherited George IV's horses. Naively entering them all in the 1830 Goodwood Cup, he took home first, second and third prizes!

## Edward VII & Queen Alexandra

Edward VII adored coming to Goodwood and came almost every year until his death. Photographs show him as a young man sitting on the library steps along with his wife, the Princess of Wales (later Queen Alexandra) and the rest of the house party. The Royal party would arrive on the 'Royal Special' train, where they were greeted by the Duke of Richmond and conveyed to the house by carriage. The Duke used to have the roads watered just beforehand to ensure none of his Royal guests suffered from the dust.

In 1905 when Edward VII and Queen Alexandra came to Goodwood, the *Chichester Observer* reporter at Drayton Station recorded:

*'King Edward, attired in a grey lounge suit with a light grey bowler hat, looked remarkably well, and as usual, was very genial. Queen Alexandra, too, wearing a lovely dove coloured coat, a toque trimmed in white and grey ostrich feathers, and a white stole, looked radiantly beautiful.'*



*The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII)*



*The Ballroom, circa 1906, laid up for a banquet during Raceweek.  
Edward VII would have been one of the guests.*



## State Apartments

The Royal couple were given apartments in the north wing, which included the Tapestry Drawing Room. The King's bed was a magnificent affair with the Royal arms embroidered on the back and bed hangings. Each morning, the Royal family did not join the rest of the house party for breakfast but dined privately in their rooms.

## Turtle Soup

Edward VII loved rich food and the ballroom was the scene of enormous banquets. One delicacy served up by Monsieur Jean Jacques, the French chef, was Turtle soup. The 7th Duke's children were fascinated by these seemingly prehistoric creatures alive in the kitchen.

*The King's Bedroom, photographed circa 1905. The hangings were made using the ambassadorial canopy used by the 3rd Duke of Richmond when he was Ambassador to Paris in 1765-1766.*

# ROYAL VISITORS

## Croquet

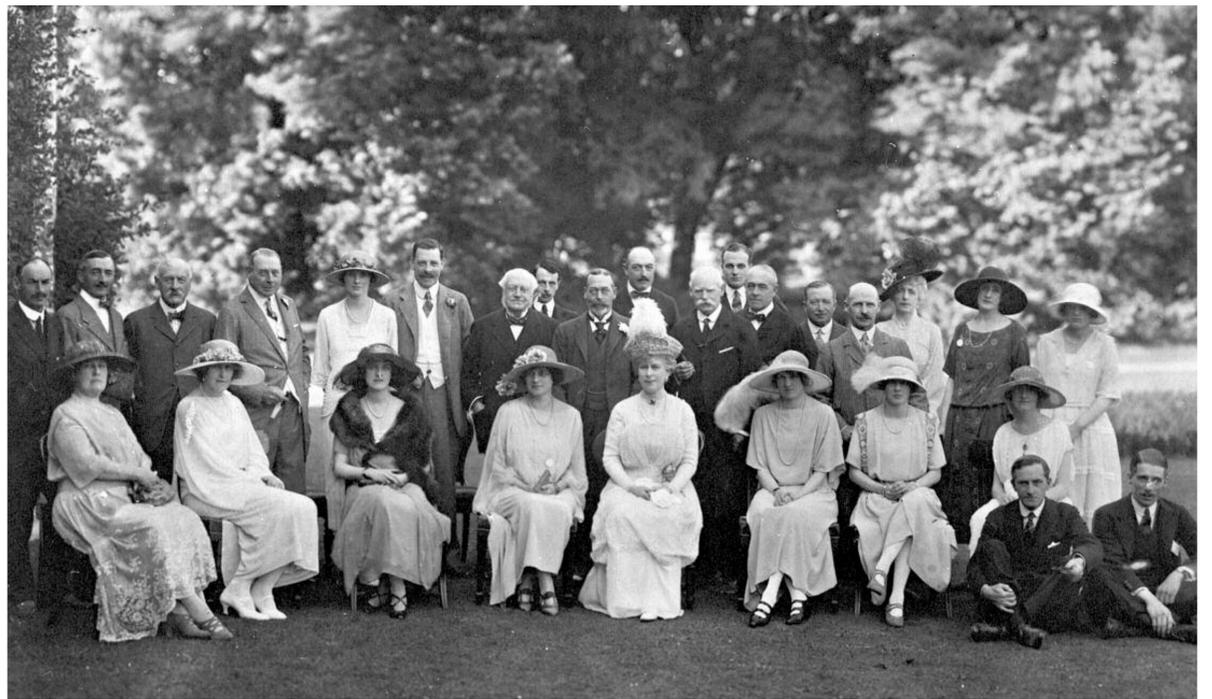
After a day's racing, Edward VII liked nothing better than to have a game of croquet. On one occasion his partner was the young Lady Muriel Gordon Lennox; she described his kind cries of 'Well tried', each time she missed a good shot and how he was full of little jokes. After the game had finished, the King would have tea on the veranda with the Duke of Richmond serving him, as was his privilege.

## Royal Dogs

When Edward VII stayed at Goodwood, he was accompanied by his dog Caesar, while the Queen brought her toy spaniels. One evening one of the spaniels jumped on a violin belonging to a member of the band which played every evening. Unfortunately, it broke two of the strings, whereupon the Queen asked the dog to apologize.

## Other Royal Guests

Prince Henry of Prussia stayed at Goodwood shortly before World War I, and the Empress Marie of Russia was a guest of the 6th Duke of Richmond. Edward VII's daughters, Princesses Victoria and Maud (later the Queen of Norway) often accompanied their parents to Goodwood, as did George V.



*Raceweek House Party at Goodwood, 1922, showing Queen Mary seated in front of King George V who is flanked by the 9th Earl of Coventry and the 7th Duke of Richmond. The Earl of Lonsdale, known as the 'Yellow Earl' is standing fourth from left.*

Like his father, George V was a regular guest for Raceweek. Each morning, before breakfast, he would go for a ride along the course with the Earl of Lonsdale. One of the servants remembers that 'when the Queen came, the King shared her room and was called with tea, but when he came alone, he slept in a little iron bedstead in his dressing room and was called with whisky'. After breakfast, the King would spend the morning working with his private secretary.

George V and Queen Mary's daughter, Mary, the Princess Royal and her husband the 6th Earl of Harewood were regular guests at Goodwood for Raceweek and the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother stayed at Molecomb in the 1920s as a friend of the 8th Duke's daughter, Lady Doris.

*Raceweek House Party at Goodwood, 1957. Left to right, back row: Lady Alice Egerton, Lord Astor, Lord Plunkett, Lady Astor, Major R. Seymour.*

*Middle row: The Countess of Euston, Miss M. Hudson, the Duke of Northumberland, Mrs Mary Finnis, the Earl of Euston.*

*Front row: The Duchess of Richmond and Lady Ellinor Gordon Lennox, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, HM the Queen, the 9th Duke of Richmond, the Earl of March (present Duke of Richmond) and Lord Settrington (present Earl of March) and the Duchess of Northumberland.*



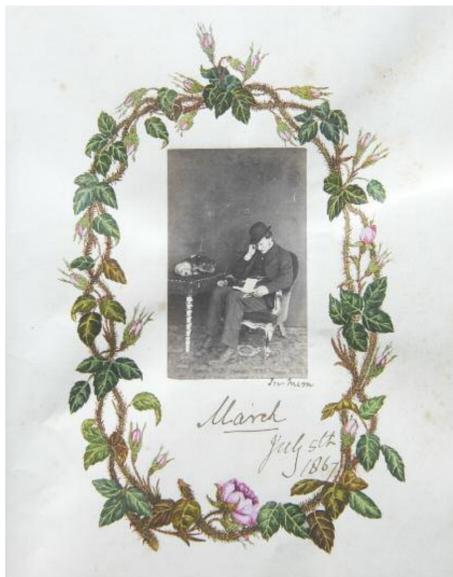
## Her Majesty the Queen

In the past, Her Majesty the Queen has been a regular visitor to Goodwood, staying alternately at Goodwood or with the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk at Arundel Castle. As a result of her presence, several Privy Council meetings have taken place at Goodwood in the Tapestry Drawing Room. The Duke of Edinburgh would combine a day's racing with polo at Cowdray. At the end of the week he would organise a game of cricket: the Duke of Edinburgh's XI versus the Duke of Norfolk's. The Princess Royal actually rode at Goodwood in 1985, and finished sixth on Little Sloop in the Oxo Stakes.

# GOODWOOD BOOKS

## Photograph Albums

Several photograph albums survive with evocative images of Goodwood and the house parties. These include the albums of Lady Caroline Gordon Lennox (daughter of the 6th Duke of Richmond), Amy Ricardo, Countess of March, the 7th Duke of Richmond and Hilda Brassey, wife of the 8th Duke. Two albums by the professional photographers J. Russell & Sons of 73 Baker Street, London are perhaps the best visual record with views of Goodwood both inside and out and formal group portraits.



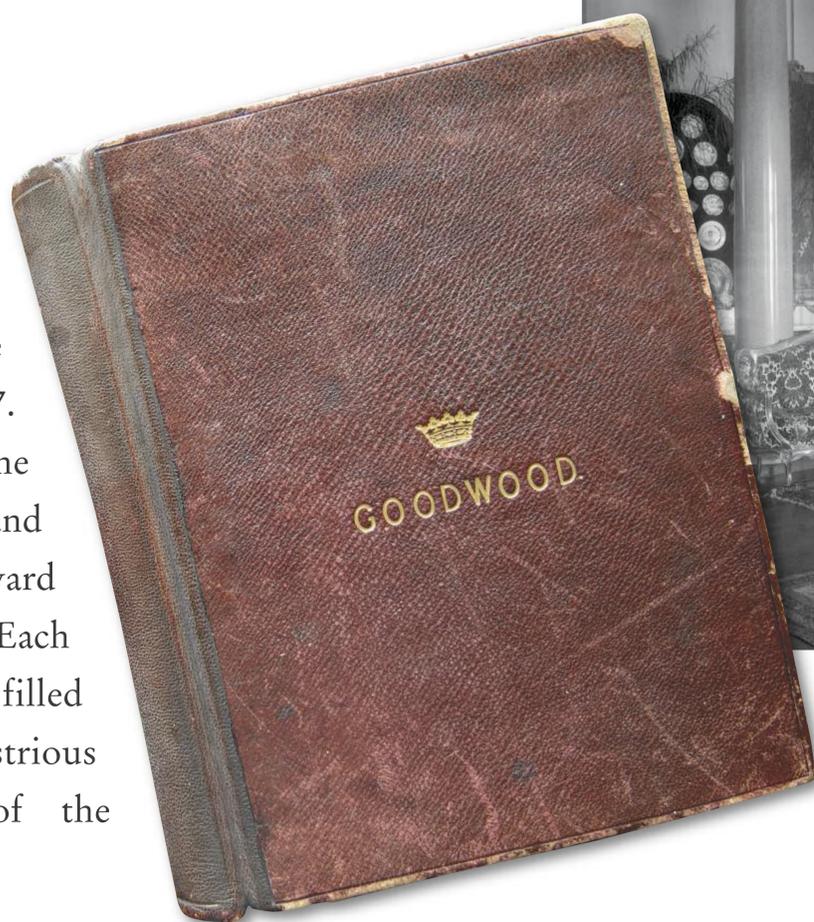
Above: A house party page from the photograph album of the 7th Duke of Richmond when Earl of March. It was quite common for the guests to sign their names and occasionally these were accompanied by their photographs.

Far left: The Earl of March, later 7th Duke of Richmond & Gordon, in exquisite borders painted by his wife, Amy, the Countess of March. The ribbon is Gordon tartan.

Left: Amy Ricardo, Countess of March, wife of the future 7th Duke of Richmond, whose beautiful photograph album with hand decorated borders survives in the Goodwood Collection.

## Visitors' Book

The Goodwood visitors' book informs us of most of the people who stayed at the house from 1885 to 1967. The first guests to sign the book were the Prince and Princess of Wales (later Edward VII and Queen Alexandra). Each year the pages would be filled with the names of illustrious people and members of the extended family.



Above: The Hall at Goodwood, circa 1905, showing the visitors' book open on the central table.

Left: The Goodwood visitors' book used from 1885 to 1967.

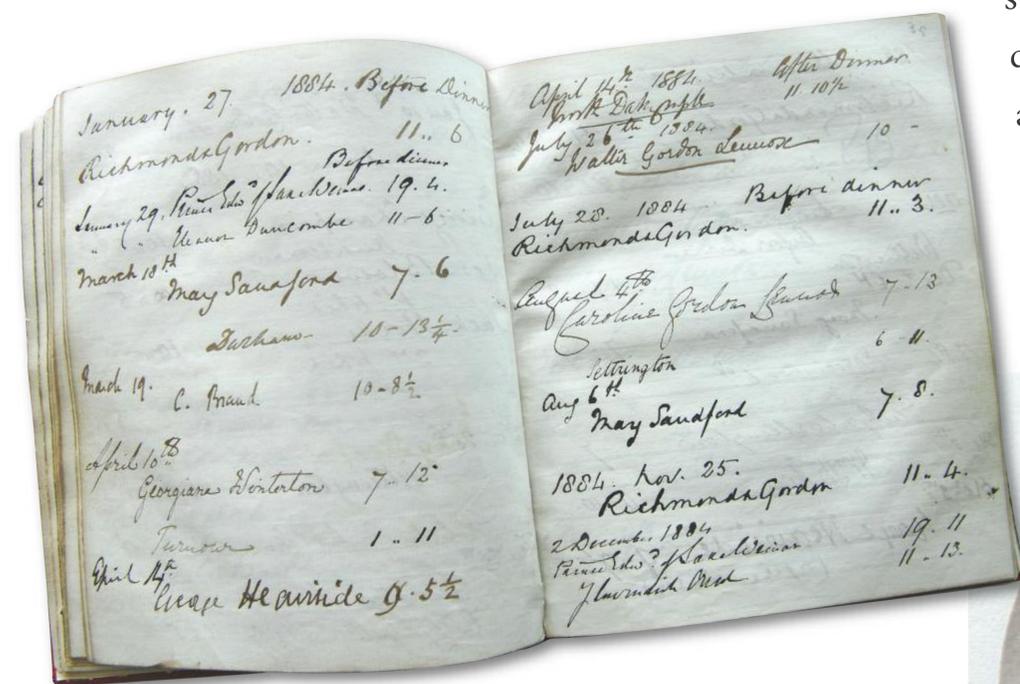
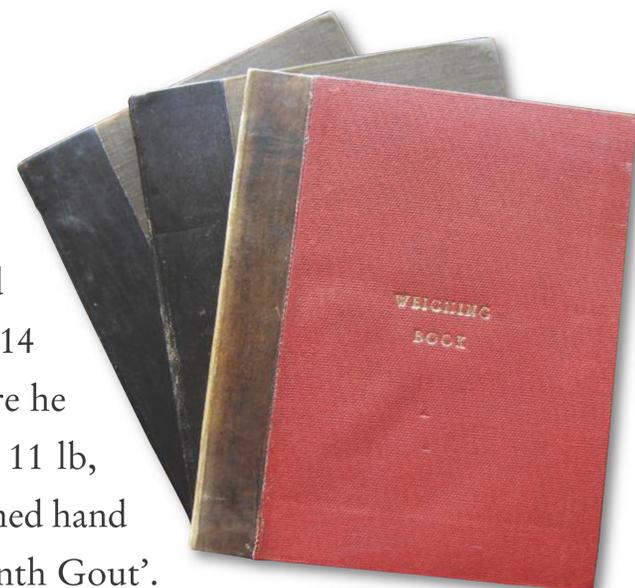
# GOODWOOD BOOKS

## Weighing Books

An amusing tradition that seems to have passed away was the weighing of guests, usually before or after dinner. Occasionally there are comments such as 'shoes after Dinner' or 'Boot, whip & cap'. Three weighing books survive at Goodwood. The first commences in 1784. On August 3rd 1785, after a dinner of turtle and venison, the Duchess of Richmond weighed 11 stone 1 lb, while her husband, the 3rd Duke of Richmond weighed a healthy 14

stone 12 lb. The year before he died he weighed 15 stone 11 lb, and written in rather a pained hand are the words 'after 2 month Gout'.

On July 21st 1814, the Duke of Wellington dined with the family and weighed in at 11 stone 4 lb.



Far Left: Two pages from the Goodwood weighing book for 1884 showing the enormous Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar.

Left: Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar who was married to Lady Augusta Gordon Lennox, daughter of the 5th Duke of Richmond.

Below left: H.R.H. Prince George, Duke of Cambridge who weighed 16 stone 11 lb when he dined at Goodwood on April 17th, 1871. He was a grandson of George III and served as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army from 1865-1895.



## Portly Princes

The prize for the heaviest guest goes to Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar who married Lady Augusta Gordon Lennox, daughter of the 5th Duke of Richmond. On January 27th, 1884, he weighed a colossal 19 stone 4 lb before dinner and by the end of the year he had increased to 19 stone 11 lb! On several occasions he fell through the floorboards in the Yellow Drawing Room which buckled under his weight.

Edward VII, as Prince of Wales, weighed a modest 12 stone 6 lb as a young man (July 27th, 1864) and thereafter manages to avoid being weighed. However, Queen Alexandra appears quite regularly. For example on August 1st, 1889, she weighed 9 stone 3 lb after dinner, and her daughter, Princess Maud (later Queen of Norway) weighed exactly the same.