

In July 1990, phase 2 was completed to provide office accommodation for the Special Needs section of Peterborough City Council's Housing Department, the Lifeline alarm control centre and facilities for Age Concern Peterborough.

The Lindens was officially re-opened by the Mayor of Peterborough, Councillor Alfred A. Sapey on 12 July 1990.

Ghosts?

It is said that ghosts have been seen at The Lindens of.....

..... a woman dressed in a nurse's uniform

..... a sailor sitting on the main staircase



..... and the sound of footsteps marching up and down the main staircase has also been heard.



About The Lindens



History of The Lindens

The Builder

A local builder called John Thompson bought the site for £350 in 1858 and is said to have built The Lindens by 1860. The house was named "The Lindens" after the ten linden trees at the front of the property.

John Thompson was a skilled stonemason and worked on six English cathedrals including restoration work on Peterborough Cathedral. He also worked on the Glasgow University buildings in 1866 and Holloway College. He is said to have worked closely with Francis Ruddle, a local carpenter.

John Thompson lived in the house with his wife Mary and two sons. John and Mary Thompson were Mayor and Mayoress of Peterborough for two successive years in 1881 and 1882.

John Thompson died on 11 April 1898 but The Lindens remained in his family until it was auctioned on 21 April 1920.

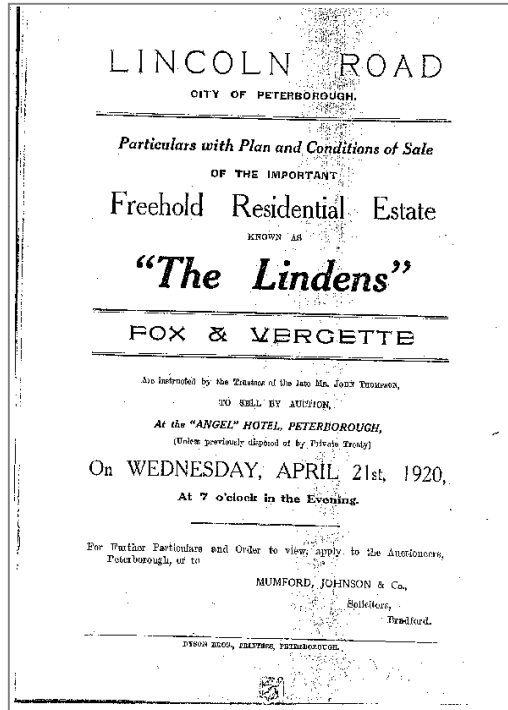
The Paten Family

The Lindens was bought by Alfred John Paten, a local wine merchant for £4,375 in 1920. Alfred Paten lived there with his wife Emilie and family.

Alfred Paten died on 24 April 1950 and in 1953 The Lindens was bequeathed to the City Council for a public purpose.

Community Use

The Lindens was used as a military hospital in both the First and Second World Wars. It was formally opened as a hospital on 20 February 1941 By H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester.



The particulars of the auction document make interesting reading.

"A spacious well-lighted bay on mezzanine landing with ornamental oak guard fence and gate, suitable for a music gallery."



"... walls being divided by carved walnut pilasters"



The faces on the tiles around the fireplace in the reception area are said to be of John Thompson, his wife Mary and one of their sons.

Although many of the original features on the ground floor remain, there has been much renovation and redevelopment over the years.

Renovation and Redevelopment

Development of The Lindens was undertaken in two phases, with the consent of the Trustees of the Paten bequest. In November 1987, phase 1 comprising of 22 one bedroom and 3 two bedroom sheltered flats and warden's accommodation was completed.