

Saturday, 5 September 1998

## **ON THE MARKET:** Crossways House, Crossways, Cowbridge



**CROSSWAYS HOUSE:** Built by a Welsh coal and shipping baron

# Once a Maharajah's mansion

ANNE Paterson will miss Crossways House "because it's so beautiful – it's not a cold rambling house at all."

That the mansion in mellow dressed stone has a friendly feel to it could be one reason why, in the 12 years she has owned the structure, Mrs Paterson has built a flourishing guest house business there.

Now she has placed the imposing building – just one and a half miles from Cowbridge, in the Vale of Glamorgan – on the market for £430,000. The property comes with six and a half acres of land.

The house itself was built by Owen Williams, the coal and shipping magnate who owned the Golden Cross Shipping Line in Cardiff. It is thought to stand on site of an earlier structure which, Mrs Paterson believes, may have been a substantial farmhouse.

A later owner was the famous cricketer Maharajah Nawab of Pataudi who played for Sussex and toured Australia with the MCC in 1932/33.

From the 1940s to the 1960s it was a hospital, an outpost of Rhydylafar Hospital at Cardiff. In fact Mrs Paterson has this year

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## JOHN WILLIAMS

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gained planning permission to convert the stone-built ward alongside the house to provide six extra bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms and a self-contained cottage to extend the guest house accommodation.

The main house, with its stone mullion windows, roof turret lantern light and large studded oak door, has eight bedrooms.

Five of the bedrooms are in a separate wing for the Paterson family, with the other three for the bed and breakfast side, which also has a self-catering flat in what used to be the first floor ballroom.

"The guest house business brings visitors from all over the world – Americans in particular love the place," said Mrs Paterson. "It's so successful I have to farm out the overflow to friends in the business. That's why I wanted the extra accommodation. I would have loved to have stayed and developed the business."

There are six flats at the rear of the house sold on a leasehold basis, generating ground rent income. They each have their own separate entrances and car park.



**NOTED:** The drawing room with its barrel-vaulted ceiling

The reception hall has a magnificent staircase in carved oak and a carved panelled oak ceiling.

The drawing room is noted for its barrel-vaulted ceiling with decorative plasterwork. There is also a 6ft 7in wide fireplace which has a wood surround intricately carved with a vine pattern. Large windows overlook the private lawn. Among other significant

rooms, the dining room has a white-painted wood fireplace and two large windows.

The family room, once part of the dining room, has a high ceiling, maple-strip floors and double multi-paned doors to the spacious kitchen which is on Smallbone farmhouse-style lines.

Outbuildings include a tack room and hay store and garaging.

The land that comes with the property is a mix of lawns, a rose garden, a large paved patio area, a small paddock, tennis courts and woodland.

There's even a "children's assault course."

● **Crossways House is being marketed by John David Watts & Morgan, of Cowbridge, tel: 01446 773500.**