

Wargrave Local History Society

From the archives

The photograph below, from the Wargrave Local History Society archive, is dated June 1st 1931. The Evelina Hospital in London (now part of Guy's & St Thomas's) was set up by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, in 1869 (as the Evelina Hospital for Sick Children) - Evelina being the name of his wife. In 1928, the chairman of the hospital, Sir Campbell Rhodes, donated a house he owned at Crazies Hill to be used as a convalescent home, and which was named in memory of his wife Eleanor Wemyss. Here, HRH Princess Mary, (holding the flowers) has come to the Eleanor Wemyss Home to perform the official opening ceremony.

The Home was kept for the use of convalescing children when the Evelina amalgamated with Guy's Hospital in 1948, but closed in July 1962. It was later used by the grocery chain, David Greig's, who used it as a staff training college. Their company logo was a thistle, and so the property was then re-named Thistle House.

