

The earliest documented reference to the Bride Hall estate is dated 1150 when Thurfleda gifted it to the Abbey of St Albans. At the dissolution of the monasteries in 1541, the estate was bought by Ralph Rowlatt, an ancestor of Diana, Princess of Wales. The Garrard family, who also owned the Lamer estate, bought the Bride Hall estate in 1606 and owned it until 1928 when it was bought by the Lenantons.

The Hall was substantially rebuilt in 1617 and much of the existing building dates from that time.

During the Second World War, the Special Operations Executive (SOE) commandeered the Hall as a secret centre, Station VI, for testing weapons for use by the French Resistance, such as the Welgun, the Welrod, and the Welbike, a collapsible motor-cycle.

The present owner, Daniel Desmond, who acquired the Hall in 1978, has undertaken a massive restoration programme of the house, the gardens and the 300-acre estate.

For a history of Bride Hall, see:

Hill, M., (2006) *The Story of Bride Hall – the House and its People* Phillimore and Co.Ltd