
Musings from the Guests of Wimborne 1902-1905

Ivor Bertie Guest, 1st Baron Wimborne (1835-1914) and his youngest son, the Hon. Oscar Montague Guest (1888 – 1958), photographed in the 1902 model of 12 hp Panhard motor car with a Muhl backer body:



In the back sits Lord Wimborne's chauffeurs.



About Lord Ivor Wimborne

He married the aunt of Winston Churchill, and this Ivor was the son of the great Victorian industrialist, Sir Josiah John Guest. Upon his death, Lord Ivor inherited 84,000 acres of land and the Dowlais Ironworks. These ironworks in Glamorganshire, with which the Guest family had been associated since 1767, were by 1845 the biggest in the world with 18 blast furnaces producing 88,400 tons annually and employing 8,800 people – its success greatly due to many foreign orders for railways.

Later evolving into Guest, Nettlefold & Keen (GKN) Nuts & Bolts morphed into today's global giant Aerospace & Automotive manufacturers.

In 1856 as Dowlais, it was one of the first concerns to be converted to steel production, allowing it to prosper well into 1930s. The importance of Dowlais Ironworks for the nation was acknowledged when in 1912 King George V and Queen Mary chose to visit them as part of their official tour of South Wales.

The family house was Canford Manor, an imposing Victorian stately home in Dorset, adorned by many specimens and curiosities brought from the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud by Lord Wimborne's brother-in-law. Canford Manor provided an appropriate scenic setting for this portrait, which – together with the photographs of the Manor and the other automobiles from Lord Wimborne's stud – was reproduced in the first issue of the new society magazine *The Car Illustrated* on 28 May 1902.

The *Car Illustrated* as captured from the editor, of the magazine, "Automobiles of English High Society – The Honeymoon Years 1902-1905."¹ the Hon. John Scott Montagu was Lord Wimborne's neighbour. When he arranged for the future King Edward VII to visit his own home and to enjoy a motor car excursion, Lord Wimborne lent his new Panhard for the Prince's entourage. The Prince was driven, and subsequently photographed by Lafayette, in Scott Montagu's 24 hp Daimler.

The French firm Panhard et Levassor started building their automobiles shortly after acquiring the licence for the Daimler engine in 1887. Soon the whole industry was revolutionised when the front engine beneath a bonnet, developed by Levassor, superseded the rear-engine design. The numerous successes of their cars in the early motoring competitions caught the public imagination and established their reputation.

At the time of this photograph, Panhard et Levassor cars were categorised in two classes, namely the light and the heavy. To the light class belonged the 5, 7, 10 and 15 hp, while in the other were included the 4, 6, 8, 12, and 16. Of these 10 hp (light class) and 6, 8 and 12 hp (heavy class) were considered as the ideal touring cars.

Panhard et Levassor were taken over by Citroën in 1967 and since then have concentrated on producing light armoured vehicles.

¹ Image published in "Samochody Wytornego Towarzystwa – Miodowe Lata Automobili 1902-1905" – Translated: "Automobiles of English High Society – The Honeymoon Years 1902-1905."

Ivor rescues the home where the Gunpowder Plot was hatched

Ivor Mervyn Vigours Guest, a direct descendant of Ivor, is a British record producer nominated for a Grammy Award and a composer nominated for an Emmy Award. He saved the residence where Guy Fawkes conspired, located in the gatehouse of this Northamptonshire. However, it was the memories of his childhood spent there that inspired Ivor Guest to reclaim his family home and devise his own plans: ^{2 3}



From the courtyard above, one can see the Elizabethan manor house on the left and another directly ahead, both connected by Sir Edwin Lutyens in a neo-Norman style. The building on the right features a th-century doorway and currently as a garage block. Ivor emphasizes that he has no interest in recreating the aristocratic lifestyle of his ancestors—a claim that feels completely genuine. His passion for music and his impactful work with renowned artists like Grace Jones his grounded and thoughtful perspectives, showcasing the rich of his family through images and stories for all to enjoy.

² Rescuing the home where the Gunpowder Plot was hatched. The Telegraph, Annabel Freyberg, 1st March 2013.

³ Image Credit, Tim Beddow. The Telegraph. 1st March 2013.