

# The history of Leigh Court

The original Leigh Court was a Tudor mansion built by Sir George Norton of Bristol in 1558. It was demolished around 1812 after the estate, comprising of some 250 acres, was sold to Sir Philip John Miles in 1811.

Philip Miles, Bristol's first recorded millionaire, commissioned the architect Thomas Hopper, to build the present Leigh Court in 1814, with Humphrey Repton originally landscaping the grounds.

Externally the architectural style of Leigh Court is Palladian and built of Bath stone. The interior style is Greek Revival and decorated in impressive 19th century décor, with many of the original features still intact.

The Great Hall with its magnificent double staircase still houses the original unique pipe organ built by Flight and Robson of London. As well as being played manually, it could originally be set to play the overture and a duet (Ah Perdona) from Mozart's Clemenza di Tito. The pipe organ has been restored over the last few years and is still played today.



Originally the mansion housed an impressive collection of over forty paintings including many classic old masters -Titian, Poussin, Michelangelo, Raphael, Rubens and Vandyke. The public could obtain a ticket from Mile's Bank in Queens Square in the centre of Bristol, to view the paintings here on a Thursday afternoon.



The collection of paintings was sold between 1884 and 1898.

Philip Miles died in 1845 leaving Leigh Court to his eldest son. The house remained in the Miles family until 1915 when it was sold to Rev. Burden of Clevedon Hall. After the sale, the house was used as a hospital.



In 1988 Leigh Court was sold to a private company and with successive owners the house has been sympathetically converted for use as office accommodation, conference and meeting rooms. Retaining many of its original features, the house is now restored to its former splendour, with an ongoing programme of repair & maintenance.



In 2004 Business West assumed ownership of the Estate, merging with GWE in April 2008 to become GWE Business West. The organisation now operates its many business activities from Leigh Court and other sites across the region.

Conference and Banqueting facilities, together with fully serviced office accommodation ensures the estate remains a vibrant business hub within tranquil surroundings. Leigh Court has now become one of Bristol's premier venues for corporate and private events including weddings.