



THE STORY OF HARRY ELLARD

Harry Ellard Jr, was born on 13th December 1897, the son of Samuel Harry and Annie. The family firm, Henry Ellard & Sons, where Samuel and Harry were working, turned to manufacturing pressed steel components for the car industry. Even before Harry became the company Chairman, the company was doing well and he was already very rich by the 1940s. One of his most extravagant luxuries was his motor cars which he started to collect in the 1930s and regularly drove a 1962 Aston Martin DB4.

Another of Harry's extravagancies was property. By 1957, Harry was listed in the telephone book not only at his residence in Aldridge but also at the Regency Club, Monkspath, Solihull. A year or so earlier he had purchased the Victorian house built in the 1870s and somewhat romantically called Monkspath Priory. Harry turned it into an exclusive, members-only venue, which was visited by many famous entertainers and other celebrities. It was complete with restaurant and banqueting complex and all the meat and vegetables were supplied to the kitchens by his farms near Chipping Norton. He did have ambitions to open a motel at the rear of the club, and then a 90-room hotel – builders were in permanent work for years – but, typically Harry, it never quite came to completion! This enterprise was officially named 'The Regency Club' but later became known by locals as 'Harry's Folly'. Despite all his other property, Harry eventually became something of a recluse, living in just one room of his club, with seven staff to look after him.

Although Harry never married and became a recluse in his later years, he was quite a ladies' man! Miss Margaret Wheate was one of Harry's many girlfriends. A former beauty queen, she was Harry's constant companion in the 1950s. Harry was in many ways an eccentric, whose wealth allowed him to indulge his enthusiasms but lived a life of outward extravagance. Above all, he was a collector: acquiring cars, property, glamorous friends and beautiful women. Tony Mackintosh, his solicitor, and sometime chauffeur described him as someone who "was great fun and enjoyed life", adding, "but he was very shy".

Several people remembered that his great plans did not always come to fruition, but he was clearly a man of imagination and vision, it seems only fitting now that we pay homage to the project Harry started and finally fulfil his vision for The Regency.

Cheers Harry!

Harry's

CREAM TEA & AFTERNOON TEA MENU

LOOSE LEAF TEA SELECTION

Great Rift English Breakfast
Decaffeinated Great Rift English
Breakfast
Jasmine
Mao Feng Green Tea
Virunga Chai
Green Tea & Peach
Peppermint
Organic Redbush
Lemongrass & Ginger

COFFEE

Blend 37 Super Crème
63% Arabic 37% Robuste
Served as:
Espresso
Americano
Cappuccino
Latte
Flat White

If you require further information about food allergens,
please ask a member of staff for advice.
Gluten Free, Vegetarian & Vegan options available on request.

TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON TEA £21.95 PER PERSON

SELECTION OF SANDWICHES

Smoked Cheddar & Chutney
Smoked Salmon & Cream Cheese
Coronation Chicken
Egg Mayonnaise

SULTANA SCONES

Devonshire clotted cream with
Tiptree preserves

CAKES & PASTRIES

Victoria sponge
Lemon drizzle
Carrot cake
Salted Caramel Ganache Tart
Macaroons

*Served with your choice of a pot of tea or coffee from
our menu.*

UPGRADE

PROSECCO AFTERNOON TEA
£28.95 per person

LAURENT PERRIER ROSE AFTERNOON TEA
£34.95 per person

CREAM TEA £7.95 PER PERSON

Sultan Scone, Devonshire clotted cream with Tiptree preserves.
Served with your choice of a pot of tea or coffee from our menu.