

## “Lamorna”, Ferring, Sussex.

*This double terraced sunk garden is well suited to its wind-swept situation on the Sussex coast.*

This is the briefest hint of location given to the reader of Hancock's 'When I Make a Garden' for this *lost garden*.

Sussex, one of the south coast counties of England is a big place. Even with modern technology, such as Google Earth and Microsoft Live Maps, the hunt for the garden was *painful*. Aerial photography can be useful, but with the garden appearing in the 1936 edition of WIMAG the possibility of it no longer existing was quite strong. Especially since so much of the south coast was transformed during World War Two as the country became *Fortress Britain*.

Then in January 2009, during an email conversation with Ralph's daughter, Sheila, mention was made that Hancock had owned land in Ferring, Sussex. She also recalled summer trips where they camped near the beach.

Through hard work and some good luck, contact was made with Ed Miller, a local historian for Ferring Village. Did he know the location of the garden shown in WIMAG? The answer was, *yes!*

Ed discovered that the garden had once stood in the grounds of 'Lamorna', a fine house built in 1927/28 for Edward George Warris Hulton (later Sir Edward). Hulton was the son of the late Edward Hulton, the newspaper and race horse owner who founded the Daily Sketch in 1909.

Ordnance Survey Plans (c.1969) for the coast, near Ferring, clearly show the gardens looking exactly as they did when Hancock built them. Overlaid on an aerial photograph (below) of modern Ferring, you can clearly see where the house – which was demolished in the late 1960's - sat. The garden and pathways are also visible. Although the house has long gone it's neighbour,

The White House, still exists as do the steps leading to the promenade and what appears to be a row of garages with a circular turning circle – next to the White House. The boundary fence, much changed over the years, is still accurate, and What was 'Lomorna' is now Lamorna Gardens.

Miller, has also uncovered other interesting information about Hancock's property and land ownership in Ferring. A brief note amongst his extensive files has a planning application for 14 brick built bungalows from a R Hancock. It seems too much of a coincidence not to be Ralph. Indeed, his daughter, Sheila, recalls that Ralph financed his trip to the United States, in 1930, by speculating on land with the aim of developing it by building property.



The boundary fences clearly mark the edge of the land belonging to 'Lamorna'. The orientation of the sunken terrace garden and paths are clearly visible.

**The OS Map was kindly supplied by Ed Miller in February 2009.**