



THE history behind Weston House in Albury is as fascinating as the house itself.

The original large and imposing Weston House was built in the 17th century, but was demolished in the early 19th century by the banker Henry Drummond who bought an estate which included the village of Albury, Weston House and the magnificent house in Albury Park.

According to a letter written by one of his nieces, Drummond was determined to have no rival to Albury Park in the area and so disposed of Weston House, building instead, around 1830, what his niece described as a "paltry house".

"Paltry House" is hardly the description I would choose to use. You see first the impressive 17 tall, clustered chimney stacks decorated in individual patterns in the Tudor style.

Next, comes the house itself. Large and impressive, it is hard to imagine what could have been in its place.

Weston House was, until recently, owned by the late Maurice Burton, the naturalist and writer and the driving force behind the conservation of Albury.

The gardens extend to some 4½ acres and old photographs on the walls show them as originally landscaped with paths, feature beds and borders. Presumably the foundations and paths will still be in place once the grass is cleared.

The house is enormous and provides the ambitious home restorer with a challenge

— a lifetime's work if you were to do it yourself. Nevertheless the potential is endless.

The main rooms face south over the gardens and on sunny days are bathed in sunshine. The rooms are large and the ceilings high. Doorways are wide with brass furniture and many windows have shutters.

Needless to say the kitchen, butler's pantry and the numerous rooms once belonging to the domestic staff need completely redesigning.

Planning permission has already been applied for to resite the approach drive to provide a more accessible and attractive entrance.

The main accommodation includes a drawing room, dining room, library, six bedrooms and two bathrooms as well as a further four bedrooms, a living room and kitchen on the second floor.

Hill Clements describe the house as requiring extensive modernisation to return it to its former glory, and I would suggest you would need very deep pockets.

Hill Clements, of Guildford, are asking for offers in the region of £400,000.

Available by separate negotiation and lying to the west of Weston House is a detached cottage with sitting/ dining room, study, garden room, kitchen/breakfast room, two bedrooms and a bathroom. There is also a barn, garaging and a garden.

Hill Clements are asking £150,000.

1993