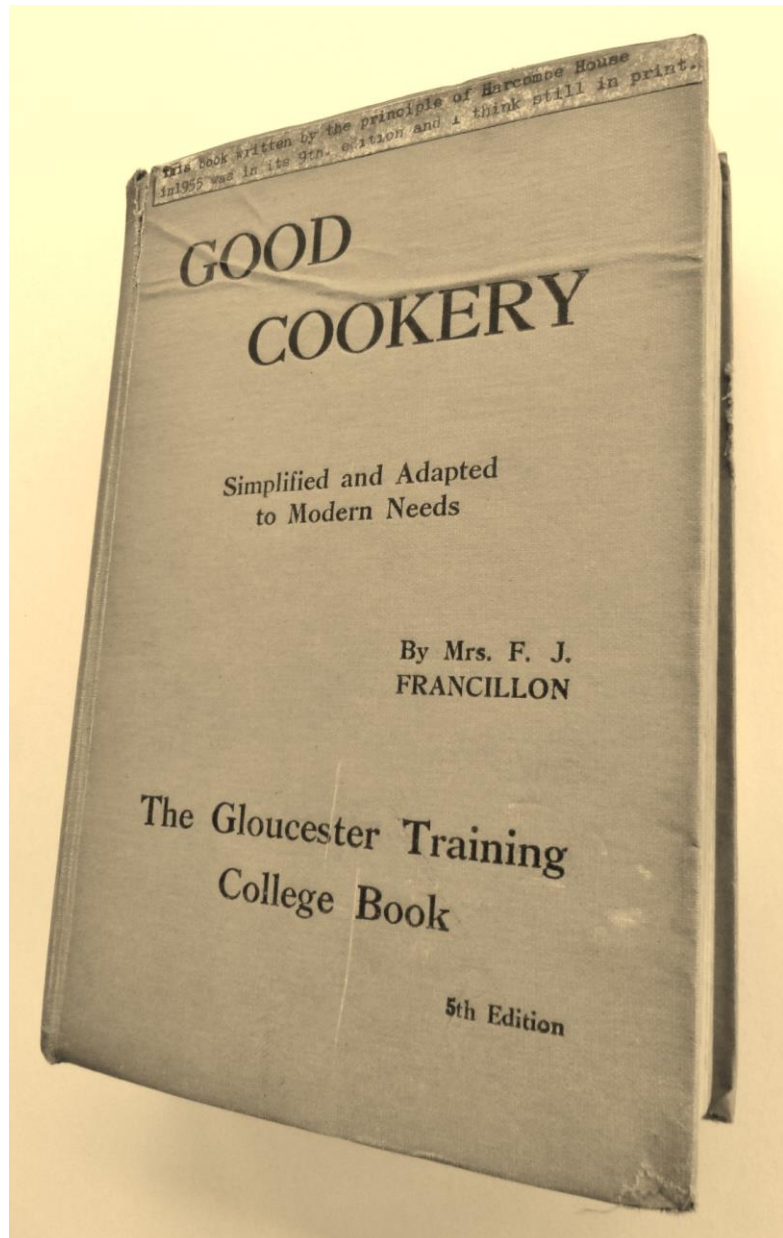


School of Domestic Science, Harcombe House & Rhode Hill, Uplyme

Graham Davies, 2018

Winifred, wife of Capt. Francis James Francillon, opened her School of Domestic Science at Harcombe House, Uplyme in 1919. The reason for doing so is explained in the preface of her book 'Good Cookery'.

I was taught to cook against my own wish; and that this training was insisted on, is one of the things for which I am most thankful. I was told that within a week I was to take up the study of cookery at the Gloucester School of Domestic Science. I went, reluctantly, and from the first morning was keenly interested, and I can never be sufficiently grateful to Miss Baddeley and to Mrs Booth for all they taught me. On leaving Gloucester I spent some years in cooking high-class dinners, and in teaching both mistresses and their cooks, thus collecting much knowledge and a vast variety of recipes. Some years ago some of my friends insisted that I should take their daughters and train them, in my own home, and from this small beginning a School of Cookery here at Harcombe has evolved.



Wishing to carry out the Gloucester methods, as set out in Mrs Booth's Cookery Book, which had been out of print for some time, Mrs Francillon published an updated version, 'Good Cookery', in 1920, 'modified to suit the present difficult and expensive times.'

Revised and reprinted over the decades, in conjunction with the Gloucester Training College from 1924, the book had reached its 9th edition by the 1950s



1925

Harcombe House

Mrs Francillon's School of Domestic Science at Harcombe House was sometimes referred to as a finishing school for young ladies. It taught cooking and housecraft. The course lasted 12 months and all the girls were boarders.



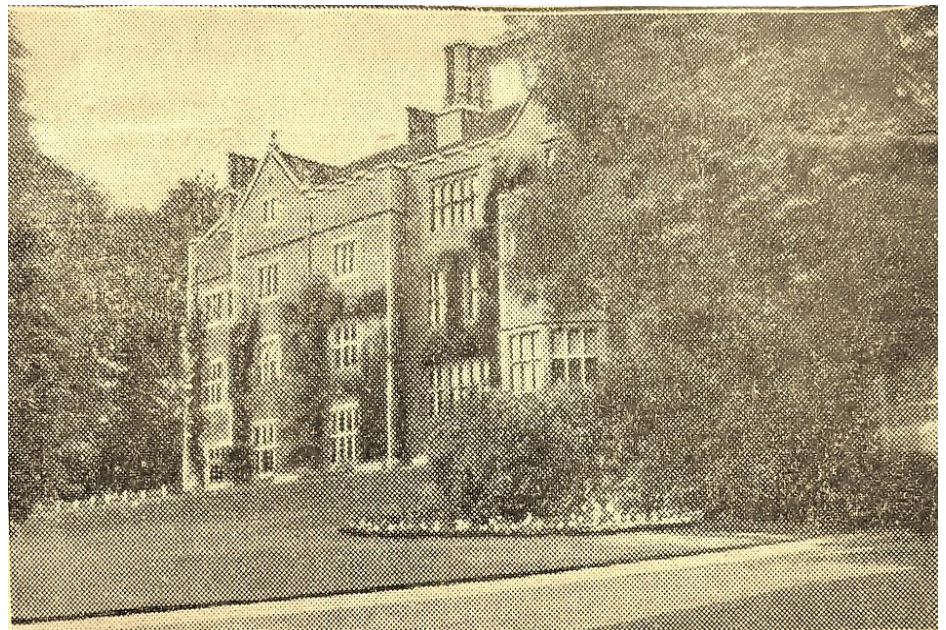
1930s

Winifred Francillon bought Rhode Hill House, Uplyme from Alban Woodroffe in the late 1930s, but was unable to use it as an extension of her school until 1944 as it was requisitioned to house wartime evacuees, and later used by American troops stationed in Lyme before the build-up for D-Day.

In 1944, Mrs Francillon handed over the management of the school at Rhode Hill to Miss Monica Wood and her brother, Robin.

Rhode Hill House

1933



In about 1950, Winifred Francillon retired to Bournemouth and leased Harcombe House to Woodroffe School, Lyme Regis, which opened as a boarding house from 1952. It closed in 1991 and today has been developed into holiday accommodation.

The school at Rhode Hill closed in 1968 and was sold to Dorset County Council to use as a girls' boarding house for the Woodroffe School at Lyme Regis. It closed in 1996 and was sold to developers who have converted the house and adjoining stables into apartments.