



William G. Warner, owner of Wick Ferry Holiday Camp, lived just across the river in a house called Broadwaters. This was a two-and-a-half-storey mansion originally known as 'The Meadow', the rear of which is visible in the attached snap of the ferry (far left).

Warner's wife May had been sole proprietress of The Bridge House Cafe at Tuckton throughout WW2; this was auctioned off in 1946, no doubt to fund the purchase of the camp and its subsequent renovation. I believe I'm right in saying that Jack Edmunds, proprietor of Wick Ferry, had set up a primitive camp there in the 1920s - it features in a few postcards, right next to his landing stage on the Christchurch side - but it was Warner who overhauled it. Jack Edmunds retired in 1947, which would fit in with Warner buying the site around that time.

Broadwaters was owned in the 1930s by a Mr. Timms, who was good enough to loan a large shed in his grounds - known as the banana-ripening shed - to a group of Wick villagers who had set up a sports club. This would have been in 1938. Later (around 1942), a larger site at Tuckton became available so the club moved there, changing its name from Wick Sports Club to the Tuckton Social Club.

Broadwaters had become a 'house of multiple occupancy' by the 1960s, the Warners having either died or moved away. Bournemouth Corporation, which had already begun developing the Riverlands estate to the west, purchased the flats as they fell vacant, ultimately acquiring the entire building. It was demolished in 1965 and replaced with the current care facility (55 Wick Lane).

The Bridge House Cafe, run by Mrs Warner in the 1940s, became a private club in 1956 in which one M. Wallrock had an interest - though as he told me, 'I was only interested in the landing rights.' It was run by a syndicate which also included Ken Bulstrode and Bobby Kemp, who ran a boatyard in Southampton. In 1958, this group sold the site to Brickwoods, who developed it as The Riverside Inn (1962-3).

Information supplied by Mr. Alexander McKinstry