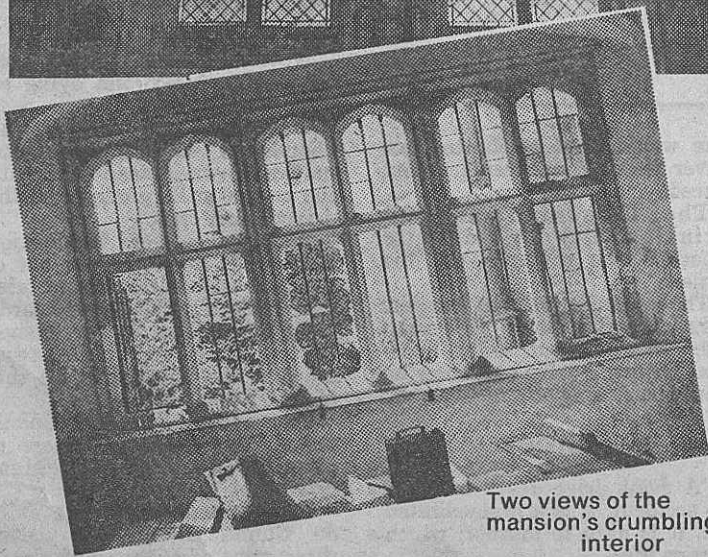
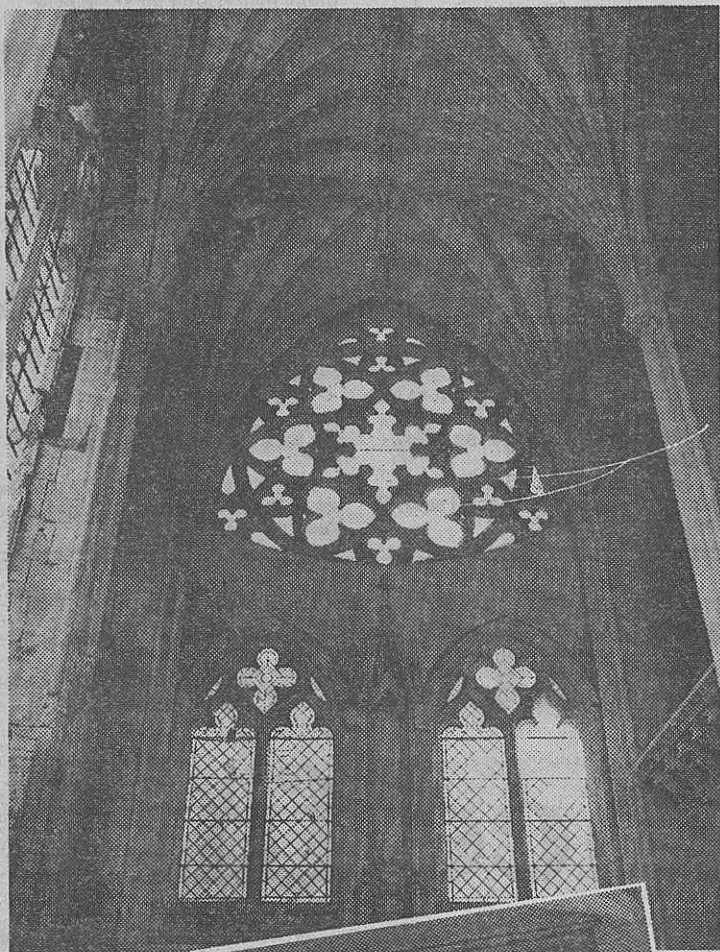


Inside the time capsule



Two views of the mansion's crumbling interior



Abandoned . . . Woodchester Park

Mansion gives up its secrets after 120 years

THE hidden secrets of a time-warp mansion which have lain undisturbed for generations are to go on public display.

Work on Gothic Woodchester Park, near Stroud, was started in 1856 in a secret valley for wealthy Catholic benefactor William Leigh.

But after 14 years it was abandoned in its unfinished state — a time capsule of the Victorian builder's art.

The magnificent haunted mansion was acquired by

Stroud district council in 1987.

The Woodchester Mansion Conservation Group was formed with the aim of repairing and running the building as a stonemasonry training and conservation centre.

Now a stunning display of pictures of the mansion by the Group's secretary Margaret Lister, together with old paintings and memorabilia will go on show at the Stroud Subscription Rooms from September 16-23.

And included in the

exhibition, called Woodchester Park Mansion: Opening the Time Capsule, will be the first known photograph of the Victorian architect Benjamin Bucknall.

It was recently found by one of his descendants, Stephen Bucknall, with relatives in Australia.

The exhibition also outlines the aims of the Mansion Group and activities of the Friends of the Mansion.

It is estimated it will cost up to £3 million to repair the mansion, which is set in 23 acres.