

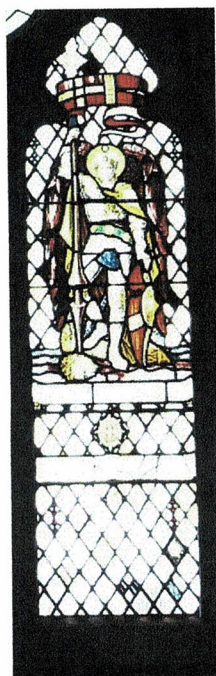
On 26 October 1927, the Prince of Wales (later Duke of Windsor) was due to open a new extension to the Royal Salop Infirmary but on 23 October the Marquis became seriously ill (I understand this was peritonitis) and on 24 October was rushed to the Quarry Place Nursing Home where he underwent an operation, but died that evening.

The Marquis was buried at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, but the cortege began in Shrewsbury and was escorted by police and guards of honour down to the Abbey Foregate.

The Electoral Roll for 1928 shows only the Marchioness of Cambridge at Shotton Hall together with four servants. The Marchioness sold Shotton Hall in 1928 and she died the following year in London.

Henry Arthur Cholmondeley

The purchaser of Shotton Hall in 1928 would appear to be a Henry Arthur Cholmondeley. He is shown on the Electoral Roll as the occupant of Shotton Hall from 1929 – 1952. He was born in 1855 at Whitegate, Northwick, Cheshire. He may have lived abroad for much of his early life, possibly serving in the army, as he is only to be found in the 1901 census when he was aged 45, single, and living at Sledmere House, Driffield, Yorkshire and employed as a Land Agent. He married Helen Mary Wrigley in March Quarter 1920 in the St George's Hanover Square Registration District in London



The Cholmondeley memorial window in Myddle Church
Copyright Rhys Whatmore

Two children of Henry and Helen have been traced – Essex L Cholmondeley born 1921 in the Driffield Registration District and Henry Pakenham Grenville Cholmondeley born 1923 in the Marylebone Registration District. Henry Pakenham Cholmondeley was killed in the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy on 7 November 1943. He was a Lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards 6th Battalion Service Number 262092. He is buried in Plot M XVIII at Cassino War Cemetery.

There is a memorial window to him in Myddle church.

Henry Arthur Cholmondeley died in 1952 aged 96 in the Whitchurch Registration District.

In 1901, a Hugh Cecil Cholmondeley, born in 1853 at Sledmere was living at Edstaston House, Wem, and it seems probable that this was Henry Arthur's brother. Living so close at Shotton Hall, Hugh may have persuaded Henry to buy and live at the house. Hugh Cecil Cholmondeley had been a Captain in the army. His father was Thomas G Cholmondeley, born about 1821 in London and who was a Colonel in the 1st Royal Cheshire Militia.



Detail from the Cholmondeley memorial window in Myddle church
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The Electoral Roll shows no voters at Shotton Hall in 1953 and the next available register, that for 1956, shows Frederick G Lennhoff and Ursula J Lennhoff at Shotton Hall.

Shotton Hall School

Fred and Ursula Lennhoff were Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany who met each other in England. Frederick George Lennhoff was born on 11 October 1903 in Berlin and his wife was born in Berlin on 4 July 1917. They married and settled in

Liverpool where Fred worked in an aircraft factory. During the War he was interned like most refugees from Germany! After the war Fred established his own small factory in London.

Fred had always been involved in work with young people and in 1949 he and his wife managed to achieve their ambition of establishing a school for 50 emotionally disturbed boys. This was at Westhope Manor in Shropshire. Westhope Manor was leaseand the Lennhoffs wished to acquire their own premises and this led to

their purchase of Shotton Hall in 1952.



Frederick George Lennhoff:
a sketch drawn in 1940
Copyright: Marion Armitage

Changes were made to Shotton Hall to adapt it to use as a school and outbuildings were converted to classrooms and workshops. The School was very successful and ran for many years, becoming quite famous and attracting a lot of distinguished visitors. A detailed description of the philosophy and work of the school is provided by F G Lennhoff in his book, 'Exceptional Children' published by George Allen and Unwin Second Edition 1966. Fred's upbringing and work in Germany are described in his autobiography 'The First Thirty Years' published in 1975 by Shotton Hall

Publications. A more detailed edition in German was also published.



Shotton Hall main façade in the 1960s Copyright: Edwin Thorpe

Once a year Fred and his colleagues organised a residential conference for social workers. This would be held at a local University or Training College. These were always heavily booked and were very successful. He also arranged an annual lecture for social workers. This was given at Shotton Hall in the Club House on the Club Lawn. Once a year Fred would also give a lecture tour in Germany.

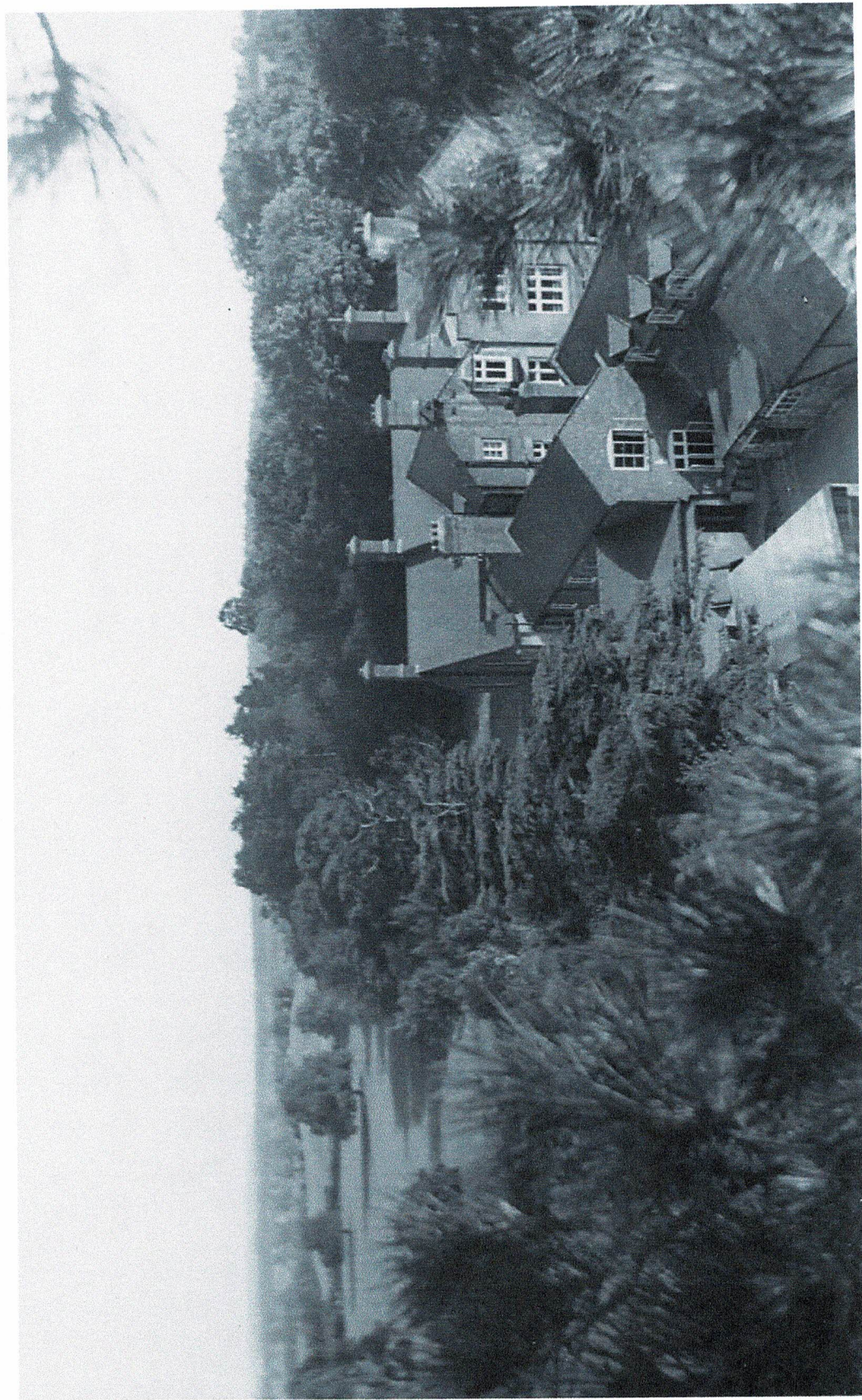
At Christmas every year, the pupils of a local school would be invited to an afternoon and evening of dramatic productions by the Shotton boys (these plays included extracts from 'Murder in the Cathedral', 'Julius Caesar' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'), an exhibition of craft and school work and a special meal. On one occasion, all the local children and their parents were invited to a 'fairground' at Shotton Hall with a great number of stalls, with chocolate bars as prizes. The Shotton boys also built a bus shelter for the people of Harmer Hill. This may well be the one still in existence opposite the Red Castle pub.

Fred was also very interested in farming and he purchased and ran for several years, via a bailiff, Hine Heath Farm at Stanton-upon-Hine-Heath near Shawbury. He then sold this farm and purchased Webscott Farm near Myddle, and later bought a further farm south of Shrewsbury.

When Fred and Ursula Lennhoff retired to live at Webscott Farm, in 1973 the Shotton Hall Trust was established as the governing body for the school, with the Lennhoffs acting as Consultants. In due course The Shotton Hall Trust purchased Shotton Hall.

Fred Lennhoff was awarded the OBE for his work in social education. He died at St Albans in 1975 and was cremated at Golders Green. His ashes were scattered in London. Ursula Lennhoff died in December 1986 and was cremated at Shrewsbury Crematorium. Her ashes were scattered in Shrewsbury.

Fred and Ursula Lennhoff are remembered with gratitude by the very many boys they helped over the years.



An unusual view of Shotton Hall in the 1960s taken from the top of one of the pine trees behind the boundary wall.

Copyright: Edwin Thorpe

The Headmasters after Fred Lennhoff were as follows:

John Lampen 1973 to 1982

John Hobley 1982 to 1990

James Parker 1990 to 1994

Owen Booker January – August 1994

During the period when Shotton Hall was governed by the Shotton Hall Trust further changes were made to the buildings. A single storey dining-room was built on to the north end of the main house. A new classroom block with a library, laboratory and toilets was erected. The wing at right angles to the sandstone wing was adapted and enlarged to serve as the Headmaster's house and later a totally new Headmaster's house was built in part of what had been the vegetable garden. A wooden bungalow was erected on the lawn in front of the house.

The ever increasing costs of running a residential school with a large number of specialist staff together with changing attitudes to the education of children with 'special needs' led to the closure of the School in 1994.



Shotton Hall in a derelict state about 1999 Copyright: Edwin Thorpe

Shotton Hall was sold to a property agency, but it stood empty and abandoned for several years. During this time much vandalism seems to have occurred and three fine carved fireplaces disappeared. Plaster fell off the internal walls, windows were broken and tall trees grew up alongside the main façade.

Recollections of Shotton Hall during the 1960s

There were two main entrances to the grounds, both off Shotton Lane. The Tradesman entrance was located close to the start of the grounds on the west. The main entrance was located where the western most entrance is today. The present eastern entrance was inserted when the Hall was renovated recently. In the 1960s there was also a small gate, which still exists, onto the lane opposite the side of the main house.



The Club House in the 1960s
Copyright: Edwin Thorpe

Entering by the tradesmen's gate a drive ran alongside a vegetable garden on the left with greenhouses up against the boundary wall, then turned right into a drive leading to the back door of the house. (i.e. at the very back of the house – not the pillared entrance). The vegetable garden was bounded to the north by a high green hedge, beyond which was an orchard stretching to the northern boundary of the estate. Half way along the vegetable

garden was a gate in the western boundary wall and on the right was a small brick building used for storage.

Entering by the main gate a wide gravel drive on the right led up to the pillared back entrance to the main house, whilst in front was a