



Life at Matlock College (ii)



Edited by George Wigglesworth

The courses attracted an increasing number of "Mature Students" and the academic entry criteria were lessened to make access easier for them to change careers even though the final assessment was the same for all students. Some well qualified mature students embarked on a shorter course. The collapse of Rolls Royce in Derby influenced many. These students were often day students. The group from Zimbabwe in 1980 introduced a different culture to the college. There was also, from 1972, a one year Post Graduate course for training teachers with a subject degree from elsewhere. A B Comb Studies/BA was inaugurated late in the college's life.



Educational television

From 1961 the college became more and more involved with in-service work. Frank Knight (the County's Senior Adviser in Education) was highly instrumental in this, the college being the only Higher Education institution run by the county. Initially it regularly ran courses in Science for Primary teachers to be followed by other subjects and age ranges. The county then organised a Science and a Reading Centre within the college in 1971.

The full time Bachelor of Education degree was modified to be offered as a one year full time and two year part-time degree for qualified teachers, even running as far afield as Glossop (although that is within the county).



Vietnamese refugees using the language laboratory

In the early eighties a part-time Diploma in Outdoor Education was arranged for serving teachers which involved working with staff across departmental areas.

A full time, year long, Diploma course was offered for teachers of the less able and a Youth and Community course was introduced. The college continued to diversify and there were 20 alternative programs offered in the 1982 Prospectus

The college amalgamated with Derby and left this site in 1988 having been known as a Training College for Women, a College of Education and



Staff and Student residences

As it was a relatively small college everyone knew everyone else and meal times were like one huge family getting together. And like most families you had no privacy at all. If you turned up at the top of the steps into college hall dining room for a meal with someone three times in a row, it was assumed you were going out with them – conversely if you didn't you had broken up!

Helen (née Hill) Burpee (1975-79)

finally as a College of Higher Education. Over 9000 had passed through, the college always reaching its government intake target including the shortage subjects of Physics and Maths. The academic qualifications on admission were above the national average.

The Chatsworth site was to be used by Derbyshire County Council. Rockside suffered a long time from dereliction but is now operating as flats surrounded by houses and some buildings such as the Cavendish Students' residences, the Music Block and College Hall have gone.



Music Block

College accepted the suggestion that we train a group of a dozen Rhodesian students. They were all Mathematics students. When Zimbabwe attained independence in 1980 there was great rejoicing. They were a most pleasant group even the one emotionally involved in politics. They were certificated to teach in Zimbabwe. The return visit of Sipho Ndlovu was occasion for a party of some of those he knew.

Ron Haydock (1963 - 1983)

I was on the domestic staff in College Hall and it was a jolly place to work, it was part of a way of life. Doug Osman was a wonderful person to work for and very professional. It was important to Matlock, the trade, the landladies and the people that worked there. You met all sorts besides the young students. There were Americans on music courses in the holidays. Disabled people and the deaf used the accommodation. Miss Allen used to give parties for the staff and their families. I worked there for twenty years but some did over thirty.

Emma Armshaw

One of my students who stayed with me as his landlady enjoyed the facilities and being out of college. I did the washing although men seemed to wear socks until you had to cut them off. I made breakfast when they got up. He asked if he could use our big dining room, I didn't ask him what for and I did said yes. Until that is I found him setting up a drum kit for the group he was forming. It was a horrid and loud noise, much too much for me with a four month old baby!

Jean Henshaw



Splendid, characterful, beautifully situated buildings and lovely gardens; friendly, mostly hard working well-motivated students; highly professional and committed staff (in all aspects of the college); I no sooner arrived than national reorganisation threatened to close our college; the struggle for survival; questions in the House and support from local MPs; Nottingham as a supportive and helpful university; excellent Drama productions; displays of work by the 'Bowler Babes'; regret when we lost the battle for independence and merged with Derbyshire College of Higher Education to become a Faculty. I am still convinced that closure/merger of small and highly effective colleges like Matlock did not serve the best interests of teacher education.

David Udall (Principal 1976 - 1988)

The Bar

Nothing became the Matlock students better than the way they left the campus. The cleaners and the student union met together to discuss what should and could happen on the final night. Nothing was put on paper, no formal agreement was reached. However, there was no rowdiness, no taking of souvenirs, no damage, no falling out. The students went their way quietly and pleasantly – and everything was left in good order – left for the vandals. This quitting of the Matlock site, three years after amalgamation, was marked by a garden party and took place in surprisingly good spirits. Matlock town's brass band played, the sun shone, and there were fireworks at the end of the day: Many rockets. What goes up must come down. Something valuable survived.

Don Measham (1963 - 1989)

Time Line

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| 1945 | Rockside bought | 1967 | Miss Allen retired, Robert Clayton appointed |
| 1946 | Chatsworth bought | 1968 | “The Rowans” purchased to be the Principal’s house |
| 1946 | First hundred (female) students admitted in August | 1969 | The Instruments & Articles approved, authorising the temporary Academic Board |
| 1946 | Miss Gladys Allen appointed Principal in October | 1970 | 42 students were the first to be awarded B.Ed. |
| 1948 | George Tomlinson (Minister of Education) visited | 1970 | 40% of the intake were men |
| 1950 | 1 year course for mature, experienced but unqualified teachers | 1971 | “Mature Students” were 15% of those leaving college |
| 1951 | Florence Horsborough (Minister of Education) visited | 1972 | Post-graduate Certificate in Education instituted with 27 students |
| 1954 | The College was granted a Coat of Arms | 1972 | Supplementary Course upgraded to Diploma status |
| 1958 | Became "mixed" rather than single sex | 1972 | 816 full time students |
| 1958 | Rockwood (initially for females) and Stoneycroft opened. | 1974 | Part time inservice B Ed introduced |
| 1960 | 2 year course became 3 in response to the McNair report | 1975 | Two year Diploma in Higher Education introduced |
| 1962 | One year Supplementary Course on the teaching of Backward Children offered | 1976 | Robert Clayton resigned as Principal to be replaced by David Udall |
| 1963 | One third of students were in lodgings | 1978 | Bachelor of Combined Studies offered |
| 1966 | Full time B Ed in response to the Robins Report | 1982 | 75,000 volumes in Library, 300 periodicals |
| 1967 | Student numbers reached 700, 2500 have attended | 1988 | Site Closed |
| 1967 | Eight term intensive course started | | |

As a teenager, born and bred around here in the 1960’s, Matlock seemed to me a more social and happy town. Rag week for example, all week long things happened, not only students but the local teenagers enjoyed themselves. Rag Mags were always a hit as was the student ball at the end. Matlock lost a lot when the college closed, not just the ‘hot spots’, shops and the people who put students up. I had lots of fun and I wish my girls could have the same as they grow up.

Frances (née Coote) Hurst

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