

Knowsley Archives Presents:

Underneath The Hazels:

Unravelling the Past of C.F. Mott College



Exhibition Catalogue



Knowsley Council



Archive Resource for Knowsley



ACCREDITED
ARCHIVE SERVICE



Exhibition Catalogue Contents



2 - ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

3 - THE HAZELS AND THE EARLY DAYS OF THE
COLLEGE

5 - C.F. MOTT COLLEGE: TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

10 - A VISUAL TIMELINE

22 - CREDITS



**Heritage
Fund**

- 1 -



ARK
Archive Resource for Knowsley

About The Exhibition

Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, this exhibition explores the story of C.F. Mott College.

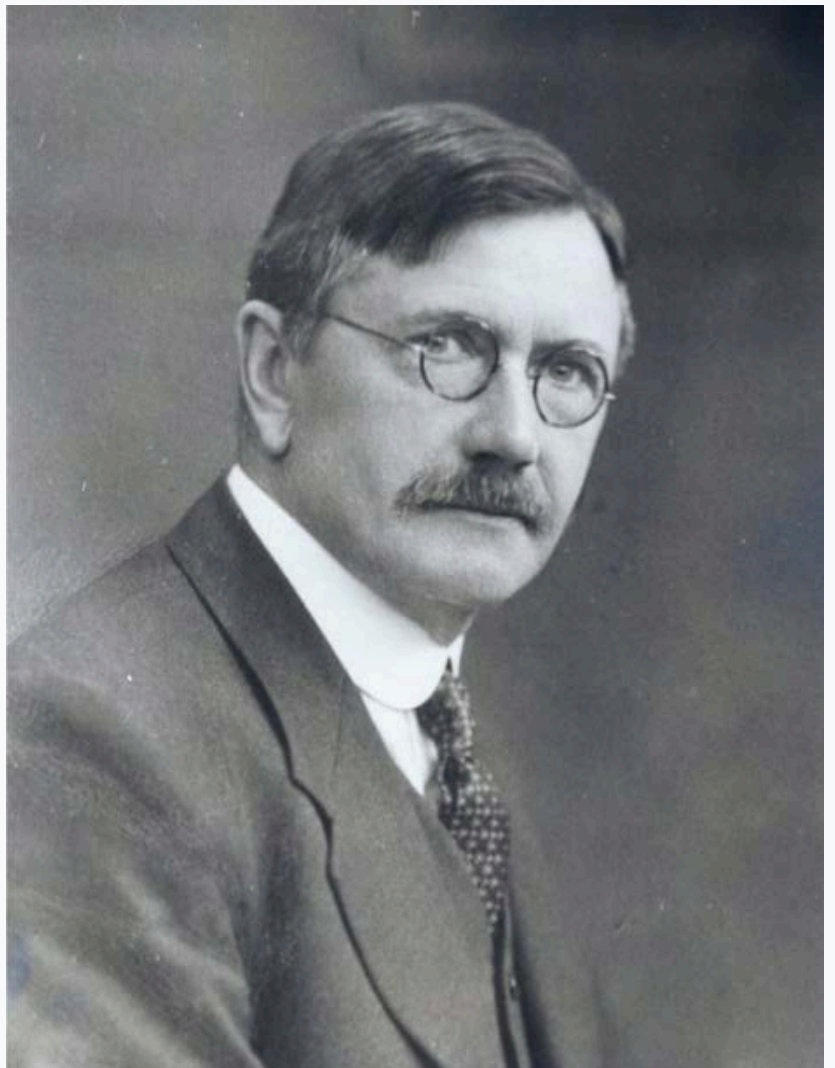
Originally an all-female teacher training college when it was established in 1946, it would eventually admit male students and the range of courses on offer would broaden to include other degree courses.

By the time it merged with the Ethel Wormald College in 1978 to become the City of Liverpool College of Higher Education (or COLCHE), sociology, drama, English, history, art and craft, psychology and geography were all regarded as specialisms.

The college was named after C.F. Mott, a former Director of Education for Liverpool.

He visited the college on a number of occasions and died in 1967.

Written by Dan Copley



The Hazels and the Early Days of the College

The Hazels (also known as the Red Hazels) is a Georgian mansion built for the Case family in 1764. The ARK here in Kirkby Library has a large number of photographs of the Hazels' interior and exterior in the C.F. Mott College archive collection. The interior of the building had a number of interesting architectural features, examples of which can be seen throughout this exhibition, such as the photograph of the beautiful upstairs hallway on display below the television screen.

In 1945, Liverpool Corporation began negotiations with the Hazels' owners, the Pilkington family, to purchase the Hazels for the purposes of a teacher training college for women. This was to be the C.F. Mott College of Education and the campus would eventually grow to cover a significant portion of land across the Huyton and Prescott border.

However, the Hazels was not ready for the staff and students to move in when the college was established in 1946, so students were living in hostels on the Kirkby Trading Estate and undertaking teaching practice at Leamington Road School, Norris Green, and the Florence Melly School, Walton. It was not until late 1947/early 1948 that the college was established at the Hazels.

Written by Dan Copley

The Hazels and the Early Days of the College

The hostels in Kirkby would then be occupied by students of the Emergency Teacher Training College for men from 1948-1951 and then the Malayan Teacher Training College until 1962.

Written by Dan Copley



Students relaxing on campus, circa early 1980s

C.F. Mott College

Timeline of Key Events

1945

As the Second World War drew to a close, the government identified a national shortage of teachers and encouraged the development of new Teacher Training Colleges around the country.



Discussions began about the purchase of The Hazels and adjoining land by Liverpool County Local Education Authority for the purpose of a Training College. Huyton and Prescot Urban District and Whiston Rural District Councils all agreed to the proposals in November 1945. The first college staff appointments were made by April 1946, with Miss W.A. Whiting as Principal.

1945 –
1946



1946

The College was named after Charles Francis Mott, a former Director of Education for Liverpool and opened as an all-female college in September 1946 with approximately 60 students.

1946 –
1947

With the Hazels undergoing alterations to accommodate students, the students were initially living on the Kirkby Industrial Estate, with classes taking place at Leamington Road School, Norris Green, and the Florence Melly School, Walton. It is not until late 1947 to early 1948 that the Hazels' teaching and residential accommodation were finally ready.



Dr. D.M. Farr took over as Principal and the College began a rapid period of expansion, with new teaching, sport and leisure facilities built .

1951



1951 –
1959

Dr. Farr was keen to avoid the “cosiness” that can overtake a small women’s college and she encouraged an expansion of social activities and a spirit of innovation and ambition amongst her staff and students.

1959

The College was asked by Liverpool Education Authority to become a mixed college and the first male students were admitted the following year. It is also in 1959 that the College became the first in the area to implement a post-graduate course of training.



Music and drama were strong interests of the College throughout its history and this period saw the standards raise to such a point that College productions attracted the interest of Irving Wardle, the Times drama critic! Music, drama and the arts and crafts would all continue to be an area of strength for the College.

1959 – 1965



1965

Mr. R.J.A.F. Clarke took over as Principal and during his time at the College the number of students rapidly increased and the campus continued to expand with new buildings.

1969

An 'experimental unit' was established, with the College piloting Four Term Years designed to double the intake cycle on teacher training programmes in response to government-projected shortages of trained teachers.



Mr. B. Cane became Principal and oversaw perhaps the most radical period of change in the College history.

1974



1975

Steps began to be taken towards the University offering courses validated by the University of Lancaster.



C.F. Mott College amalgamated with the Ethel Wormald College, with the eventual result of forming the City of Liverpool College of Higher Education (COLCHE) offering a range of BA and B.Ed degree courses.

1976

1977

The College was threatened with closure as the Department of Education and Science and Liverpool City Council sought to merge it with the Polytechnic.



C.F. Mott College was formally closed on 31st December 1979, although the campus continued to operate as part of COLCHE.

1979



1983

Liverpool City Council decided to amalgamate the Polytechnic and COLCHE to form a new enlarged Liverpool Polytechnic. Mr. Cane retired in September 1983 and Dr. G. Bulmer became Acting Principal of the College and Rector of the Polytechnic. Although now a part of the Polytechnic, the C.F. Mott campus continued for several more years. In 1992, the Polytechnic would become Liverpool John Moores University.

Written by Dan Copley



A Visual Timeline



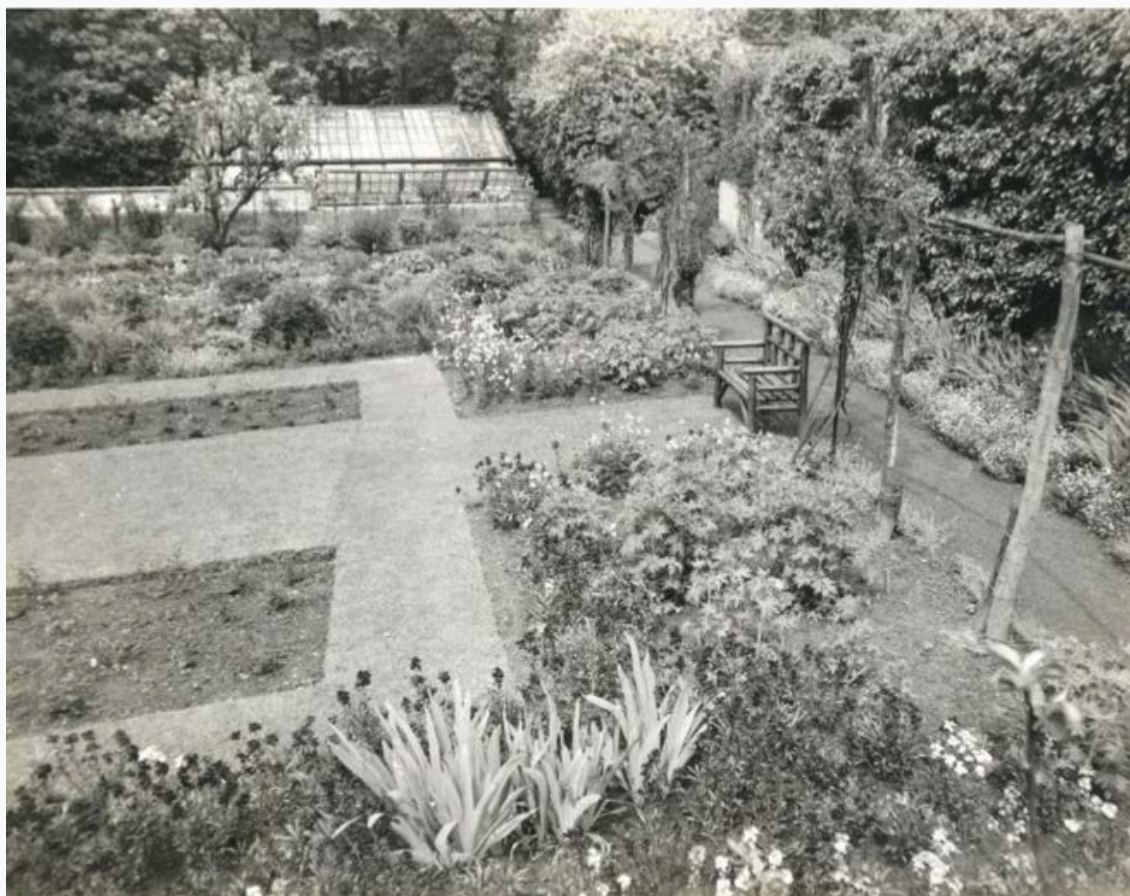
Photo copyright: J. E. Marsh & Sons, Photographers, Hoylake

Believed to be an image from the very early days of the college when it was in Kirkby (possibly even the opening), it is likely that one of the women in this photograph is Miss Whiting, the College's first Principal.

The Right Honourable the 17th Earl of Derby, Edward Stanley, can also be seen standing holding his hat on the left. The two men in chains of office are probably William Gainsborough Gregson, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool 1946-47, and the other may be Councillor H.T. Hulme, Chairman of Whiston Rural District Council, 1946-47.



A view of the Hazels, 1952



The walled garden (also known as the Rose Garden) at the Hazels, 1952



College staff at the Hazels, 1952



Students' common room, the Hazels, 1952



Classroom, 1952



Students in a halls of residence bedroom, 1952



Students on a field trip to Florence, Italy, 1958



Students on a field trip to Rome, Italy, 1958



Some of the 'temporary' buildings on campus, c. early 1970s



The C.F. Mott television studio (used for teaching purposes), c. 1970s

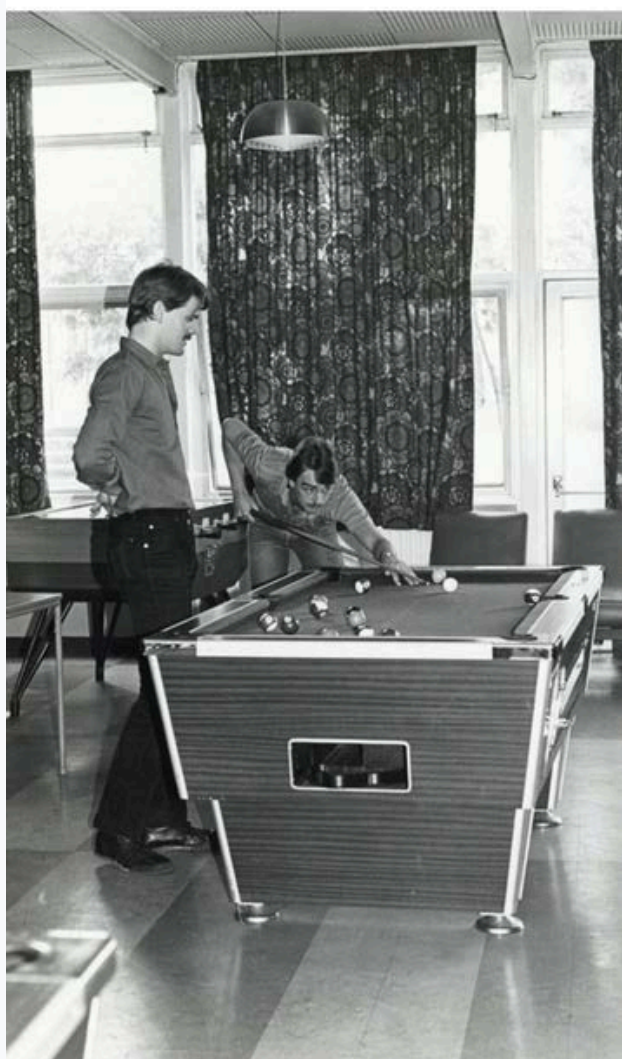


Students Sarah Lee and Arthur Matthews in a Craft and Design studio, c. 1970s

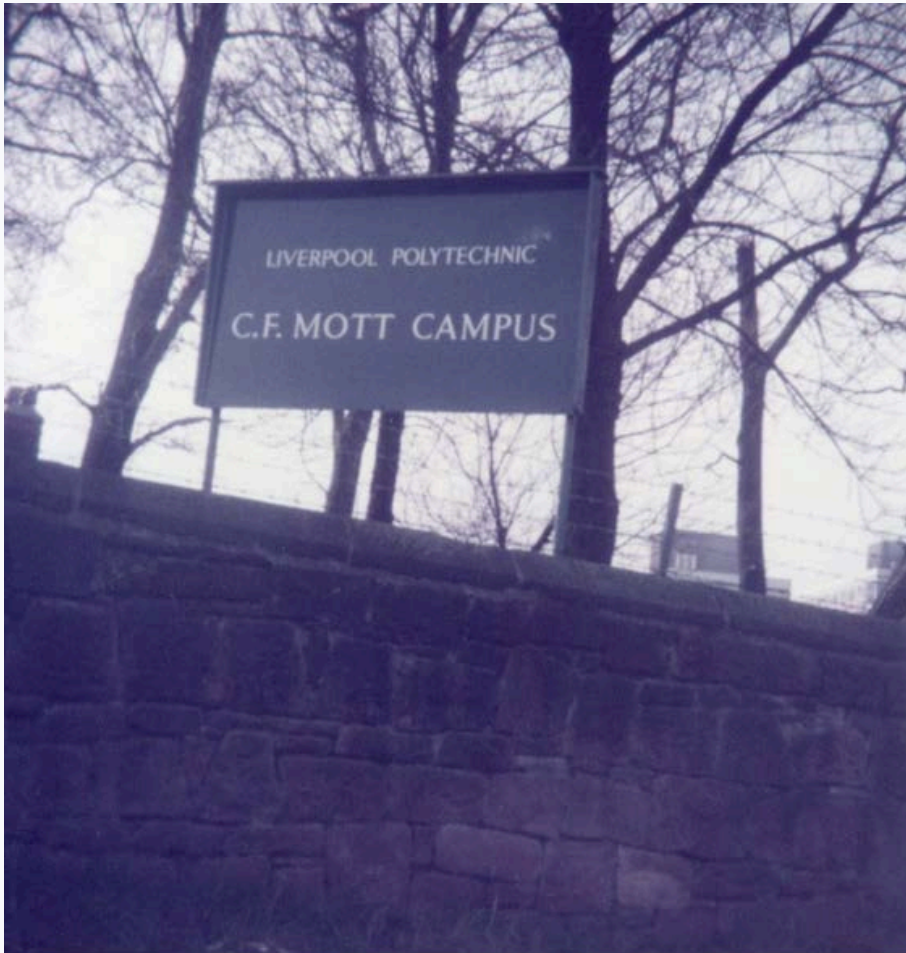


Teaching practice, c. 1970s

Student games room and bar, c. early 1980s



Students playing pool, c. early 1980s



The college sign, c. 1984

Photo credit: Michael Mountain



The lakeside campus, c. 1984

Photo credit: Michael Mountain

Students on campus, c. 1984



Photo credit: Michael Mountain



Single-storey buildings
on campus c. 1984

Photo credit: Michael Mountain



Entrance to the McNair teaching base on campus, c. 1984

Photo credit: Michael Mountain

Students in front of the Reprographics building, c. 1984



Photo credit: Michael Mountain

Interior of the Hazels,
near the entrance, c.
1984



Photo credit: Michael Mountain



A view of the Hazels, c.
1984

Photo credit: Michael Mountain

Credits

Exhibition Space - Knowsley Archives Service at The ARK (Archive Resource for Knowsley) The Kirkby Centre – First Floor, Norwich Way, Kirkby, L32 8XY

Curated by - The team at Knowsley Archives Services

Knowsley Archives Service, based in The ARK: Archive Resource for Knowsley, is home to a wide range of resources that describe the heritage of the people and communities that make up the Borough of Knowsley.

Our Mission Statement is:

- To collect, preserve and organise archive materials relating to the people and places of Knowsley, creating a collective memory for the borough that is accessible for research and consultation, either physically or online through digital content and finding aids
- To encourage learning through engagement, offering support to individuals and groups as they explore the collections, enabling our communities to develop a sense of pride and place
- To promote Knowsley's rich heritage, sharing an understanding of the history of the communities that make up the borough of Knowsley

Knowsley Archives Service was awarded Accredited Archive Status by The National Archives in November 2017 and was retained in 2024