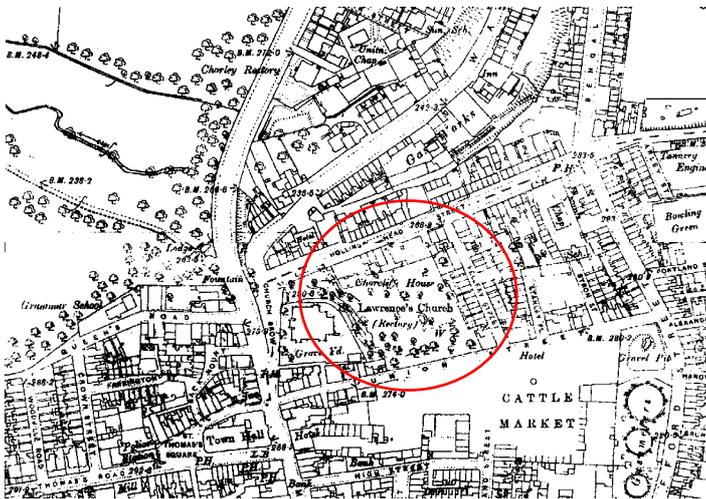


1906 - 2006

Celebrating 100 years of the Chorley Public Library Building, Union Street



The Library Building Chorley Town Centre



This 1894 map shows the site of the building before construction, within an area just beyond St. Laurence's church known as 'The Felly'.
(Note Felly St. adjacent to the land).

In the bottom left corner of the circle is Church Croft - the original stone Grammar School built in 1824. When the Grammar School moved yet again (to Queens Road) in 1868, the building was used by Chorley Savings Bank until its collapse in 1933.

The stone plaque from the original Church Croft building can be seen today in the wall of St Laurence's Church on Union Street.



Sir Henry Hibbert



Sir Henry Hibbert was MP for Chorley 1913 - 1918.

He had a key role in the 1903 Education Act and was knighted for his education work in the same year.

As chairman of the County Council Education Committee he pressed for Chorley to be given a new secondary school.

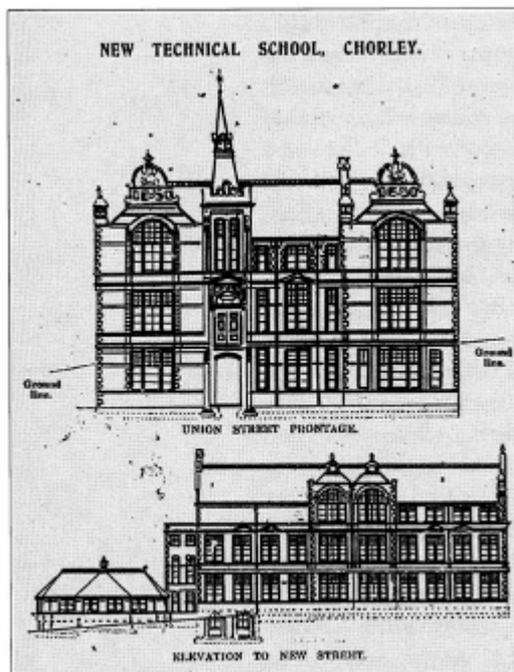
Grand Designs

Advertisements asking for design proposals for the building were issued in 1904.

Five proposals were received in total, but it was the plans supplied by the Architects Messrs. Cheers & Smith of Blackburn which were approved by the Education Committee on the 18th August 1904.



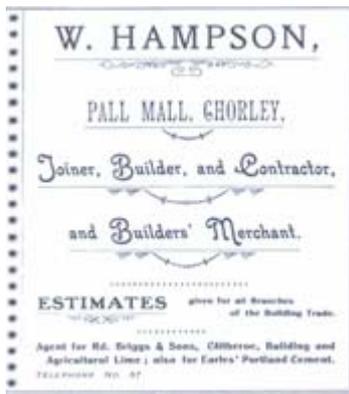
Mr. J. Serra, Architect.



Mr Smith's design proposals for the new Technical School entitled "Light and Air".

In 1905 Mr Brimley of T Brimley & Co Leather Works, which were situated next door on Fellery Street, successfully sued the Council for "disturbance of their light and air".

Laying the Foundations



The considerable task of erecting the school was given to the local builder Mr. William Hampson (centre) of Pall Mall.

Surely the envy of his trade, the total contract was worth a mouth-watering £10,041 15s. 9d. (approx. £720,000 today!)

The Opening Ceremony

The building was officially opened by the 16th Earl of Derby on September 24th 1906.



Frederick Arthur Stanley was the son of a Prime Minister. Though he never made it to No. 10 himself he did achieve many things, including:-

- The abolishment of flogging in the army
- Governor-General of Canada
- First Lord Mayor of Greater Liverpool
- First chancellor of Liverpool University
- Guild Mayor of Preston in 1902

Chorley Grammar School

1906 – 1962

(originally Chorley Technical & Secondary School)

Headmasters



F. DURRANT FOX, M.A.
HEADMASTER 1901-1909



G. B. ALCOCK, B.A.
HEADMASTER 1909-1921



F. E. GAUNTLETT, M.A.



H. WATERHOUSE, M.C., M.A. (Cont'd.)



J. R. HILTON, M.A. (Cont'd.)

School Days

Morning Assembly

1953



Craft & Woodwork

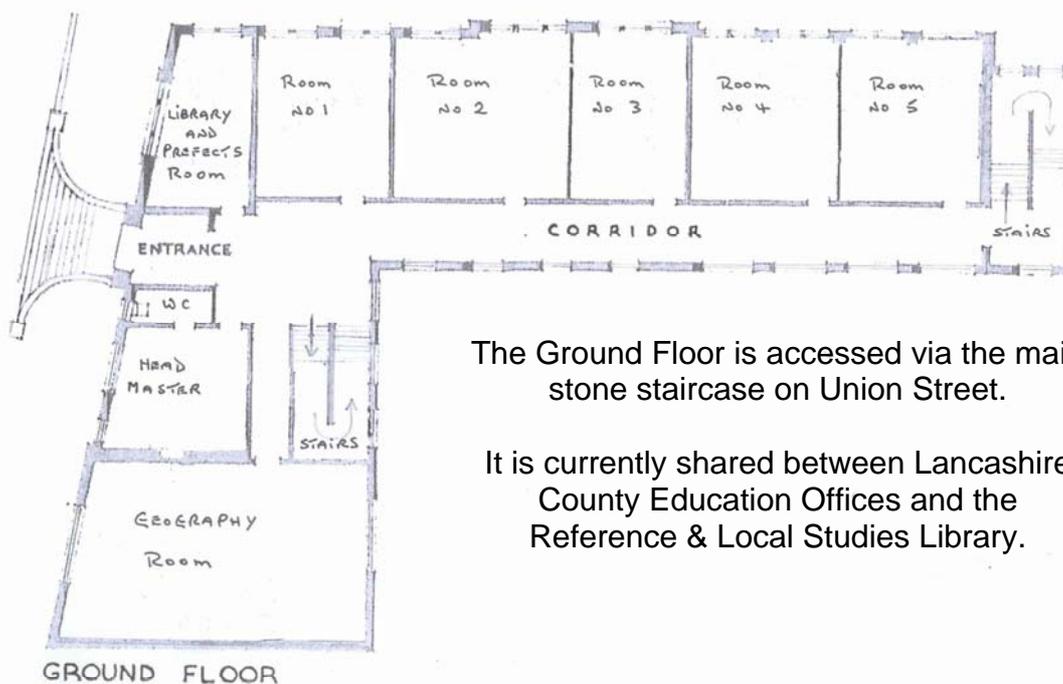
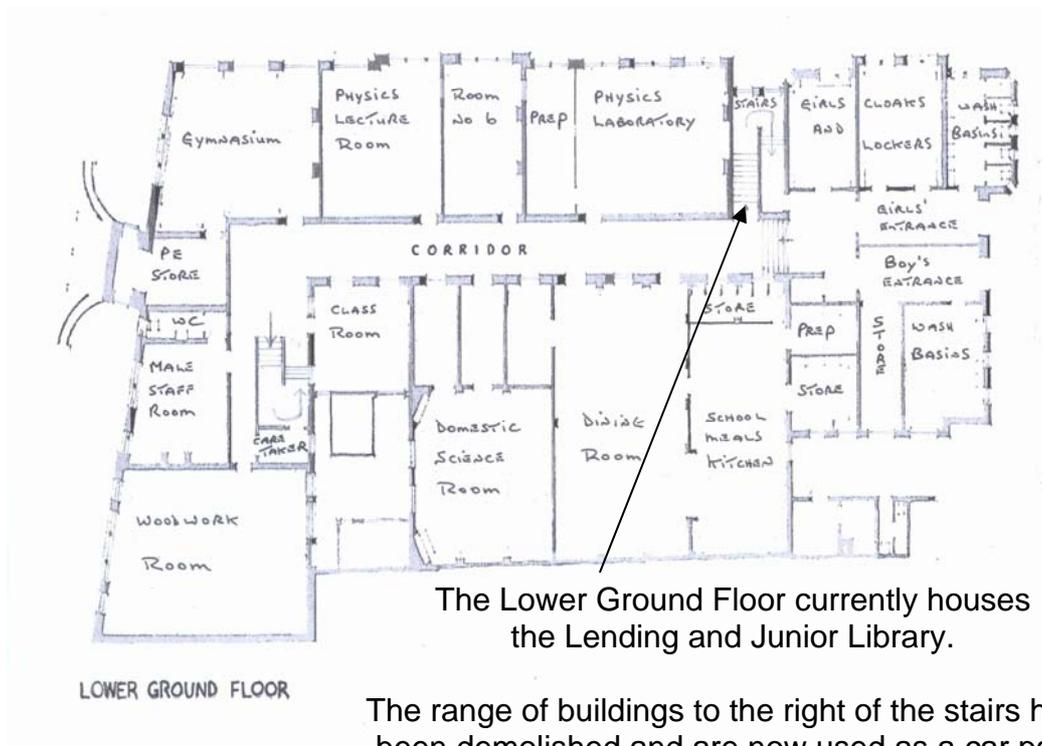
1953

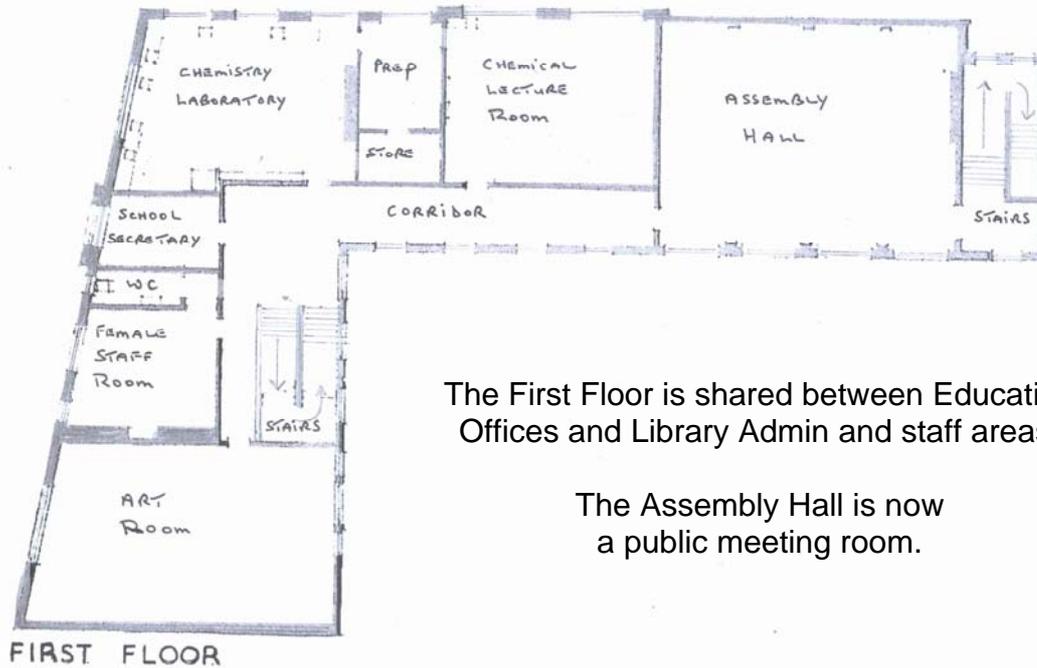


Images reproduced from the school magazine – The Chorleian

School layout

To accommodate the sloping land, the building design has three floors – one above and one below the main entrance on Union Street.

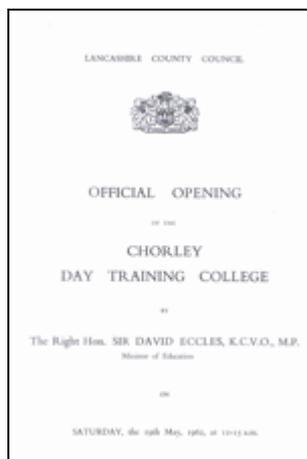




The First Floor is shared between Education Offices and Library Admin and staff areas.

The Assembly Hall is now a public meeting room.

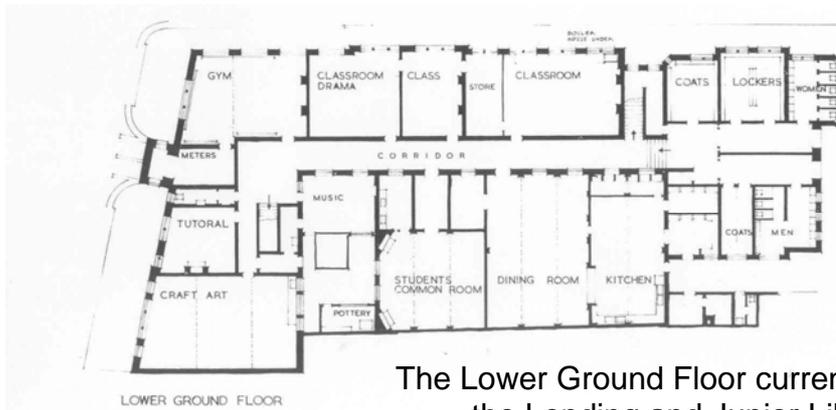
Chorley Day Training College 1962 – 1981



The College was opened by Minister of Education, Sir David Eccles on May 19th 1962.

The College was aimed at the mature student deciding to make teaching a second career.

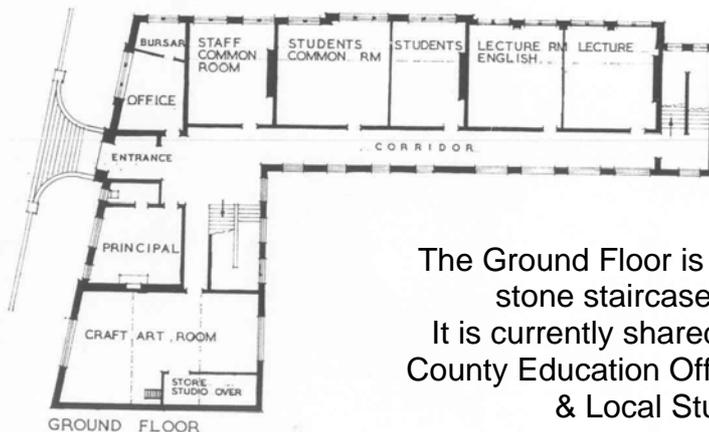
College Layout



The Lower Ground Floor currently houses the Lending and Junior Library.



The First Floor is shared between Education Offices and Library Admin and staff areas.



The Ground Floor is accessed via the main stone staircase on Union Street. It is currently shared between Lancashire County Education Offices and the Reference & Local Studies Library.

Media



Chorley College of Education became the first of its kind to use closed circuit television in schools for the purpose of teacher training.

In 1965 the College purchased a video tape recorder to enable class procedures to be recorded on film and then played back to students.

College closure



In 1975, Chorley College became a satellite campus of Preston Polytechnic.

Funding for Initial Teacher Training was cut shortly afterwards however, leaving several sites likely to facing closure. Chorley campus was one of the sites listed.

In the summer of 1976, the prospect of closure forced a student sit-in protest with the building occupied on a 24-hour rota.

Chorley Public Library 1986 –



The first public library in Chorley was located on Avondale Road. Opened in 1899, space was fast becoming an issue and by the 1980s a larger building for the service was required – in 1986 the Union Street premises were selected.



The Union Street building was opened in June 1986 by local Chorley Councillor, and former Leader, Mrs Pat Case, CBE. She described the library as “a total resource centre”. Music cassettes were added to the stock in addition to books.

In the first two weeks of opening over 23,000 books were issued and around 100 new readers were registering each day.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CHORLEY CENTRAL LIBRARY

BY

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS. M.P. CASE

On Thursday, 5th June, 1986

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

7.00 p.m.

The Chairman of Lancashire County Council's
Library and Leisure Committee,
County Councillor Mrs. R.B. Henig, J.P.
will welcome the guests and will introduce

The Chairman of the County Council,
County Councillor P.P. Hall, J.P.
who will address the guests

County Councillor Mrs. M.P. Case
who will formally declare the new library open

The Worshipful The Mayor of Chorley,
Councillor J. Wilson
will propose a vote of thanks to
County Councillor Mrs. M.P. Case

County Councillor Mrs. Henig will present
County Councillor Mrs. Case
with a book to mark the occasion

County Councillor Mrs. Henig will close the proceedings,
invite the guests to partake of light refreshments
and invite guests to inspect the library



Entrance to the Lending Library



Lending Library in the 1980's
Since 1986 many new categories of material have been introduced into library stock such as Videos, CDs, DVDs and talking books.



In 2002, the People's Network project was completed. Using National Lottery funding, free internet access was made available to the general public throughout the UK.



Sources held in the Local Studies collection include microfilm copies of the Chorley Guardian from 1871, maps from the mid-19th century, original photographs, census returns, parish registers and trade directories from 1814 and also many local books.

