

# LodgeLife

SHEDFIELD LODGE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

This Issue



*Welcome to this month's Special Edition of LodgeLife.*  
Taking a trip down our very own memory lane.

Many comment on the character of The Lodge and like many other buildings it has a past. So I thought it would be nice to share a little of it's history and to do that, we need to go way back to the early 1800's.



Shedfield Lodge was originally built as a Manor house and arranged by a gentleman called James George Boucher I (*formally known: James George Crabb*) He resided in a property known as Shidfield House (*later to be renamed Shedfield House*) adjacent to what we know as Sandy Lane. He lived there from 1839 and had a son, James George Boucher II.

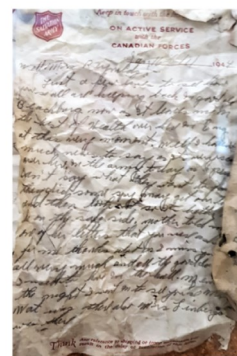
His son pursued a military career attaining the rank of Captain and when he finally married he was lucky enough to receive the Lodge as a wedding gift from his father. He was then addressed as James George Crabb -Boucher.

Looking at the first, and second editions Ordnance Survey maps of 1891-97, they show an approach drive, small parkland, possibly walled kitchen garden, orchard, lawns, paths, pond, belt of trees to the north west of the property screening Shidfield House from the Lodge, and fields to the north east. All sounding very grandeur.



By the year 1910 glasshouses had been constructed in the kitchen garden and in a surveyors valuation book of the 1920's it was recorded that "the grounds included glass house, summerhouse, tennis court, five gardens and lawns." It was also noted that "the advantage of the house for rating purposes was the good grounds and lawns."

... Quite the place to host guests for summer garden gatherings and afternoon tea I would think.

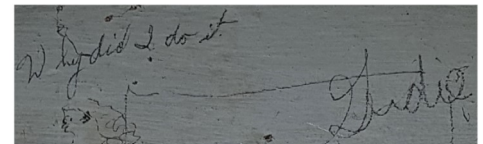




In the mid 19th century the Lodge became the property of the Franklyn family and they remained the owners through to 1956.

The building name was eventually changed to what we now know as 'Shedfield Lodge' during the later part of the 19th century.

During World War II, the Franklyn's offered the lodge to the Canadian army as a base. To this day you can still read messages, names and dates written by Canadian soldiers on the walls of the cellar, including the odd saucy hand drawn picture!



Above an arch letters spell C.A.N.A.D.A beneath they have started a description...

'C' - is for the Corps in which we are serving. 'A' - is for the Army as a whole. Sadly, that is as far as they got with this. Certainly would have been interesting to see what followed.

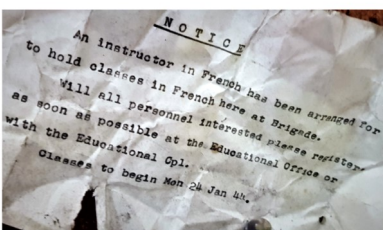
Hmm... almost a suggestion there for a reader competition?



In 2010 during restoration of the old fireplace in the entrance hall, many items of the soldiers were discovered there.

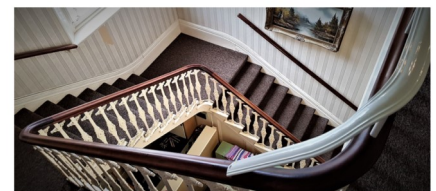
Included were letters, cigarette packets,

sweet wrappers and even a large knife!

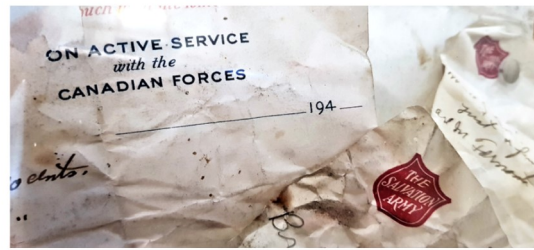


These items are now in a display case and amongst the letters it is interesting to see a notice informing the soldiers of the availability of French lessons..

"Parlez-vous Francais" anyone?

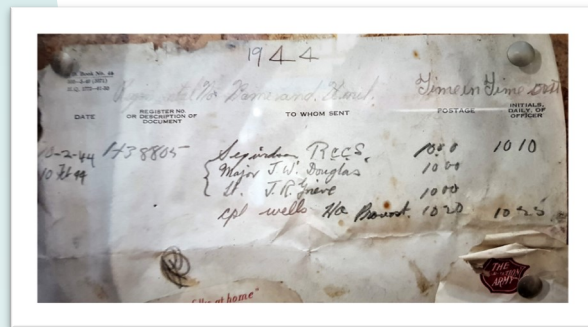






Forces sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn is also proud of the Lodge and autographed photo's along with a lovely letter joins our historic displays in the main entrance hall.

In an edition of Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's *Buildings of England* from 1963 the Lodge was described as 'a plain, solid three-storeyed early Victorian yellow-brick house.' Pevsner, born German and later a British scholar, is best known



for his 46-volume series of county-by-county guides, *The Buildings of England*, is often simply referred to by his surname. These famous guide books of architecture were often used by readers walking about the area. I wonder how many people through the years, caught sight of the building during a stroll?

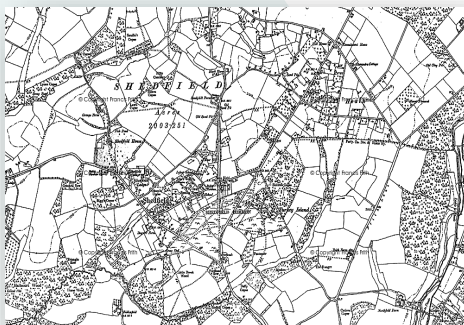
During the 1960's and 70's the 'good caring nature' of Shedfield Lodge began and it was used as both a nursing home and a children's home helping local children with mental disabilities.

In 1980 the Jones and Proctor families began to lease the property which finally led to the establishment of Shedfield Lodge as a Residential Care Home.

It was in 2002 that Andrew and Carole Geach became the new proprietors of Shedfield Lodge, continuing the family run business and do so until this day.

It's marvellous that the building still continues to be improved, updated and cared for, yet still retains it's charm from the days gone by.

Next time you visit take a little time to observe the stately furnishings, the majestic staircase, displays and ceiling features. All are a wonderful reminder of the unique style and heritage of Shedfield Lodge.



I hope you have enjoyed this historical insight with this Special Edition and next month we return to our regular format. Until then...

Look forward to the next edition of **Lodge Life**

Until then...

See you soon,

*Mark*



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