

Old Hall School, Wellington, Shropshire.

I attended the Old Hall School in Wellington, Shropshire, a preparatory boarding school for boys. from 1948 to 1953. I was eight and a half when I first went there. Below are several school photos and also some pictures taken with a simple box camera around the school grounds and others from the School Record Magazines of the forties and fifties.



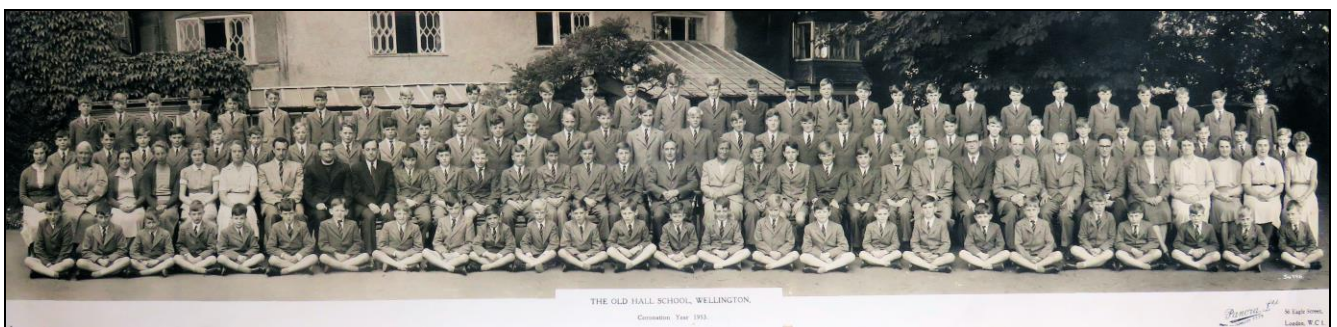
1948 – I am tenth from the right on the front row.



1949 – Fifth from the left on the front row.



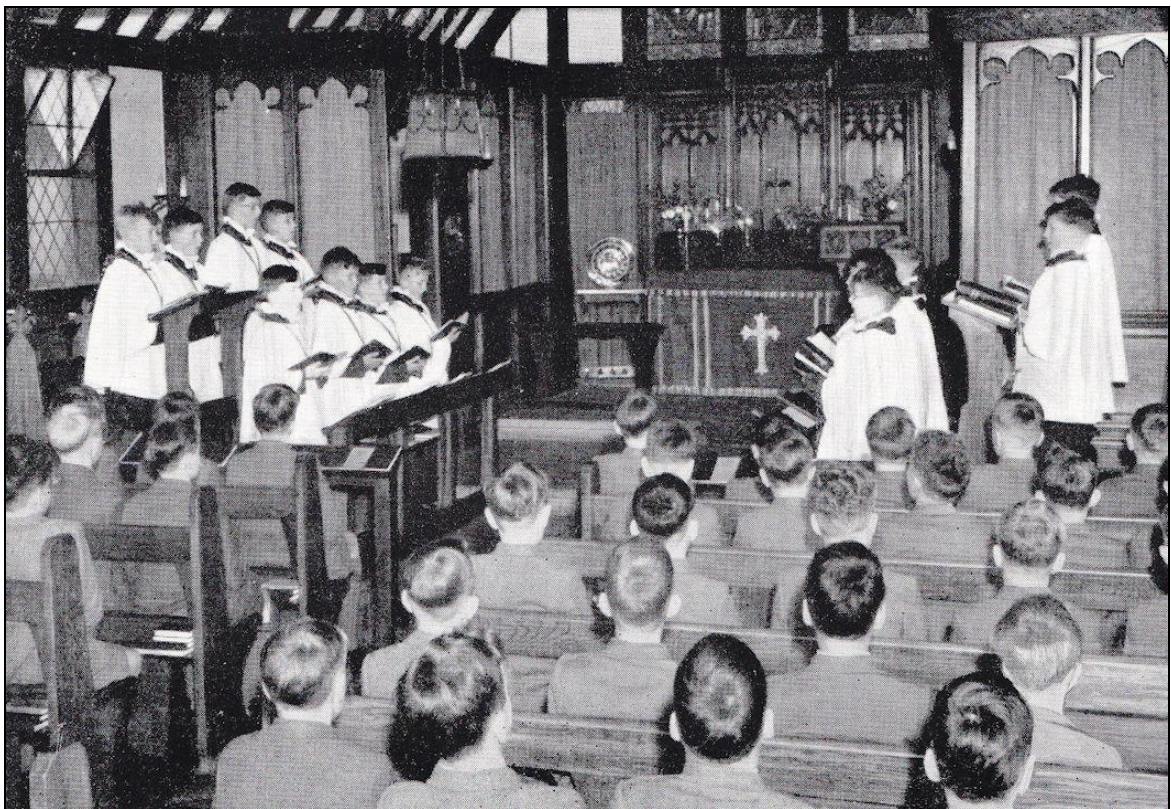
1950 – Far left back row – Part of the left side of the photo is missing.

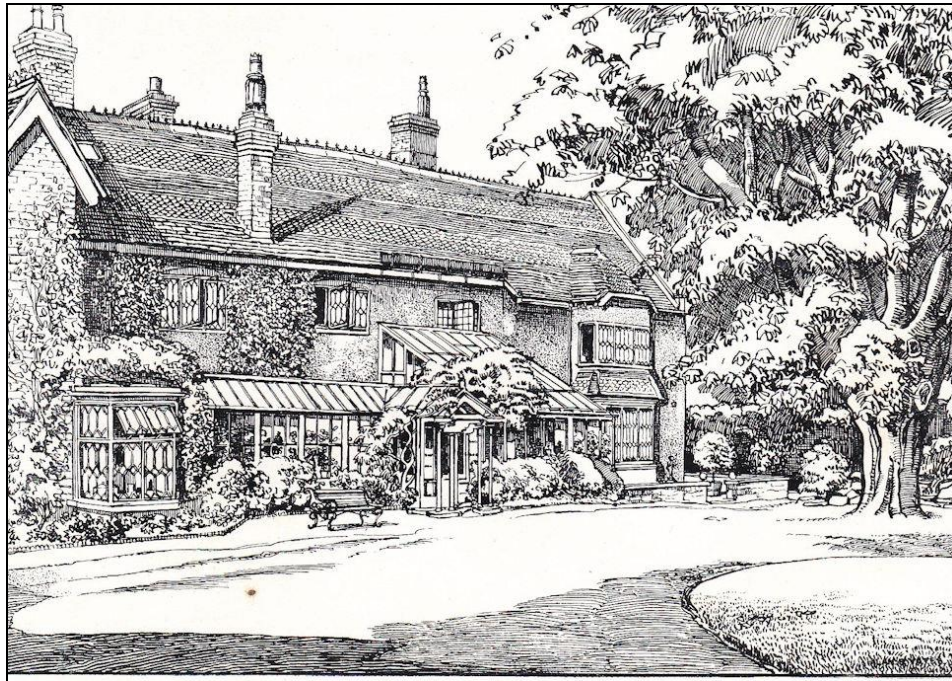


1953 – Second to the right of the Headmaster – Mr P D Fee Smith.



These photos show the School Chapel from the outside and inside during a service. It was really quite small with just about enough room for the whole school, i.e. approximately 100 boys. I was confirmed in this chapel and attended my first communion there.





This is an artist's impression of the old building where the Headmaster and his sister lived. It can also be seen as a backdrop to the school photos. I remember it being very dark inside with wood floor and wood panelling.

The photo below shows the school hall with snooker/billiards and table tennis tables. At the end of the hall there was a stage for plays and other performances. Several times a term a screen was put up and we had film shows, all black and white. Once a term a boxing ring was erected in the hall and we all put on gloves etc for three three minute bouts. The Head sat at a table on the stage and acted a judge for each fight.



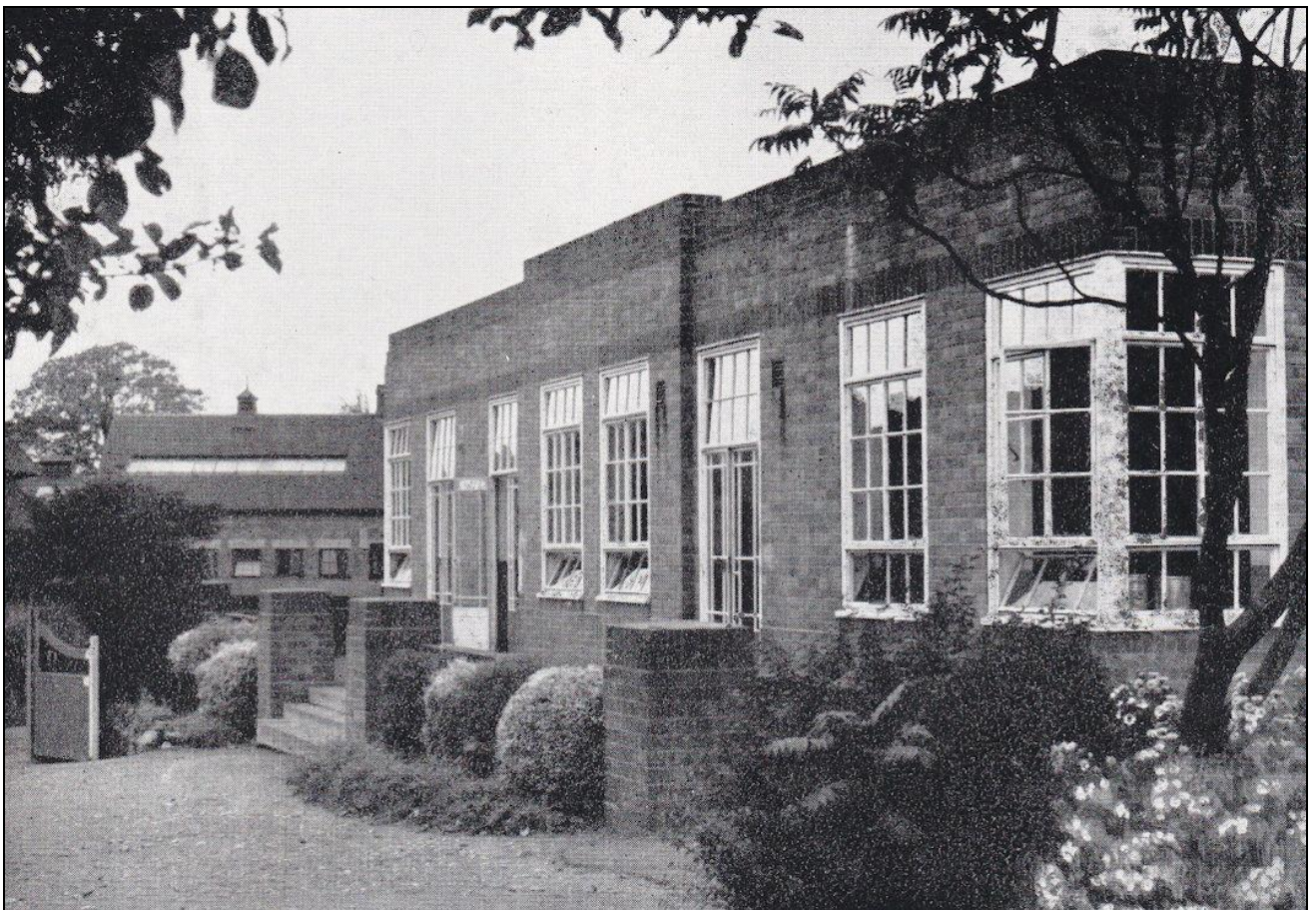


The photo above was the Music Room. As I didn't play any musical instrument I can't ever remember going inside this building. Below is the main building housing the hall and classrooms downstairs and the dormitories upstairs. We were all expected to make our own beds each day and keep our bedside lockers tidy.





These photos show, what was then the 'new block' containing more classrooms and other activity rooms shown below..





Classes were small, usually 12-15 and formal as above. School uniform was worn at all times except for games and PE. There was a concession to wear airtex shirts in the very hot weather.



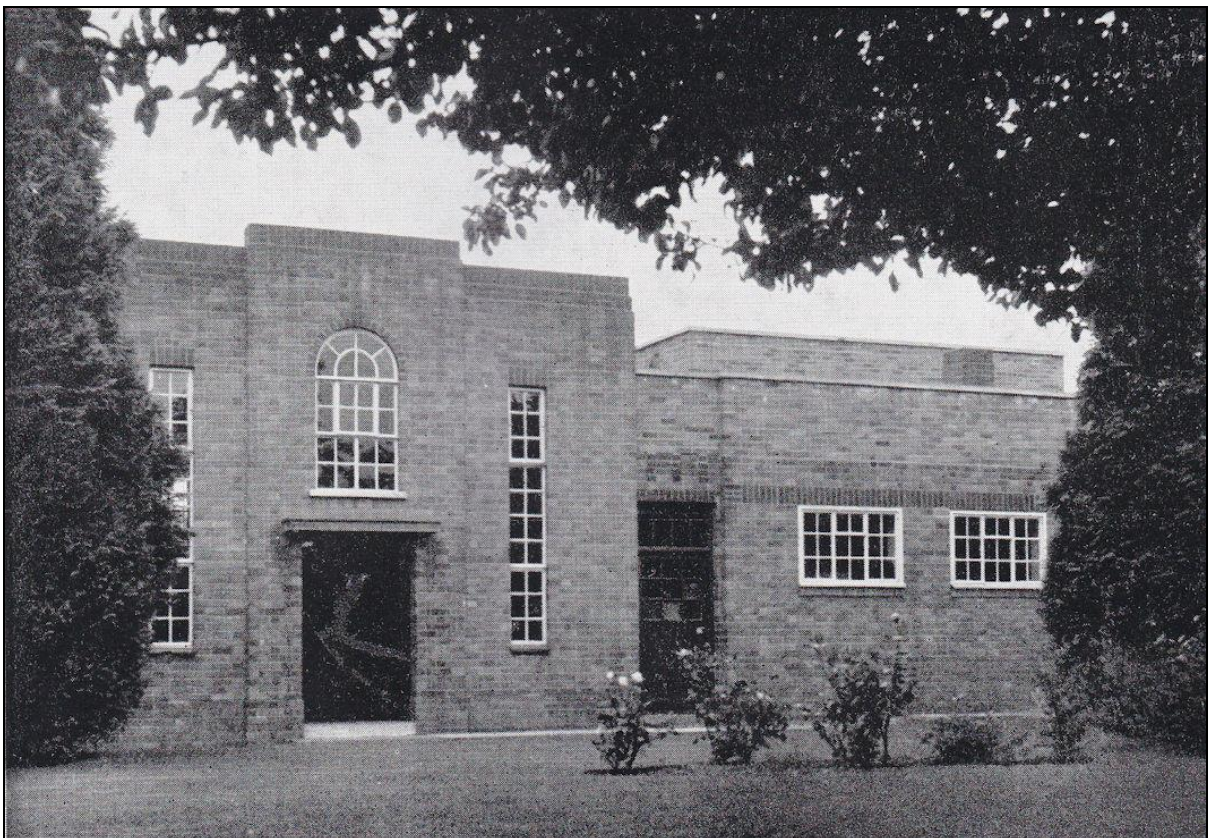


The Art and Craft room above and below the rather splendid model railway.



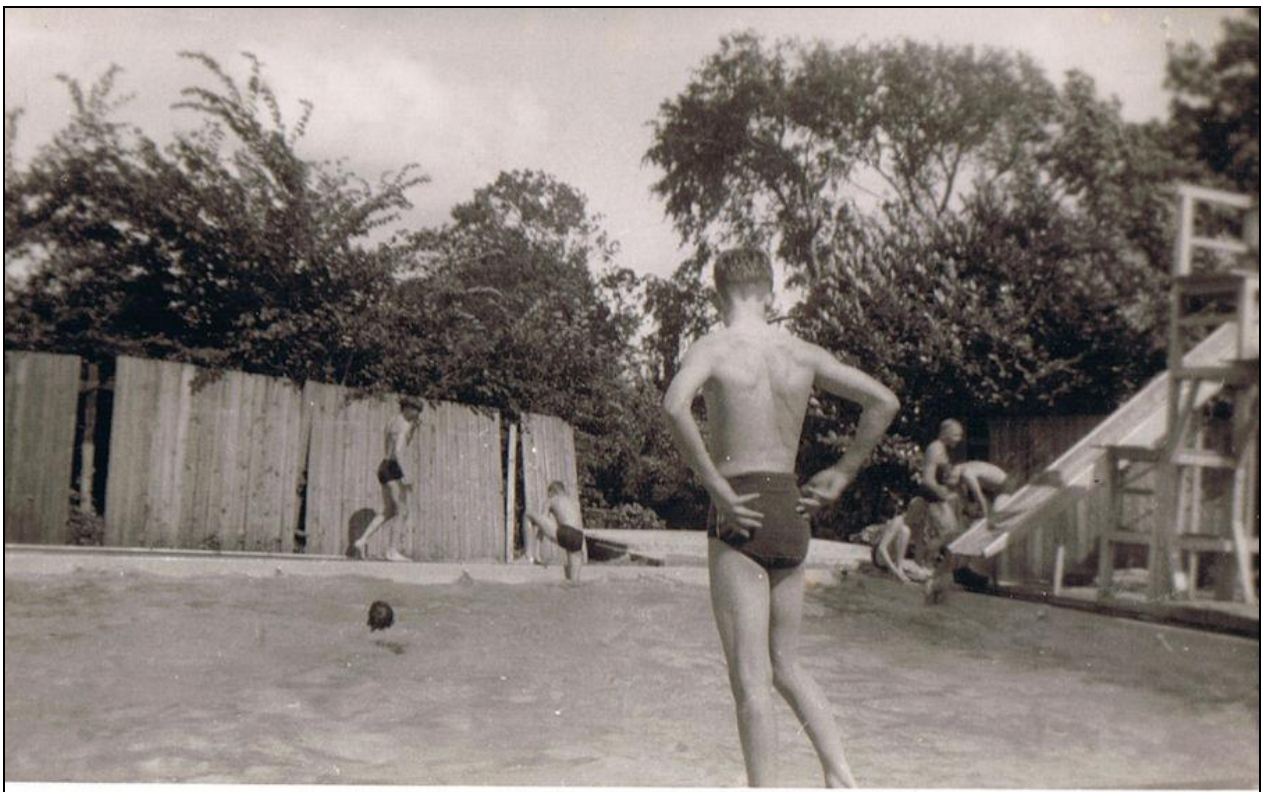


There was quite an extensive Library where there also board games available, although there wasn't the variety of games that there is today, probably draughts and chess. Below is the entrance to the gymnasium.





This shows the path leading to the school's swimming pool. It was a reasonable sized pool, but it wasn't heated and so rarely reached the temperatures people would expect today, in fact it was usually pretty cold!





I was a member of the cubs, but I don't remember receiving many badges. The picture below shows the school playground with the cricket permanently in use.



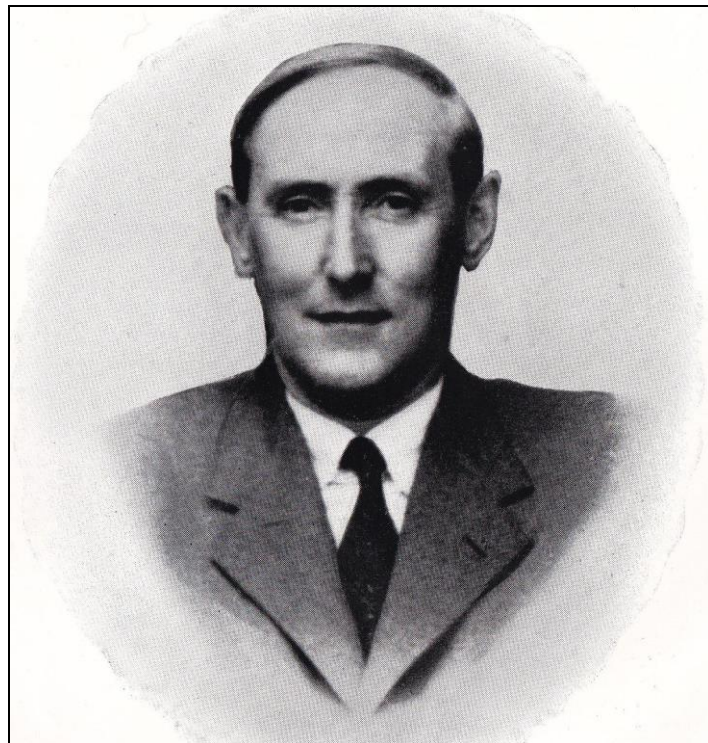


Two of the school cricket teams. I only aspired to the second eleven, the highlight of which was a score of 25 away to St Chad's School, in Lichfield.





This shows the prize giving after Sports Day. Mum and Dad were in the back row to the left of the boy receiving his award. Dad wearing his dog collar and Mum to his left with her head peeping over a lady's shoulder. The Wrekin is in the background.



Mr Paul Denmam Fee Smith was Headmaster of the school from 1926 when he was only 25 until his death in 1958. He had previously attended the school as a boy. He was devoted to the school and the welfare of the boys in his care.



The Old Hall put on an annual production. These pictures show scenes from *The Taming of the Shrew* in which I played the part of Gremio, standing right of the open door in the top picture and seated centre of the lower one. The school also produced some of Gilbert and Sullivan operas and I remember taking part in *Trial by Jury*.



