

A Legacy in Motion:

Women's
Physical
Education
1900-2025



Curated by Christopher Olive,
LJMU Special Collections & Archives

Designed by Paola Dore, DADU Alghero,
Università degli Studi di Sassari

With many thanks to:

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The Association of Past Students of I M Marsh
College of Physical Education

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Department for Graphic Design & Illustration

*With special thanks to: Rebecca Davies, Jas
Kaur, Dorna Mahmid, and Sally Marquiss*



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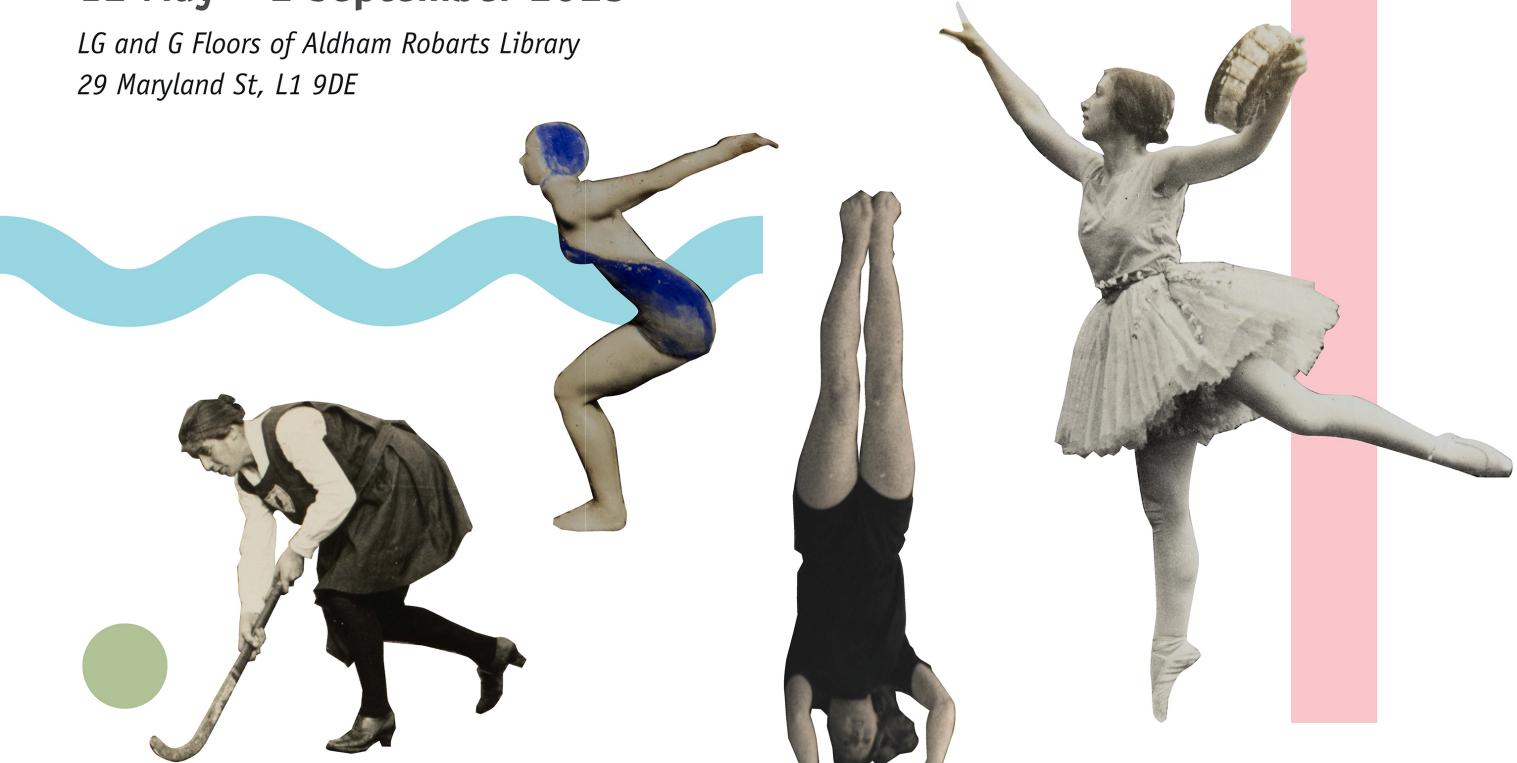
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A Legacy in Motion: Women's Physical Education 1900-2025

12 May – 2 September 2025

*LG and G Floors of Aldham Robarts Library
29 Maryland St, L1 9DE*



In celebration of over 125 years of women's physical education in Liverpool, A Legacy in Motion reflects on the long-lasting impact of I M Marsh College of Physical Education, from its modest beginnings at the Liverpool Gymnasium to the nationally respected institution still beloved by many today. From classroom to hockey field, hospital ward to swimming pool, the staff and students of I M Marsh led innovation and challenged expectations. Irené Mabel Marsh's story, and the stories of generations of women and men who followed her, is a story of movement in every sense – of bodies, boundaries, and cultural landscapes.

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Pre-1900: Foundations

Irené Mabel Marsh was one of ten children born in 1875 to a home in Walton with its own trapeze and parallel bars. As a child, she regularly visited the local gymnasium and to Bootle Public Baths, quickly excelling at sport and offering to teach others to swim. This led her to study at Southport Physical Training College at 18, after which she took up part-time teaching in Gymnastics at Freshfield School.

Marsh's immediate success as a Swimming and Gymnastics teacher was so noticeable that she was invited to become Director of both the Bootle Gymnasium and of Women's Classes at the Liverpool YMCA, which had then the second largest gymnasium in the world.



Irené Mabel Marsh as a child,
c.1880

Under Irené Mabel Marsh, the YMCA offered additional evening classes for working girls and separately new classes for disabled students with a wide range of impairments and access needs.

With growing demand for her classes, Marsh, with some resistance from her family, began to prepare in 1897 to establish her dream – her own Liverpool Gymnasium College. Her very first students, her sister Salome Marsh and friend Muriel Peet, enrolled in 1900, from which date the College's history is officially commemorated.



Irené Mabel Marsh, 1904

Case 1

1. Irené Mabel Marsh (leftmost, top row) with her family, c.1890s

Irené Mabel Marsh was one of ten children born to their home in Walton. Growing up, she had the luxury of parallel bars and trapeze equipment at home.



2. Portraits of Irené Mabel Marsh, c.1900-1919



1900-1919: The Liverpool Gymnasium Training College

The Liverpool Gymnasium Training College was established in 1900. Very quickly, Marsh bought a townhouse at 110 Bedford Street, where 50 students could be accommodated, expanding again in 1907 to two more townhouses on the corner of Huskisson Street. Students were required to cycle several miles away to their playing fields in Wavertree or Calderstones for hockey and cricket practice, as well as towards Chester for rowing practice along the River Dee.

The early curriculum was highly innovative: physical education was interpreted in a very wide and, at the time, controversial way. Marsh originally followed her own systems of free movements and gymnastics until adopting the Swedish Free Movements system, in addition to the unusual use of music with exercise, within which students were encouraged to 'make up their own exercises in order to learn the value of creative effort.' Swimming was also taught for many years before it became established in the national curriculum in 1919.

Marsh also worked with the orthopaedic surgeon Sir Robert Jones to introduce remedial classes to the College, fitting up a room at 110 Bedford Street where patients were sent by doctors for exercise and massage treatments. Once the College had reached 171 Bedford Street, its large and specialist Medical Gymnasium required the additional help of senior students. This included a clinic for non-paying patients treated in small classes. The Physiotherapy Department of the Stanley Hospital was also



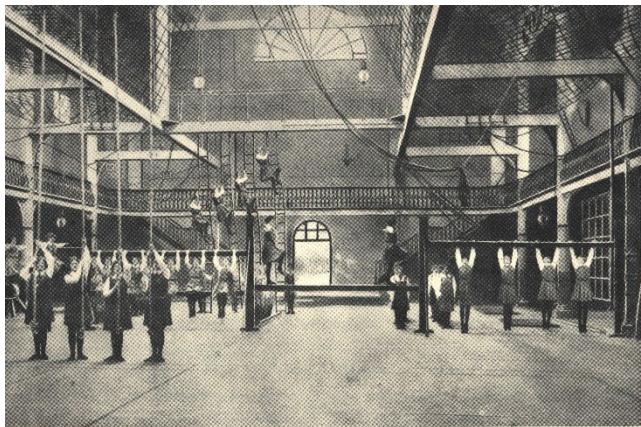
run from the College under the direction of the teacher May Hilton Royle, where students obtained experience in hospital methods, particularly during the First World War.

In spite of these innovations, the College was still highly restrictive and elitist in its early years. Early entry requirements for students stipulated that they must be: 'steady and reliable... not sentimental or moody,' as 'the frivolous or lazy girl is not wanted'; over 5'3"; of 'good social position' with 'no accent'; and wear their hair long, tied up, and not in fashionable cuts such as bobs, in order to differentiate Marsh's young student teachers from the pupils they were training to teach.



3. Liverpool Physical Training College: The story of the founder Irene Mabel Marsh (Manchester: George Falkner & Sons) by May Hilton Royle

For a full PDF download of this publication, visit archives.ljmu.ac.uk and use reference number LJMUH/IMM/13/1/1.



Liverpool Gymnasium

chapter two

It was fortunate for Irené that the only college of physical training in the north at that time was at Southport—not many miles from her home—so that without a great deal of family opposition she started a two-year course there when she was 18.

The college was run by a Mr. Alexander, a fine gymnast himself who was in charge of the Y.M.C.A. gymnasium at Liverpool. He included in the course, gymnastics, games, swimming, riding and teaching practice in addition to various athletic activities.

Irené did not find it difficult, she passed her College exams brilliantly and took a part-time post teaching gymnastics at a Freshfield school.

Because her success with the swimming and gymnastic class was remembered she was asked to become Director of Bootle Gymnasium and later of the Women's Classes at the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. gymnasium which was then the second largest in the world.

It was here that her gifts as organiser and teacher as well as gymnast became really apparent. Though little more than 18 at the time, she threw all her boundless energy and enthusiasm into making every class an inspiration to the participants.

The gymnasium was well equipped and had one unique feature—60 feet up in the roof was a set of rigging complete with spiral ladders, square ladders and companion ways with hand ropes.

Page Twenty

Page Twenty-one

4. Photograph album, 1907

Showing the Liverpool Gymnasium in use, and students on their bicycles outside the Bedford Street campus building. Students were required to cycle several miles away to their playing fields in Wavertree or Calderstones for hockey and cricket practice, as well as towards Chester for their rowing practice along the River Dee.

For a full PDF download of this album, visit archives.ljmu.ac.uk and use reference number LJMUH/IMM/5/1/1/1.





5. Photograph album showing students rowing on the River Dee and having lunch, c.1915

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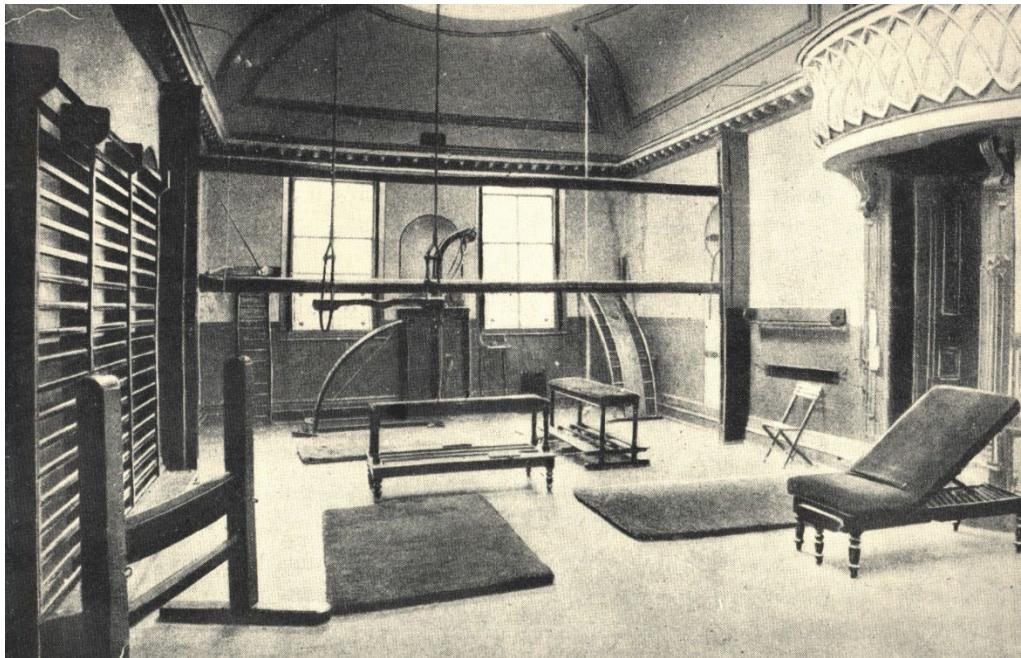


6. Photograph of students on their playing fields in Wavertree or Calderstones, 1907



7. Photograph of the Medical Gymnasium at 171 Bedford Street, c.1907-1919

Marsh worked with orthopaedic surgeon Sir Robert Jones to introduce remedial classes to the College. Its large and specialist Medical Gymnasium included a clinic for non-paying patients treated in small classes. The Physiotherapy Department of the Stanley Hospital was also run from the College under the direction of the teacher May Hilton Royle, where students obtained experience in hospital methods, particularly during the First World War.



8. Photographs of the Bedford Street campus interiors, c.1905-1919



9. First Prize for Speed, 'Liverpool Gymnatic Training College,' 1911



10. Medal for Swimming, Liverpool Gymnasium, c.1900-1919



11. First Year Student General Proficiency Medal for I Hebditch, Liverpool Gymnasium, 1917



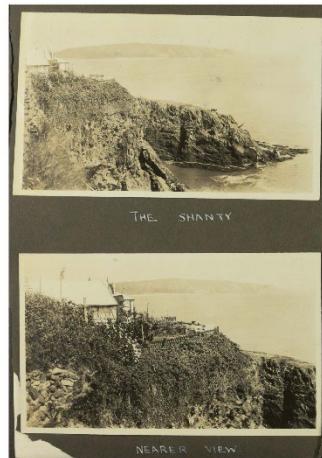
1919-1938: The Liverpool Physical Training College (LPTC)

In 1919, the Liverpool Physical Training College moved to its iconic campus on Barkhill Road in Mossley Hill with about 120 students now in attendance, and all activities apart from rowing and horse riding now based at one site. Additional arrangements were also made for remedial classes, including allowing students to attend clinics at the local hospitals, with veterans of WW1 visiting the College as patients for treatment. Students could also now sit for examinations of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

The College became a social hub for many students, regarded by each other as members of a large 'family' with Irené Mabel Marsh was always referred to as "Mums." Another important teacher at the College during this period was Kathleen M Henderson, who had studied under Marsh 1902-1904, before quickly becoming Assistant Principal in 1905, later Vice Principal. Henderson and Marsh were known as 'life companions' to Marsh's family, with Henderson known fondly as 'Aunty Kathleen.'

The pair built a wooden holiday home together in Abersoch, Wales, called affectionately 'The Shanty' at which Marsh's family and students from the College would often stay over the summer.

Marsh and Henderson were also known for wearing costumes and disguises around campus, including fancy dress swimming galas, dances, and dressing up as 'two old ladies' to observe classes without making students too nervous to assess properly.

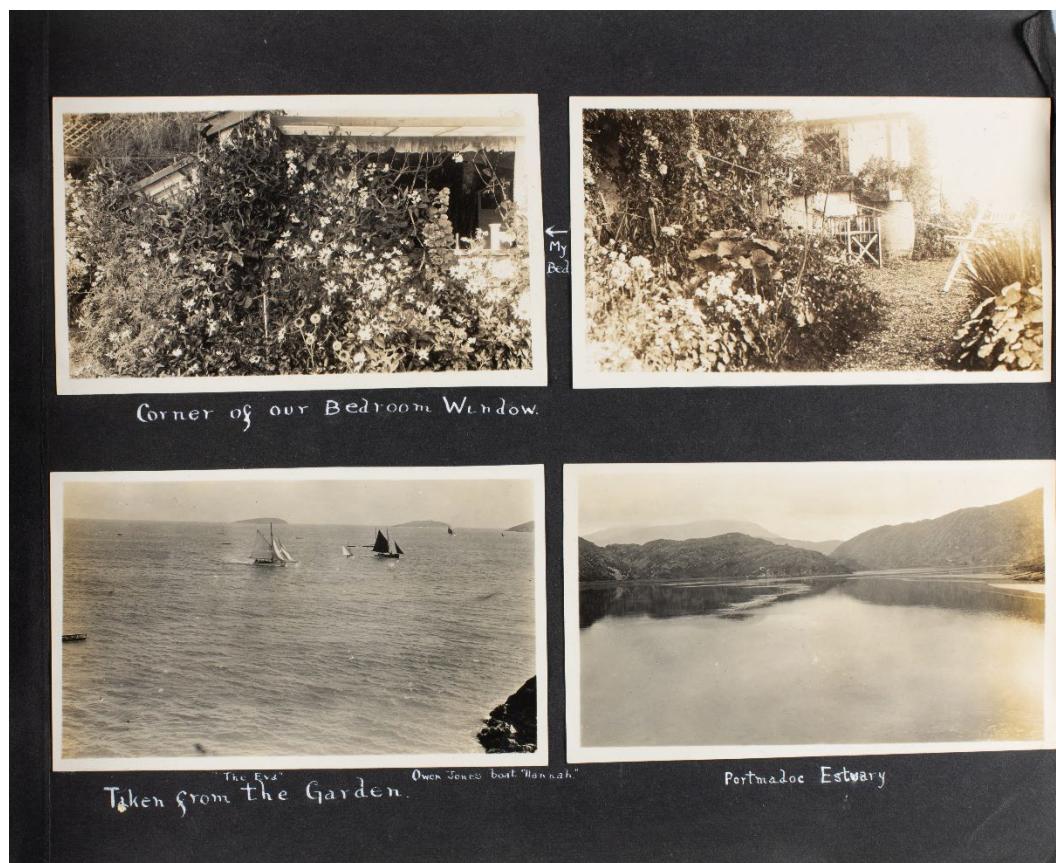
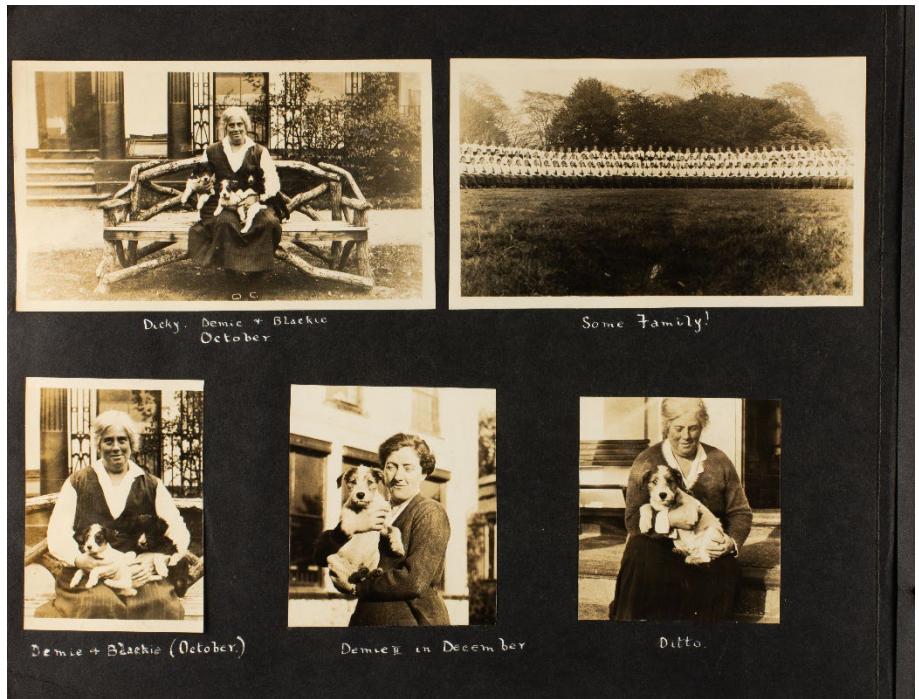


Case 2

1. Photograph album belonging to life companions Irené Mabel Marsh and Kathleen M Henderson, Principal and Vice Principal of the Liverpool Physical Training College, 1922

This album is one of many documenting Marsh and Henderson's pastimes at 'The Shanty,' the holiday home they shared together in Abersoch, Wales. The wooden home was a hub of community activity for their extended College 'family' of students over the summer, who visited for outdoor sports and activities. In the absence of textual records evidencing Marsh and Henderson's partnership, their holiday albums provide a different window into the life they built together.

For a full PDF download of this album, visit archives.ljmu.ac.uk and use reference number LJMUH/IMM/5/1/1/1/2.



2. Kathleen M Henderson (left) and Irené Mabel Marsh (right) with their dogs Demon, Dodger, and Dock, at their holiday home The Shanty in Abersoch, Wales, c.1920s



3. Photograph of the Seniors concert actors in costume, Liverpool Physical Training College, 1922

The early College never shied away from opportunities for staff and students to dress up, including costumed dances, theatrical, and musical performances, as well as a regular fancy dress swimming gala.



4. Regulation scarf with emblem badge for the Liverpool Physical Training College, c.1913-1947

5. Staff uniform rope belt, c.1920s



6. Photograph of Mabel Bryant, staff member at the Liverpool Physical Training College, in her uniform and belt, c.1920s



7. Photograph album page showing various staff members at the Liverpool Physical Training College, c.1925



8. Liverpool Physical Training College emblem badges, c.1913-1947



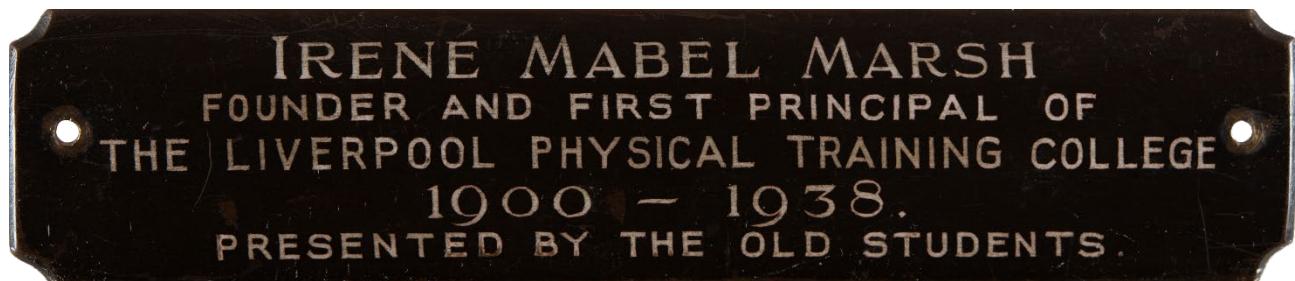
9. Badge for the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy awarded to LPTC students, c.1930s-1940s



10. Emblem sports dress for the Association of Past Students for Liverpool Physical Training College, c.1920s



11. Presentation plaque to commemorate Irené Mabel Marsh, 1938



1938-1965: I M Marsh College under Marie Travers Crabbe and Ruth Morison

In 1938, Marsh died, and the College was absorbed into the Lancashire Education Authority in 1947, changing its name to I M Marsh College of Physical Education in honour of its founder.

Marie Travers Crabbe was appointed in 1938, and the College continued to advocate for innovation within the field, including being the first British College to use the Laban approach to movement. The last member of staff who Marsh had appointed, Ruth Morison, was an exponent of this technique, and she became Deputy Principal in 1953.

During the Second World War, students took on many domestic duties and ground maintenance. Some of the sports fields were turned into allotments, and air raid shelters were built. Two aerial landmines and a large bomb fell on the site but no injuries were recorded.

Case 3

1. Lacrosse sticks owned by I M Marsh student Robyn Hardman (neé Fletcher), 1968-1971



2. Commemorative Plaque for the Ruth Morison Gymnasium at I M Marsh College, 1987

Ruth Morison was a Gymnastics teacher known for her innovation. She was the last member of staff who Irené Mabel Marsh appointed before her death, and was responsible for using the Laban approach to movement, making I M Marsh College the first British College to do so. She was made Deputy Principal in 1953, and the Gymnasium was named in her honour.



3. I M Marsh College emblem badge, c.1947-1965



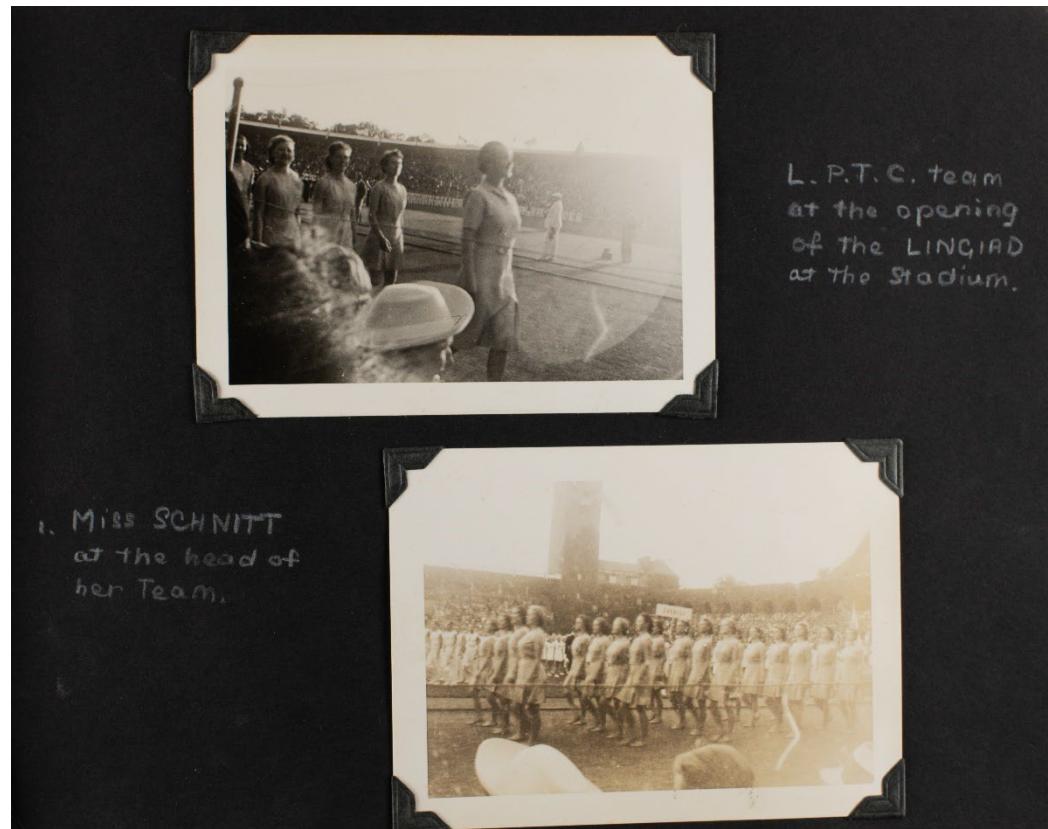
4. Photographs of the Library, Principal Marie Travers Crabbe, and the swimming pool at Barkhill campus, c.1953





5. Photograph album showing Liverpool Physical Training College students at The Linigad, Stockholm, Sweden, Jul 1939

This album shows the LPTC student team at the international Linigad Gymnastic Festival. Although the event was deliberately non-competitive, contemporary commentators considered it to be the 'Olympic Games of the physical drill.' Hosted July 1939 in neutral Sweden, and before the outbreak of World War Two in September 1939, the Linigad still allowed Nazi German teams to be represented. Despite this, the Nazi German ship Wilhelm Gustloff was not allowed to dock, had to be anchored offshore, and several smaller Swedish boats were used to ferry athletes to the venue.



6. 'Focus On:- 2. Orika,' by F Iyo in The Limpet Magazine Vol. 1 No.2, 13 Dec 1952

The Limpet was a student magazine for I M Marsh College magazine, first published in 1952. Limpet is an acronym, standing for Liverpool Irene Marsh Physical Education Times. The first edition sold 101 copies on first release, although more may have been printed later. This article is a feature by international student F Iyo about her hometown Orika in Nigeria.

Page Five

The Limpet, 13th December, 1952.

FOCUS ON:-

2. *Orika*, by F. Iyo.

Situated on an island in the creeks and delta of the river Niger, Orika, my native town, is remote, and secluded from the noise usually associated with the big towns in the hinterland of Nigeria. But even so it was not unheard of; for it had the most daring and able fisherman and seaman of the delta. Indeed, the men are such powerful swimmers and sea-farers that they can remain under the sea for three complete days or more if so inclined, and yet survive to tell wonderful stories of their adventures and of the glories in the sea! So great is their diving capacity that even sailors from Europe marvel at their ability to dive for cans, coins, bottles and other stuff that has been thrown overboard from ships; and 'dash' (gifts) to them.

As will be seen, under the circumstances the Orikaners can be nothing other than fisherman, the same brave order of seamen who in Elizabethan days followed Drake to win fame and glory for England. So also did these fisherman gain honour for Orika, by winning tribal wars and gaining more fishing ground than did any of their unfortunate neighbours.

The fish are usually caught in fishing stations farther out to sea, and often the men spend months there before finally returning home laden with money. After drying the fish over mangrove log fires, they sell it to travelling fish-merchants, and any unsold are brought back home and sold off by the women.

What makes life really interesting to all simple peoples are their traditions and superstitions. Folk stories, riddles, songs, dances, social coronations in celebration of the new harvest, marriage, the dead, oracles and the like, masquerades and other performances - these are what provide the fun in the people's life.

When one is ill, it is the custom to go to a man versed in spiritism, or the medicine man, who always finds the cause in the activities of a malevolent spirit, or a witch. He then sets to work to remove from the affected parts of the body various poisonous stuffs such as tiny crabs, tied with threads and beads and hair! I have watched one of these operations and the surprising thing is that more often than not the afflicted persons get well afterwards. For all science may say, there may be something in it.

Of all the coronations, the one done before a girl is ever allowed to marry by the traditions of the people is most important and interesting. The god or oracle of the land does not allow illegitimate children and is highly offended when they do come. Usually he needs some sacrifice of goats, chickens, and what not before successive children of the law-breaking mother are

allowed to live. The chiefs, headmen, and important women devised a plan therefore whereby young girls were to be shown to the public and after which ceremony they were given the status of women, with full freedom of marrying, divorcing, or remarrying. The ceremony usually takes place near Christmas. Before this ceremony, it is the solemn duty of all respectable parents to bring up their daughters in the most strict and proper manner. Not only must they learn all the duties at home, but they must also be able to trade profitably and have all the other qualities which should make them good wives and mothers. They must still, however, remain in subordination, even at maturity, and are so distinguished by their dress. They must on no account wear their cloth down to the ankle as the women do, but to the knee.

About six months before the actual ceremony, the hair is all shaved. Confidential than begins. The girl is not to be seen except by the family and her fiance if she is already engaged. The family meanwhile lavish all their attention on her. She does no work, has little girls to act as escorts and maids, and her main concern is to look hot, best and grow plump and fresh. Towards the end of confinement she has brass rings fixed round both legs up to the knee. These rings are constantly cleaned so as to maintain their brightness. Each time she walks they jingle and clink, like silver coins, making music after her.

On the actual day of the ceremony, all the girls gather in the open market-place, followed by their families, friends, and singing groups. Seated in the market-place are the judges - experienced and elderly women to whose dredged scrutiny the girls will be subjected. The girls then walk before the bench of judges, with radiant faces and dressed only in a piece of loincloth tied down to the knees, and their bare bodies decorated with beads of different kinds round the waist, shoulders, arms and neck. The successful ones go home with dancing and joy, and presents are showered on them. But those found unworthy go home with shame, their future clouded. However, they are all allowed afterwards to wear their national dresses right down to the ankles. This matter of status is different with boys. They can wear their national dresses in full without any fuss right from puberty. In fact, though women are very much respected and do invaluable services, they must keep their place when it comes to social rights.

Many of these traditions and ways of life and thought are gradually dying out now. The cause is the contact with modern civilisation. People now go to church and school. New roads, brick houses in place of mud huts, hospitals and community centres

(Continued on page seven)

Page Seven

The Limpet, 13th December, 1952.

Lausanne, by Paddy M. Hart

My finest memory of Lausanne and its surroundings is of one summer morning just before dawn. I was above the city in the soft hush of the pine-woods in the foothills. There was no sound and everything was cold, grey, and dreary. The lake below seemed like some black forbidding opening to Hell; the Dent du Midi to my left and the Monts du Jura across the lake in France loomed up, silhouetted in the rapidly lightening sky, like grotesque sentinels. The groves sloping down and the city below were nothing but dark indistinct shapes. A strange hush settled over the mountainside; everywhere there was a hushness and mistiness of uncertainty ... Then it happened - a glint - a dart - a flash, and the sky flushed behind the mountains. Instantly the dark, cold, iron-greyness fled away. Slowly, as the finger-like rays of the sun reached out, climbing over the mountains, the sky became lighter. The snow-capped peaks of the Dent du Midi turned to a pale pink, then blushed to rose, at last, revealed in full glory, like the sun. The dark, dead-looking lake changed to a living thing - the waves danced and sparkled like rays of light from a living sapphire. Men were already working in the vine-yards; far off I heard the clang of milk churns and the bark of a dog. Lausanne below, already glowing with life, was a mass of roof-tops, with the spire and electrically lighted cross of the Roman Catholic church, and the cathedral, medieval and majestic, rising up above all, the bells ringing for early service. The city seemed to merge naturally with the surrounding countryside, as in the city itself there is a perfect blending of rural and town life, new and old.

All the shops and flats are in the most up-to-date designs, tall and white; the roads are wide and well-kept and the cars luxurious. By the lake is a very modern clinic and nursing home where people from all over the world come for treatment. Further on there is an extremely fashionable 'play'. The restaurant is built in three storeys and on the flat roof are sunbathing couches and the restaurant in front of which are lawns, shrubs, and trees, with all manner of swings and gymnastic apparatus, handball and notball pitches. Jutting out into the lake is a wonderful bathing pool with diving boards up to fifteen metres, originally built for the Olympic Games just before the war.

Yet there lingers an air of the medieval, especially in the older quarter of the city where there are little old forgotten streets, and a market-place below the Perpendicular cathedral where the country folk spread their wares. I can remember an old apple-cheeked woman sitting once by the central fountain there. She was dressed, as most of the country folk are, in Vaudois costume: white, billowy-sleeved blouse, black velvet bodice, white nicker-

chief, and white, green-banded skirt cumbered by a black lace apron. As she knitted, the artificial grapes on her characteristic Vaudois-hat bobbed about. She was surrounded by her produce which no doubt she had scrubbed at her village fountain early that morning. She looked up and her face broke into a thousand smiling wrinkles as she saw a customer approach. - 'Bonjour, Madame, qu'est ce que vous desirez?' - Above and behind her rose the blindfold statue of Justice of the fountain.

Up above Lausanne in the woods all is hushful, pine needles deadening all sound, and time stands still. Perhaps here the Bourgeois or other oppressors used to hunt men as well as animals. But they are gone, and a modern Lausanne has risen, with 'Liberte et Patrie' as her motto. The old Lausanne has gone in modern progress, but as I look across the lake again to the ever watchful guardian mountains, that sense of time comes again. Lausanne may be modern, but she still holds that atmosphere of immortal age through which she has striven for freedom.

Orika. Continued from page five. ... are being built. The old warriors are passing away and such practices as witchcraft, idol worship and human sacrifice at the death of chiefs have almost died out. But one wonders whether the people are happier and less restless. Many there are who I know will do anything to get the good old days back again when one did just what one liked!

Basket-ball. Continued from page eight may be hit with either hand, but never with both hands at the same time, nor must the ball stop moving. Dribbling is useful if no opponent is near, or if the player is too far from the goal to shoot accurately or when team-mates are planning an opening so that the ball can be passed.

None of the players is allowed to interfere with the player in possession of the ball. He must not hold, trip, use unnecessary roughness or block an opponent's path. If he does, it is counted as a personal foul, in which case a free pass is given to the opposing side, a player being disqualified after five personal fouls. It is also counted as a foul to delay the game unnecessarily. A player or ball is out of bounds as soon as he or it touches the boundary line.

Besides being an exhilarating game with great possibilities, basket-ball is a most absorbing game to watch.

7. Letter from D Seaborne Davies (University of Liverpool) to Marie Travers Crabbe (I M Marsh College), 29 Nov 1959

This letter concerns Crabbe's accusations of pranks pulled by male students visiting I M Marsh College, including 'the gong and the bowl "trophy" silliness,' and 'the skeleton complaint.'

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



TEL. ALLERTON 2331.

DERBY HALL,
NORTH MOSSLEY HILL ROAD,
LIVERPOOL 18.

29/11/59.

Dear Miss Crabbe,

Thank you for your urgent letter delivered by hand on Friday night relating to events which had happened eight days before. I am sorry to hear about the indisposition which caused this delay and I hope you are now feeling quite recovered.

I very much regret to hear about your unhappy experiences on November 19th. I the more particularly regret them as we would all wish to spare the Vice-Chancellor any avoidable worry just now.

Your letter reached me on Friday evening when I returned here after a long day and a late committee meeting in the University and too late for the main Hall. As soon as I read it, I decided to break in on that Hall and address the students--which I did. I trust that the first result of that was that you experienced no similar trouble this last Friday night.

After that, I made enquiries about what had happened on the 19th. From your own experience, you will appreciate that enquiries of that kind become very much more difficult to make if there has been a long interval between the events and the complaints.

You will also appreciate that enquiries are made much more difficult when the group to be investigated is not a homogeneous one. I have gathered that the male group on the 19th was recruited from University and non-University quarters. You will appreciate that I have no official control over even the University men outside Derby Hall and Greenbank. The Sefton Park Flat-dwellers whom you mention in your letter are not within my jurisdiction. I took up the clues suggested in your letter--and found that "the Greenbank men" at that party totalled----one !

My enquiries have resulted in my having assurances that students under my jurisdiction participated in only two of the six matters which you specify in your letter--the gong and the bowl "trophy" sillinesses.

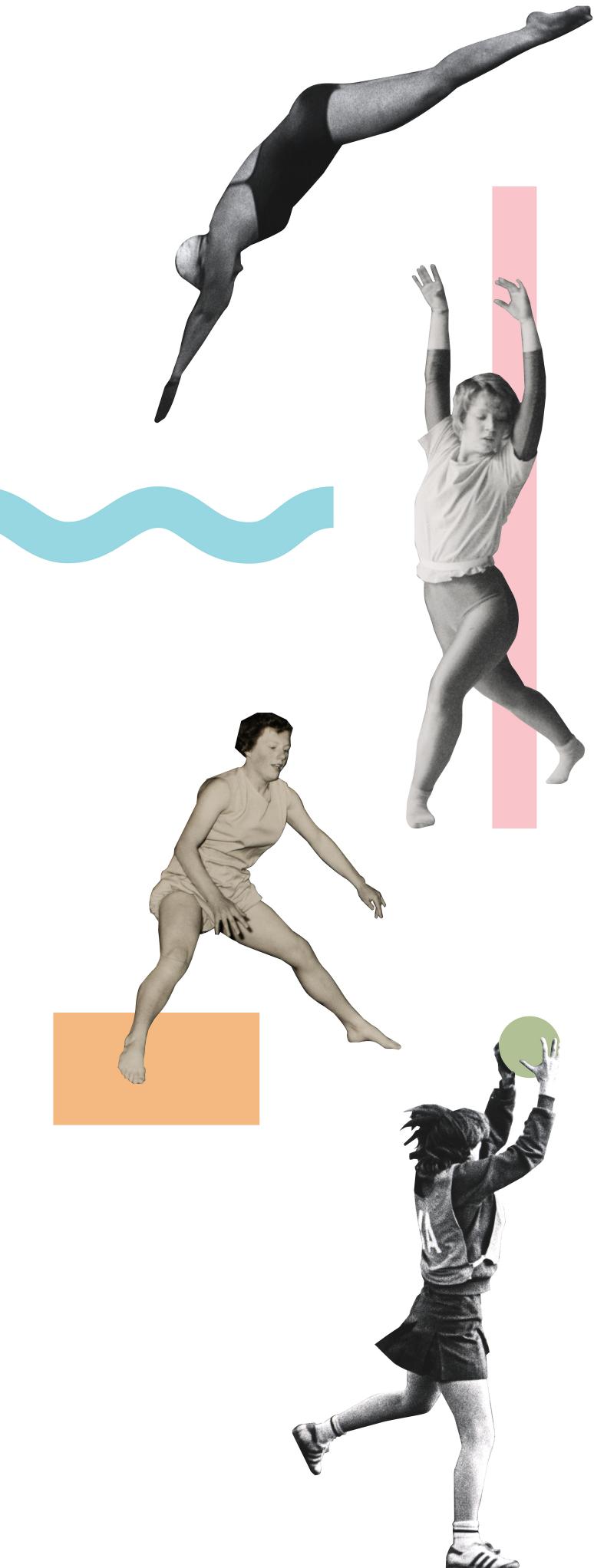
My information service had acquainted me early of the gong business and I had learnt a week ago that it was returned. I had also heard about the skeleton complaint and been assured that we ^{had to} part whatsoever in that matter.

The bowl episode appears to have been a completely "lone-wolf" one as far as Derby Hall men were concerned. Even on Friday night there was general ignorance here about it--and it was only yesterday that we learnt it was the work of the sole representative from Greenbank. I am glad to learn that he had the decency to come to see you himself and to your admonishment of him I have added for very good measure a reproof he is not likely easily to forget.

On the gong matter, I am told that it not quite correct to say that it was painted with the letters D.H. or to suggest that there was any such super-imposition which required removing. What I am told is that the letters D.H. were put on it in the way of polishing them on a surface which had not been recently polished-- so that the cleaning would consist in cleaning the rest rather than "cleaning-off" anything "painted". Without diminishing the fault of taking the gong in the first place in any way, this story, if true, does avoid the even greater fault of indulging in wilful malicious damage, like painting the premises, etc. I am glad that the men who took the gong returned it fairly quickly. I have severely censured them for this silly "trophy" mentality. As you know, it is a perennial student foible. As somebody said--"Every new generation is a new generation of savages which has to learn and be taught". It is a widespread malaise in colleges of every description to think that trophy-hunting is part of student life. (Two students were convicted of larceny --quite wrongly in law-- on this matter at Bangor last week.)

When this sort of happening occurs, I am always interested in investigating the "atmosphere" which produces it. I ask you not to take this as implying any form of criticism in any sort of way, but I think you will be interested to know that on both Fridays our visitors to you have come back expressing disappointment with the "do". It appears that they have gone out expecting a normal sort of general dance and found that it is a small "do" in a smallish room with music accompaniment which they do not seem to regard as adequate. That in no way serves to excuse any form of bad behaviour--not in the slightest; but it may serve to throw some small light on why the men on the 19th turned to mischief.

1965-1981 and Beyond: A Legacy in Motion



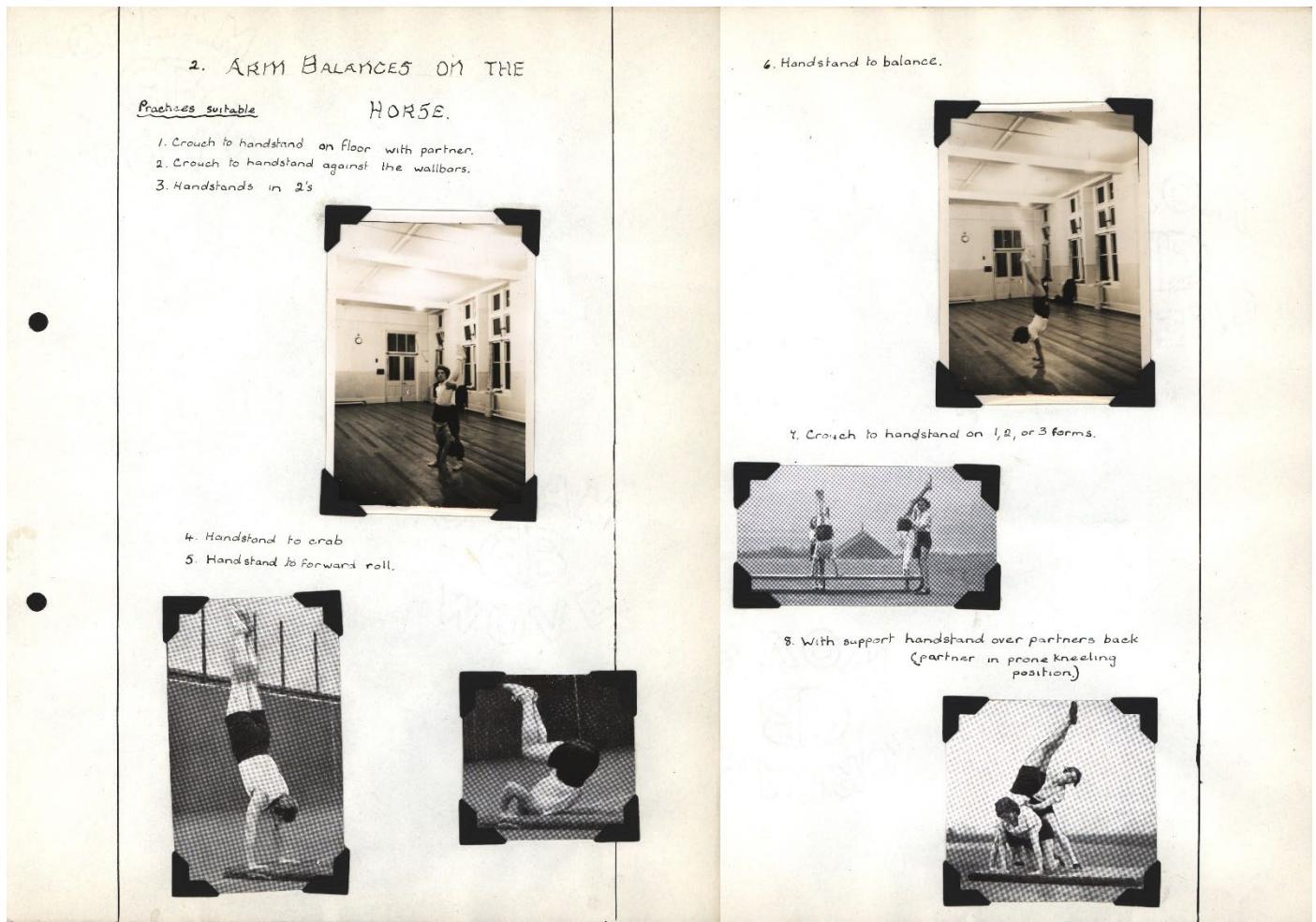
In 1965, Crabbe and Morison held a joint retirement, at which point Margaret Jamieson was appointed as the new Principal. I M Marsh College remained at the forefront of progress within the field. The first Black British person to be employed as a dance teacher in Higher Education, Elroy Josephs, was appointed 1979, having previous success as an actor and dancer in television and in theatres in London. Despite his qualifications, Josephs still felt the need to lie about his age being ten years younger on his CV to gain acceptance onto the staff at I M Marsh.

The campus briefly became part of the University of Liverpool, until being transferred in 1981 to the Liverpool Polytechnic as the I M Marsh Centre for Physical Education. In 1985, I M Marsh became co-educational, admitting male students for the first time. In 1992, the Liverpool Polytechnic achieved University status and was henceforth known as Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU).

Throughout its lifetime, I M Marsh has continued to inspire its past students and all who have been associated with the College. Its Association of Past Students, formed originally in 1915, has maintained itself as an active network dedicated to preserving memories of Marsh for 110 years. LJMU Special Collections & Archives is incredibly grateful to the community for their continued support, enthusiasm, and donations to our collections to keep the I M Marsh legacy in motion.

Case 4

1. Student dissertation on Gymnastics and Gymnastics Pedagogy, c.1960s



2. Prospectuses for the BEd (Honours) in Physical Education and Diploma in Drama Education courses at I M Marsh College, c.1970s

how to apply
If you enjoy physical education, sport, dance, and feel that you would like to communicate this enthusiasm to others, then we would like to hear from you. For further details and application forms, contact:

Admissions Secretary
Faculty of Education and Community Studies
I M Marsh Campus
Barkhill Road, Liverpool L17 6BD
Telephone 051-724 2321

centre of excellence
I M Marsh is in close cooperation with the North West Sports Council and has developed a Centre of Excellence for Hockey (men and women) and Lacrosse (women). It also provides a training ground at county, territorial, national and international levels in such sports as tennis, badminton and swimming.

international study centre
Students from such countries as the USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Hong Kong have the opportunity to attend BEd and Diploma courses at I M Marsh. Additional courses are available for overseas students in a number of specialised areas, for example: physical education, dance and outdoor education.

BEd (honours) physical education at I M Marsh

the course

This is a full-time three year (BEd) or four year (BEd Honours) course open to women over 18 who have achieved the necessary qualifications. Normally there are five 'O' Levels, including English Language and Mathematics, plus three 'A' Levels or certain awards which candidates show special aptitude or possess certain equivalent qualifications, one 'A' Level Pass would suffice. The degree is validated by the Council for National Academic Awards.

what is special about this degree?

I M Marsh is unique in that its students can give to the school and the community as a whole. The course has carefully designed over a period of years for those school leavers who look upon themselves as future teachers of physical education. You will be the sort of person who is exhilarated by physical challenges and you will naturally be committed to introducing others to the exciting world of physical education and sport.

why merseyside?

Merseyside is one of Liverpool's centre of a wide variety of communities and towns, a large number of secondary schools. This allows the student to experience city, suburban and country schools and to enjoy the community life with its famous sporting and outdoor traditions.

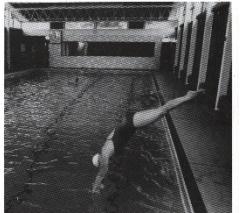
where does it take place?

The campus and grounds extend over 25 acres in one of the highest parts of Liverpool, overlooking the River Mersey to the Wirral and the Welsh Hills. They include two old mansions, Barkhill and Holmefield, two wings, Messel Hill and Shireley, and two modern luxury blocks, Riverdale and Seton. All students have single residence accommodation in single study bedrooms for 150 students. The buildings include a teaching block with biology laboratories, an animal house and

lecture rooms, two gymsnasiums, three dance studios, central and strength training rooms, indoor swimming pool and covered games hall, 120 feet by 110 feet. Recent additions include the visual arts block, which consists of a drama studio with workshop and Fridge room, linked by a display gallery to an open-plan, or studio, area above a dry ski slope, used in the winter months. Outside facilities include a large sports hall. Outdoor facilities include two lacrosse and two hockey pitches, a large Redgia area, four netball courts and thirteen tennis courts. The games hall provides space for two netball courts, an indoor basketball court, a badminton court, a tennis court, two football pitches and two volleyball courts. Extensions to the library have provided increased study space for students and a resources centre. With the completion of the new drama and music buildings, students have acquired a building which has been converted into the Students Union, incorporating a bar, restaurant, and a large hall for social functions.

employment

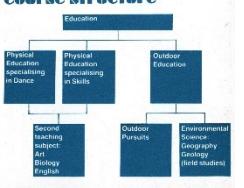
Graduates from this course find employment in a variety of schools throughout Britain. I M Marsh has a sound reputation for training physical education teachers who have the wide range of knowledge and skills required by schools. As teacher output meets teacher demand, this reputation should ensure that students obtain employment on completing the course.



student life

All students have the choice of being resident or non-resident. New students often find it beneficial to live in during the first year as this allows them easy access to college amenities, helps them to get to know their fellow students and makes settling in easier and more comfortable. There are a number of ways to find accommodation within easy access of the campus should they wish to do so. Students have their own Executive, which organises a wide range of clubs and societies, including badminton, tennis, football, basketball, netball, swimming, table tennis, dancing, drama, outdoor pursuits and a Christian Union. Students have their own bar and lounge. Social dinners are held each term and more formal occasions are held in the Union throughout the year. Bars and restaurants are frequently open in the city centre, allowing visits to cinemas, theatres and nightclubs, concert halls, art galleries, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, theatres, and performances by opera and ballet companies. A particularly well-supported part of student life is the various college squads which organise an extensive match programme for teams in netball, hockey, lacrosse, swimming, tennis, athletics and football. Most students live in the college residence and residential houses and have taken part in major national tournaments as well as the British Polytechnic Association. Academic advisors and pastoral staff are available for all students and visiting doctor are available to students.

course structure



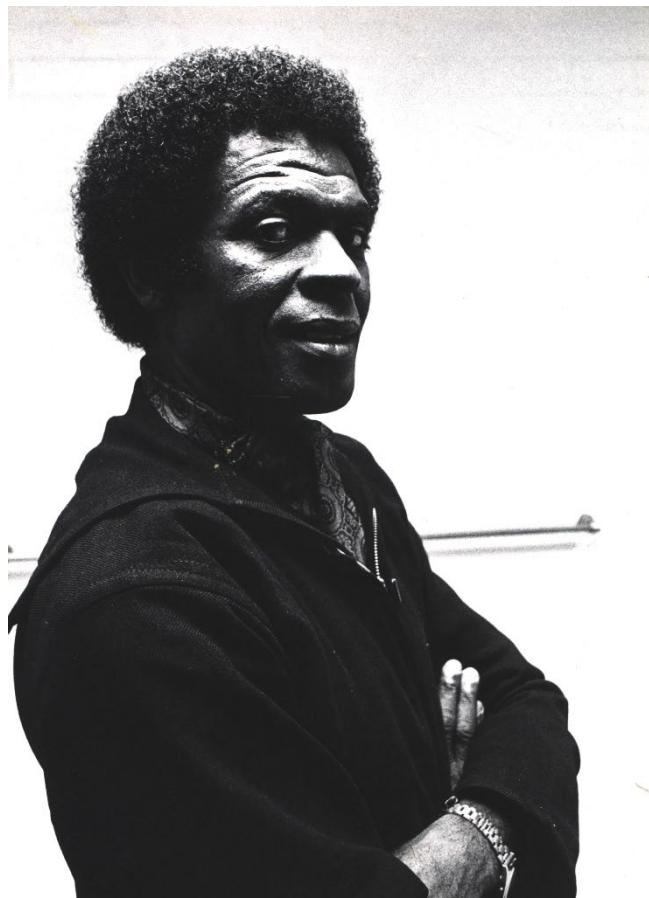


3. Button badges with I M Marsh College logo, c.1965-1981



4. Photograph of R G Elroy Josephs, dance teacher at I M Marsh College, c.1979-1980s

Elroy Josephs was a dance teacher at I M Marsh College appointed in 1979, becoming the first Black dance teacher to work in Higher Education in the UK. He had an extensive portfolio of professional dance, choreography, theatre, film, and television work before transitioning into teaching, and made significant contributions to the Black British dance scene both before and after his teaching post at I M Marsh.



The College

The College and grounds extend over 25 acres in one of the highest parts of Liverpool about four miles south-east of the city centre. The building faces south overlooking the River Mersey to the Wirral and the Welsh Hills. From 1976 the college will amalgamate with Liverpool Polytechnic and with F. L. Calder College of Home Economics to become the Faculty of Education and Community Studies.

Applications

Applications for admission to the course must be made on application forms which may be obtained from the Principal and to whom they should be returned.

Secondment and Fees: Teachers who wish to seek secondment on full salary must apply on the appropriate form to their employing authority and at the same time ensure that application is made for payment of the course fee of £90.00. If, after interview, you are selected, you must complete Part I of Form 17TT which will be sent to you by the college, and forward it to your employing authority together with your application for secondment and payment of tuition fees.

Teachers who are not employed by local education authorities and whose employers are unable to second them on salary, should apply to their home local authority (i.e. the area where you are normally resident on the 30th June in the year that the course commences) for a grant. The fees for tuition for teachers from abroad will be £350.00. It is unlikely that accommodation will be available on the college campus, but the college domestic bursar would be glad to help in finding suitable accommodation nearby. The course will include visits to various parts of the country to see drama work in progress, and teachers will be expected to bear part of the cost of these visits.

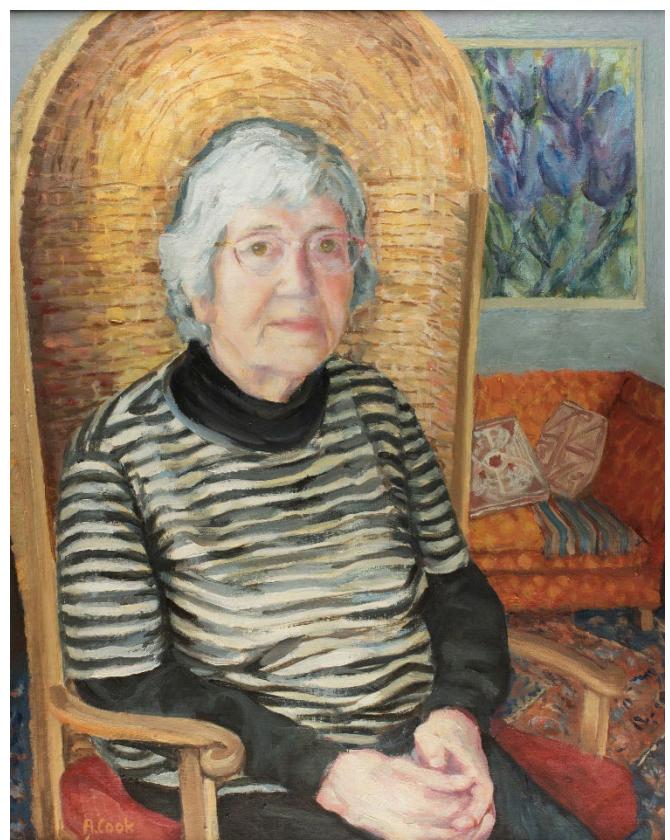
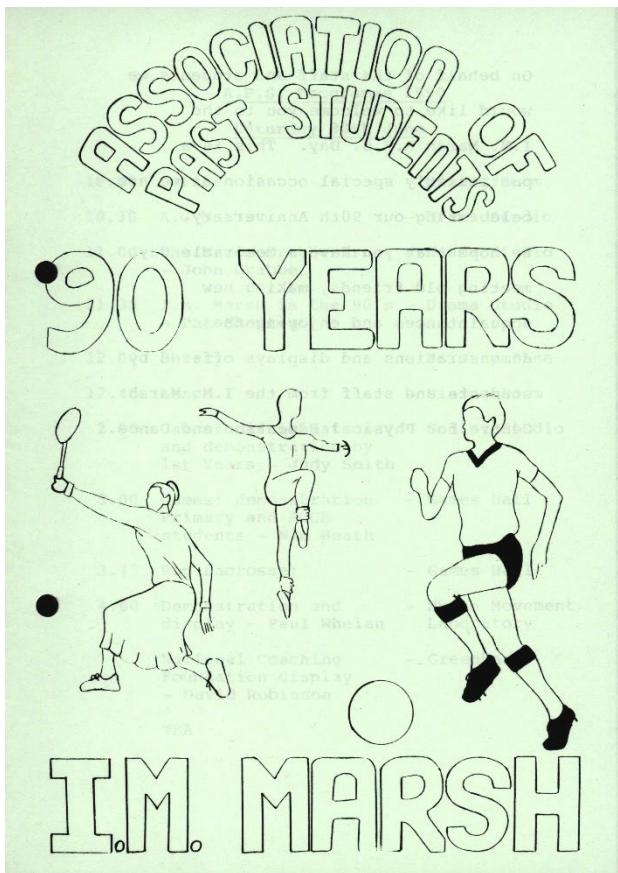
5. Dance silhouette, c.1970s-1980s

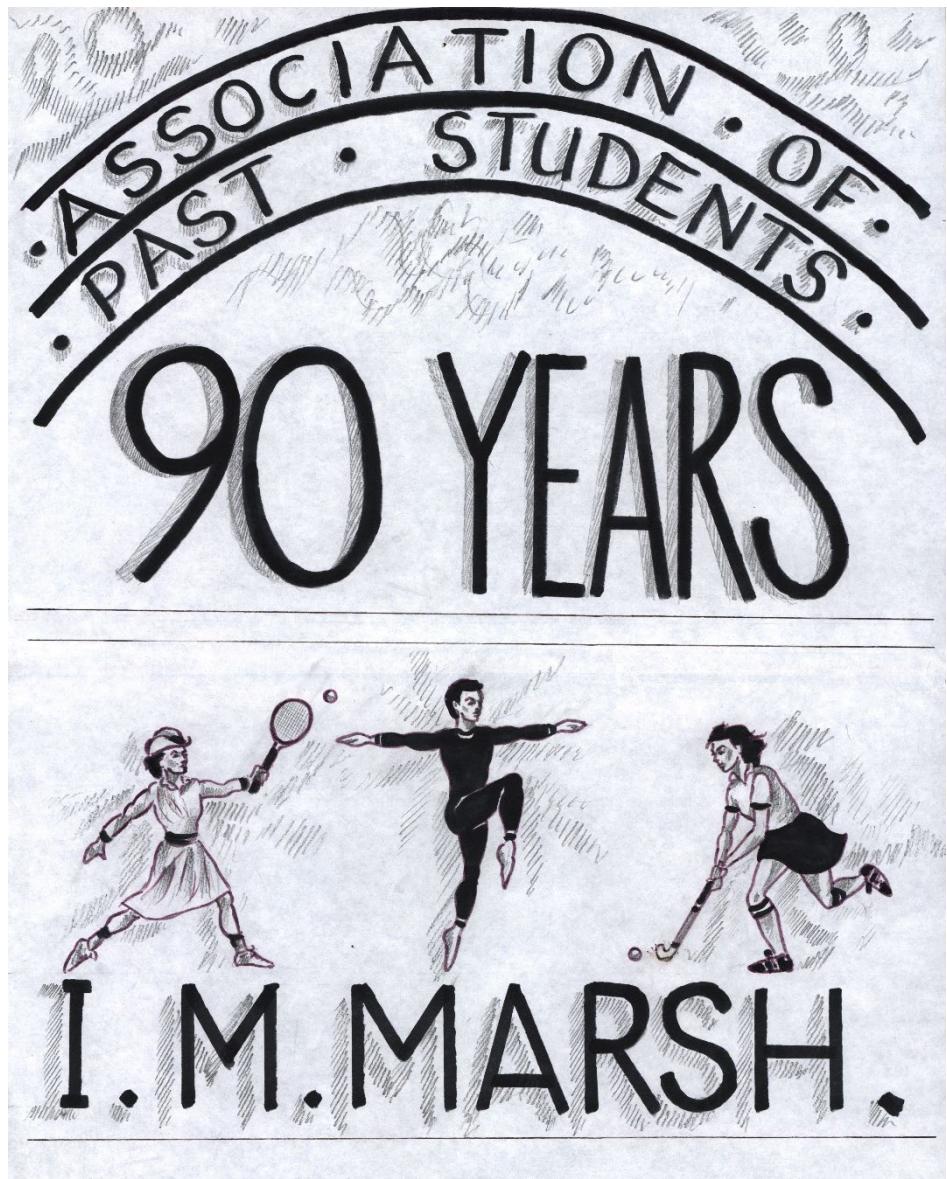
6. Photograph of students playing hockey, c.1960s



7. Reproduction of a painting by A Cook of Margaret Jamieson, Principal of I M Marsh College 1965-1981

8. Programme and draft artwork for the 90 Years Celebrations by the Association of Past Students for I M Marsh College, 1990





9. Photograph of alumni attending a Centenary reunion event, Association of Past Students for I M Marsh College, 10 Jun 2000





Liverpool John Moores University

I.M.Marsh
Centre for Physical Education
Sport and Dance
1900 - 2000



Association of Past Students
Centenary Dinner
10th June 2000

10. Programme and menu for the I M Marsh 100 Years Centenary Dinner, 10 Jun 2000

11. Journal of the Association of Past Students for I M Marsh College to celebrate 125 years, 2024 (printed 2025)

I M MARSH

ASSOCIATION OF PAST
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
STUDENTS



THE JOURNAL 2024

www.immarshpaststudents.org.uk

Case 5

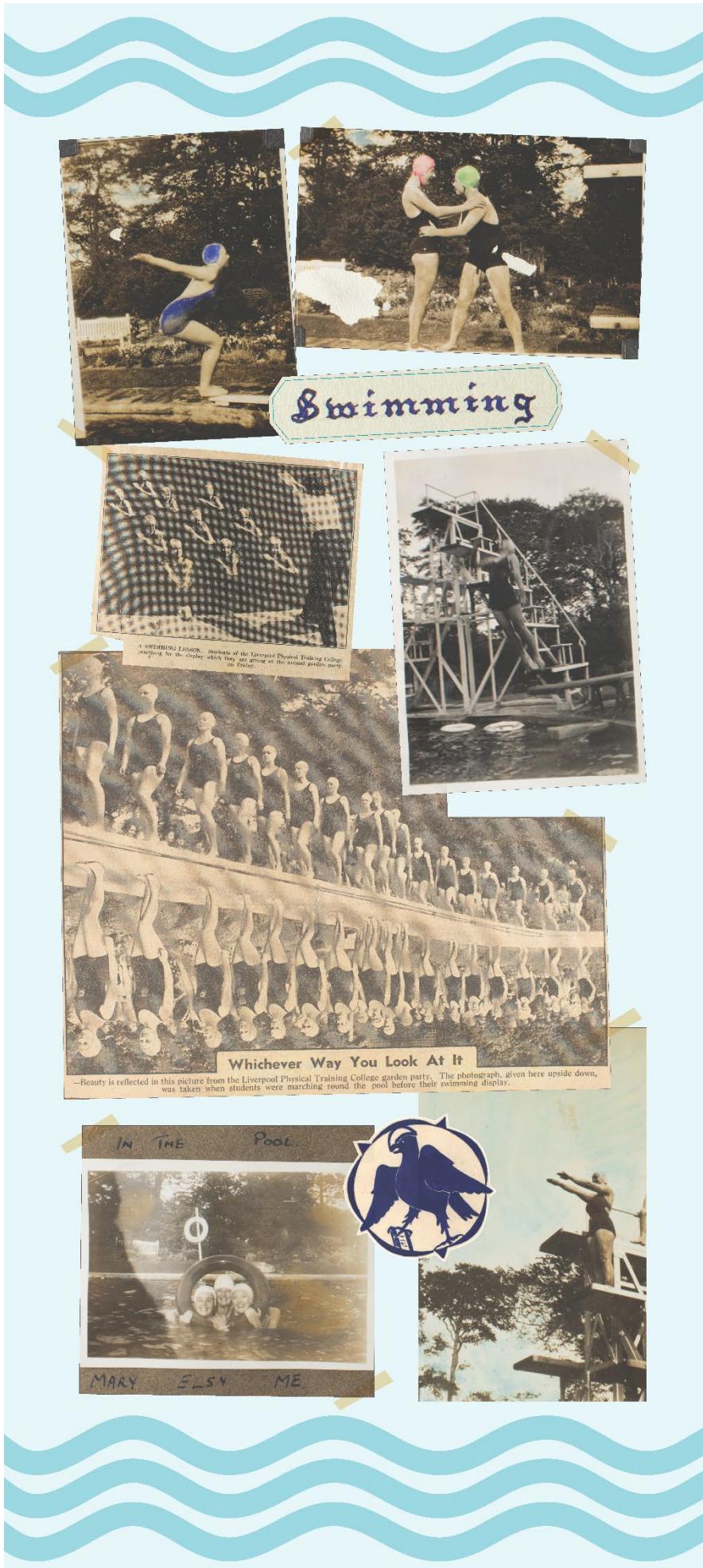
1. I M Marsh College blazer owned by Robyn Hardman (née Fletcher), 1968-1971

This blazer features the I M Marsh College rose and eagle emblem. The symbols represented are the Eagle of St John, precursor to the Liver bird, and the red rose of Lancashire, the county which contained Liverpool before the creation of Merseyside in 1974.

2. I M Marsh College scarf owned by Colette Griffith Davies, 1963-1966



3. Photograph of I M Marsh students in uniform, c.1960s



Case 6

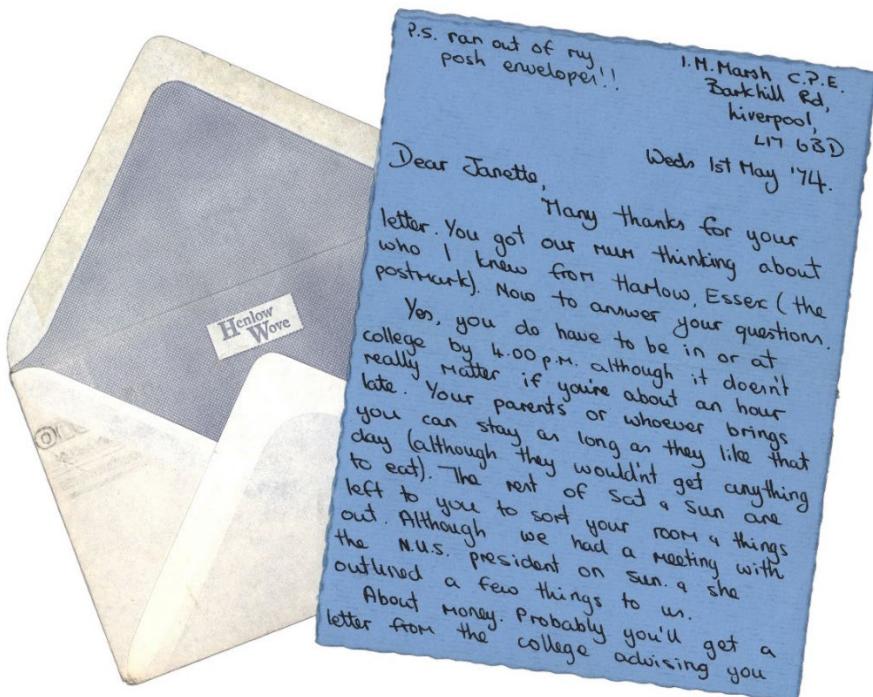


- 1. Swimming costume owned by student Julia Winkler (néé Evans), 1968-1971**
- 2. Books used by I M Marsh Students, 1934-1977**
- 3. Swimming notes and lesson plans for pupils on her student teacher placement, Jan Robinson, I M Marsh College, c.1974-1977**
- 4. Validation card belonging to student Jan Robinson at I M Marsh College, c.1974-1977**



- 5. Letters to Jan Robinson from her 'College Mum' Pam Heath, 2 April 1974 and 1 May 1974**

Students at I M Marsh College were considered part of a big 'family,' and were assigned an older College 'Mum' to help them in first year.



6. Commemorative hockey stick presented to Maureen Short, 1984

Dorothy Maureen Short was born in Liverpool in 1934. After training at Nonington College of Physical Education, she was appointed to teach at I M Marsh College from 1961, as well as play hockey for the very first team to represent Great Britain from 1965-1969. Beloved by her community, this commemorative hockey stick was presented to her and signed by her friends and colleagues at I M Marsh in 1984.

7. Commemorative Great Britain hockey cap for Maureen Short, 2022

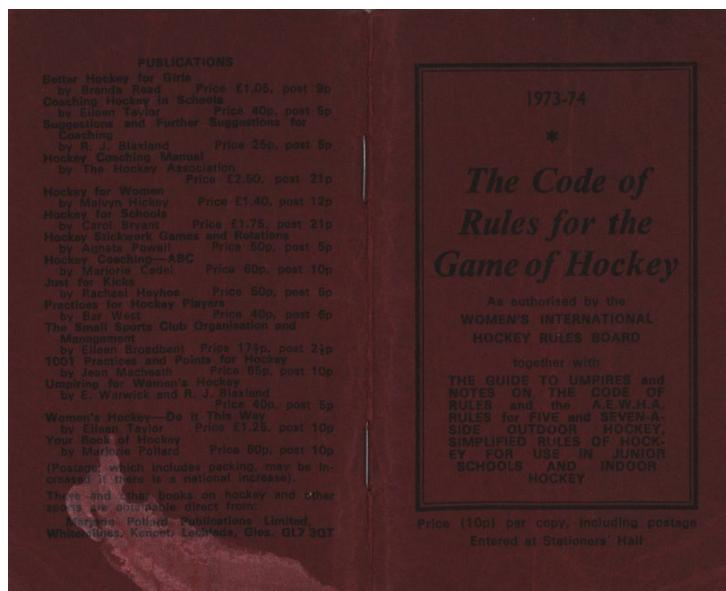
This cap to commemorate Maureen Short was presented by Sheila Morrow (former Great Britain Hockey President and I M Marsh student) on behalf of the Hockey Museum to LJMU Special Collections & Archives as part of a project to recognise former GB Hockey players.

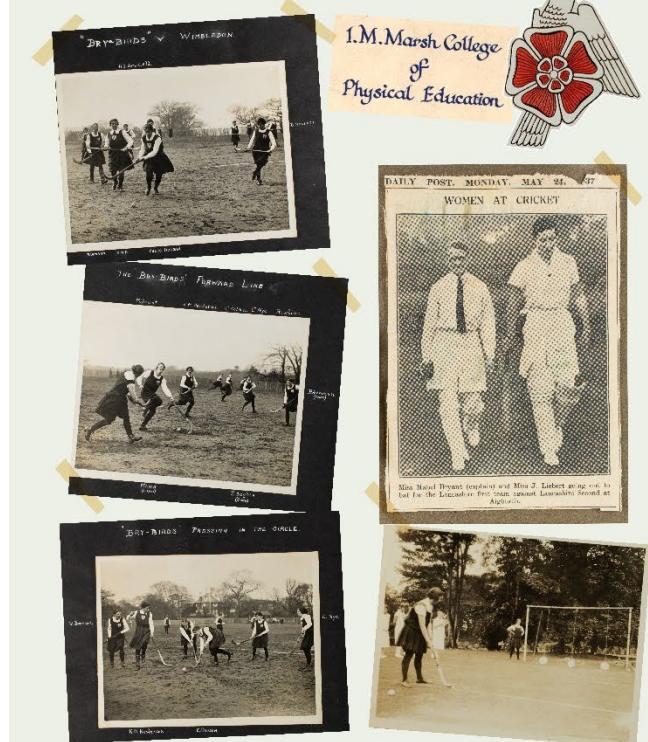
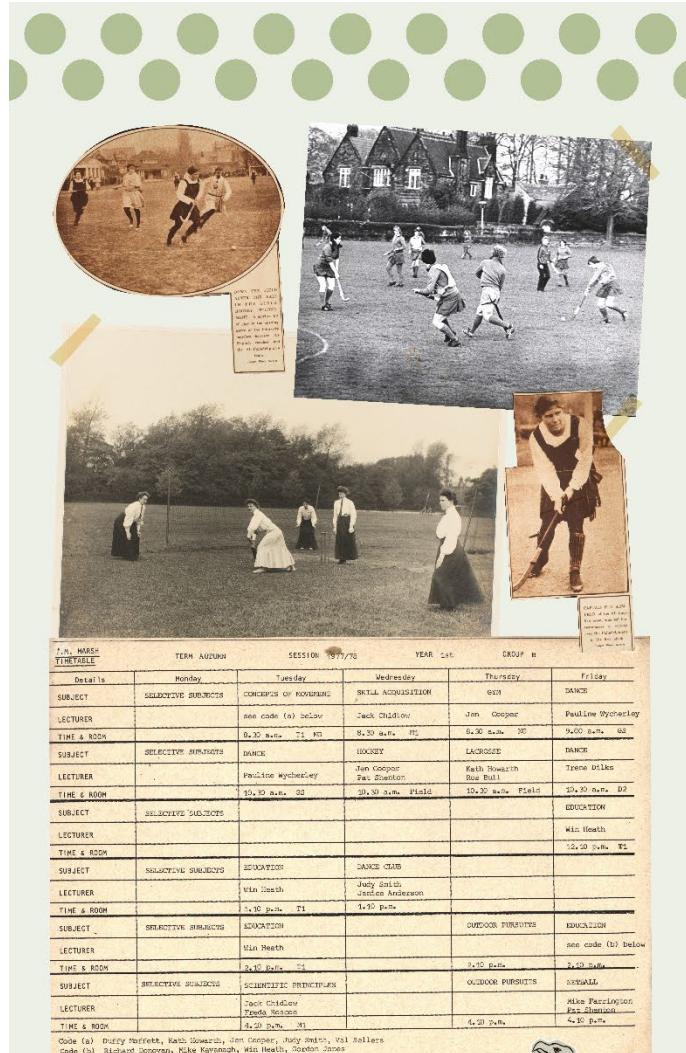


8. Shin pads owned by students Jean Clegg, 1952-1955, and Patricia M Wootton, 1962-1965

9. Lacrosse (displayed flat) and hockey (displayed hanging) socks owned by student Jean Taylor (née Sutton), 1964-1967

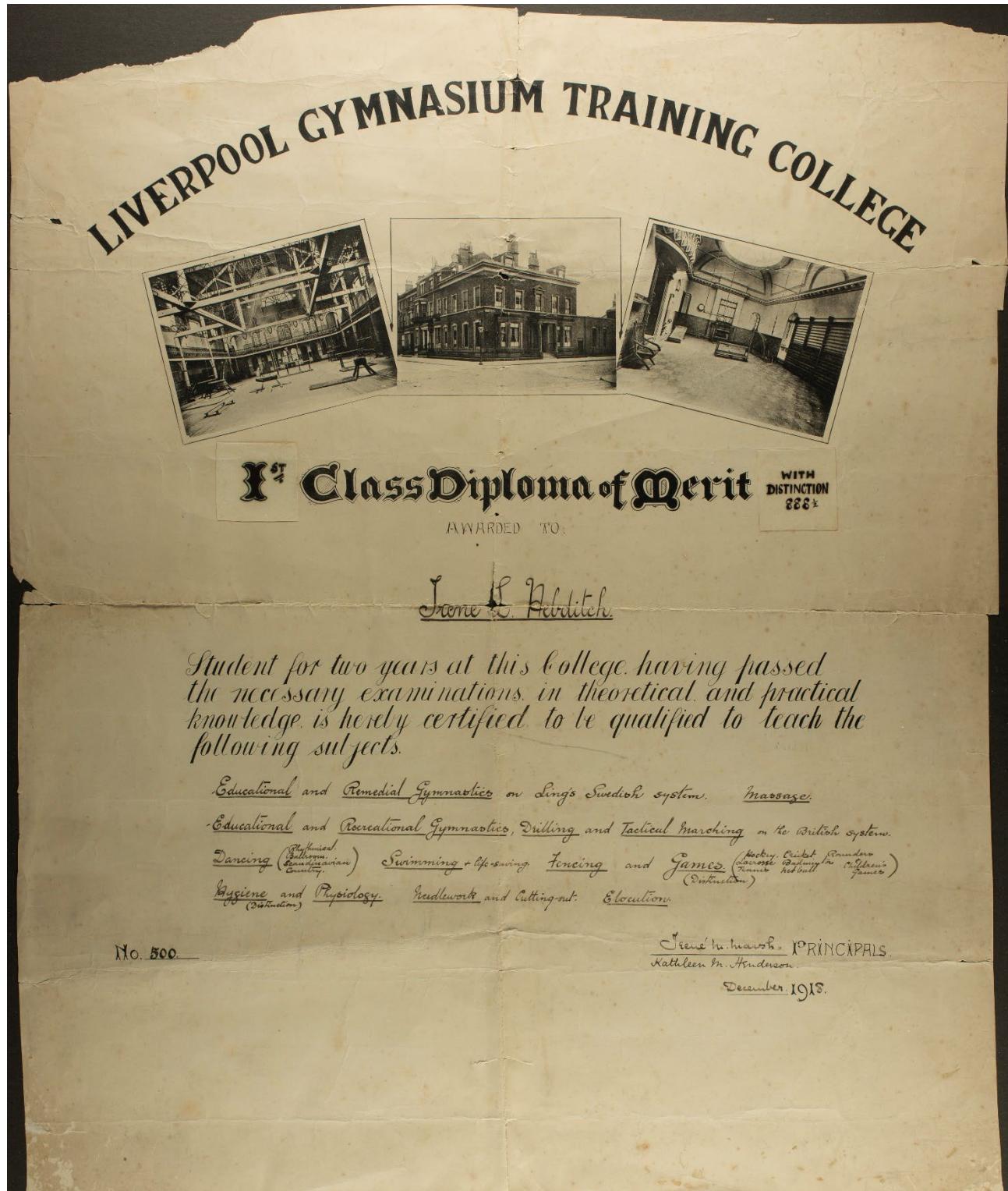
10. The Code of Rules for the Game of Hockey, Women's International Hockey Rule Board, 1973-1974





First Class Diploma of Merit for Irene L Hebditch, Liverpool Gymnasium Training College, Dec 1918

Signed by Irené Mabel Marsh and Kathleen M Henderson.

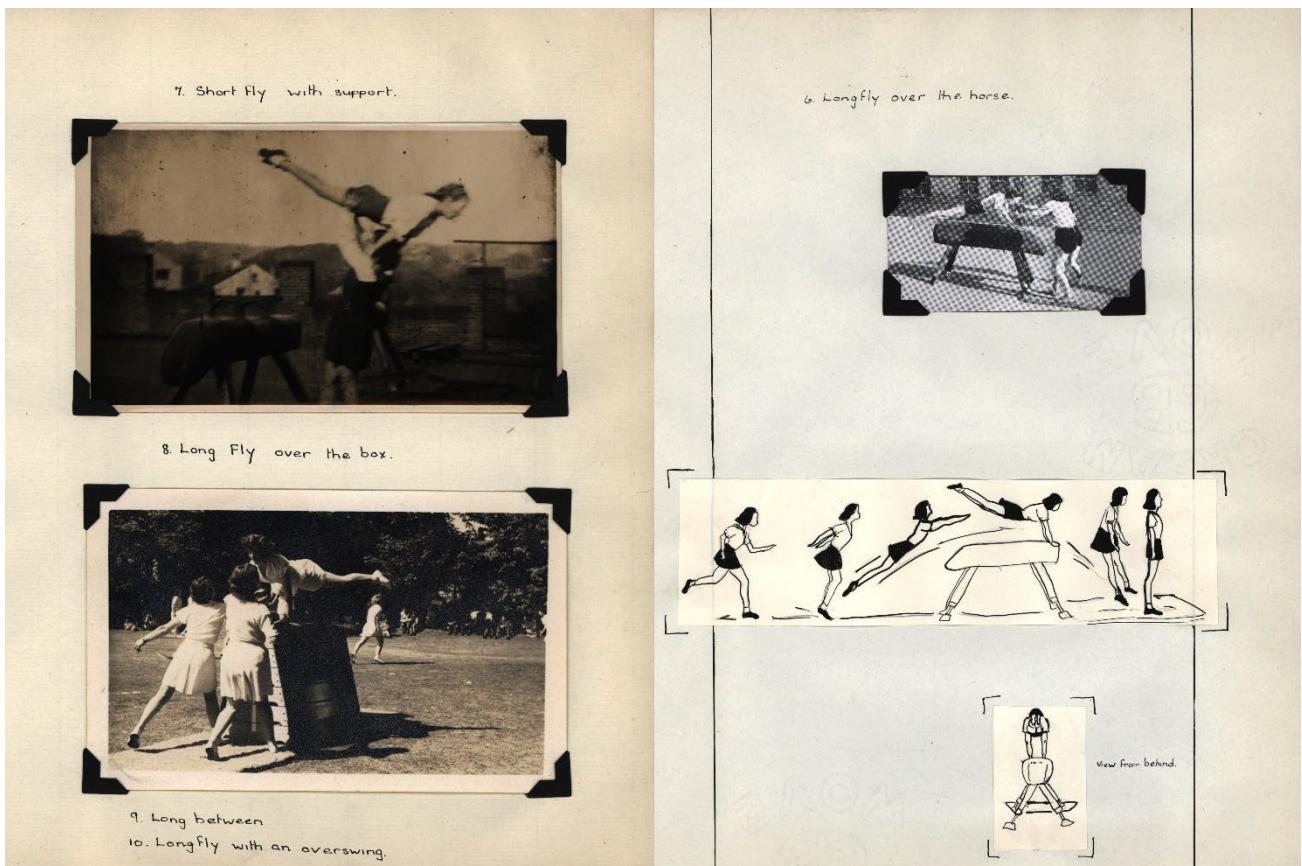


Case 7

1. Gym romper owned by student Julia Winkler (néé Evans), I M Marsh College, 1968-1971



2. Page extracts from a student dissertation on Gymnastics and Gymnastics Pedagogy, I M Marsh College, c.1960s

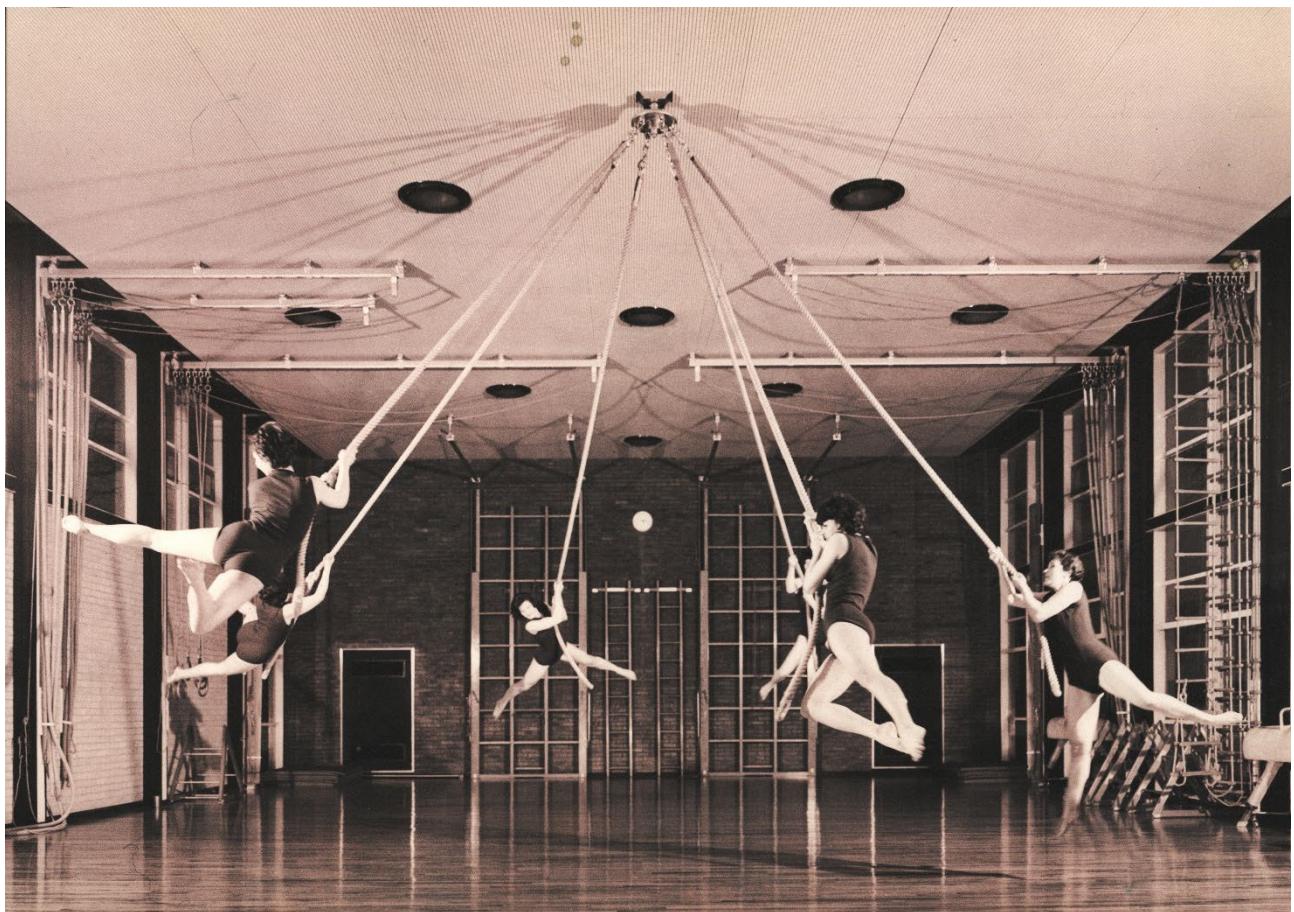


3. Photograph album showing the Ruth Morison Gymnasium, I M Marsh College, c.1950-1965



4. Photograph of students doing corde lisse, I M Marsh College, c.1950-1965

Corde lisse is an aerial acrobatics skill involving hanging vertically from rope.



5. Medal for Ladder skills, Liverpool Gymnasium College, 1917



Dancers at I M Marsh College, c.1980s



6. Garden party programmes for the Liverpool Physical Training College (LPTC), 1937 and 1938

PROGRAMME OF DANCING.

At the Piano - - NORA REYNOLDS, L.R.A.M.

Character Dances.

I.—Norwegian Dance. *By 1st Year Students*
Girls—J. Gearing, J. Murray, M. McEvoy, M. Culhane,
M. Loudon, C. Evans, J. Law.
Boys—B. Harris, S. Davenport, J. Urmsom, J. Walsh,
J. Ainsworth, M. White, P. Ritchie.

II.—Irish Jig. *By 3rd Year Students*
K. Sheridan, B. Drew, K. Harrison, D. Marchbank,
E. Lyon, J. Thomas, M. Jones, M. Stock.

III.—Sword Dance. *By 3rd Year Students*
B. Muir.

IV.—Polka Scena. *By 2nd Year Students*
(a)—SOLO —A. Wilkie.
(b)—TRIO —*Girls*—C. Fraser, E. Kennedy.
Boy—E. Townsend.
(c)—GROUP—E. Bell, C. Paterson, K. Pennywick,
A. Wilkie, M. Kinsella, K. Greene, G. Burt,
B. Freestone, A. Russell, E. Jenkins, J. Johnstone,
M. Anderson.

Greek Dances.

I.—Circle Dance. *By 3rd Year Students*
M. Sheridan, R. Orr, G. White, D. Davis, G. Gibson,
R. Jones, B. Rossall, P. Riley, A. McDonald,
E. Stopforth, B. Muir, D. Marchbank.

II.—Archer's Dance. *By 3rd Year Students*
G. Coles, D. Campbell, F. Jones.

III.—Dance of the Wishes. *By 1st Year Students*
G. Pollock, P. Hayes, H. Muir, D. Clough, M. Loudon,
B. Blackburn, B. Howard.

IV.—Nausica and Ulysses. *By 2nd Year Students*
A. Russell, K. Greene, E. Jenkins, J. Johnstone,
C. Paterson, A. Wilkie, M. Gee, M. Mathias,
M. Anderson, P. Dunlop.

V.—Athletic Ball Dance. *By 3rd Year Students*
M. Boly, D. Campbell, G. Coles, M. Davies,
R. Bowman, M. Stock, K. Harrison, J. Charlton,
F. Jones, M. Moxon.

All Dances arranged and Costumes designed by DORIS McBRIDE,
Diploma of Ginner Mawer School, F.G.D.A., F.I.S.T.D. Greek Branch.

"GARDEN" PARTY IN GYMNASIUM

LIVERPOOL STUDENTS DEFY THE WEATHER

Decorated with fresh green of beech leaves and ferns against a black background, the gymnasium of the Liverpool Physical Training College was used for the open air theatre on Saturday, the second day of the College garden-party, when the proceeds were given to the Police Court and Prison Fund.

Although the glorious weather which favoured the opening day on Friday gave way to continuous rain on Saturday, the programme was unusually enjoyable and the Collie-breeders' party was a success.

As on programme dancing, in the open air, the students, the chairman of the Collie-breeders' party, expressed who were large camp-fit.

The Campion part of them, they count who are them.

After Dancing.

Ballet. *By 1st Year*
Muir, P. Hayes, B. Sherwell, B. Judith, M. Walsh, P. McManus, M. Hogan, C. Ferguson, B. Whitson, D. Clough, B. Howard.
o—B. Blackburn.

By 3rd Year
—D. Campbell, G. White, J. Charlton, M. Moxon, B. Muir, A. Clarke.

By 2nd Year

Liverpool Physical Training College.
BARKHILL ROAD, AIGBURTH.

GARDEN PARTY FOR CHARITY

DISPLAYS BY PHYSICAL TRAINING STUDENTS

"The work they do in Limekiln-lane is carried out in surroundings which offer a very great contrast to those in which we find ourselves here this afternoon," said Mr. Charlton Thomson, a member of the committee of the League of Wallovers, who explained the objects of Wallovers, who explained the objects of the league at the garden party held in the grounds of the Liverpool Physical Training College, Barkhill-road, Aigburth, yesterday afternoon.

The proceeds of the garden party yesterday were devoted to the wages of Wallovers, and a day in the Police Gate Mission.

Party weather favoured dancing and games, arranged and supervised by the students, for the grounds of the college, with lupins and made a delightful

character dances and as given by the students there, which were attractively designed to the effect.

Included in the programme of inclusive swimming by Rita international and Welsh Olympic coach, and Daisy Gilling, who performed otherwise diving were by teams of students, and included with a demonstration, races for boys and girls, races for senior students, and arrival.

Diss Irene M. Marsh (principal of Keween M. Henderson) said the oldsters was a charity which ran for thirty-four years, providing a home for old men from various parts of who had arrived in Liverpool on foot. It also provided old people with entertainments for outings to New Brighton for



Garden Party Programme, 1938.

GATES OPEN at 2.30 p.m.

DANCING at 3 p.m. On the Garden Stage.

TEA.

(Rhododendron Theatre.)

Tea Tickets (1/-)

To be purchased beforehand in the grounds.

GYMNASTICS.

SWIMMING.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO STAY AND SEE THE GARDENS.

7. Photograph album created by student Patricia Margaret Dunlop, LPTC, 1936-1939



8. Greek Dancing exercise notebook belonging to student Lilian Maude Welch, LPTC, c.1920s



9. Special recording of piano music from Modern Educational Dance by Margot Barber on vinyl, commissioned for I M Marsh College, c.1950s-1960s

10. Yellow dance dress, I M Marsh College, c.1950s

11. I M Marsh College Christmas card design mock-up by Joan Franks, 1950

