

Success for all...

Throughout the 70's Lufton College continued to attract a high level of interest and those fortunate enough to attend accessed a practical approach to lifelong learning.

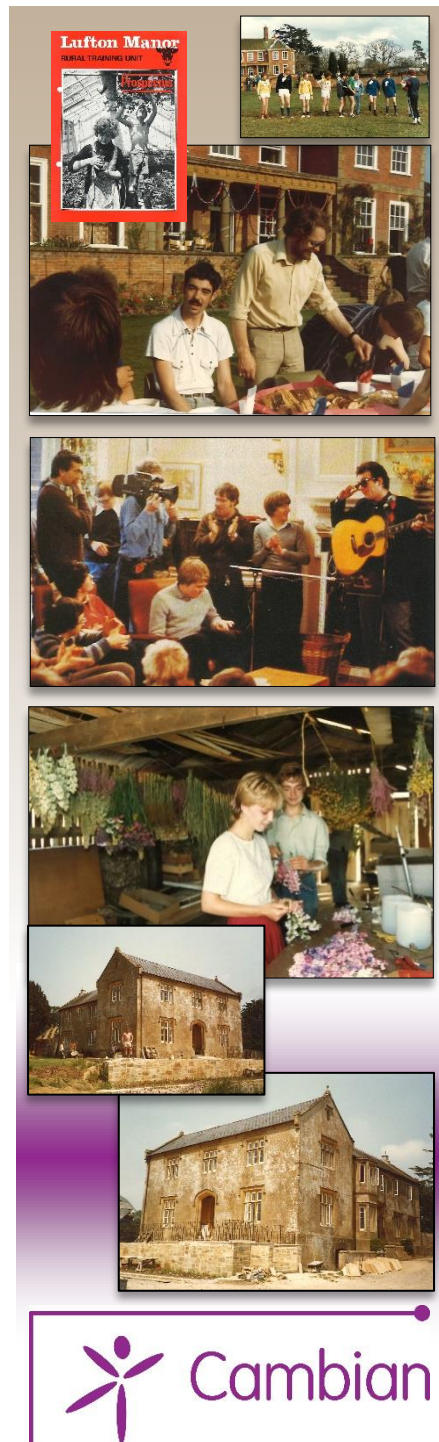
Fundamental Frolics...

In 1981 the College was seen to expand its provision and as such gained the support of many celebrities. On 5th May that year Elvis Costello, Mel Smith and a TV crew descended upon the College. The result was a short film intended for cinema distribution to raise awareness of the work that was undertaken at the College.

Welcome...Manor Farm...

The funds raised throughout the 70's & 80's saw further growth of the College and following an extensive period of fundraising in 1981 the College began work on the Manor Farm site.

Following a number of very successful years that followed, MENCAP eventually found that the expectations placed upon specialist colleges had changed significantly, and in 2014 they sold its 3 colleges to The Cambian Group.... and the story continues...



1969-2019

50 Year Anniversary

Lufton College

Opened in 1969 Cambian Lufton College celebrates 50 years of service.

Originally Lufton Manor was the home and working farm of expert cattle breeder, Captain Howard Higson. Captain Higson was president of the Devon Cattle Breeders Society in 1937. His cattle had won numerous awards and were famous in the UK and overseas. From 1910 he was well known for his prestigious Devonshire cattle, and the farmers gatherings held at the manor.





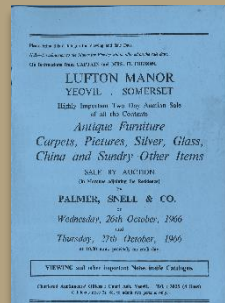
Step back in time...

These old photographs show areas that the College today recognises as the Main Reception, Senior Leadership Team office and Back Terrace.



The Auction:

Following the death of Captain Higson, on 26th & 27th October 1966 Palmer Snell & Co auctioneers held a two day sale at Lufton Manor in order to sell off all of the contents of the building. There was little that remained after this date...



New light through old windows:

In 1968 50 members of the Yeovil Borough Council of Youth converged on Lufton Manor armed with overalls and paintbrushes. The campaign named 'Action 68' sought to help those in need. The group set aside three months to give the building a new lease of life so that it could be used as a site for the teaching of agricultural and horticultural skills to young people with special needs; then a first of its kind for the country.

In 1969 Lufton Manor was purchased by the MENCAP charity and formally set up as an agricultural training college for young people with additional learning needs.



Lufton Manor for handicapped children?

THE National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children propose setting up an experimental farm training unit in Somerset—the first in the country. This was announced at the official opening of the Society's new regional headquarters at High Street, Taunton, on Friday.

If planning permission is granted, the Society will buy Lufton Manor, near Yeovil, and adapt it to take 25 boys and girls and some day trainees. The manor consists of a mansion, built in 1800, and about 13 acres of parkland and gardens.

The aim will be to train handicapped students from the South-West Region in such trades as market gardening and poultry keeping and then to encourage them to take jobs in agriculture.

About two years ago the Society had a similar plan for a training unit at West Monkton, near Taunton, but it fell through on planning grounds after an appeal to the Minister.

The Society's Regional Officer, Mr. A. Wynn Jones, says the Lufton site is much more suitable. Being off the main road, there will be no traffic dangers and the unit will be near enough to Yeovil to provide interests for the boys and girls.

Grant offered
The Nuffield Hospital Foundation has offered a grant to cover the purchase price of the property and adaptations. This will be the first farm project of its kind in the country, but follows the great success of the industrial training unit at Slough, which has achieved an international reputation.

The aim of the Society is to co-ordinate the welfare work of local authority and voluntary welfare work and to give parents of mentally-handicapped children guidance and advice.

With the transfer of the regional office from Exeter to Taunton, the Bishop of Exeter is resigning as regional president and the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rt. Rev. E. B. Henderson, has agreed to be nominated to succeed him.

