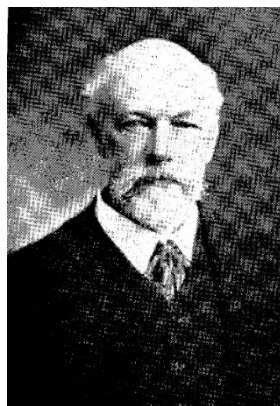


THE
HASLEMERE
SOCIETY



William Cecil Marshall

Blue plaque at Leigh Heights, The Hindhead Music
Centre, Hindhead Road, Haslemere



William Cecil Marshall

1849-1921

W C Marshall was a good all round athlete and played both real and lawn tennis, the latter for Cambridge against Oxford three years running in 1870, 1871 and 1872. In addition, he was an amateur figure skater and even wrote a pocket book for figure skaters. He lost the very first Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Final in 1877 to Spencer Gore 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. The match took 50 minutes and was attended by a formally dressed crowd of about 200 people who paid a shilling each to stand and watch. A field of 22 competitors had assembled to play, and had to finish by Thursday because an important cricket match was scheduled for Friday.

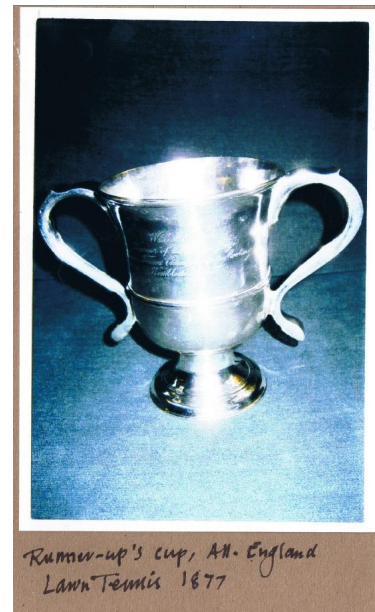
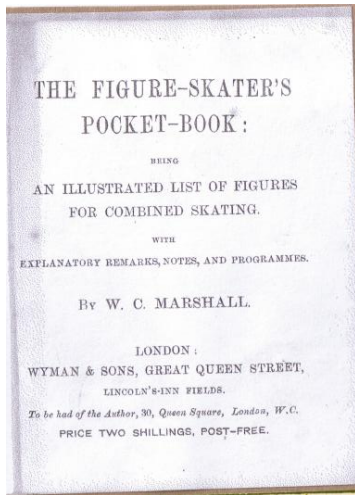


Willie, as he was known in the family, had grown up in the Lake District and showed early promise as an artist. However, his father persuaded him that he would stand a better chance of earning his own living as an architect. His success in this field allowed him and his wife Margaret to bring up their family of six children in a large house in Bedford Square, Bloomsbury and to build "Tweenways" on the Hindhead Road as his weekend retreat in 1887. The house was later re-named "Leigh Heights" and is now the home of the Hindhead Music Centre. In 1908, when he retired, he came to live permanently at Tweenways. At that time the house had William Morris wallpaper, Morris and Shaker furniture and a huge mural by Lawrence Turner over the mantelpiece.

He was very active in the local community, becoming a member of the Shottermill Parish Council, chairman of the Hindhead and District Electric Light Company, and served on the Hindhead Commons Committee.

He was also chairman of the School Care Committee inaugurating the Shottermill Dental Clinic. Being a friend of Charles Darwin he developed an interest in eugenics, at a time when the subject had not yet achieved its current notoriety, and founded the local branch of the Eugenics Education Society. His wife Margaret was one of the first active advocates of Women's Suffrage.

Their daughter Frances Partridge, who died in 2004 at the age of 103, was an eminent writer and literary journalist. She was the last surviving member of the Bloomsbury Group.



Precious little appears to be known about WC Marshall's career as an architect although he obviously made a comfortable living .

He was responsible for at least three buildings at Cambridge University and two at Trinity College Dublin. He also designed tennis courts: both lawn and real!



The Botany Building,
Trinity College Dublin.



The most beautiful building on Corpus Christi college's Leckhampton site, which includes one of the largest Cambridge college gardens.



The Large Examination Hall
Cambridge 1909. Described as a boring building on the university website