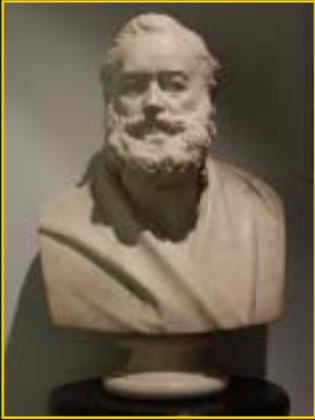


CLEVEDON HALL

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CLEVEDON HALL 1853 - 1991



Anecdotes



CONRAD FINZEL I
1793-1859



- ❖ Finzel arrived in the country in 1810 aged just 17. He was a penniless German émigré who didn't speak English!
- ❖ He built Frankfurt Hall in 1853
- ❖ No connection with slavery, he established his business in 1838 and slavery was abolished in 1833.
- ❖ Made his fortune designing a machine which perfected the refinement of sugar.



- ❖ From 1850 he ran Finzel & Son with his father, he eventually took over in 1859.
- ❖ By 1870 the refinery was the largest in the UK - some argue the world!
- ❖ In Sep 1872 the refinery produced in one week 1,800 tons on sugar worth £70,000 (in today's value £7.14m!).

CONRAD FINZEL II
1818-1903



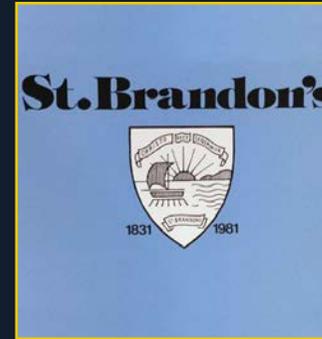
- ❖ Finzel I was good friends with fellow countryman George Müller, his charitable donations helped to build Müller's Ashley Down Orphanage.
- ❖ Conrad Finzel I enjoyed a daily dip in the sea!
- ❖ Conrad Finzel II was a great horticulturist, and at one time every single variety of holly was housed here.
- ❖ We understand that Finzel stored his large collection of silver in the underground safes (all 4.5st of it!), alongside his 1,200+ bottles of vintage wines & port.
- ❖ The Finzels, Hills and Burdens were all great philanthropists and gave generously to charity.
- ❖ The Hill family loved to dress-up and throw 'Theatricals', or what we know as amateur dramatics, here at the hall.
- ❖ The gardens used to house extensive glasshouses, where melons, cucumbers, peaches and even bananas were grown.
- ❖ Clevedon Hall had one of the very first Japanese Gardens in the country c. 1925, it had a Japanese tea house on the shore of the lake.
- ❖ When Clevedon Hall was a school, the underground vaults were used to store exam papers.
- ❖ The contents of St. Brandon's was auctioned to recover debts of nearly £1m. Among the 800 lots were: 19 pianos, 8 singer sewing machines, a potter's wheel and a ballet bar!

CLEVEDON HALL



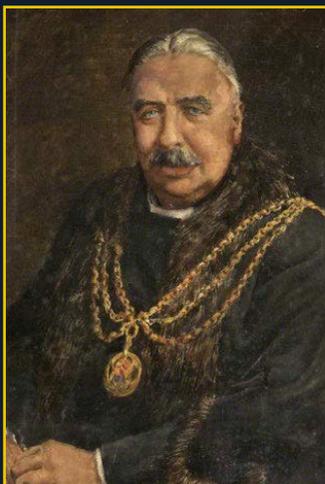
Charles Hill
1831 - 1899

- Hill renamed the mansion Clevedon Hall.
- Two of his daughters held their wedding celebrations here (in 1888 and 1898).
- He entered his father's shipbuilding business in 1845 aged just 16.
- Founded Bristol City Line which crossed the Atlantic to America.



St. Brandon's School

- School was est. 1851 and was one of the oldest public schools for girls.
- Cliff Richard was vice-president!
- Cliff performed with the school choir, at the school's 150th anniversary commemorations at Colston Hall in 1981.
- School used library as dining room.



Rev. Harold N. Burden
1859 -1930

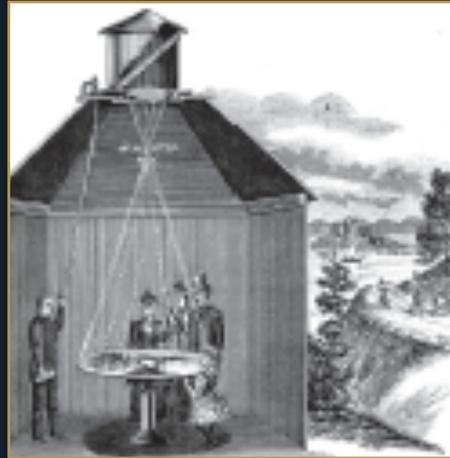
- Rev Burden, Katherine (1st wife), and Rosa (2nd wife) were early pioneers of mental healthcare for children and adults.
- Katherine bore two children who both died in their infancy and left no heir.
- The Burdens made considerable modifications and extensions to the hall. USA army had barracks here during the war, as did the Bristol Aerospace Co.
- The Burdens est. a trust in 1902 that became the Burden Neurological Institute.

FEATURES OF INTEREST



Stained glass roof light featuring the crest of St Brandon's School, with the latin motto:

*"Christo Duce Sequamur"
(Christ, our leader, so we follow)*



The Camera Obscura

In the late 19th century camera obscuras were a popular Victorian novelty. There were two rustic summer houses in the grounds of Clevedon Hall and one housed a camera obscura. It would have projected a magnified view of the landscape onto a table, in a similar fashion to this diagram.



William de Morgan hand painted cornflower tiles in the hall's fireplaces (1898)

Morgan was the principal ceramicist of the Arts and Crafts Movement (1880-1910). He often collaborated with the iconic artist and designer William Morris. This tile was called the BBB tile.



The Observatory Tower

The very highest point of the Hall houses an observatory tower, with spectacular sea views. It is understood that from here Finzel would watch his ships coming into Bristol (usually 1-2 ships per week).

FEATURES OF INTEREST



What was once a grand organ...

A grand hydraulic-press organ was installed in the original building (Frankfurt Hall). It remained there until the war, when it was removed to Weston-Super-Mare.



Boating on the lake

Boating on the lake was a popular pastime of the Finzel family and their guests. The rowing boat was one of many items auctioned in 1877 to recover Finzel's debts.



Decorative brass inserts in the library

The set of decorative brass columns came to Clevedon Hall from Leigh Court. The Rev. Harold Burden brought them with him, together with some of the fireplaces, when he relocated to Clevedon Hall.



The Vaults

A false door in the library lifts to reveal a stairwell down to the vaults. 3 vaults which once contained silverware and perhaps some of Finzel's 1,200+ bottles of vintage wines and ports. St Brandon's school used to store exam papers in there.



FEATURES OF INTEREST



The 'Hebe' fountain

This 'Hebe' fountain, named after the Greek goddess Hebe (cup bearer), is thought to have been purchased by Conrad Finzel from the Great Exhibition of 1851. Hebe was the goddess of youth, who served nectar to the Gods.



Glasshouses

The grounds of the Hall once housed a series of glasshouses where the Cockin building now stands. Comprised of: one 200ft long vinery, two peach houses (over 100ft long!), a cucumber house and even a melon pit!

CLEVEDON  HALL

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