



Grange
Road
demolition
for
Robinson
College
1977

157.54

c.44.5 : Cambridge UNIVERSITY COLLEGES Chronicle by Mike Petty

1881

University formally recognise Newnham & Girton Colleges open trips to women (get certificates)[VCH]

1882

Selwyn College founded [445.12.5]

New statutes establish Public Hostels & could be withdrawn if conditions of recognition violated [VCH]

1888

St John's chapel court added (N of 2nd court) [16]

1889

Queens' new chapel (-91) [VCH]

Christ's 3rd court began [VCH]

1889 11 22

Cavendish & New Hall inaugurated [2.23]

1890

Trinity Hall Latham building added [VCH]

1890 10 30

Clare College - largest fire in 30 years [1.2]

1891

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

Ridley Hall enlarged (had been opened 1881) [VCH]
Day training college for teachers established (from which Department of Education developed) [VCH]
Sidney Sussex new range parallel Sidney St [VCH]
New Hall right of way through ground closed by agreement town [VCH]

1892

Emmanuel house 1892-94 [VCH]
Fitzwilliam Hall opened: for members University who not members college; accepted 1869, known as non-collegiate [VCH]
Cavendish college closed (it had opened as the County College in 1873 to make university education available to students of limited means but ran into financial difficulties). Why Cavendish college was such a failure; a memoir of the early days – by Irene Lister – 63 12 13b

1893

Kings Bodley's court between Old Lodge & river, S & E ranges completed; others 1909, additions 1927; more than doubling number of sets [VCH]
New Hall Pfeiffer Building erected [VCH]

1894

Homerton College opens in Cavendish's old buildings [3.12]

1895

Training College for Women Teachers new building [13]

1896

St Edmunds House founded amid anti-Catholic controversy over residence of Catholic laymen at University [9.5, 15]

1897

Proposal grant women students' status degrees rejected [VCH]
Christ's front extended to Christ's Lane [VCH]

1897 05 25

Yesterday afternoon a ceremony of the deepest import to the Presbyterian Church of England took place at Cambridge, when Mrs Lewis and Mrs Gibson jointly laid the foundation stone of the Westminster Theological College. A large number of people assembled on the site many of the visitors coming from a distance. The building will stand on the piece of ground between Madingley-road, Northampton-street and Pound-hill. The building is in the English Renaissance style 1897 05 25; opened 1899 [1.19, 3.8]

1898 03 14

Jesus college fire in rooms of undergraduate in third court. Room was filled with valuable furniture and large amount of unique china and pictures. The whole staircase will have to be practically rebuilt and what not damaged by fire was ruined by water CDN 1898 03 14

1899

Girton development between 1899-02 [VCH]
Westcott House moves to new premises Jesus Lane (opened 1881 & known as Clergy Training School until 1904) [1.20, 3.10]

1899 08 09

Once a year the good feeling existing at Pembroke college between members of the colleges and the servants is given expression to. In recent years, largely owing to the efforts of Mr A. Chapman, the butler, undergraduates and servants have united in a festive gathering in the Long Vacation, and it has

now assumed the aspect of an annual affair. During the day a cricket match took place, the servants played in the ordinary way, while the collegians used broomsticks as bats. Dinner in hall followed and after this came a concert al fresco 1899 08 09

1899 10 09

On Saturday night the cooks left the kitchens at King's college, as they thought, safe, but P.C. Witham saw smoke coming through the roof. For fully two hours the fire brigade had their hands full. The staircase is quite burned down and access to the cook's room above is by means of ladders. On Sunday morning the cooks went to prepare the usual meals and members of the college were served as if nothing out of the ordinary had occurred 1899 10 09

1899 10 17

The formal opening took place of Westminster College, the theological college which the Presbyterian Church of England has established at Cambridge for the training of students for the ministry. It is a great thing that the work has been done so well in so short a time, but a much greater thing that the cost of building it – albeit over £40,000 has all been met. Professor Ryle, President of Queens', extended a welcome to the new college 1899 10 17

1900

1901

Caius houses South side Rose Crescent purchased 1887 & rebuilt as St Michaels Court 1901-03 [VCH]

1901 07 22

A fire occurred at St John's College, Cambridge and considerable damage was done before the outbreak was extinguished. The scene was the third court, where a bedroom and a sitting room on the top floor of the wing overlooking the river were completely burnt out. St John's college fire brigade were soon combating the flames which had secured a considerable hold upon the dry and inflammable material of the building and it is undoubtedly due to their efforts that the fire was not much more disastrous. It originated in the bedroom where a lighted candle was left on the chest of drawers CDN 1901 07 22

1902

Emmanuel negotiate corporation to close Emmanuel St 1902-07 [VCH]

1905 06 22

In the more ancient parts of Cambridge colleges several students used to occupy one large room wherein they lived and slept; they had as private studies small partitioned-off spaces in the corner of the room, each having a window. These still exist but as students no longer live in groups they are now used for sleeping and dining. It is unfair to criticise them as if they had been originally designed as sleeping apartments. 05 06 22

1905 07 04

Christ's College is celebrating the 400th anniversary of its foundation and a host of past members have returned. Dignitaries of the church, members of parliament, men of eminence in the legal world and members of the learned professions are among the distinguished company of guests 05 07 04 a & b [VCH] [1.3]

1905 10 06

Cheshunt College opened its doors to theological students without any ceremonial. It was founded in 1768 by Selina, the Countess of Huntingdon, and is strictly undenominational. It moved to Cheshunt in 1792 where it was recognised by the University of London and has now transferred to Cambridge. Houses in Cintra Terrace, Hills Road, have been adapted for the 15 students; most will become members of the University and read for degrees. 05 10 06

1906

New Hall Kennedy building [VCH]

1906 01 30

Dr E. Atkinson of Clare College is the third Master of a Cambridge foundation who has held office for 50 year. Members of the college celebrated by the presentation of a portrait by Mr W.W. Onless. It shows him clad in University robes, reading a book. It has been an era of prosperity and growth, due in large measure to the harmonious relations between the Master and his Fellows. 06 01 30a-c

1907 09 07

The University has extended the area within which lodging-house licences will be granted as the number of Freshmen expected to take up residence is so large. That might seem good news for lodging-house keepers and traders generally but the real reason is the steady growth of the suburban areas. A comparison between lodging houses in some of our closely-packed central streets and those in the roomy, healthy suburbs is in favour of the latter. 07 09 07c

1907 10 21

An interesting wedding took place at St Luke's Church when the Master of St John's College, Rev Charles Taylor, (67), was married to Miss Margaret Dillon. Dr Taylor is a noted Hebrew scholar, theologian and mathematician who was Vice Chancellor of the University in 1887. Miss Dillon supports the Factory Girls' Holiday Fund and is a prominent member of the Women's Total Abstinence Union. 07 10 21

1907 11 04

An alarming fire occurred in a bedroom at Homerton College after one of the students placed a candle near an open window and left the room. On her return she found the curtains enveloped in a mass of flame. A tutor, hearing her scream, rushed into the room and managed to extinguish the flames with a patent fire extinguisher. The college fire alarm did not act efficiently, being heard in some parts and not in others. Thus while girls rushed out of the building in their night attire a dance in another part of the college continued. 07 11 04b

1908 07 24

A great deal of excitement was caused by a fire at Christ's College. Bert Holder, a butcher, noticed smoke issuing from the scullery and engine room window in Christ's Lane where the ceiling, which is of matchboarding, was well alight. Pc Fred Savidge and the head porter, Mr Chapman, fitted the college fire appliance to a hydrant and commenced to play on the flames, which were soon extinguished owing to the prompt action of the fire brigade and police force. CWN 08 07 24

1908 08 21

The funeral of Mr Fordham, head porter of Queens' College was marked by many signs of the respect in which he was held. A Cambridge man, he had been connected with the college for 35 years, having also served as the master's butler. As a last compliment to a trusted and respected servant the first part of the funeral service was conducted in Queens' college chapel. There were a large number of beautiful floral tributes, including one from the President and Fellows. CWN 08 08 21 p2

1908 12 18

At this period of the winter Cambridge generally experiences a slump in the building trade but there is one extensive building in progress, the extension of Magdalene College on the river side of the main block. Owing to the endowment of Mr Mynors Bright twelve new sets of rooms and a large lecture theatre will be added. The architects have been careful to keep the style of the new buildings in conformity with the old with a large bay window running from the ground to the roof. Undergraduates who keep there will have a pleasant outlook as their sitting rooms overlook the river CWN 08 12 18

1909 07 24

Trinity Hall new rooms in court bounded by Garret Hostel Lane & river [3.17]

1909 09 17

A new religious house has been founded at Cambridge. It will have no official connection with the University and be used for serious study. Its head is Father Waggett who gave a series of lectures which attracted considerable attention. The house in Malting Lane is a beautiful structure whose deeds date back to the time of Charles I. Its delightful old-world garden of nearly two acres would permit of ample additions in future years CWN 09 09 17

1909 12 31

Gladstone plants tree at Newnham, is torn up [1.4]

1910

1910

New Hall Peile Hall to complete main block college [VCH]

1910 10 28

A Clare college undergraduate, Mr R. Chadwick Leach, had an exciting experience early on Saturday morning, his sitting room burning fiercely while he was fast asleep in the bedroom adjoining. The fire was discovered by a bedmaker who called some undergraduates and they at some risk to themselves roused Mr Leach from his sleep. The rooms on 'C' staircase comprise a bedroom and sitting room which are made secure by a door on the landing. He went to bed about midnight, leaving a small fire in the grate. The contents of the sitting room were completely destroyed and the damage must be considerable 10 10 28a

1910 11 15

A cook at Clare College claimed compensation for an injury sustained through a fall in the college kitchen. The man, who was a 'roast cook', had been carrying a double-handed boiler when he trod on a piece of stick and fell. The boiler struck him in the pit of the stomach exacerbating a rupture he'd sustained three years earlier. Since the accident he'd been paid sixteen shillings weekly, half his usual earnings. His claim was dismissed. 10 11 15d & e

1911 07 22

Great deal of rebuilding in connection with University, most notable Emmanuel expansion which envisaged closure of Emmanuel St with Council making new road elsewhere; council change mind but install underpass to link new buildings with old [3.19, 3.20]

1911 09 02

Trinity rooms on Queens Gate side of Great Court dismantled & modern fittings substituted for medieval interiors [3.21]

1912 01 12

A wedding of great interest took place at King's College Chapel, the first in the building for nearly 200 years. The bride, Miss Katharine Heycock, daughter of a Fellow, wore a beautiful dress of white brocade and a train of old lace made by Mrs Thompson of Panton Street. The six bridesmaids wore Kate Greenaway coats trimmed with swansdown and hats trimmed with mistletoe and holly. Amongst the presents were a silver hot-water kettle, silver egg-stand and toast-rack. Afterwards the bride and groom left for the Riviera. The earliest wedding in the chapel was in 1666. 12 01 12c

1912 03 08

University lodging-house keepers have been venting their grievances. One woman has three sets of rooms; if she lets them all the year she gets £84. For rent, rates, taxes and wages of servant she pays £53; that leaves her £31 for whitewashing, papering, staircloth, carpet etc and for food and clothes for herself. But this term all the rooms are empty. However in Chesterton there are many householders

who let rooms to undergraduates; when they come part of Cambridge will the rateable values of their houses be increased? Lodging housekeepers should form themselves into a trades union. 12 03 08f

1912 10 12

Queens' College new building stands on the site of a row of almshouses founded by the first President of the college, Andrew Dokett. Architecturally they were of no value and their removal can scarcely be regretted. His charitable bequest will be continued as weekly pensions. Planned on traditional lines forming three sides of a court with the main façade to Queens' Lane, they provide accommodation for 26 undergraduates as well as the Bursar's rooms, guest room and clerks' offices. They were built by Rattee and Kett in a remarkably short time for such first-class work. 12 10 04h [VCH]

1913 01 17

St Catharine's college proposal erect fourth side 13 01 17 p9 CIP

1913 06 13

The foundation stone of the new Cheshunt College buildings in Bateman Street was laid by the Lord Chancellor. The college was formed in 1768 by Selina Countess of Huntingdon to prepare men for evangelistic work and its students can enter any church. It moved to Hills Road Cambridge in 1905 and is now attached to the University. Most of its students take the Theological Tripos. A number have risen to eminence as missionaries in the foreign field 13 06 13 p7 CIP [4.1]

1913 06 13

Suffrage attack St John's college library 13 06 20 p8 CIP

1913 06 20

A servant of Trinity College, employed as a Gyp, died suddenly on the staircase at Whewell's Court. A Porter saw him standing on the carpet fetching up blood, then start to go to the gyp room to get a cup of water, but he could not manage it. The job was an active one, involving a lot of running up and down staircases and he had been advised not to over-exert himself. A few weeks ago he'd attempted to stop a runaway horse drawing a trap containing several children in Trumpington Street and the exertion probably hastened his death. 13 06 20 p8 CIP

1913 06 20

Peterhouse kitchen fire 13 06 20 p8 CIP

1913 11 21

The Fire escape and engine responded to the alarm of a blaze at St John's College where they found a bonfire burning in second court to celebrate the victory of a rower in the Colquhoun Sculls. Fireworks were discharged and a crowd gathered to watch the glare through the chapel windows. Later a fire broke out in a wicker chair in an undergraduate's room. It is thought a spark from the bonfire may have blown through the window, or a lighted cigarette dropped in the chair. 13 11 21 p11 CIP

1914

When war broke out Pembroke began giving elementary war training in college; War Office objected but worked well & officially adopted; this origin of 1st Officers training school & other colleges used later; Pembroke at once offer buildings without reservation & one of last to be freed by War Office [VCH]

Kings & Clare cricket ground occupied military, sold University 1925 [VCH]

Emmanuel North court opened [VCH]

1914 09 19

Cheshunt College opening postponed due to War [4.2]

1914 10 16

Ridley Hall chapel extension & memorial windows opened 14 10 16

1914 12 11

Fire at Trinity College on the third and top floors of L block in New Court. Prompt measure were taken to cope with the fire, college porters attaching a hosepipe to the hydrant and directing a steady stream of water on the flames. The Fire Brigade were called and 20 firemen were in attendance. The upstairs rooms became fiercely ablaze, and the flames attacked the landing of the staircase. The room was completely burnt out and a hole was made in the roof. The fire penetrated to other rooms in K block of buildings and two sets were destroyed and the roof was considerably damaged. Other rooms were damaged by heat, smoke and water. 14 12 11 CIPof

1915

Magdalene acquisition land Magdalene St & Bin Brook completed [VCH]
St Edmunds House foundation stone laid [1.5]

1915 02 05

Cheshunt College. The dedication of new buildings at Cheshunt College, Cambridge, took place on Tuesday afternoon. A service was held in the Lecture Room, and an address was given by the Rev. Principal Selbie. The total cost of the buildings, apart from the cost of the land, including all expenses, is just over £18,000 and the total donations paid and those promised amount to £14,500 15 02 05 CIPof

1915 10 29

Cheshunt college opening commemoration 15 10 29 p5 CIP

1915 11 10

Cardinal Bourne at Cambridge. — His Eminence Cardinal Bourne. Archbishop of Westminster, visited Cambridge on Friday and blessed the foundation stone of the chapel being erected at St. Edmund's House. St. Edmund's House, Cambridge was established in 1896. The purpose is to provide an extended university course for Roman Catholic priests and ecclesiastical students. The Duke of Norfolk is the founder and St. Edmund's is under the control of the Hierarchy being managed by a body composed of Clergy and laity of which the Duke of Norfolk is the president. The present master is the Rev. Father T. L. Williams 15 11 10 CIPof [3.7]

1916

Westcott House closes (reopens 1919)

1916 02 23

Henry Charles Phupps, butler of Clare College completes 50 years; butler has rooms in college; seen many changes ; in 1878 Prince of Wales drove carriage and pair through college courts and was first person to smoke in the hall – 16 02 23a

1916 05 17

Miss E.C. Jones, Mistress of Girton – profile – 16 05 17b

1916 10 25

Matriculation showed that the number of Freshmen who have entered this Term is 156. Three years ago we had become accustomed to count the new members of the University in four figures, but we must be grateful for small mercies. We badly miss the stream of vigorous youth, whose annual incursions rejuvenated Cambridge and kept us from remarking the advance of age or becoming fossilised in ways or opinions. The stream is running so small now that we hardly notice its presence, but it has not altogether stopped, and is helping the University to carry on the work of the intellectual mill. The “Cambridge Review” estimates that the number of undergraduates who will be in residence this Term - men of all years - will be 444. In the Michaelmas Term of 1913 there were 3,263 under-graduates in residence, and the total had remained around these figures for several years, so it would seem that the war has reduced the roll of students of this University to nearly seven-

eighths below the normal, and we are afraid we have not yet touched bottom. In spite of the numerical and financial difficulties, the teaching staff are making heroic endeavours to maintain the standards, and the course of lectures which have been arranged are really wonderful under the circumstances. 16 10 25 CIPof

1919

Kings; Lord Keynes bursar 1919-46 & his financial genius & own bequests ranks him after King Henry as greatest benefactor in history of college [VCH]

1919 08 06

Girton College jubilee celebration – detailed article – 19 08 06d

1920 10 13

St Catharine's College grove of elms cut down – photos –, notes on site - Ch 20 10 13d well discovered, don lowered down – Ch 20 12 08

1921

Wesley House founded [3.11]

1921 08 17

Caius College fire in rafters – 21 08 17c

1921 09 26

Westminster College chapel dedicated – gift of Sir William Noble – 21 09 26f

1922

New buildings erected at Pembroke, Jesus, Downing, Sidney, Magdalene, Clare & Kings spread to other side of Queens Road.

Caius redevelops north side Market Hill

1923

Sidney Sussex another range Masters Garden [VCH] F

Following Grace 1921 ordinances approved admitting women to title degrees & limiting numbers Girton & Newnham to 500 [VCH]

1924 05 01

Through the munificence of Sir Charles and Lady Walston, handsome iron gates in the early English style have been erected at the entrance to the King's College grounds on the Backs. Sir Charles presented them to the college. Mr A W Elwood the maker of the gates, presented the key to Lady Walston who opened them c24 05 05

1924 10 18

The beginning of term finds King's college chapel out of action. A more dreary scene of ruin than the appearance of the choir could not be imagined. But it is only due to the insertion of hot water pipes and radiators underneath. Meanwhile the striking line of side chapels provides at once an altar and a church and thus has the unique experience of possessing the choir all to itself 24 10 18

1924 11 10

An interesting and impressive Armistice Day service was held at Clare College. The service preceded the opening of a memorial building – and extension of the college – and the unveiling by the Chancellor of the University of the roll of honour of 198 men of Clare College who fell in the war. The building was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The ceremony included a simple commemoration, which the college has undertaken to perpetuate. The deed requires that every year on 11th November the Fellows and undergraduates, properly gowned, should assemble and the Master deposit a wreath. 24 11 10

1925

Peterhouse new Hostel across road [VCH]
Magdalene Mallory court [VCH]

1926

Peterhouse revised statues, like other colleges [VCH]
Pembroke extend Hall [VCH]
Trinity Hall Bond Building joining Thornton & Latham over old entrance gates [VCH]

1926 07

Princess Mary visits Clare new buildings as they celebrate 600th anniversary [2.5]

1927

Jesus chapel court 1927-30 [VCH]

1927 07

Railings removed from front of Kings College, (low wall built in memory of Rev. Septimus Philpotts 1932) [2.9, 2.27]

1927 08 06

The death took place of Mr Edwin Samuel Fisher, who was head of Downing College kitchen for nearly 50 years, having commenced his career at the early age of 13 when he became an apprentice in St John's College kitchen. While still at school he had worked under the famous chef M. Bruvet when he presided over the Downing kitchen. Mr Fisher had a very trying time during the war, at the outset of which the college suddenly was called upon to house some 90 Territorial nurses, for whom meals had to be provided in the college hall, and later he had, under great difficulty owing to rationing, to provide in a similar fashion for officer cadet battalions. 27 08 06

1928 03 03

Magdalene College hopes that a start will soon be made on the building of a new court on the opposite side of the Street. Plans have been drawn up for a three-sided brick court open to the river, traditional in style. The flank parallel with Magdalene Street will not interfere with the existing shops, but the thoroughfare is long overdue for widening and from the remodelled bridge there would then be a noble prospect of the new court with a lawn or gravel forecourt separated from the pavement by a low parapet. 28 03 03

1928 05 17

Undergraduates were packed like sardines in a tin at the Cambridge Police court when King's College and Trinity College were fined for employing male servants with having in force licences as required. It was unthinkable that such bodies should attempt to evade payment but they had received no reminder from the County Hall. This was not an acceptable excuse: they were large and responsible bodies accustomed to regularly employing a number of servants and should be more scrupulous than ordinary citizens to see the duties were paid in proper 28 05 17

1928 08 14

Cambridge has lost a popular and familiar figure by the death of Mr James 'Jessie' Collins. He had an intimate knowledge of the antecedents and lives of almost every one of the inhabitants of 'The Boro' – the Castle End district - and was a character quite of his own. For 40 years he was employed at St John's College, rising from the position of shoe black to deputy head porter. He will be buried from St John's College, which he has served so faithfully and so long and today he lies in state in the college chapel – a fitting end to a remarkable life 28 08 14

1929

Caius [VCH]

1929 02 14

A serious fire broke out at Caius College, Cambridge. Two rooms in Tree Court were completely gutted and others badly damaged. Policemen attracted by the blowing of a whistle in Trinity Street got a hydrant in the courtyard to work and the Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene but the inside of the building was almost a furnace. The fire was quickly got under but not before considerable damage had been done, including the falling in of a large part of the ceiling. The firemen experienced bad conditions owing to the intense cold, the water froze on their clothing and icicles were left hanging from the ledges 29 02 14

1930

1930

Magdalene Benson Court started [VCH]

1930 07 05

The policy of building more rooms in college and drawing in as many men from the lodging houses is creating a serious outlook for the lodging-house keepers. Many have been told their rooms will not be required next term. If the University cannot continue to utilise services which came into existence to serve their needs some then other employment will be needed. If the University ceases to provide adequate support Cambridge will have no alternative but to seek other means of livelihood. We will be loath to see the town industrialised but people must live. 30 07 05b

1930 09 03

Another example of the 'new Cambridge' in the making is the extensive site on which Magdalene College intends erecting an imposing new wing. It is at the rear of the Pickerel and Cross Keys yards originally occupied by Bird's vinegar and mustard factory. Mallory Court will provide the principal access but eventually a complete transformation will be effected by the demolition of all the property between the bridge and Northampton Street making Magdalene Street a broad and handsome thoroughfare. 30 09 03c

1930 11 04

It was with a certain amount of trepidation that I called on the Mistress of Girton College, Miss E.H. Major, for this little article. "Ten minutes" I said to the driver of the car that had taken me out. It was two hours before I started on the return journey. For I had been received by a most sympathetic woman in a room harmonious, of gracious proportions, with dishes of woodland flowers on the table; cakes and coffee and cigarettes had been offered to me in friendliness. We touched upon everything under the sun, from starvation in Ruthenia to the making of the college gardens 30 11 04a

1930 11 11

It was in the state of mind anticipating moral extinction that I tapped on the door of the portress at Newnham College and asked if I could see the Principal's secretary. Within five minutes Miss Strachey had herself received me. Here was no austere 'school marm' but a charming, well-dressed, quite feminine woman of the world, with a sense of humour and the blessed gift of putting nervous people at their ease. She is a great educationalist but also a most charming and modest lady 30 11 11a

1930 11 18

Miss M. Allan, principal of Homerton College is a pioneer of a radical method of training teachers for elementary schools. She came to Cambridge in 1903 and her aim is to combine academic and psychological learning, the bodies of her students are developed as well as their minds and music, art, the drama as well as science and philosophy are contained in the curriculum. She may, indeed must, in so large a community rule sometimes with a hand not always gloved with velvet but the softness of understanding is ever present and she has retained much of the spirit of youth 30 11 18a

1931

Jesus Victoria Ave entrance gates [VCH]

1931 03

Sheep brought to graze on back lawn of Kings for first time in 50 years [2.17]

1932

Pembroke 3rd Masters Lodge [VCH]

1932 02

Memorial gates at Jesus completed [2.18]

1932 04 13

Large new buildings designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens are part of a comprehensive extension scheme by Magdalene College on land originally occupied by Bird's vinegar and mustard factory. For two years it has been one of Cambridge's biggest building contracts but the comparative obscurity of the site has kept it out of the public eye. Eventually the whole of the west side of Magdalene Street from the bridge to Northampton Street will be cleared for reconstruction with a more imposing bridge and a further college wing at right angles to the present one. 32 04 13

1932 04 16

St Catharine's was one of the colleges whose elaborate extension schemes met with a setback through the war. There was to have been a full elevation to Trumpington Street with a completely enclosed court beyond. Now the porter's lodge will be replaced, the cobbles removed and the whole area sown with grass to give a more balanced frontage. It is eight years since that the elm trees, which formed a grove, were cut down. 32 04 16

1932 05 18

Overnight two unfurled umbrellas were securely tied to the pinnacles of King's College chapel so they stood straight up. The college called a window cleaner to remove them, but despite his long ladder he was unable to get within ten feet. Two undergraduates went on the roof with shotguns and endeavoured to shoot them down. One fell but the other proved more difficult. The shots knocked the handle sideways. For some hours it floated gracefully from side to side in the wind like some gigantic weathercock. 32 05 18

1932 10 07

It was an important day in the history of Downing College when the Lord Chancellor opened a block of new buildings. In 1910 undergraduates had petitioned for a chapel to replace the small upper room in which religious services were held, then a former member directed in his will that a chapel, library and livings rooms be provided. New gates in Tennis Court Lane commemorating the tragic death of Prof. Kenny were also opened. 32 10 07bb

1933 03 15

Serious damage was prevented at Peterhouse when an undergraduate awoke in the early hours of the morning and noticed flames in the window of the Junior Combination Room. The head porter, Mr Barnes, was called and the water hose was brought into action. The fire was got in hand so quickly that many of the undergraduates did not know there had been a blaze until breakfast time. Slight damage was done to some 14th-century beams and an oar. A cigarette end is believed to have been the cause of the outbreak. 33 03 15b

1933 06 21

Stanley Baldwin at Selwyn College jubilee (had been founded in 1882 on Church of England principles for men of moderate means & recognised by University following year) – 33 06 21

1934

Trinity Hall area between range & Garret Hostel land, small N court 1934-36 [VCH]

1934 07 23

Police refused entrance Pembroke college – 34 07 23

1934 08 01

Gonville and Caius College's scheme for the complete rebuilding of the block of shops and houses on the north side of Cambridge Market Hill has been finally approved. At present the site from Rose Crescent to St Mary's Court is occupied by a group of houses, mostly of the 18th century. Their disappearance will be regretted, even by those who knew how dilapidated they had become behind their neat Georgian facades. But the whole effect of the completed block should stifle these regrets. The shops will be set back seven feet with upper rooms carried on slender pillars. 34 08 01 [VCH]

1934 08 28

The renovations to St John's College have been the subject of much comment in 'The Times'. It was suggested that the two turrets at the front were in imminent danger of falling away from the main tower because of a system of main drainage 30 years ago when a trench 30 feet deep was dug along the street. But there is no evidence of settlement due to foundation trouble. The walls had shattered because of vibrations caused by street traffic. 34 08 28

1935

Clare Memorial court finished (began 1922) [VCH]

Queens's picturesque cottages inhabited college servants demolished & Fisher buildings [VCH]

1935 05 22

Queens' College – demolition in Silver Street for new extensions – 35 03 05a, 35 05 22

1935 09 13

Last year, when the front of the college was restored the two gateway turrets facing St John's Street were demolished and rebuilt; now the turrets within the court are being renovated. Restoration work has disclosed old oak panelling. The discovery was made after repairs to the roof on the east side of the first court had revealed damage by the death-watch beetle, necessitating the removal of a number of the original oak beams. On the other side of the court the parapet over the offices and the dining hall has been rebuilt and the brickwork re-pointed and replaced where necessary. Handmade bricks of the 16th century were obtained to match the original work. The entire face of the building has been washed down by hand, only hard brushes and softened water being used. [Cambridge Standard 13th September 1935]

1935 09 14

Peterhouse – the oldest Cambridge foundation – was threatened by a fire which broke out in a staircase in Gisbourne Court early in the morning. The Master, Sir William Birdwood (70) was one the scene from the start and did not leave until everything was safe, two hours later. Staircase H which contains six sets of rooms, was extensively damaged and several hundred books ruined. Its cause remains a mystery for the staircase, which is not far from the old Noah's Ark staircase, has been unoccupied since August 35 09 14b

1935 09 28

Caius college buildings cleaned [1.6]

1935 10 05

The Trinity Lane corner of Caius College was left black in the cleaning operations that have been taken place during the Vacation. This was to show the contrast. Now it is receiving attention like the rest of the building. Messrs Johnson and Bailey say it was impossible to erect scaffolding owing to the traffic down Trinity Lane so it had to be done piecemeal from ladders. The excellent result has been achieved simply by the use of water and stiff scrubbing brushes. 35 10 05a

1936

Kings Peas Hill Hostel completed [VCH]

1936 01 11

With its purchase of the Strensham Court Estate of 2,800 acres near Tewkesbury, Corpus Christi is following the examples of the richest Cambridge college. Trinity, which has an income of £80,000 a year, bought 4,000 acres of agricultural land in Suffolk two years ago. However King's, whose finances have flourished exceedingly under the bursarship of Maynard Keynes, prefer to invest in urban rather than agricultural properties. After the war they held estates in fifteen counties but these have been greatly reduced and they recently bought a valuable site close to the Middlesex Hospital. 36 01 11a

1936 06 27

Repairs at Kings College chapel due to chemical atmosphere [1.7]

1937

Magdalene College demolish Fishers Lane as first stage of its new plans

1937 04 29

Parts of Newnham College known as 'The Slums' include a number of small dark bedrooms which get no light at all and from which the view consists of a blank wall. Owing to congestion and overcrowding these are now used as students' bed-sitting-rooms. Some bathrooms are used for washing crockery and there is insufficient accommodation for food and coal storage. But some new rooms are large and light with basins fitted with hot and cold water. 37 04 29b

1937 10 20

An undergraduate of Peterhouse, Cambridge's oldest college, awoke coughing because of smoke and rushed through his burning sitting room to report the outbreak. Another occupant on the same floor attempted to put out the fire assisted by Mr S. Wilderspin, a porter. The Fire Brigade cut away floor boards to extinguish the blaze caused by a defective fire-place. The whole of the floor together with furniture and a wireless set was ruined. A club room beneath, situated in one of the oldest parts of the college dating back to the 15th century, was damaged by water. Another blaze of a much more serious nature occurred nearby about two years ago 37 10 20b photo 37 10 20

1938

St Johns plan extensions Bridge St to provide new court for 50 undergraduates & 10 fellows, increasing residential accommodation by 25%; part of design which will allow extend buildings along whole Bridge St to Cam; like many other colleges has found increasing difficulties providing accommodation for members, at present only room inside college for about half of resident undergraduates [16]

1938 04 20

'Desperate measures' are needed to save part of Queens' College where the river wall of the Essex block is in a severe state. It is absolutely necessary to deposit a bank against the wall to avert a disaster and when made temporarily safe the foundations will have to be underpinned, the Cam Conservators heard. There was concern that Silver Street Bridge might also be slightly under-mined and it should be rebuilt when money was available. 38 04 20a

1938 04 30

The proposed new buildings for St John's College involve the immediate erection of buildings to complete the present Chapel Court with wings projecting beyond to the north and east. These should be ready for occupation by Michaelmas 1939, including 50 undergraduates and ten fellows' sets of rooms. There will be an open court facing Bridge Street should the houses eventually be taken down and the road widened and ultimately a riverside court overlooking Magdalene 38 04 30 & a

1938 06 22

Queens' College have to underpin the foundations of the Essex Buildings and may rebuild it further from the road instead of on its present alignment. They asked whether the Corporation wished to acquire the land released and expedite the rebuilding of Silver Street Bridge. This could be widened to 40 feet instead of 28 feet as present. The erection of new college buildings and the construction of the bridge would proceed at the same time with the bridge completed by October 1939 38 06 22

1938 08 12

Queen Mary named the first block of the new buildings at Newnham College after Professor and Mrs Fawcett and their daughter Philippa. It was at the Fawcett's house in December 1869 that the first meeting was held to discuss plans which resulted in the foundation of the college. Twenty-one years later Miss Philippa Fawcett justified her parents' faith by being placed above the Senior Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos. She was amongst the guests and was presented to the Queen who has taken the keenest interest in the College 38 08 12 [2.20]

1939 06 23

A Royal Institute of British Architect's plaque was unveiled on the new Caius College building in St Michael's Court and a medal presented to the architect, J. Murray Easton. At no time have more buildings of distinguished character been erected and yet many buildings are not very pleasant to live in and certainly unpleasant to look at. This was due to lack of public appreciation of beautiful architecture. Accepting the plaque, the Master said that the building was very popular among the undergraduates. 39 06 23

1939 09 09

Kings remove glass from chapel windows due to War, costs £75 per window until only 4 out of 26 left, rest being partly glass but mostly boarding; some ask what use is the glass if the building demolished [1.8] [1.23]

1939-45

RAF took Pembroke New Court & fire occurred but rebuilding gave better accommodation [VCH]

1940

1940

Peterhouse small building Fen Court [VCH]

St Johns Bridge Street rebuilding [VCH]

1940 03 30

Trinity college clock speeded up during renovation making the feat of running around Great Court whilst it chiming twelve more difficult [1.9]

1941 03 22

Pembroke college fire causes extensive damage to north wing – 41 03 22

1943 12 31

Magdalene College fire, started boiler room spread to upper part of the building which abuts the river; part of floor collapsed – 43 12 31

1944 01 01

Magdalene College fire in building now used as boiler room and store; the college pump brought into action, flames leapt through roof, extinguished by NFS – 44 01 01

1944 03 18

Montgomery claims his father leaped up steps at Trinity College in one bound [1.10]

1944 12 28

Christ's College fire quickly extinguished; prevents major damage – 44 12 28

1945 02 23

Two rooms in a block at New Court, Trinity College, Cambridge, were severely damaged on Saturday by a fire which also destroyed valuable files and documents. One room, on the ground floor, was occupied by the Rural Land Utilisation Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the other, on the first floor, by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), and it was in this second room that records of work done during the last three years was destroyed. Very heavy smoke, which spread by communicating passages and staircases to the offices of the Ministry of Fuel and Power in an adjoining block, was encountered by the N.F.S., but they succeeded in keeping the flames from spreading. Six fire appliances were in action, and an oxygen breathing apparatus were also used in fighting the outbreak 45 02 23 CIPof

1945 12 29

Scaffolding erected as Kings replaces East window [1.11]

1946 05 20

Fire in Old Court Corpus Christi College in building dating from 1352; NFS arrive quickly; if left longer the whole court might have been destroyed – 46 05 20

1947

Grace admitting women full membership University & constituting Newnham a college [VCH]
Girton & Newnham admitted as colleges within University as women admitted to fully equal status with men [3.14]

1947 06 07

Trinity College celebrates 400th anniversary [1.12]

1947 06 30

Pembroke College, Cambridge has celebrated its Sixcentenary. The celebrations took the form of a luncheon and garden party during which valuable manuscripts and college plate were on show. The display of college plate included two irreplaceable cups. One has a curse associated with it. This is the Anathema cup. It bears the inscription "Who shall alienate it, let him be anathema". For this reason when, during the Civil War, all the College silver was sent to the King, the lid only was sent, and the Cup kept back to defeat the curse 47 06 30 [VCH]

1948 06 07

The Queen came to join in the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the foundation of Queens' college, Cambridge. Exactly on time the Royal car was seen coming round the last curve in the road from Hauxton and only the strong arms of the members of the Cambridge Police Force prevented the crowd from surging into the road. But even they were not strong enough to hold the crowd back once the car had stopped and within a few seconds it was completely surrounded so that Her Majesty, even if she decided otherwise, was forced to remain in the car 48 06 07

1949

Training College for Women Teachers changes name to Hughes Hall after first principal as becomes recognised institution; had been founded 1885 in Newnham, expanded; new buildings 1895 [VCH,13]

1949 01 15

Corpus Christi celebrate first Queensborough Feast [1.21]

1949 07 20

People living in the vicinity of Newnham college have watched with interest the building operations being carried out there. The new porters' lodge will take the place of the original entrance – with its beautiful bronze gates – in Newnham Walk. Over it is the college's first real lecture room, lectures having previously been given in the main hall. The building is extremely modern in style and provides an interesting break in Sidgwick Avenue 49 07 20

1949 08 15

Christ's college building for 40 undergraduates [2.2]

1949 12 17

Trinity Hall celebrate 600th anniversary [2.3]

1950

1950

St Johns grounds replanted under Thomas Sharp (-52) [VCH]

1950 02 09

When fire broke out in A-block of Jesus College, Cambridge the occupant found his room and corridor full of smoke. He jumped out of a window on to the flat roof of the porter's lodge below. The undergraduate's sudden landing roused the night porter who gave the alarm. Tongues of flame were soon licking through the roof, part of which fell in before the brigade got the fire under control. A-block is one of the oldest parts of the college, which was founded in 1496 50 02 09

1950 03 04

Downing celebrate 150th anniversary [2.4]

1950 09 28

Kings open buildings, West Rd [2.6, 7.18]

1951

St Catharine's Woodlark building on site old Porters Lodge (numbers quadruple since 1918) [VCH]
Christ's gate decoration restored; Chancellors Building & Memorial building added 3rd court (& 53) [VCH]

1951 04 21

A Royal welcome greeted the King and Queen when they arrived for their visit to King's College chapel thanksgiving service for its restoration and the replacement of windows removed for safety during the war. The car flying the Royal standard drew up to the city boundary at Newmarket Road. Many mothers from nearby houses brought their children along with little flags and some enterprising onlookers climbed on to one of Marshall's buildings to get a bird's eye view. Carried away by their enthusiasm many toddlers continued to cheer and wave small Union Jacks long after the Royal party had passed 51 04 21 [2.7]

1951 05 31

Senate House cleaned [2.8]

1951 10 06

Trinity College has had the heraldic shields over the Great Gate repainted and the statue of King Henry VIII has at last been furnished with a proper sceptre. This has taken the place of the common or garden chair leg that has for years been fixed in the right hand of the effigy. When a similar redecoration was carried out between the two world wars the chair leg was regilded and solemnly replaced. Now a wrong has been righted and King Henry is no longer the custodian of the remains of a piece of kitchen furniture! 51 10 06

1952 01 30

Does the best food go to the colleges? Miss R.N. Small, the first woman Steward of Caius College, was asked. Most colleges like to trade with local shops and the quality had its ups and downs. The college could not afford to give poultry to undergraduates more than once a term. While Fellows could give dinner parties in their own rooms, undergraduates were only allowed the facility during May Week when she made an all-out effort to help the men who wish to impress other people. It was the custom these days for undergraduates to work off their hospitality by means of stand-up sherry parties. 52 01 30

1952 02 04

Nearly 1,000 college servants in Cambridge are being urged to join a trade union – and enjoy the benefits of a first-ever “College Servants’ Charter” as a result of the Industrial Disputes Tribunal decision affecting more than 80 workers at Gonville and Caius college. Circulars are going out from the Transport and General Workers’ Union to college employees, including bedmakers, cleaners, porters and gardeners impressing on them the importance of “getting together”. Since the wage claim at Caius was first submitted individual pay has gone up in some cases by as much as £1 12.6. a week. A kitchen porter now gets £4.15s.0d. minimum, a maximum of £5. A buttery man who received £5 now gets £6.7s.6d. There has been a £1 a week increase for cooks. 52 02 04

1952 10

Downing open new buildings [2.19]

1953 01 17

A new type of draught excluder fitted to a Trinity College undergraduates’ sitting room was so effective that nobody was aware it was on fire. The occupant was sleeping peacefully while in the adjoining room furniture and floorboards were ablaze. Smoke pouring from the fire was prevented from penetrating to the bedroom by the draught excluders recently fitted. The sound of crackling timbers woke a student on the floor below who gave the alarm. Undergraduates from other rooms on the staircase ran to safety but it was only after a ladder was raised to the first-storey 53 01 17

1953 02 04

Varsity, the university student magazine, reports that the rooms in women’s colleges may be poky, unsuitably furnished and dimly lighted but they are not dowdy. At Newnham all the rooms are attractive but dim lighting and inadequate heating are the main faults and there is a dearth of food cupboards. Male visitors may be shocked to see that their hostess keeps food and crockery in her wardrobe together with damp towels and that the desk drawers contain undies. At Girton some rooms contain antique furnishings which give an air of luxury but others are completely modern with unique mobiles and original paintings by Avante Garde artists. 53 02 04

1953 06 30

“Downing College now stands essentially complete” remarked the Lord Chancellor, when he opened the new Greystone buildings. Remarking on the generosity of the many benefactors, he said it was only recently due to the bounty of Sidney Greystone that it was possible to complete the wing and chapel now opened. They were still left with a gap but all that was needed to raise £24,000 was for 1,200 Downing men to contribute one shilling a week under covenant for seven years. Otherwise the college would have to dip into its capital, which was already perilously small.

1954

Magdalene 1st court cement facing etc replaced [VCH] 1954

1954 04 30

A new tower being built at Christ’s College, Hobson Street, Cambridge was slightly damaged by fire. It is believed to have been caused by heat from a small fire used for copper soldering which ignited the scaffolding and the base of the new tower. The builders working on the tower could not get down. It was well alight and the fire was beginning to spread into the college when the brigade arrived. A

major pump, pump escape and turntable ladder were used to extinguish the blaze and they had it under control in eight minutes 54 04 30

1954 10 06

A new chapter in Cambridge University history has opened on an informal note at New Hall, the third foundation for women, where the first 16 students are now in residence. They drew lots for the rather Spartan bedrooms while a 'combination' room is being used for (voluntary) morning services – there is no chapel - and other activities. A rather gloomy downstairs study room is well-equipped with desks and chairs and nearby is an out-of-doors wringer of hefty make. "We can do our own washing and save on laundry bills", said Miss Angela Holder, a petite, attractive Freshman, giving the handle an experimental turn. Miss A.R. Murray, the tutor, says she welcomes the building – a converted guest house - as a temporary home but looks forward to moving to Byron House in 1960 54 10 06 [2.14, 8.6]

1955 05 12

A gaping hole, nine feet in circumference and about a foot deep, was blown in the path beside Trinity College bridge last night. It is believed that a stick of dynamite was used as a student said he heard a terrific explosion and the building shook. The explosion caused leaves to be blown off trees nearby. This is the third time within a year that a deep pit has appeared near the bridge and last week it was decorated with planks and trowels. But two porters and a gardener denied all knowledge and the college spokesman had nothing to say. 55 05 12a

1955 09 27

The dedication and opening of an extension of Clare College Memorial Court was performed by the Master, Sir Henry Thirkill, in the presence of nearly 1,300 scholars and relatives of the Clare men who died in World War II. The new Court which has room for 44 undergraduates was designed by the architect Sir Giles Scott who was amongst the congregation as he had been when the first portion was dedicated 31 years earlier. 55 09 27 [2.16]

1956 01 26

The Dean of King's College wriggled through an ornamental hole and plunged down to his death from the roof of the chapel in the darkness of early Sunday morning, an inquest heard. The gate porter said the dean had come to him about 2.20 a.m. and asked for the keys to the chapel. He had left the gate just before 6 a.m. and a little later flashed his torch and saw a body lying at the foot of the west tower. He ran to fetch the head porter and ring the ambulance and police. Only afterwards did he realise it was the Dean's body lying there. The coroner said the college had lost a very eminent gentleman. 56 01 26a & b

1956 05 22

Homerton college students of every generation gathered to present, Miss A.H. Skillicorn, with a pair of wrought iron gates to mark her 21 years as Principal. They were designed by Miss M.R. Harrison, one of her first students. The new wing was an outward sign of its growth and development. Miss Skillicorn had been responsible for an era of great achievement and enhanced its strong traditions. 56 05 22

1956 10 06

The Cambridge lodging-house landlady is part of the education of every young man who comes to study at the University. She is part-mother, part-landlady & part-disciplinarian who must maintain a difficult blend of deference and firmness in dealing with her young gentlemen. He is told how much rent he must pay, that he pays extra for a piano, hot water for his bath or a scuttleful of coal. But unless lodgings are peaceful and conformable men will not study well. 56 10 06a & b

1957 05 29

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother opened a new wing at Homerton, a women's training college which prepares students for teaching in primary and secondary schools. She walked along the main

entrance driveway passing groups of pretty girl students making a gay sight in their brightly-coloured cotton frocks. 57 05 29 & a [2.21, 6.12]

1957 08 31

A four-storey hostel for Clare College between the Shire Hall mound and Chesterton Road will provide the most modern accommodation in the University. Each of the 40 students will have his own bed-sitting room with adjoining washroom and clothes cupboards and central blocks of bathrooms and w.c.s. During vacations it will be used by delegates attending conferences. When the proposed Spine Relief Road is constructed the North side will face an up-to-date motorway 57 08 31c & d [5.10]

1957 09 14

Trinity College has started its first large-scale works this century. They will reconstruct nos.29-34 Trinity Street with hardly any alterations to the facade. The shops will remain on the ground floor but everything above is to be reconstructed to house 43 undergraduates in a small new court. This will reduce the overcrowding resulting from the termination of military service. 57 09 14 & a

1957 10 01

Work has started on the reconstruction of the kitchens and an additional dining room at Emmanuel College. The work has become imperative because not only have the number of students increased greatly but where a man used only to take dinner in Hall he now commonly takes three meals a day. Staff have to prepare two sittings each evening in term, in two separate dining halls. 57 10 01

1958 05 15

A proposal for a new college for men, to be called Churchill College, is announced today. Sir Winston himself will donate £25,000 and an appeal has been issued. It is needed as the University has embarked on a scheme for an extension of research in scientific and technical fields but existing colleges are already beyond their maximum size 58 05 15a & b Sir John Cockcroft, director Atomic Research Establishment Harwell 1st Master 1959 [2.24,5.3]

1958 05 29

Fitzwilliam House new building starts 1961 – 58 05 29 [2.25]

1958 07 17

The new Principal's Lodge at Newnham College is a showpiece of design. It features sheets of glass, said to be the tallest in the world, and includes three bedrooms so arranged that if there should be a married Principal a husband's sitting room and dressing room could be provided. It is little wonder that Miss Cohen is delighted. The garden, while immature at the moment, is spacious and has the promise of great beauty. 58 07 17b

1958 08 16

Kings restore chapel pinnacles as it had just 50 years before [2.26]

1958 08 30

Restoration work has started on the Gate of Honour at Caius College where the ornamental stone on either side of the arch is to be entirely replaced with clippings stone. The work has been entrusted to two highly skilled craftsmen, both well advanced in years. William Topper aged 78 (mason) and carver Charles Whitaker (85) have worked together before and are much respected and revered by other members of their trade. 58 08 30 & a & b

1958 12 12

King's College announced a new rebuilding scheme in the city centre which will mean the demolition of the Central Hotel and café to provide more accommodation for students and a better headquarters for the Cambridge branch of the Midland Bank. The Bursar said the structure of the existing building is in a very parlous state and they could not for structural safety do less than rebuilding completely the whole interior. However this would only be forcing new wine into an old bottle so they had

commissioned the design of a new building by Mr K.W, Capon of Architects' Co. Partnership 58 12 12c

1958 12 18

Plans for the new buildings at Queens' College designed by Mr Basil Spence to provide much-needed extra accommodation for fellows and students have been approved by the Royal Fine Arts Commission. The new building will face the 300-year-old bowling green and border the grounds of the President's Lodge. It will be three storeys high providing 41 bed-sitting rooms with an attractive and unusual overhead roof garden 58 12 18 & a

1959 03 01

Emmanuel College's new building in St Andrew's Street has attracted many protests and the Anti-Ugly Society joined a mock funeral procession lead by four pall-bearers looking somewhat like Teddy Boys in their 'mourning weeds'. They bore a coffin inscribed 'Here Lieth British Architecture' which was placed outside the Porter's Lodge as mourners chanted 'Pull it down and burn it.' Although most onlookers treated the protest as a great joke for the Anti-Ugly Society it was a matter of serious importance in their genuine concern for architecture. 59 03 01b

1959 03 31

Arthur Allen was one of the Old Brigade of College servants who served Kings faithfully and well. He was apprenticed as a cook at Trinity College where the chef wore a top hat and tails, before being appointed Kitchen Manager and Chef at Kings. There was a slight contretemps when he discovered that he was expected to work with women but his will prevailed and he had an 'all-male' staff. He said the late Lord Keynes knew just how much money he wanted to spend on entertaining his guests – a point which was appreciated by the chef. 59 03 31a

1959 06 11

Sir – I was horrified to see what is happening to the Gate of Honour, Caius, in Senate House Passage. The stonework of practically the whole of the lower two-thirds is being renewed and only the cupola and stone just beneath is apparently now left of the original. Surely it is better to see the old medieval stonework than a 20th century imitation – Harry Paten, Castor Hill 59 06 11

1959 07 24

Design for Churchill College agreed – 59 07 24

1959 09 01

Fire at Caius college dining hall – 59 09 01a

1959 10 17

Winston Churchill plants tree, Churchill College – 59 10 17, 59 10 19 & a b c [3.1, 5.5]

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960 06 08

Queen Mother opens Trinity Angel Court, started 1957 to house 45 undergraduates to help reduce overcrowding resulting from termination of military service & anticipated baby-bulge, but will still need licensed lodgings [3.3, 9.11] . She travelled by normal passenger train and was fifteen minutes early arriving at the college where she showed interest in some of the ancient pottery discovered during excavation work. Later a crowd of several thousand people gave her a rousing send-off as her special launch left the forecourt of the Pike and Eel at Chesterton to take her to watch the May Races on the River Cam 60 06 08 & a [6.14]

1960 06 21

The Isaac Wolfson Foundation has made a grant of £100,000 to New Hall, the first college at Cambridge to be founded this century. It is the largest single donation since an appeal was started four

years ago. Others have come from Dame Catherine Fulford, Nancy Viscountess Astor and the John Lewis Partnership. At present there are 53 students on the Silver Street site but the new building on Huntingdon Road will accommodate 300. 60 06 21a

1960 07 22

Every day an army of Cambridge women leave their homes early in the morning and begin their work as bed-makers at the colleges. One is Miss L. Hagger of Sturton Street who started work at Trinity in 1924 when the women had to be at the college gate at six o'clock. She clears the living room, washes up the dirty crockery and glasses, cleans the rugs, carpets and surrounds and dusts. Breakfast is then cooked for the Fellows and while the undergraduates have gone down to hall for their meal, their bedrooms are tidied and the beds made. At one time bed-makers used to wear cuffs when she made the bed and changed her clothes after cleaning. A hat was always worn. 60 07 22

1960 09 17

Fire swept through a dining hall at Newnham College causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. Firemen wearing oxygen breathing equipment struggled through thick black smoke to reach the heart of the blaze. A section of the flooring in the Sidgwick Hall was burned away and three hotplates damaged. Smoke has blackened the walls and panels have split outwards with the heat. It is not likely to be repaired before the undergraduates return and the girls will be split up in the other three dining rooms 60 09 17

1961 01 23

Fitzwilliam: work starts new site [6.6]

1961 02 07

Selwyn College design for new court – 61 02 07a

1961 03 21

Women undergraduates are rather spoiled, with ten men to each girl, and marry at a younger age so Newnham has problems finding College Fellows, the Principal complained. Sometimes girls staying in Cambridge after their marriage could continue their work but often it meant recruiting Dons from outside. This brought other problems as Newnham could not afford to pay a good income meaning many candidates were unable to take up the appointment 61 03 21

1961 06 05

The Queen Mother opened the new Erasmus Building at Queens' College designed by Sir Basil Spence and West House, a new block of classrooms and living accommodation at the Leys School. By joining it on to the existing range of squash and fives courts opened by the Prince of Wales in 1932 it has created an attractive court with a fine view of Coe Fen and the River Cam. Now all boys can move into a study after two years in the common room. There is a penthouse for two bachelor masters which could provide accommodation for nursing staff in the event of an epidemic. 61 06 05 & a, 61 06 06 & a & [8.13]

1961 08 29

Emmanuel open hostel Newmarket Road [6.5]

1961 10 14

Churchill college foundation stone laid – 61 10 14 [5.6]

1961 11 15

The world's most valuable painting, Rubens' "Adoration of the Magi", which fetched a record £275,000 at auction, has been installed in King's College Chapel. Movement of the painting from London began before dawn in strict secrecy. Two security guards with an Alsatian dog, followed in a car and mingled with onlookers as the painting was off-loaded at the main gate. It took two hours to

get the picture in its steel frame to the chapel where it was hoisted on to a giant easel. 61 11 15a – picture – 61 11 15, 61 11 16c

1961 11 16

Corpus Christi College has embarked on a plan to fulfil two great needs in the university. It has created a graduate extension at Leckhampton House in Grange Road to enable research students to enter fully into university life and to extend to teaching staff the social advantages and responsibilities which attach to being a Fellow of a college. Only about half the research students and unmarried Fellows normally wish to live in college rooms. 61 11 16d

1962 08 01

Fellows of Gonville and Caius College saw the shape of things to come when they toured the College's newly constructed Harvey Court designed by Sir Leslie Martin, the University Professor of Architecture. It is the first of a new range of University and College buildings in West Road providing bed-sitting rooms for 100 undergraduates and Fellows, allowing them to spend two years in college instead of one. The building will be inspected by architects from U.N.E.S.C.O. 62 08 01a [6.11]

1962 08 22

Kings open hostel on Central Hotel site [3.5, 7.7]

1962 10 08

Kings cobble area in front gateway [7.8]

1962 11 21

New Hall: Nuffield Foundation grants £120,000 for first residential wing [8.7]

1963

St John's Cripps building starts [2.1]

1963 01 22

Work at Trinity College kitchens reveals 14th century foundations thought to be from Michaelhouse – 63 01 22a

1963 02 06

In 1956 college rating assessments were treated like those of offices or shops and increased three or even five times, one playing field assessment increased 11-fold. These figures were far too high and an appeal was lodged. Colleges make little demand on local authority services – not one extra place in a school, not one extra book in the Public Library, no extra policemen or inch of road. But there may be slightly more college drainage and refuse. They attract tourists who cause great expense to colleges whereas the entire financial benefit goes entirely to the city. They are not even charged a modest entrance fee to the private courts which are the sole reason for their visit – J.C. Bradfield, Bursar of Trinity College 63 02 06 & a

1963 06 10

Darwin founded - Caius, St Johns & Trinity want establish collegiate society for graduates, first graduate college at Cambridge in modern times (opened 1969) [6.3]

1963 10 04

Fitzwilliam House's first stage on Huntingdon Road is completed. 63 10 04a [6.6]

1963 11 12

Magdalene launches appeal £465,000; scaffolding at front throughout 1964 (removed after year 10.65) [8.1]

1964 02 07

Peterhouse open 8-storey residential block in college grounds [8.11]

1964 02 29

Planned buildings for St Catharine's and King's colleges – 64 02 29 [7.10]

1964 04 23

Reuben's painting 'The Adoration of the Magi' has been moved from the nave is now in an experimental position as an altarpiece at the east end of King's College chapel. Some 150 feet of wooden panelling has been removed from the walls and the familiar altar has gone. The effect has been to lighten the east end and introduce an entirely different feeling and character to the magnificent east window. It is part of a more complete scheme which would see the removal of a series of steps and the provision of an extra 80 seats during important services 64 04 23a

1964 05 09

Darwin college established for advancement of education, learning & research, a graduate college (approved 1965), aided by benefaction from Max Rayne Foundation [12]

1964 06 04

The opening of Churchill College by the Duke of Edinburgh could hardly be called a ceremony. It was more like an indoor garden party. The College was pretty open already but now it is more open than it was before, he told guests. He was serious about the role it should play in today's scientific and technological age. Earlier he strolled round an undergraduate's room, chatted with workmen and joked with bedders. The sherry and cocktail party which preceded the lunch was a bright affair which brought out the Ascot feeling in many of the fashionable ladies present. 64 06 06– 64 06 04, 64 06 05, 05a (wins RIBA award 1968 [5.7])

1964 10 12

Corpus open Leckhampton House for research students - Graduate colony (established 1961) – 64 10 12 [6.1]

1965

University college founded as graduate college bringing together teaching & administrative officers not attached existing colleges (changes name to Wolfson 1972) [10.8]

1965 03 04

Emmanuel College to find £150,000 for more accommodation on site former New Theatre; appeal launched – 65 03 04b

1965 06 08

New Hall new college buildings opened Queen Mother – 65 06 08a, 09a, b

1965 07 03

Keynes Hall building between St Catharine's and King's colleges to start, realignment of King's Lane 65 07 03

1965 07 16

Jesus opens modern residential accommodation, North Court 65 07 16 [7.3]

1965 10 16

Lucy Cavendish college, Britain's 1st graduate college for women to be all-woman college helping those whose careers interrupted : one of a number of 'recognised collegiate societies' rising in Cambridge to meet need of the growing numbers of University officers and active senior members without fellowship and the increasing number of research students, are experimental & University reserves right to withdraw recognition of any that fails; others are Darwin college for men founded by

Trinity, St Johns & Caius & University College founded by the University for men & women– 65 10 16a [1.16,7.19.14]

1966 06 14

Darwin College Hermitage extension demolished as double intake and launches extension scheme– photo – 66 06 14a

1966 06 15

Bredon House, Selwyn Gardens converted from private house to University College - 66 06 15b

1966 10 11

Cheshunt College staff and students to join with Westminster College, premises in Bateman Street for sale; was founded in Wales in 1768, moved to Cambridge in 1905, new buildings 1913 – 66 10 11; premises for sale – 66 10 21b

1966 12 08

Clare Hall Graduate foundation Herschel Rd starts : residential centre for visiting scholars & families [5.13]

1967 02 16

Magdalene new Master's lodge nears completion [8.3]

1967 03 29

Selwyn plan £600,000 residential block Grange Rd [9.8]

1967 05 15

St Johns Cripps building opened [9.6]

1967 07 27

Cheshunt College sold to Freemasons – 67 07 27

1968 10 07

Newnham open Strachey buildings - largest college had undertaken since 1910 [8.9]

1968 11 06

Clare Hall topping out – Brian Pippard photo – 68 11 06

1968 12 01

Kings college chapel reopens after restoration, underflow heating etc, Adoration displayed new setting [1.14]

1968 12 05

King's College chapel new setting for Adoration painting – 68 12 05

1969 03 03

Darwin College new buildings opened, include first octagonal dining room – 69 03 03

1969 03 06

Hughes Hall becomes approved society [7.1]

1969 03 18

Churchill announce plans to admit women in 1972 - first co-ed move in Cambridge undergraduate college in 700 years [5.9]

1969 05 09

Christ's college start King St residence block [5.1]

1969 05 19

Selwyn College Cripps Court opens – 69 05 19

1969 05 29

Kings to admit women [7.11]

1969 06 10

Queen Mother attends centenary lunch at Girton College – 69 06 10, 11a

1969 09 29

Sidney residential accommodation opened [9.10]

1969 12 10

Clare Hall new college – feature – 69 12 10, 10a

1970

1970 01 30

Lucy Cavendish move to leased house Lady Margaret Rd [7.20]

1970 08 08

Trinity Wren library closed for renovation, reopens *ç*CEN 8.8.1970, 26.4.1971

1970 10 27

Girton change rules to admit men (first fellow 1977, first male undergraduates 1979) [6.8]

1970 11 13

Trinity Hall keep up tradition to house as many as possible of their students seek permission rooms for 100 on site Huntingdon Rd hostel, Wychfield Rd [10.4]

1971 04 09

Architects slammed for inhumanity, Christ's have ruined environment King St [446.13.8]

1971 06 05

Jesus Lane demolition of houses to make room for new buildings at Wesley House theological college – photo – 71 06 05

1971 10 01

Newnham celebrate centenary [8.10]

1971 10 14

Queens' College plans for new Cripps building – 71 10 14

1972 09 26

The Wolfson Building of Trinity College, Cambridge, once described as a liner stranded in a dry dock, opened its doors yesterday for an official tour of inspection. The building rises lozenge-shaped behind the historic and preserved facades of Trinity Street in the city centre. It is topped by two large winged roof-lights, which, the architects said, were added deliberately to be a modern feature of the city skyline. The scheme provides rooms for 125 Trinity students. Beneath the college buildings are the commercial premises which include the Sainsbury supermarket, Heffer's booksellers, Horne's the men's outfitters and Barclays Bank. 72 09 26 [9.12]

1972 10 02

Clare first women arrive [5.11]

1972 11 09

University College renamed Wolfson college following grant from Wolfson Foundation, doubles total given University since 1955; admits scholars from all over world, promotes contacts with developing countries, contact university & business & industry [10.8, 17]

1972 11 11

Gonville & Caius announce that Robinson may be mystery benefactor to new mixed undergraduate college [6.11]

1972 12 22

Trinity Hall announce £300,000 extension [10.5]

1973 12 21

Cambridge University has been given £10 million to build and endow a new college for graduate and undergraduate students, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Jack Linnett, announced today. The lump sum gift has been handed over by the Newmarket racehorse owner, Mr David Robinson, who started his career at the age of 15 as an apprentice in his father's cycle shop in Cambridge. The new college will be built on a 12½ acre site on land bounded by Herschel Road and Grange Road 73 12 21 [9.1]

1974 06 17

Kings Adoration damaged - IRA scratched [7.13]

1974 12 16

Trinity Hall to admit women [10.6]

1975 01 22

Robinson College to be so named [9.2]

1975 02 04

A complete Cambridge college – the second in eight years – is being offered for sale on the open market at an unspecified price, thought to be in the region of £1 million. Ridley Hall is for sale following a decision in 1971 to enter into federation with two other Anglican training colleges. In 1967 Cheshunt college in Bateman Street was sold for in excess of £225,000 75 02 04

1975 02 19

St Edmunds House becomes 'approved foundation' following change in constitution vesting property & funds in a trust; in mid-60s had changed away from being exclusively Roman Catholic residence for priests to graduate foundation open to students of all disciplines [15]

1975 05 06

Queens' plan £2M complex Backs [8.14]

1975 05 28

Trinity to take women from Oct 76 - graduates & Oct 78 - undergrads [10.1]

1976 01 12

Two students had a dramatic escape from death when they fought their way through dense smoke after a fire broke out at historic Magdalene College, Cambridge. An electrical fault triggered off the blaze which caused widespread damage to an isolated three-storey building and at one stage threatened to endanger the famous Pepys library. It was the worst fire disaster at a Cambridge college for many years. The last severe University fire was at the Department of Biochemistry when there was £100,000-worth of damage 76 01 12

1976 10

Selwyn start to take women [9.9]

1976 12 10

Homerton accepted as approved foundation [6.13]

1976 12 30

Wolfson College gets full status as college [10.9]

1977 11 09

Crowds waving flags and demonstrators waving banners greeted the Queen and Prince Philip as they arrived to open the new Wolfson College. For the Duke there must have been something familiar about the scene. For the second time in less than five months he was met in the city by pouring rain and by a group campaigning for nursery facilities in the university. He gave them a friendly wave as the car drove past. The Queen said she had laid the foundation stone of a college at Oxford and subsequently opened another of the same name at Cambridge. That this was possible was proof of the generosity of the Wolfson Foundation. 77 11 09 [10.10]

1978 02 04

Christ's becomes first college to obtain full justices off-licence [5.2]

1978 04 20

Trinity: Butler moves on [10.2]

1978 08 19

Fire rules pose big threat to concerts at Kings [7.15]

1979 02 02

Queens' restrict access - tourists to pay 20p, individuals only in afternoon, guided parties morning, due to disturbance to college life [8.15]

1980

1980 07 25

Arthur Prior joined the staff of Trinity in 1935 as the youngest porter ever employed by a Cambridge college for the princely wage of £2.15s. a week in the days when porters expected tips for their services; today he retires after being Head Porter for 14 years having served five different Masters.. He is philosophical about major changes such as the admission of women. "These youngsters think they invented sex, but we had women here when I first came. They used to stay all night even then, and we knew all about it", he said. 80 07 25

1981 04 21

Three valuable painting of Henry VI, Henry VII and Henry VIII have been stolen from King's College, Cambridge. All are contemporary works in oil on wood or panel. They were taken along with their frame from the college's main hall and people thought they had been removed for cleaning. 81 04 21a

1981 05 01

Kings restrict access visitors [7.16]

1981 05 01

St Catharine's site Grange Rd final stage 5-year development completed, only 30 students need live in lodgings [9.4]

1981 05 29

Newmarket millionaire David Robinson today announced he had given an extra £1 million to the college he founded. The news came shortly before the Queen and Prince Philip arrived in Cambridge to formally open it. But Mr Robinson did not attend the ceremony as he did not feel up to it. He is very frail. But 2,500 employees of the Cambridge University Press took tea with the Queen after she opened their new Edinburgh Building. 81 05 29, 30

1981 10 26

Corpus admit women [6.2]

1982 02 10

One of Cambridge's greatest characters, Albert Jaggard, the former head porter of Corpus Christi College, has died. Undergraduates believed he was the model for the irascible 'Scullion' in 'Porterhouse Blue'. He was extremely knowledgeable about the college and had a phenomenal knowledge about its old members. He was ground manager at the University Rugby Club responsible for the announcements, but his voice was such that they never really needed a microphone. 82 02 10

1982 03 11

Magdalene - three quarters students are privately educated, regarded as finishing school for old Etonians [8.4]

1982 06 01

Kings launch £1M appeal restore chapel [7.17]

1982 08 09

The Cripps Court at Queens' College – has received a commendation from the Royal Institute of British Architects. The first part, including 150 study-bedrooms was completed in 1974, new kitchens were added in 1979 and a third phase will include lecture theatre and squash courts. A lot of thought had gone in to the design to ensure it blended in with other buildings dating back to the college's foundation in 1448 82 08 09a

1982 09 24

St Johns to take women from October [9.7]

1983 03 15

Peterhouse to admit women in 1985 [8.12]

1983 08 12

Robinson College, which was opened by the Queen in 1981, has won one of the country's top architectural awards from the Royal Institute of British Architects. It says a complex and demanding brief had been met with vigour and imagination and a building produced which may well grow in stature with the passage of time. Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, also praised it as "just perfect – an absolutely lovely college which manages to be original, elegant, beautiful and functional". 83 08 12 p22

1984 10 20

Clare Hall becomes approved foundation [5.13]

1984 11 07

Downing to erect Howard building with profits from Cambridge Diet [6.4]

1984 11 14

Lucy Cavendish becomes approved foundation [7.21]

1985 08 03

One hundred years ago 14 women students enrolled in a new pioneering college set up in two houses in Merton Street, Newnham. Its aim was to train women to teach in secondary schools. Over the century that college has changed character and direction several times and under its present name of Hughes Hall it has just been awarded Approved Foundation status within Cambridge University. Despite the financial problems of the present day it is planning new buildings at its site in Wollaston Road. 85 08 03a [7.2]

1985 09 30

It was standing room only in Queens' College as undergraduates and dons crowded in to watch the first part of a BBC documentary about their college. Even the bar was quiet as hundreds of college members jostled for the best positions around television sets. There were cheers of recognition for college personalities and hoots of derisions as candidates attending interviews for admission flunked the questions. The Senior Tutor has always supported the project because he believes Queens' has nothing to hide but does not want students to get too excited about the media attention. 85 10 17
Queens college featured on tv [8.16] Queens' college tv documentary – 85 09 30

1985 11 07

Trinity plan demolish Blue Boar approved [10.3]

1986 04 11

“The Beast of St John's”, Mr Bob Fuller, was the college's head porter for 39 years and one of its greatest characters. A former army sergeant-major, he was the last of the old-style head porters in Cambridge. He believed strongly in maintaining discipline and fined students £5 for playing loud music or having parties without permission. But the fierce-looking figure did not daunt female students after they were admitted to the college in 1982, despite Mr Fuller's dislike of the idea. His funeral service will be held at the college chapel 86 04 11

1986 06 12

Clare new building in Memorial Court inaugurated (proposed 1982, approved 83) [5.12]

1986 10 10

Magdalene to admit women - last male bastion [8.5]

1987 09 02

88% undergraduates & 59% postgraduates in college owned accommodation, 90% CCAT housed privately çCEN 2.9.87

1989 09 22

Kings college clock chiming again after 70 years “chimes stopped 1870” çCEN 22.9.89

1988 10 11

Magdalene 1st women students çCEN 11.10.88

1988 10 20

Coe & Cram run round Trinity Gt Court çCEN 20.10.88

1988 11 04

Owlstone Croft to be used by Queens as hostel çCEN 4.11.88

1989 07 26

Darwin college celebrates 25th anniversary – 89 07 26a

1989 09 22

The Cambridge bedmaker might be an endangered species. Many potential bedders are being wooed by supermarket and ‘Yuppie’ couples prepared to pay above-average rates for a suitable cleaner.

There are almost permanent advertisements but they attract fewer applicants. The standard rate is £2.75 an hour, around 50p less than that offered privately. Bedmakers usually work a 20-hour week though with the current shortages many take on more hours. But there are bonuses during the conference season and regular chats with the fellows make the job different each day 89 02 22a & b

1989 10 10

Lucy Cavendish's Oldham Hall opened – 89 10 10

1996

Jesus College celebrates 500 years; Prince Edward returns, May