

Cambridge time line

North west of of the river, is Castle Hill, where the Romans had a settlement called *Duroliponte*, overlooking a crossing point of the River Granta. The town was a port at the head of the navigation of the River, by the current Magdalene Bridge. Originally known by Saxons as Grantabridge, this morphed into Cantabridge, (hence Cantab) and finally Cambridge. The river eventually became the Cam.

In Anglo Saxon times, there was a settlement on Castle Hill and another by the river, where they founded Benedict's Church, St Bene't's, near the quayside. Under Danish rule the town thrived, with its waterway connections to the continent. A bridge across the River Granta, then the last river crossing until King's Lynn, has existed since at least **875** and may even have been built by Offa.

The Normans built a castle on Castle Hill in 1068, of which only the mound and a few stones in the grounds of Shire Hall remain. The town was an important trading centre before the Domesday survey was compiled in 1086 and there were already substantial commercial and residential properties as well as several churches in the main settlement south of the bridge.

There were many religious houses in Cambridge. Barnwell Priory was founded in **1092** on Castle Hill, but later moved down to the river. St Rhadegund's Nunnery later became Jesus College. There were was a hospital for paupers, dedicated to St John, which after 1200 occupied the site where St John's College now stands.

Much wealth accumulated in the town, and the eleven surviving medieval parish churches and at least one handsome stone house remain as evidence. There were food markets before 1066, and during the twelfth century the nuns of St Radegund were allowed to set up a fair on their own land at Garlic Lane; the canons of Barnwell had a fair in June (later Midsummer Fair). King John granted a charter to Cambridge in **1201**.

In the **1130**'s, the Templars had a settlement and left one of their 'trade mark' round churches. The church was founded with the blessing of the abbot of nearby Ramsey Abbey, who provided the Fraternity of the Holy Sepulchre with the land.

The first recorded date connected with Cambridge University was 1209, when some Oxford students moved to Cambridge to escape friction between town and gown. By then, Cambridge was also a county town and had at least one school of some distinction. From the start there was friction here also. Students, aged as young as fifteen, caused disturbances; citizens of the town, on the other hand, were known to overcharge for rooms and food. Henry III took the scholars under his protection as early as 1231 and arranged for them to be sheltered from exploitation by their landlords. At the same time he tried to ensure that they had a monopoly of teaching, by an order that only those enrolled under the tuition of a recognised master were to be allowed to remain in the town.

The University had no premises of its own: it relied on parish churches, especially Great St Mary's and St Benedict's (or 'Bene't's') and on the premises of the religious orders for its public ceremonies; lectures, and lodgings were found in private houses.

In time a few groups of those eligible to teach began to build or hire larger premises for teaching and lodging. A few of the hostels survived until the sixteenth century when they were often acquired by Colleges. Hostels had few endowments and were always privately owned.

The School of Pythagoras in St John's college, is the oldest University building in Cambridge still in active use, but was originally a town house.

By the late thirteenth century, pious donors were funding new institutions called Colleges, in return for the prayers for the souls of their benefactors, and to produce clergy. The earliest College was St Peter's or 'Peterhouse', founded in 1284 by Hugh Balsham, Bishop of Ely. King's Hall, 1317, was intended by its founder, Edward II, to provide recruits to the higher civil service.

From the late fourteenth century, the University began to acquire property on the site today known as Senate-House Hill, and to build on it a group of buildings called the 'Schools' - some of which survive today as the 'Old' Schools. Colleges were founded over time - see the table. Three late foundations, Jesus, Christ's and St John's, emerged from the dissolution of small religious houses before 1520.

The Crown granted the University the right to proceed at law against profiteers who inflated prices for food and candles, and to enforce tests of bread and ale by the town. Retaliatory attacks by the town resulted in the University's jurisdiction being extended to cover the falsifying weights and measures, adulterating food and drink, interrupting the supplies of fresh water. These powers remained a source of friction between town and gown until the nineteenth century.

Henry VIII removed control of the university colleges from the religious bodies which had previously controlled them.

He founded a large new College, Trinity, from the two small houses of King's Hall and Michaelhouse, and some appropriated church land.

Printing had been undertaken in Cambridge in the **1520**s and a Royal charter in 1534 gave to the University the power to license three printers to print and publish works which it approved. By **1584** this developed into the University Press as they published their first book, making it the oldest publishing house in the world. One book published was Newton's Principia.

[On dissolution of the monasteries, Emmanuel absorbed the Dominican site, Sidney Sussex that of the Franciscans, and Magdalene absorbed the former Benedictine house of studies known as Buckingham College. These new foundations attracted for the first time large numbers of lay students.]
From Elizabethan times, decline set in and no

more colleges were founded until 1800. In **1614**, Thomas Hobson, responsible for the expression 'Hobson's Choice', built a causeway to bring water from springs outside Cambridge into the city centre. The channels still run along Trumpington Street, although the conduit fountain has been moved from the market place to the corner of Lensfield Road. Oliver Cromwell was educated at Sidney Sussex College, and was Member of Parliament for Cambridge in **1640**.

On the return of the monarchy, Cromwell's head was displayed as that of a traitor, and is now buried somewhere in Sidney Sussex college.

Mathematics came to the fore in the seventeenth century with the career of Sir Isaac Newton. There was a rapid establishment

by the University and private donors, of a series of professorships for mathematics (the Lucasian, 1663 - Newton held the post from 1669), chemistry, astronomy (the Plumian, 1704), anatomy, botany, geology (the Woodwardian, 1728), astronomy and geometry (the Lowndean 1749), and experimental philosophy.

This was ultimately to have a profound effect on the trajectory of both the town and the university, leading to the 'Cambridge Phenomenon'.

It is the time when the Woodwardian Museum of Fossils (1728?) and the Botanic Garden (1762) were established through private donations, and an Observatory was set up by Trinity College (1739).

The enclosure of the Cambridge parish of St Giles (the West Fields) by Parliamentary Act in **1805**, enabled the colleges and University to expand their gardens and walks and protect their views, especially on land adjacent to the present Backs. The boat-race between Oxford and Cambridge and the inter-university cricket matches had begun as early as **1827**, and became annual events in **1839**.

The railway, kept at arm's length by the University, reached Cambridge in **1845**, and opened east Cambridge for development along Mill Road. Petersfield the 'right side', and Romsey on the 'wrong side of the tracks' for the railway workers. It stimulated industry - brick works, cement works, flour milling, brewing and sausage making.

The need for the practical training of scientists and engineers was emphasised by the success of the Great Exhibition of 1851. Until then, physics was theoretical and regarded as the province of the mathematicians. The need to build dedicated experimental physics laboratories was achieved through the generosity of the Chancellor of the University, William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire, who funded the building a physics laboratory, on condition that the Colleges provided the funding for a Professorship of Experimental Physics. The Cavendish Laboratory opened in 1874 under the direction of James Clerk Maxwell as the first Cavendish Professor of Experimental Physics. It eventually moved out west to larger premises in 1974. William Pye from the Cavendish founded his

radio company in **1869**, which moved into TV, communications and components before being taken over by Philips in 1967. Many other companies started making scientific instruments at this time, followed by

electronics.

Two Colleges for women students were founded, Girton in 1869 and Newnham in 1872 and the first women were examined in 1882. Attempts to make women full members of the University were repeatedly defeated until 1947. Teaching at the University, and the fees it earned, came almost to a stop during the First World War, and severe financial difficulties followed. As a consequence, the University (but not the colleges) first received systematic state support in 1919, on the proviso that the University takes overall responsibility for lectures and practical teaching while the Colleges retained control of individual teaching of their students, and this division of responsibility continues today.

The reputation of Cambridge scientists had already been established by Clerk Maxwell, J J Thomson, Lords Rayleigh and Rutherford. Work done during the Second World War greatly increased this reputation and large numbers of students anxious to use the laboratories flocked to the University and to the growing number of government-sponsored institutions established in the town. By the time Cambridge was granted city status

in **1951**, only 6% of the working population were directly employed by the University. Development of a huge new regional general hospital south of the city in the **1960s**, eventually replacing the ancient Addenbrooke's Hospital in the city centre, provided the nucleus for a wide range of medically related departments and institutes, including a new School of Clinical Medicine.

Following the relocation of Cavendish
Laboratory to a spacious site west of
Cambridge in the 1970s, west Cambridge
expansion continues, and the area now houses
many facilities including the Computer
Laboratory and the Centre for Nanoscience.
The Cambridge Phenomenon was first coined
by a journalist to describe the incredible

by a journalist to describe the incredible explosion of technology, life sciences and science-based service companies that has occurred in and around the city since 1960, much of it deriving from research conducted in

University laboratories.

Following the election of the Labour government in **1964**, Whitehall urged UK universities to expand their contact with industry to enhance

technology transfer and to increase payback from investment in basic research in new technologies. **Trinity College** owned a plot of land to north of Cambridge, requisitioned by the US Army during the war, which subsequently lay largely derelict and the college applied for planning permission to develop it as a science park, granted in 1971. The first company, Laser-Scan, moved onto the Park in the autumn of 1973. After a slow start. multinational companies started to locate to the Park and there were 25 by the end of the 70s in this and other similar developments. There is some striking modern architecture in Cambridge, such as the Judges Institute. For more information see:

Colleges by year of founding

founding	
Peterhouse	1284
Clare	1326
Pembroke	1347
Gonville & Caius	1348
Trinity Hall	1350
Corpus Christi	1352
Magdalene	1428
King's	1441
Queen's	1448
St Catherine's	1473
Jesus	1496
Christ's	1505
St John's	1511
Trinity	1546
Emmanuel	1584
Sidney Sussex	1596
Homerton	1768
Downing	1800
Fitzwilliam	1869
Girton	1869
Newnham	1871
Selwyn	1882
Hughes Hall	1885
St Edmund's	1896
Murray Edwards (New Hall)	1954
Churchill	1960
Darwin	1964
Wolfson	1965
Clare Hall	1965
Lucy Cavendish	1965
Robinson	1979

http://www.colc.co.uk/other/cambridge/history.htm m https://www.cam.ac.uk/about-the-

university/history

Castle Mound

Although there are no ruins to be seen on Castle Hill, this grassy mound is of great importance in the history of Cambridge. This was the site of the Roman town of Duroliponte, originally an Iron Age hill fort.

It is worth climbing to the top of the Castle Mound as it offers an expansive view over the roof tops of the town and surrounding countryside. On a clear day it is possible to see Ely Cathedral to the north.

Kettles Yard

In 1956 Jim and Helen Ede acquired four tumbledown cottages in the shadow of the ancient church of St Peter. With the help of architect Rowland de Winton Aldridge, Ede restored and substantially remodelled them. In 1966 he gave the house and its contents to the University of Cambridge. In 1970, three years before the Edes retired to Edinburgh, the house was extended, and an exhibition gallery added, both to the design of the architects Sir Leslie Martin and David Owers.

Kettle's Yard is now the University's modern and contemporary art gallery.

Magdalene Bridge/ Quayside

Walking down Magdalene Street is following the original Roman road (Colchester to Chester via Watling Street) which linked the two Saxon settlements. On the left is the quayside where the merchant ships unloaded at the head of the river. Boats used to sail all the way up from the sea at King's Lynn bringing fish, wine, salt and luxuries. Various wooden bridges existed here since at least Saxon times until James Essex built a stone bridge in 1754. This was replaced by Arthur Browne in 1823 with the current grade II single span cast iron bridge with ashlar piers. The bridge was repaired and strengthened in 1982.

Jesus Lock

Jesus Lock is the first lock on the navigable portion of the River Cam. It was built in 1836 and is the only lock in the city. Jesus Green Lock Cottage, the former lock-keeper's cottage, is owned by the Conservators of the River Cam and is rented out to students.

The lattice truss/pony truss bridge was completed in 1892.

Regular tours by narrow boat start here most days with extra evening specials.

St Johns

The site of the College was originally a

religious hospital, which soon became the educational centre for scholars of theology and liberal arts. By the start of the 16th century, however, this had fallen into disrepair. It came to the attention of Bishop John Fisher, Chancellor of the University and a friend of Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of King Henry VII. Fisher persuaded her to build a college in place of the old hospital. Although she died in 1509, the foundation of the College went ahead, in 1511. Originally, all of the necessary accommodation was focused around a single court, which included a Dining Hall (with hammer beam roof, and linen fold panelling from the years 1528-9) and Kitchen, Chapel, Library, and rooms for Fellows and students. Second Court was built in 1599-1601, and a magnificent library (now the Old Library) was added in 1624-8. By the mid-19th century, the College had expanded across the River Cam, with the construction of its famous Bridge of Sighs and New Court (1826-31). Its great Chapel, familiar from any cityscape of Cambridge, was designed by George Gilbert Scott in 1863-9.

St John's is now one of the largest and most prestigious colleges that comprise the University with around 1000 students in total.

1 Templars Church

One of only a few such medieval round churches surviving in England, the church was built around 1130. It was founded with the blessing of the abbot of nearby Ramsey Abbey, who provided the Fraternity of the Holy Sepulchre with the land. It started as a wayfarers' chapel but soon became a parish church serviced by the Austin Friars from the nearby Hospital of St John (later, St John's College). It is now no longer an active parish church, but it is open much of the time, and houses an exhibition about the history of the church and of Cambridge Christianity more generally.

Much of the church was rebuilt in the 1840s, when the Camden Society were brought in after part of the vaulting had collapsed. They removed the tall belfry that had been put on top of the nave in the 15th century, and replaced it with an 'authentic' Norman-style clerestory and dome.

G Trinity College

The College was established by King Henry VIII in 1546, shortly before his death, having

been persuaded to do so by hi<mark>s 6th wife, Lady</mark> Catherine Parr.

The College was formed by the amalgamation of two older colleges – King's Hall and Michaelhouse, as well as seven other, smaller hostels that were part of the University at the time.

Trinity remains extremely wealthy to this day, thanks to its royal benefactor and the land that he bequeathed (not his own, of course) and its assets are in excess of 1.6 billion pounds. One of the most well-known sights is the Great Gate.

The Great Court, is reputed to be the largest enclosed courtyard of any building anywhere in Europe. It was completed in the 1600s by the then master of the College, Thomas Neville but has been remodelled a number of times.

Great St Mary's

This church, adopted by the University, was founded in Saxon times, burned down in 1290. The wooden structure was replaced by a larger stone structure in perpendicular style between 1478 and 1519 with funding by Richard III and Henry VII. The 35m tower was completed in 1608, the west window in 1526, the belfry in 1593 and the stained glass in 1869. It has two organs and possibly two oak roofs.

Market Square

Market square has been the centre of Cambridge since the middle ages. Local people and villagers from all around Cambridge came to the market to trade, gossip and see justice done: the market was also the site of the jail and public whippings, the stocks and beheadings. Nowadays it is not only a sevenday marketplace but also Cambridge's prime civic space, the destination for demonstrations and rallies, speeches and gatherings outside the Guildhall.

Old Schools/Senate House

The Senate House of Cambridge is the Parliament building of the University. Formerly used to host the meetings of the University's Council of the Senate, it is now mainly used for the graduation ceremonies of the University. It was constructed between 1722 and 1730 by James Gibbs in a neo-classical style, with woodwork by James Essex the Elder and a plaster ceiling by Artari and Bagutti. There are two full length marble statues in this building dedicated to Cambridge's former pupils, the 6th Duke of Somerset, Charles Seymour and the

former prime minister William Pitt the younger.

The Old Schools date from the mid-14th century and were once home to the Divinity and Law Schools and to the University Library. They now house the University's principal committee-rooms and the headquarters of the modern central administration. The collection of pictures in the Old Schools seems to have begun in 1580.

The Old Schools are not open to the public.

King's College

One of the three major colleges founded by Henry VI, the others being Eton and New College, Oxford. In doing so he demolished a quarter of the town, including the original market place.

His original college was to the north, on what is now Old Schools. It was deemed too small so he soon acquired land to the south. When construction was completed, the original land was sold to the university and the buildings demolished.

The iconic Chapel has the largest fan vault ceiling in the world. At the time it was designed, it was an architectural marvel. Its beauty and splendour are visible from the river while punting in Cambridge. Construction of the Chapel began in 1446, but because Henry had to divert funds to the Wars of the Roses it took another 98 years to complete.

The Gibbs building was added in 1724, the neoclassic white building next to the chapel. The front court was completed during the early nineteenth century.

St Bene'ts

St Bene't's has been a place of Christian prayer and worship for nearly a thousand years. Estimates for founding vary between the tenth century and the reign of Edward the Confessor, but it may have been in the reign of King Canute about the year 1020.

The patron saint of this parish, Benedict of Nursia, came to prominence in England in the wake of monastic and religious reforms of the tenth century. The tower, still standing today, was part of a stone church the same length and roughly half the width of the present church. Remnants of the original stone walls remain in the east wall of the chancel, in the corners of the nave, and elsewhere.

W Corpus Christi

Founded by the Guilds of Corpus Christi and the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1352 to train priests

to replace those clergy killed by the Black Death, it is the only college in Cambridge to be founded by the townspeople.

Old Court is claimed to be the oldest courtyard in Cambridge.

Library Court, renamed Kwee Court in 2013, was completed in 2008 and its masterpiece, the Corpus Clock, was unveiled by Stephen Hawking. Made from gold plated stainless steel, the radiating ripples allude to the Big Bang, which could be considered the beginning of time.

The clock has no hands or digital numbers. Instead there are 3 rings of LEDs, which, reading from the innermost, show hours, minutes and seconds. When an hour is struck there is the sound of shaking chains and a hammer hitting a wooden coffin. The inscription underneath means the world and its desires pass away.

Sitting on the clock is the 'Chronophage', meaning time-eater, devouring each minute as it passes with a snap of its jaws. It evolves out of a grasshopper, a word used by eighteenth-century horologist John Harrison to describe his invention of an escapement.

Corpus was the only college not to sell its impressive collection of silver during the English Civil War, but its most prized possession is the collection of medieval manuscripts held in the Parker Library.

The Backs

The area known as the backs, is a Grade I listed park. Most is only accessible through the seven institutions that line the river, but several punting organisations offer 45-50 minute trips along the river from Silver Street or Magdalene Bridge. Do not buy tickets in the town.

Queens' College

Originally destined for some of the land now occupied by St Cat's, it was refounded to the south by Margaret of Anjou, queen to Henry VI and again by Elizabeth Woodville, queen to Edward IV, hence the position of the apostrophe in the name.

The grounds contain some of the most elegant structures and buildings, including several pretty courts - Old, Walnut and Cloister in particular that are well worth a visit.

Expanding across the Cam, the two locations are connected by a footbridge known as the Mathematical Bridge The bridge was designed in 1748 by William Etheridge and built in 1749

by James Essex the Younger. It has since been repaired, and rebuilt to the same design in 1905.

Other museums

The University owns 7 museums in total. Those not separately identified here are:

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology Museum of Classical Archaeology

The Polar Museum

Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences (from the start of the universe to the evolution of life)
Whipple Museum of the History of Science
(includes a vast array of scientific instruments dating from the Middle Ages to the present day)
Museum of Zoology

For what's on visit:

https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/

The Museum of Cambridge covers over 300 years of Cambridgeshire history and heritage. Some colleges have their own collections and the is a Museum of Technology and another of Computing History.

Pembroke

Founded in 1347 by Marie de St Pol, Countess of Pembroke, Pembroke College is the third oldest and the first to have its own Chapel; the original Chapel still exists and is today known as the Old Library.

The original buildings comprised in a single court (now called Old Court) all the component parts of a college - Chapel, hall, kitchen and buttery, Master's lodgings, students' rooms. The college later expanded northward to form lvy Court.

Peterhouse

This oldest surviving and smallest college, founded in 1284 by the bishop of Ely set the blueprint for the classic Cambridge college courtyard – pristinely landscaped with attached chapel and dining hall.

S Fitzwilliam Museum

Richard FitzWilliam, 7th Viscount FitzWilliam (of Mount Merrion, Dublin, and of FitzWilliam House, Richmond, Surrey) was educated at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, received an MA in 1764 and was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1789. His Anglo-Dutch maternal grandfather was a governor of the South Sea Company and a Director of the East India Company, who amassed at his house in Richmond a large collection of art, including many Dutch paintings.

On his death, Fitzwilliam bequeathed his

inherited art collection and library to the University of Cambridge, together with funds to house them.

A permanent site was purchased from Peterhouse in 1821 and an architectural competition was held in 1834.

Proposed designs included antique temples and even a huge Gothic church complete with tower, but an elegant neo-classical design by George Basevi was selected and completed by Charles Robert Cockerell after Basevi's death in 1845.

Under the aegis of its 13 directors the building has been constantly added to and now occupies over double the original footprint. The Fitzwilliam now houses a world-renowned collection of over half a million works of art, masterpiece paintings and historical artefacts.

Coe Fen/Sheep's Green

Coe Fen and Sheep's Green are two low lying meadows prone to flooding. In 1815 proposals to enclose Coe Fen failed as did proposals to bring the railway across the site. By 1877 the land occupied 14 hectares and although a new road and bridge were proposed to connect Trumpington Road to Newnham in 1912, the site has hardly changed in size in 100 years. The areas are still used predominantly for the grazing of cattle but the site was used for men and boys nude bathing in the late 19th century. The Commons system allows the countryside to come into the centre of Cambridge. The poplars and willows complement the rural scene of animals grazing in damp meadows. As the name Sheep's Green suggests, the areas are predominately grazing lands which are still controlled by an officer, known as The Pinder, who lets the land between April and October, and the grass is left uncut. Hodson's Folly is not listed, but is known as a Building of Local Interest (BLI). The Folly is a small classical building in a walled garden, thought to have been built circa 1897.

Grantchester

Grantchester is named after the original name for the river: Granta.

It is possible to walk to Grantchester from Lammas Land via Grantchester Street, Eltisley Avenue and Grantchester Meadows. When the houses end, follow the path across the meadows (the 'Grantchester Grind') until you reach the village. It takes 15-20 minutes. Grantchester is known for its green meadows through which you can walk or punt, as a place where Rupert Brooke stayed and wrote poetry, from the Pink Floyd song *Grantchester Meadows*, as the place with the highest population of Nobel prize winners in the world, and, of course, the TV series based on books by James Runcie, son of the former Archbishop.

For most people, it is an oasis of tranquility and good eating and drinking with its open spaces, four pubs and the Orchard Tea Rooms. See the excellent web site, from which this info is taken: http://grantchester.org.uk/history/

V Botanic Garden

The original Botanic Garden of Cambridge University was founded in 1762 in the centre of the town. JS Henslow, Professor of Botany, was responsible for moving the Garden to its current site, relinquishing the old site for museums.

The green field 16-hectare site was acquired from Trinity Hall in 1831, but legal wrangles delayed development and planting began in 1846, on the western half only, by the first Garden Curator. Murray's informal plan of a sinuous path following the circumference of the Garden, bisected east-west by the Main Walk of stately coniferous trees and an outer belt of trees, grouped in their families, can still be enjoyed as the Grade II* heritage landscape here today. The design represents the 'Gardenesque' style of the time, combining both specimen plants and composed landscapes with great horticultural expertise. A glasshouse range, a splendid fountain, designed by David Mellor, and a Limestone Rock Garden followed. The wrought iron gates of the original city centre Botanic Garden were brought to head the Trumpington Road end of the Main Walk in 1909.

Reginald Cory, a life-long benefactor of the Garden (his donation built Cory Lodge for the Director), left a legacy in 1934 that unlocked the remaining 20 acres of land.

Whereas Murray's 19th century plan for the Garden in the western 20 acres focussed on naming and organising of individual species into family groupings, the later, eastern part of the Garden, is generally concerned with how plant communities develop.

Pubs etc. to follow.