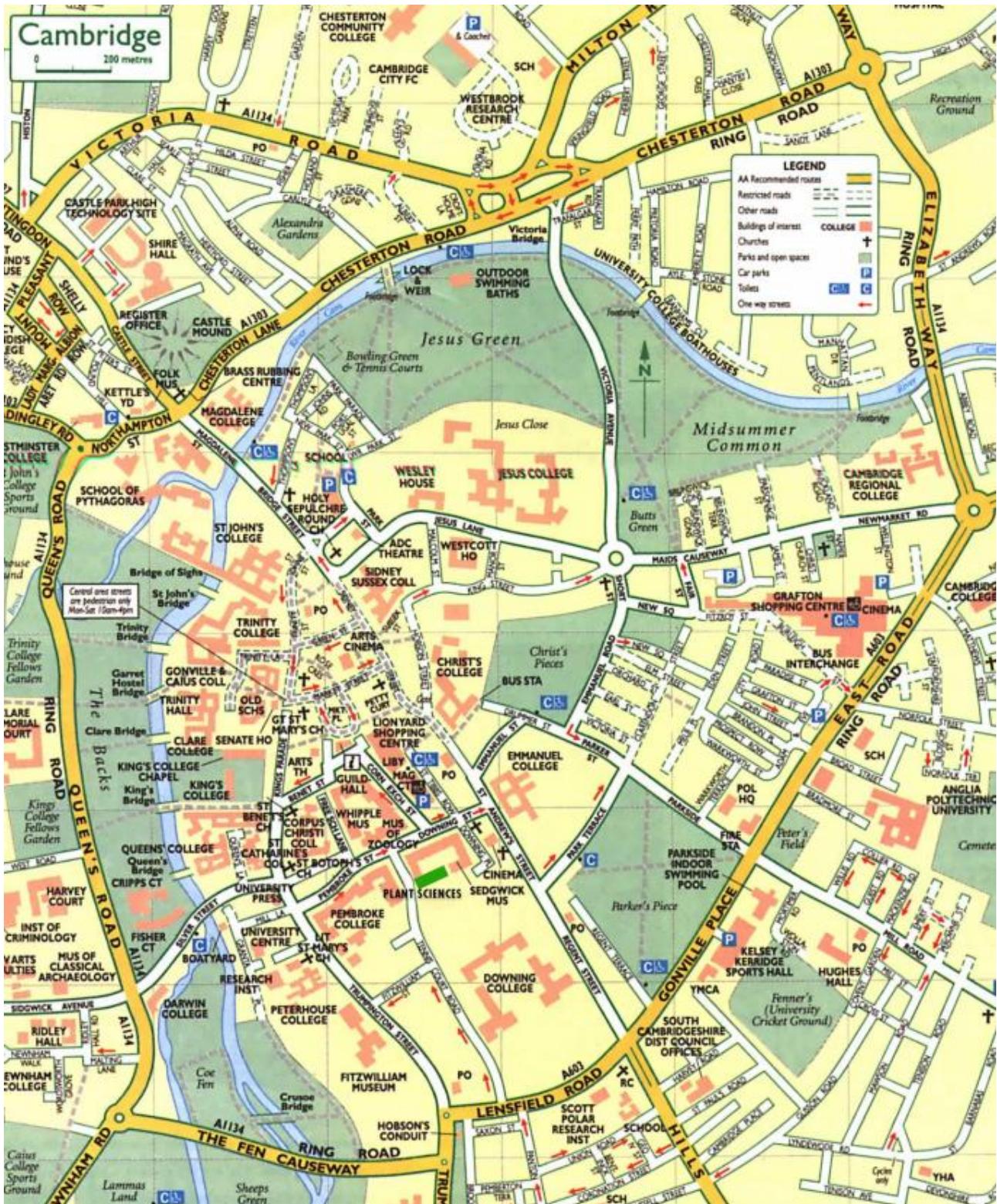


Trip to Cambridge – 5 to 20 July 2024



<https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2019-04/Printable%20Map%20of%20Cambridge.pdf>

Part 1 – First weekend in Cambridge (5-7 July 2024)

Friday 5 July:

In Paris, I went to *Gare du Nord* to board the Eurostar train to London St Pancras International. Once in St Pancras station, I followed the signs towards “King’s Cross exit.” The entrance of King’s Cross station is just across an open square. Many trains go to Cambridge, but depending on which you choose, it may take between 45 min and 2 hours to reach your destination!



St Pancras, seen from King's Cross



King's Cross entrance hall

I arrived at Cambridge train station at 14:00. Because of my heavy suitcase, I took a taxi to go to St Catharine’s College (founded in 1473), where I had booked an ensuite room for two nights:



Its location is very convenient, in the heart of the city centre, and its main court is very elegant: [Welcome to St Catharine's | St Catharine's College, Cambridge](#). Indeed, when the university year is finished, you can book a student's room directly in some colleges, and have your breakfast in the College dining hall, be it directly on the College's website [Make a booking | St Catharine's College, Cambridge](#), or more generally, on this website: <https://www.universityrooms.com/en-GB/>



Cambridge streets were very crowded that afternoon, teenagers of all nationalities and their parents were visiting some of the 31 colleges in the University of Cambridge, because it was an "open day." As I took a stroll in some quieter areas in the centre, I had an opportunity to have a look into Jesus College, established between 1496 and 1516. Its gardens are vast and beautiful, as well as its buildings: [About us | Jesus College in the University of Cambridge](#)



Jesus College - Panorama of the main court



Main entrance



Master Lodge

I could not visit King's College and its magnificent chapel that day, but with this link, you can have a virtual tour of its various buildings: [Virtual Tour of the College | King's College Cambridge](#), and even visit the interior of the chapel: [Virtual Tour of the Chapel | King's College Cambridge](#)

Henry VI was the founder of King's College in 1441: he was only 19 when he laid its first stone. He went to great lengths to ensure that King's College Chapel would be without equal in size and beauty. The Chapel was built in phases by a succession of kings of England from 1446 to 1515, a period which spanned the Wars of the Roses and three subsequent decades. The Chapel's large stained-glass windows were completed by 1531, during the reign of Henry VIII. It is the epitome of the English late Gothic style.



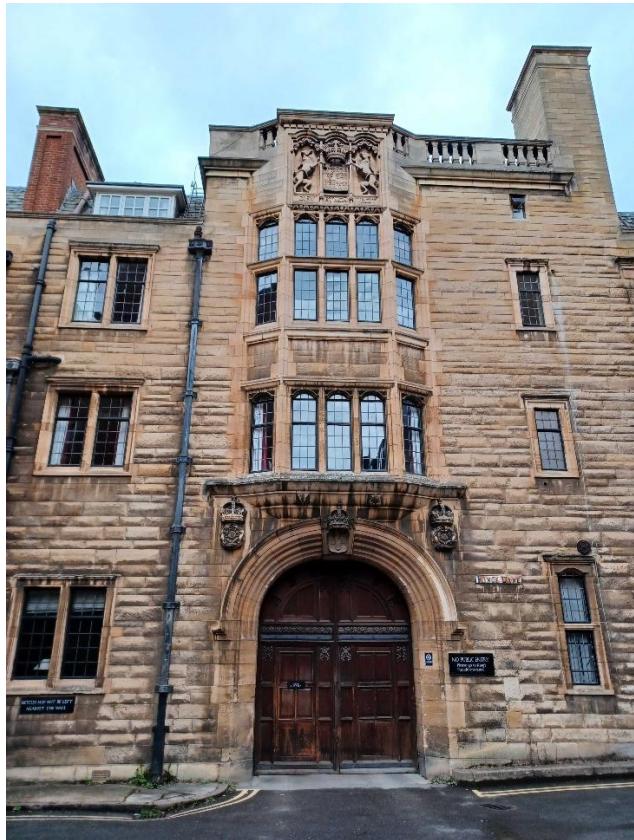
King's College: the front door



Detail in the façade: statue of Henry VIII



View of King's College Chapel



On the left:

Side door of King's College in King's Lane. The motif of the Tudor Rose is omnipresent on that door.

Above:

A detail of the frontispiece with the motto of English monarchs since Henry V: **"Dieu et mon droit"**

On the other side of King's Parade, outside of the Taylor Library at Corpus Christi College, the Corpus Clock—also known as the Grasshopper clock—is a large sculptural clock, which was officially unveiled to the public on 19 September 2008 by Cambridge physicist Stephen Hawking.



My photo, July 2024



See footnote ¹

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corpus_Clock#/media/File:Cmglee_Cambridge_Corpus_Clock_open.jpg

From there, I went to the Tourist Information Centre, in Peas Hill, to get a detailed map of Cambridge (£ 1.80). It is in the very heart of Cambridge, near Great St Mary's Church and the Market Place:



Great St Mary's Church

An English friend joined me in Cambridge in the evening, and as the rain started pouring down, we took shelter in Garden House, when we had a good dinner in a cosy atmosphere, with a nice view on the garden overlooking the river Cam: <https://www.gardenhousecambridge.co.uk/>

Saturday 6 July

We occupied a very rainy morning with a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum on Trumpington Street (free entrance). You can spend hours in this stunning building, which displays various antiquities and *objets d'art*, from Egyptian sarcophagi to Dutch still life paintings: <https://fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/> We could admire some original paintings from Hogarth, Gainsborough and the Pre-Raphaelites, as well as a magnificent painting by Botticelli (*Venus and Mars*) which was exhibited at that moment. My favourite room, though, was number 17, in which flower paintings, inlaid furniture and clocks are beautifully arranged: [The Fitzwilliam Museum - Gallery 17: Flower paintings \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/visit-us/the-fitzwilliam-museum/gallery-17-flower-paintings)



The Fitzwilliam Museum, the entrance hall



Botticelli, *Venus and Mars*, c. 1485



Geographical clock, made by Matthew Boulton and John Fothergill, c. 1771-2



Granite sarcophagus lid of King Ramesses III, 1183-1152 BC



Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Joan of Arc*, 1882



John Everett Millais, *The Twins*, 1876

After the museum, we had a drink at The Anchor, a lively pub at the corner of Silver Street and the River Cam: <https://www.anchorcambridge.com/>

This is also a central point for tourists who feel like a punting tour on the Cam:



And from Silver Street, you have a great view on the Mathematical Bridge, a 1904 teak-built replica of the only wooden bridge spanning the river Cam, first built in 1749. It connects two parts of Queens' College:



Meanwhile, it stopped raining, so we decided to walk to Grantchester, following the path over fields near the river.



This is a very peaceful and easy walk, far from the touristic bustle of the city centre. We read on a sign that Grantchester Meadows are the property of King's College, Cambridge!

Once arrived at The Orchard, famous for its garden and tea-rooms, we ate a delicious home-made fruit scone with jam and clotted cream: <https://www.theorchardteagarden.co.uk/>

This place is also famous for the Grantchester Group: Rupert Brooke (a poet) formed the centre of this group, which included Russel and Wittgenstein (philosopher), E.M. Forster and Virginia Woolf (novelists), Keynes (an economist) and Augustus John (an artist). Most of them were students at the University in the early 1900s and were also members of the Bloomsbury group of intellectuals in London. See also: <https://queercambridgeshire.wordpress.com/2021/03/04/rupert-brooke-and-the-grantchester-group/>



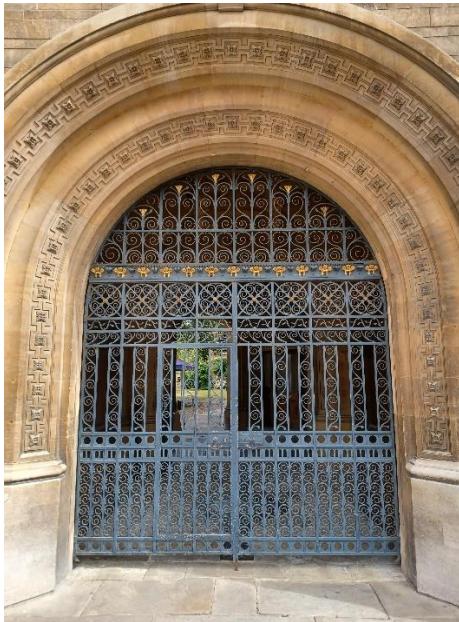
Then, we had a stroll in the delightful village of Grantchester, and visited its church, famous since the TV series *Grantchester*, starring James Norton and Robson Green:

[Grantchester \(TV series\) - Wikipedia](#), [Grantchester \(Série télévisée 2014–2024\) - IMDb](#)

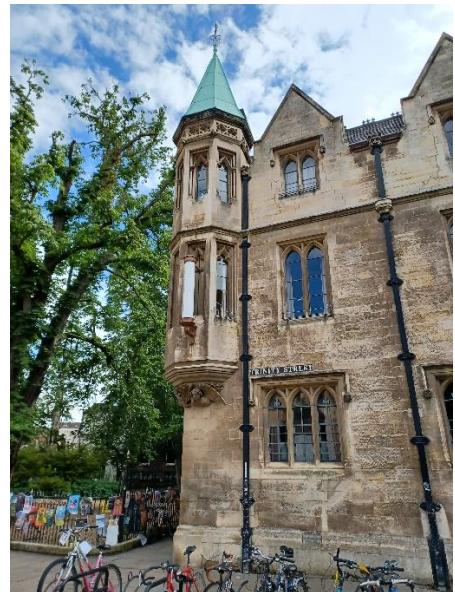


Sunday 7 July

We started our tour in Trinity Street, admiring first the delicate ironwork of Gonville and Caius College's front door:



Trinity Street is a very picturesque street:



It is of course named after Trinity College, founded in 1546 by King Henry VIII. Among its many famous former students we find the iconic, Romantic poet Lord Byron (1788-1824): see [The day Lord Byron outsmarted Cambridge University - Cambridge Seminars College \(csc.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeseminarscollege.csc.uk/the-day-lord-byron-outsmarted-cambridge-university)



The two pictures above show, on the left, the front door of Trinity College, and on the right, its chapel, with St John's College and its own chapel in the background.

If St John's College was founded in 1511 by Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of King Henry VII, the chapel was built in 1868. Among its former students we find another other Romantic poet: William Wordsworth (1770-1850). This college organize paying visits.

Passing by St John's College, we turned on our left on Bridge Street, had a coffee break at Fitzbillies on Magdalene Street ([Fitzbillies Cambridge](#)) then crossed Magdalene Bridge:



View from the bridge, on the River Cam and Magdalene College



View on the other side of Magdalene Bridge



Magdalene Street

The city's first (wooden) bridge was built here in the 8th century, by the Anglo-Saxon King Offa. Its commercial and strategic value was so great that it was called "the Great Bridge" or simply the "Cam Bridge" and the town came to be named after it. The present cast-iron bridge was built in 1823. At the end of Magdalene Street, we turned on the left on Northampton Street, then continued on Queen's Road, to have a view on the backs of the colleges and visit them if possible. We passed by St John's (its door was closed), but could enter the backs of Trinity College and took some photos:



View of Trinity College Library, built by Christopher Wren (1632-1723)



View of the turrets of New Court (St John's College) from
Trinity College



View from Garret Hostel Lane

We went back in the city centre via Garret Hostel Lane, then through the Market Place and Petty Cury and passed by Christ's College—founded in 1446—where I had spent two nights in 2018. Among its famous former students, we find John Milton (1608-74) and Charles Darwin (1809-82): <https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/about/history>



Front door



Old Court

We then walked into the gardens of Christ's Pieces. As the rain started again, we finally took shelter in Patisserie Valerie for a light lunch. In the afternoon, we walked in St Andrew's Street, passed by the University Arms Hotel, quite a city's landmark: [Luxury Hotel Cambridge | University Arms Hotel](#). We promenaded in Parker's Piece, then in Regent Street.

As my friend left to take his train at Cambridge station, I went back to St Catharine's to collect my suitcase and take a taxi for Selwyn College. Indeed, I enrolled in a two-week programme at Cambridge University, Institute of Continuing Education. I had already attended such a programme in 2018, and I chose Selwyn College not only because it is a beautiful and comfortable place to stay in, but also because it is close to Sidgwick Site, where many Faculties are located: [Welcome to Selwyn College, Cambridge | Selwyn College](#) and [Sidgwick Site | \(cam.ac.uk\)](#).

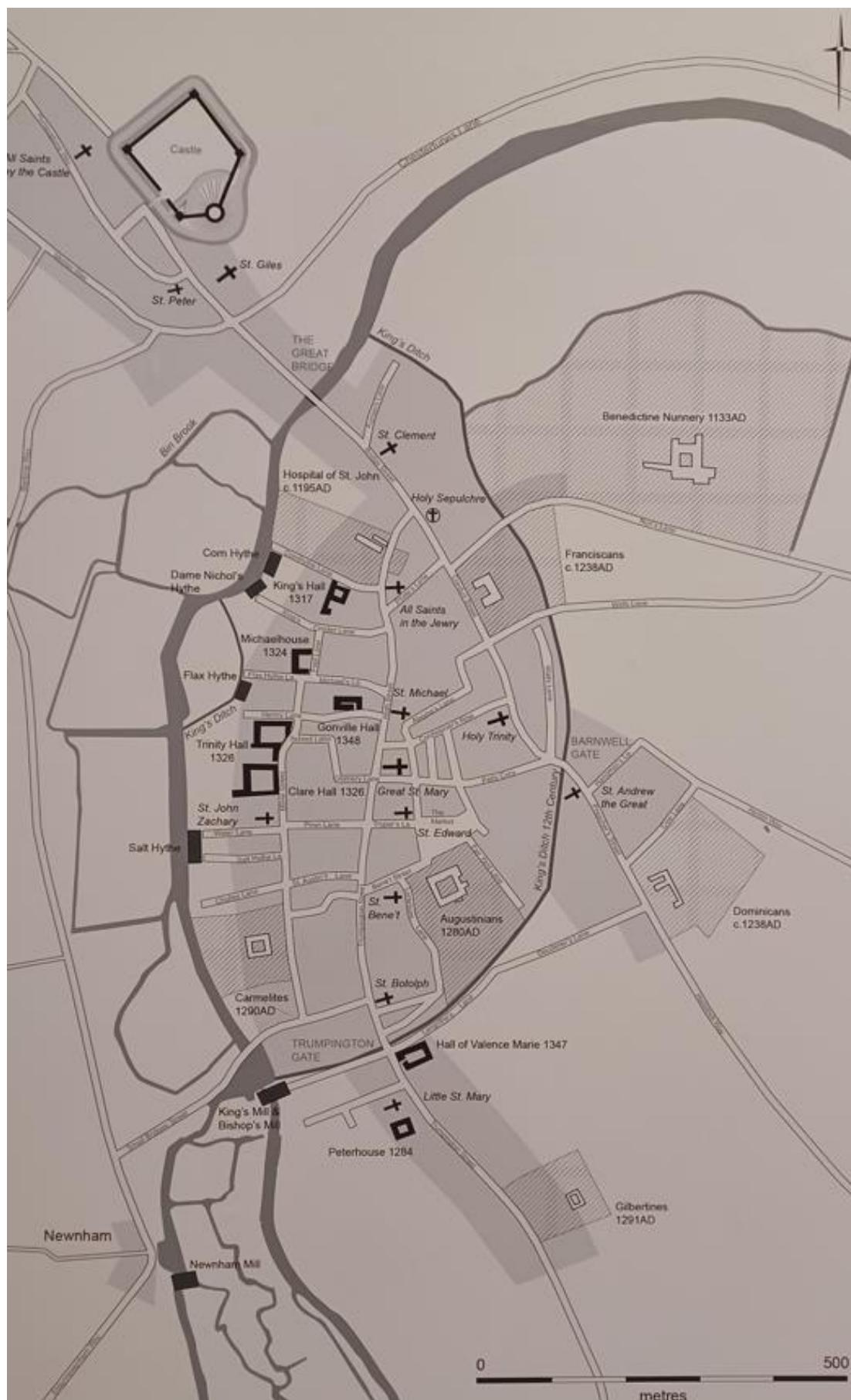
To be continued in Part 2...

Eva Anglessy, 29 July 2024

Appendices:

- 1) Medieval Cambridge
- 2) Brochure from the Tourist Information Centre

Appendix 1: Medieval Cambridge



Map of Cambridge in 1350, by Vicky Herring, After the Plague Project
(Poster photographed at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge – July 2024)

Medieval Cambridge, and the surrounding countryside, looked very different from the city we know today. At the beginning of this period, it was a small, lively trading town—the river providing an important trade route to other parts of the country. Most of the townspeople were labourers, craftspeople, or farmers working in the fields bordering the town.

In the 13th century came a handful of scholars, refugees from troubles in Oxford. By degrees, the new Colleges and then the University, which was established in c.1209, brought scholars and more monks to Cambridge, thus taking possession of the heart of the town. From the start, there was tension between town and gown. The scholars were granted royal protection. No wonder that early colleges have gatehouses built like castle keeps, with entrances protected by the sturdiest of oak doors! Even though townspeople outnumbered scholars by six to one, the Medieval town and the lives of its inhabitants were dramatically shaped by the university and its buildings.

(text inspired by posters exhibited in the Medieval section of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge – July 2024)

Clare College

First founded in 1326, the College was then re-founded in 1338 by Lady Elizabeth de Clare, a wealthy heiress. The famous prospect of the beautiful South and West Ranges of Old Court (1638-1715), as seen across King's College lawn, is one of the most celebrated (and most photographed) in England.

Jerwood Library

There are over one hundred libraries in the University of Cambridge and this is one of the most recent, designed for Trinity Hall by local architects Freeland Rees Roberts, and finished in 1998. In contrast, the College's Old Library is over four hundred years old and is one of the few chained libraries remaining in Britain.

Wren Library

Designed for Trinity College by Sir Christopher Wren, this striking library was finished in 1695. Combining exquisite classical proportions and a carefully controlled amount of natural light, this working library today houses some 75,000 books, including the largest intact portion of Sir Isaac Newton's own library.

New Court

Founded by Lady Margaret Beaufort in 1511, St. John's College is the home of New Court, one of the best loved nineteenth century buildings in Cambridge. Completed in 1831 to a design by Rickman and Hutchinson, its tiered and turreted appearance has led to the affectionate nickname of the 'Wedding Cake'.

PUNTING
SCUDAMORE'S
SINCE 1910

PUNTING
SCUDAMORE'S
SINCE 1910

Mathematical Bridge

This, the only wooden bridge spanning the River Cam, was first built in 1749, to a design by the civil engineer, William Etheridge. The original bridge was made from oak, but the structure you see today is a teak-built replica from 1904. Contrary to popular legend, the bridge has always had iron bolts at the joints.

King's College Chapel

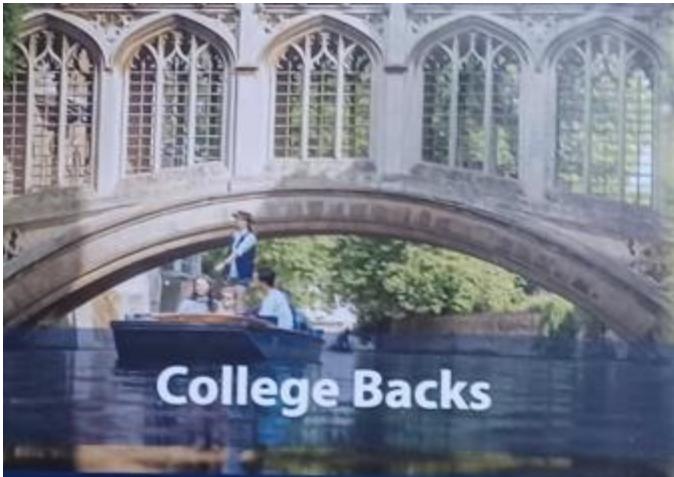
Conceived by King Henry VI as the centrepiece to his new foundation, the Chapel was initiated in 1446 but not completed until 1517, during the reign of King Henry VIII. It is the epitome of the English Late Gothic style, with its vast painted glass windows, filigreed stone frame and gravity-defying fan vaulting.

Bridge of Sighs

This is a rare example of the work of the sadly short-lived architectural prodigy, Henry Hutchinson, who died soon after this Gothic Revival gem was completed in 1831. The bars on the windows served a practical purpose, as they were designed to prevent students climbing in or out of St. John's College at night!

Magdalene Bridge

The city's first (wooden) bridge was built here in the 8th Century, by the Anglo-Saxon King Offa. Its commercial and strategic value was of such a magnitude that it was called the "Great Bridge" or simply the "Cam Bridge" - and the town came to be named after it. The present cast-iron bridge was constructed in 1823.



College Backs

*And nothing cheered our way till first we saw
The long-roofed chapel of King's College lift
Turrets and pinnacles in answering files*
From *The Prelude* (William Wordsworth)

The 1.6 km (1 mile) section of the Cam known as the College Backs is one of the loveliest stretches of river in England. Set amidst spacious lawns and intimate gardens are some of Cambridge's finest buildings, including King's College Chapel, the Bridge of Sighs and the Wren Library.

Our award-winning chauffeured punt tours offer the perfect introduction to Cambridge. Enjoy the spectacular, world-famous views whilst your expert river tour guide brings the city's fascinating history to life. Self-hire punts are also available for visitors who would like to try punting for themselves.



Grantchester

*In Grantchester, in Grantchester! --
Some, it may be, can get in touch
With Nature there, or Earth, or such,*
From *The Old Vicarage, Grantchester* (Rupert Brooke)

More tranquil than the College Backs, the idyllic Upper River meanders through fenland, woods and meadows to the beautiful village of Grantchester. This popular retreat, lying some 4 km (2.5 miles) to the south of Cambridge, was once the beloved home of the First World War poet Rupert Brooke.

Generations of day-trippers have paddled, rowed and punted to this 'upriver resort' to take tea at the Orchard tea garden or relax on the meadows. We've preserved this tradition at our Mill Lane boathouse where we offer a range of punts, kayaks and canoes for hire by the hour or all day.



Traditional Punting

*To seek a dream? Just to pole a boat upstream,
To where the green grass is more verdant;
Or to have the boat fully loaded with starlight*
From *Farewell to Cambridge* (Xu Zhimo)

Punts are flat-bottomed boats which are usually propelled with a long pole. They were first used in medieval times in areas of shallow water such as the Fens, the wetlands to the north of Cambridge. These early punts were practical workboats, used extensively by fowlers, fishermen and reed-cutters.

Punting for pleasure became popular in Edwardian times. One of the pioneers in Cambridge was Jack Scudamore, who founded his company in 1910 and established punting as one of the town's favourite activities. Today, the company he founded operates the world's largest fleet of traditional punts.

