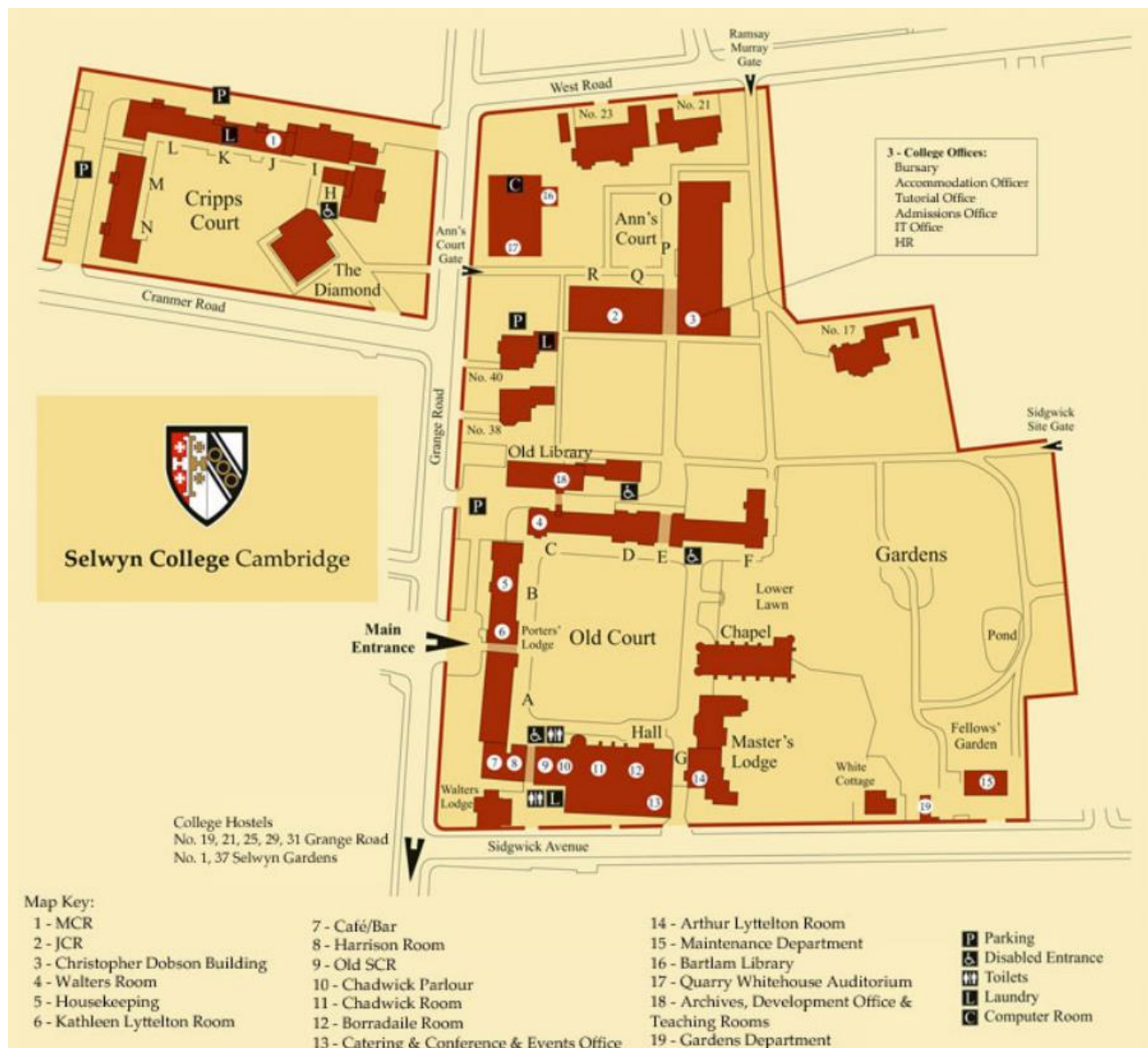


Part 2: Summer Programme, Week 1 (7 – 13 July 2024)

Sunday 7 July

As I enrolled in a two-week course (7 – 20 July 2024) at the International Summer Programme of Cambridge University, Institute of Continuing Education (ICE)¹, I had to register at Selwyn College on Sunday afternoon : [Welcome to Selwyn College, Cambridge | Selwyn College](https://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/courses/international-summer-programmes).

Selwyn College was founded in 1882, but several buildings have been built on its grounds since, like in Cripps' Court and Ann's Court, providing comfortable and ensuite rooms to students and summer guests.



The construction of Old Court began in 1880 and is built in Ketton stone and local red brick, in the Victorian Late Perpendicular Gothic Revival style. Selwyn College is conveniently adjoining Selgwick Site, where most of our classes and plenary lectures took place.

¹ <https://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/courses/international-summer-programmes>



The Old Court: view of the Porter's Lodge (on the left) and Stairs B, C, D and E

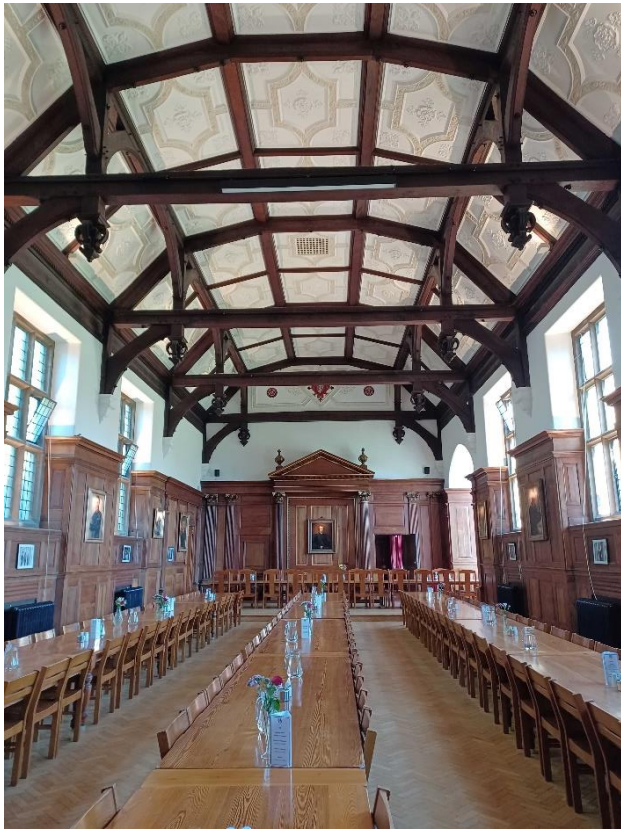


Old Court: the (Dining) Hall

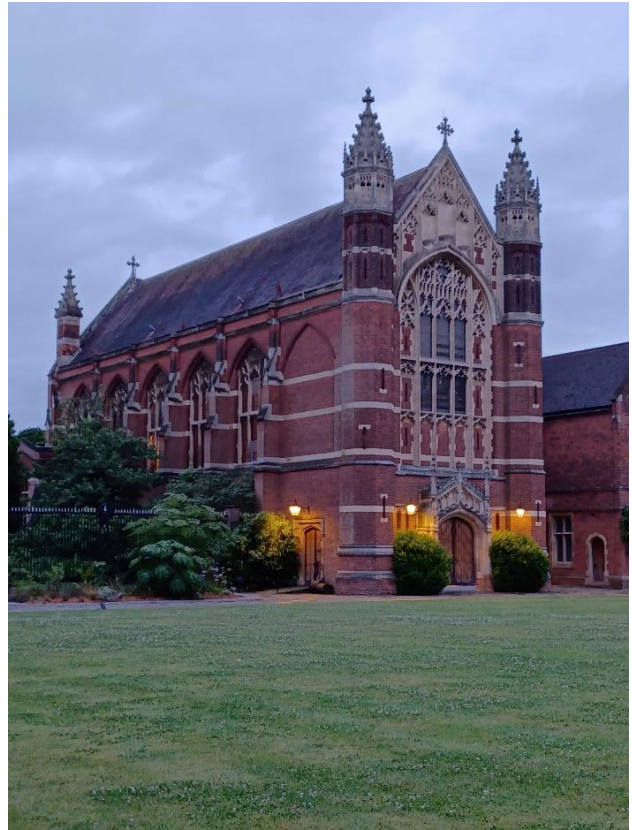


Photo of the arms and motto of Selwyn College, above the College's main entrance door

The College's motto comes from a biblical quotation, meaning in English "Quit ye like men" (source: [Selwyn College, Cambridge - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selwyn_College))



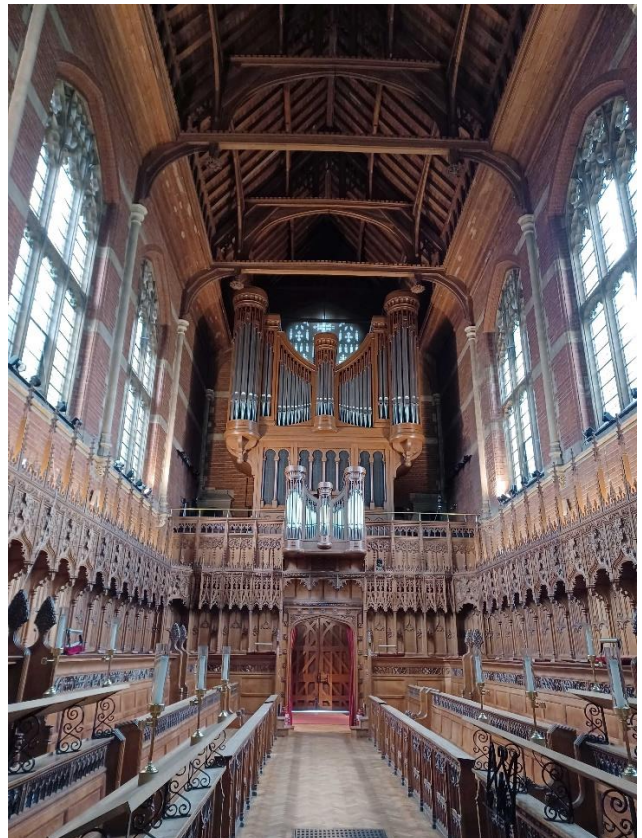
The interior of the Dining Hall



The Chapel, at dusk



The interior of Selwyn's Chapel





The Master's Lodge



Selwyn Lower Gardens – View from the pond towards the Chapel



Selwyn Lower Gardens, view towards Sidgwick Site



Way to Ann's Court



Ann's Court, Panorama



Passage to Ann's Court



The new library at dusk in Ann's Court

In 2022-23, there were 750 students in Selwyn (443 Undergraduates and 307 Postgraduates). And as trivia information, we find the actors Hugh Laurie (born in 1959) and Tom Hollander (born in 1967) among Selwyn's former students... (Source: [Selwyn College, Cambridge - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selwyn_College,_Cambridge))

Monday 8 July to Friday 12 July

Contrary to the other courses in this summer programme, my morning class “Kings, families, revenge: Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and *The Tempest*” took place at Newnham College—the second Ladies’ College in Cambridge, founded in 1871 and built in a Queen Anne style—on the other side of Sidgwick Road, giving me an opportunity to explore another Victorian college in Cambridge. The class happened in the Old Labs, nestled in a little area of wilderness on the College’s grounds.



Newnham College: the first Court after the Porter’s Lodge (view from the cafeteria’s terrace)



Newnham’s beautiful gardens



For a 360° tour of the College, click on this link: [Virtual tour | Newnham College \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/virtual-tour). You can read more about the women's fight for access to education at Cambridge University in this article: [150 years of women at Cambridge University | Apollo Magazine \(apollo-magazine.com\)](https://www.apollo-magazine.com/150-years-of-women-at-cambridge-university) and the role of Newnham in their endeavour: [History of the College | Newnham College \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/history-of-the-college). And as trivia information: the actress Emma Thompson (born in 1959) was educated in this College, where she became a member of the Footlights Dramatic Club.



The Old Labs, almost hidden behind a little area of wilderness

The initial idea of having scientific laboratories far from the other buildings makes sense when we consider the consequences that some of the chemistry experiences might have produced!



A Lab of one's own



Newnham's Old Laboratories were built in 1879. At the time the sciences were becoming increasingly important in Cambridge, but women were not allowed to use the University's laboratories.

Friends and students of Newnham subscribed to provide a laboratory where women could attend demonstrations and conduct experiments.



Few of the women who learnt their science in the Old Labs had done laboratory work at school. Many found the work both exciting and exasperating:

We got arsenic and phosphorous fumes at the lecture yesterday morning and a frightful smell of ammonia in the Laboratory afterwards. It was perfectly disgusting. All the same chemistry is great fun and I did some splendid experiments...

Catherine Holt, Newnham College, 1889-92

The Old Labs were originally intended solely for work in chemistry, but for five years had to be used for all the sciences.

Then the Balfour Laboratories in Downing Place were acquired as a Biological and Physical Laboratory for students at Newnham and Girton, and the Old Labs were devoted to the study of chemistry, as had originally been intended.

To be the unwelcome tenant of a Bench properly devoted to Chemistry; to carry microscopes thrice weekly into and out of the almost empty room in the Herbarium used for the women's demonstrations in practical Botany; to wrestle with the Pendulum Myograph in a ground floor bathroom in Sidgwick Hall - these experiences have been ours.

Marion Greenwood, Lecturer in Natural Sciences, Newnham College, 1888-1899

Like Newnham's other buildings, the Old Labs were designed by Basil Champneys. They were placed in the gardens 'at a respectful distance from the original Hall' (now Old Hall).

At first conditions in the Old Labs were austere: *Huxley's Elementary Biology was used in our little stone-floored laboratory at Newnham. I still quiver with cold as I remember those raw days in the laboratory barely tempered by a little grate fire in one corner.*

M. A. Willcox, Newnham College, 1880-83

The university laboratories were gradually opened to women: they were allowed to work in the University Chemical Laboratory from 1909.

After the First World War the Old Labs were used for a variety of purposes. Thanks to generous donations from members and friends of the College they were converted for student music, drama and dance in 1998.



IDA FREUND (1863-1914) was Demonstrator and then Lecturer in Chemistry at Newnham from 1887 to 1913.

She came to England from Vienna at the age of 18, and as an undergraduate at Girton was placed in Class I in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos.

Despite a serious bicycling accident, after which she walked uncomfortably with a wooden leg, she had an energetic scientific career.

She moved to Newnham in 1887, where she developed both an experimental course and a course of lectures. Two books grew from these courses: *The Study of Chemical Composition* (1904) and *The Experimental Basis of Chemistry* (1920).

Miss Freund reigned supreme in the Chemistry Lab in the garden... Every year just before Tripos she would summon her Chemistry students to do some special study. It was of course a hoax.... In my year we were requested to go and make a further study of the 'Periodic Table of the Elements'. We found a very large board with the Table set out. The divisions across and down were made with Edinburgh Rock, numbers were made of chocolate, and the elements were iced cakes each showing its name and atomic weight in icing. The monovalent elements had a protruding corner, bivalent two, trivalent triangular and so on. We divided it up between us.

Hilda Wilson, Newnham College, 1905-8



Newnham door in Newnham Walk



Ridley Hall, Newnham College



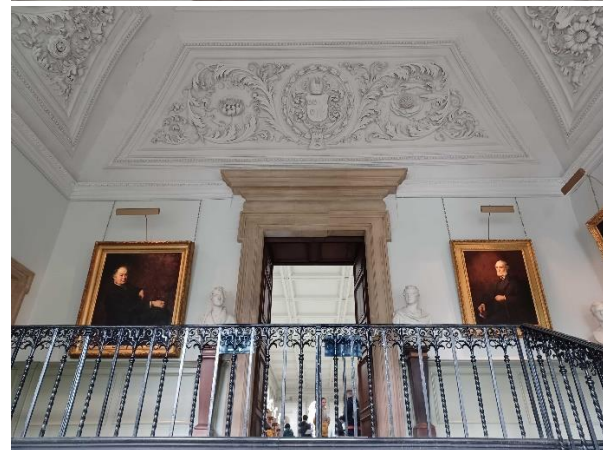
Detail of the delicate ironwork of the gate on Newnham Walk.

After a full day sat on a chair, attending classes and lectures, I enjoyed walking in the evenings or during our lunch breaks. Here after are some of the places I visited during these walks.

Visit of the Wren Library in Trinity College (Friday 12/07)



Stairs to the Library



Ceiling above the stairs and library entrance door

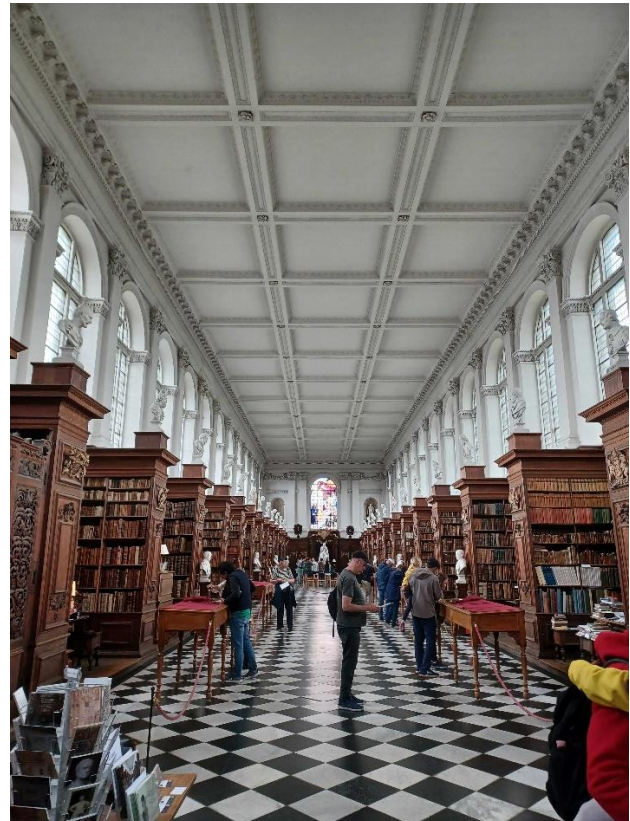
Designed for Trinity College by Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723), this striking library was finished in 1695. It was designed on the first floor of the building to avoid the potential flood of the River Cam. You can find all information on this webpage: [Visitors - Trinity College Library \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://visitors-trinity-college-library.cam.ac.uk)

On display in glass cabinets were first editions of classic books, such as Shakespeare's *Folio* (1623), *The Gardener's Labyrinth* by Thomas Hill (1594) and *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris*, by John Parkinson (1629), that I refer to in my research paper 'The distinctive personalities of England's

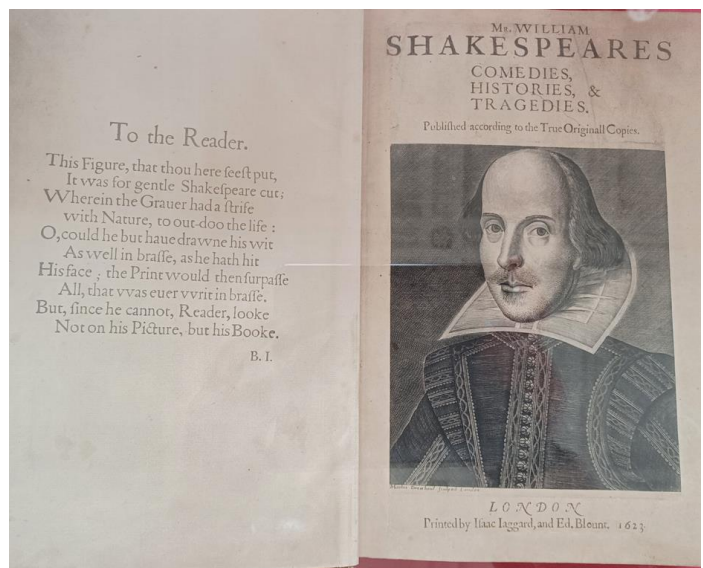
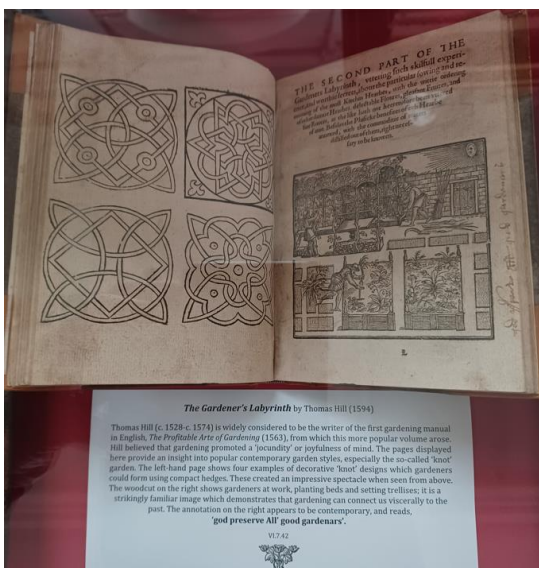
gardens and landscapes and their representations in arts in “modern” history’ (respectively p. 8 and p.10): see <https://eternal-student.com/2024/03/23/three-sisters-poetry-painting-and-gardening/>



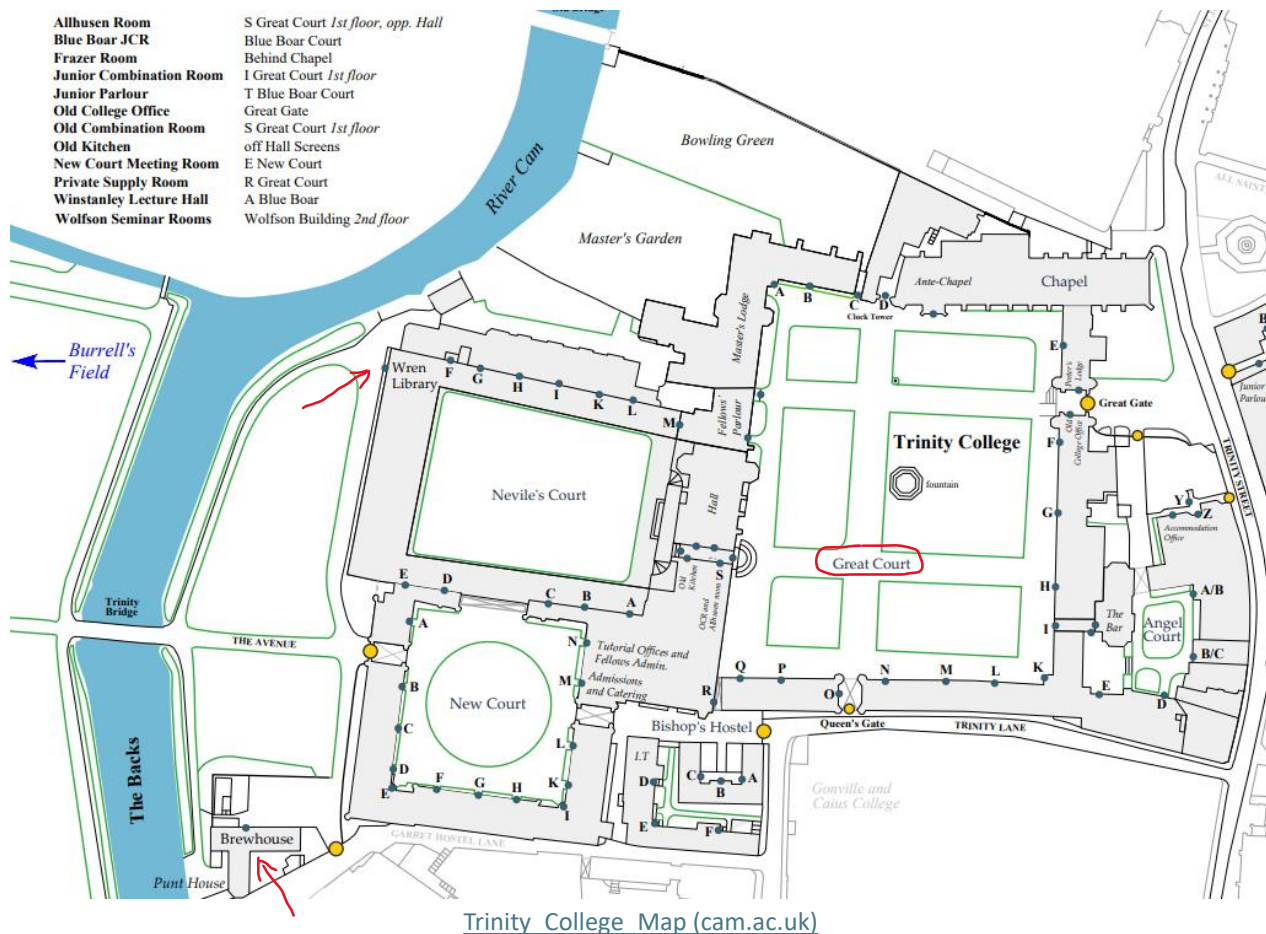
Entrance door (interior view)



General view from the entrance



The library also displayed an exhibition commemorating Lord's Byron life and writings. As 2024 marks 200 years since his death in Missolonghi, Greece, Trinity College (in which Byron was an undergraduate between 1805–1808) commissioned Dr Dan Sperrin to illustrate Don Juan—the great epic comic epic that Byron left incomplete upon his death in 1824—in order to reflect on the place of Byron's poem in the modern world.



Trinity College in films and TV series



[TrinityCollegeCamGreatCourt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_College_Cambridge/Great_Court) - Great Court, Trinity College, Cambridge - Wikipedia

“The Great Court Run involves attempting to run around Great Court within the length of time that it takes the College clock to strike the hour of twelve, including the preparatory chiming of the four quarters and the two sets of twelve. (The clock strikes each hour twice.) The course is approximately 370 metres long. Depending upon the state of winding, the clock takes between about 43 and 44½ seconds. It is traditional for athletically inclined members of Trinity to attempt the run every year at noon on the day of the Matriculation Dinner. The Great Court Run forms a central scene in the film *Chariots of Fire* (David Puttnam, 1981) (although it was not in fact filmed at Trinity)”. Source: [Great Court Run - Trinity College Cambridge](#)



Ben Cross and Nigel Havers in *Chariots of Fire* (1981), [Les Chariots de feu \(1981\) \(imdb.com\)](#)

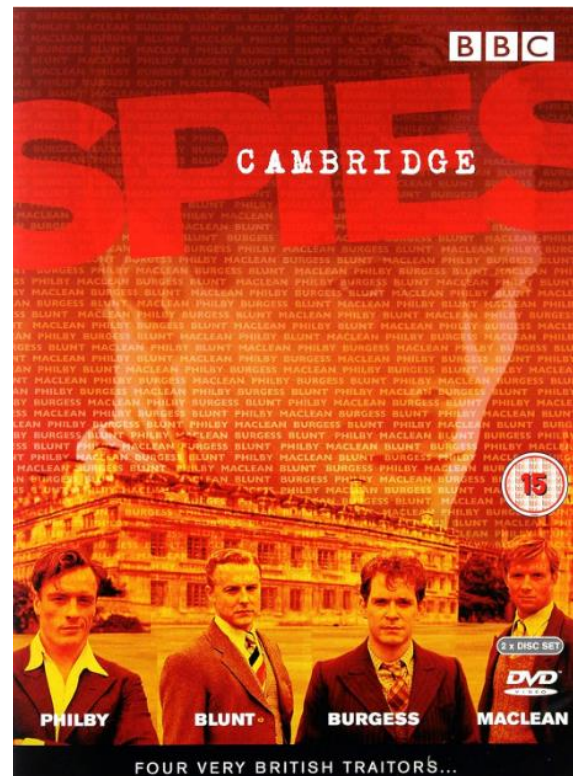
Cambridge Spies, a TV mini-series (2003) is based on the true story of four brilliant young men at the University of Cambridge who were recruited to spy for the Soviet Union in 1934. Several Cambridge scenes were filmed at the colleges backs, for example when the students jump from a bridge into the River Cam: [Cambridge Spies - Wikipedia](#) or [Cambridge Spies \(Mini-série télévisée 2003\) - IMDb](#). Apparently, Trinity College refused that the series was filmed on their grounds, so many scenes took place in King's College instead!



Rupert Penry-Jones, Tom Hollander, and Toby Stephens: [Cambridge Spies \(2003\) \(imdb.com\)](#)



Toby Stephens, [Cambridge Spies \(2003\)](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0305312/) ([imdb.com](https://www.imdb.com/))



DVD cover

I left Trinity College as I had entered it, through Brewhouse Gate in Garret Hostel Lane, then reached the City Centre through Trinity Lane and Senate House Passage:



Side door of Trinity College in Trinity Lane



Side door of Gonville and Caius College in Senate House Passage, near Trinity Lane

Thinking about the difficulties encountered by women to have access to Cambridge colleges until the 1970s, and the prejudices against Jew students experienced by Harold Abraham in the early 1920s and dramatized in *Chariots of Fire*, it seems to me quite ironical that Great Britain was betrayed in the 1930s by four of Cambridge's finest male students...

On Saturday 13 July, I ended this first week of summer course with an excursion to Stratford-upon-Avon. You can read the account of this journey here: <https://eternal-student.com/2024/07/14/an-excursion-to-stratford-upon-avon/>

To be continued in part 3...

Eva Anglessy, 23 July 2024