

OLD KING STREET, CAMBRIDGE: A STORY OF DESTRUCTION AND SURVIVAL FOR ITS PUBS AND OTHER BUILDINGS

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Introduction

Beginning with personal reminiscences from a mid-Sixties-era student at Christ's College, a story unfolds of how young men (no women here until 1978) looked to King Street for relaxation, chips on their plate and beer in their glass while remaining oblivious to the demolition of the ancient street of small houses, pubs and shops that was at the same time being planned-for by its main landowners. Due to its location, King Street had many pubs; their stories are told and the breweries traced. When the episode ended, much of ancient Cambridge was lost but enough survives to give us a fair idea of the original scenes. As Tony Hill, a student of English between 1963 and 1966, recalls:

There was something special about being in college for the first year: the separating silence behind the library holding wall, the memories of Milton to Darwin, to C.P. Snow, the sheer self-contained proximity of so many of your own age and even supervisions in the same enclosed space.

And then it would feel claustrophobic. So, out of the gate, Hobson Street, round to the Corner House, the eating place for moussaka and chips - everything with chips, from Greek dishes to rice dishes - with chips. Just opposite, for another chunk of reality, the betting shop; while stretching all the way to the Radegund pub, King Street.

Third year, home was Pikes Walk - between King Street and Christ's Pieces. In the drive to finals, when focus narrowed to 'part two', to job applications, deciding a future, preparing for what one interviewer triumphantly called the real world; in that period one part of 'real' was the Radegund pub. Champion of the Thames was good, but Radegund was closer, smaller. It had a larger sounding juke box, and, easier to get on the dart board.. There was a solid routine. Near ten pm, lay aside books, papers, pens quotes, then into King Street, to the pub and darts. And on to results day to the Radegund, midday, unsatisfied Rolling Stones at full volume, no half hour limit on drinking and hopelessly, joyously inaccurate darts.¹

In this brief memoir, one individual generously shares with us some of his recollections of student life at the time of which so many features have now changed. In a few but well-chosen words it introduces the subject of King Street, Cambridge, which is not to be confused with King's Parade - much better-known to tourists - while the old street is well-hidden to the East of the city centre. On the outer boundaries of the medieval city, ancient King Street came under siege immediately after our group had taken the exams that Tony Hill mentions and we all went on our way. Returning perhaps never, rarely or, in my own case, frequently. My interest always continued and I often came back later to spend the week-end and would gravitate to what had endured of this shabby but fascinating quarter. I viewed what was still there beyond the 1970s when the demolition-ball and the pickaxe had removed much of what the War did nothing to destroy. All of this was familiar as it is situated right behind the outer walls of the college. Mentioned also here is re-development on an even bigger scale in the highly visible section of the city between the front Gatehouse of Christ's and the Market Square. These are areas known as Petty Cury and Lion Yard; main commercial thoroughfares in Cambridge but transformed all down one flank into a characterless shopping mall. In the course of these massive changes during the 1970s and even later, many old pubs were lost whilst the city's breweries also closed and their sites were put to other use. Only one former brewery's fabric truly survives (Dale's, shown below) but in other use. The reaction to all this also comes under review, with a new Planning Act in 1990 finally joining other measures partially halting such wanton damage to the heritage on this scale.

Old King Street

Named 'Walles Lane' due to the winding path it takes along the long outside rear boundary of Christ's College (Fig. 1), it became known as 'King Street' in the 1700's starting from the sharp bend where Hobson Street, also a new name, ends.



Figure 1. Richard Lyne's woodcut map (detail) with Christ's Fellows Garden beneath 'Lane'. 'Wallas Lane' as it was in the late 1500s. Below Jesus College the old Radegund Manor House is shown (demolished in 1830s) and this released land for the development as houses of the area. The lane runs between the Fellows Garden of Christ's and the old 'Gray Friers' soon to be renamed as Sidney Sussex College.

At this point the lane crosses the ditch now long buried under the roadway here. From the Hobson Street bend to the site of the Radegund Arms at the far end of the street is a distance of no more than 400 meters.

The change from *lane* (a road without much development) to *street* (a road lined wholly or in part with buildings) took place in the 1700s as shown on early maps. Before this date, Wallis Lane had few buildings, but David Loggan's engraved map of the city about 1700 indicates buildings along much of King Street on each side. By 1825 it is shown in a further map of Cambridge as fully developed on both sides (Fig. 2). It represents a short cut from the city centre to the outskirts on the way to the main Newmarket Road whilst the nearby Jesus Lane was largely free of buildings, hence retaining even today its naming as a *lane*. As Cambridge remained a city without walls, it grew like a plant in open

soil, not a pot plant, and with its early development leading out into the surrounding country along ancient lanes, such as King Street. These routes gradually filled with workshops, houses, shops, inns and small beer-shops/breweries.² People walked, rode or cycled into the city centre and, making use of King Street as a short cut, could stop for drinks or a bite to eat if they wished. King Street remained like this for centuries and was not made into a one-way vehicle route until 1956. The Fifties were the first years of real change as Cambridge finally attained 'city' status with the Guildhall obtaining control of the entire built-up area and starting work on far-reaching schemes of improvement that had been contemplated decades earlier.

As well as King Street, the properties of early date that also survive on both sides of the bridge near Magdalene College include the impressive Pickerell Inn and other old sites lin-

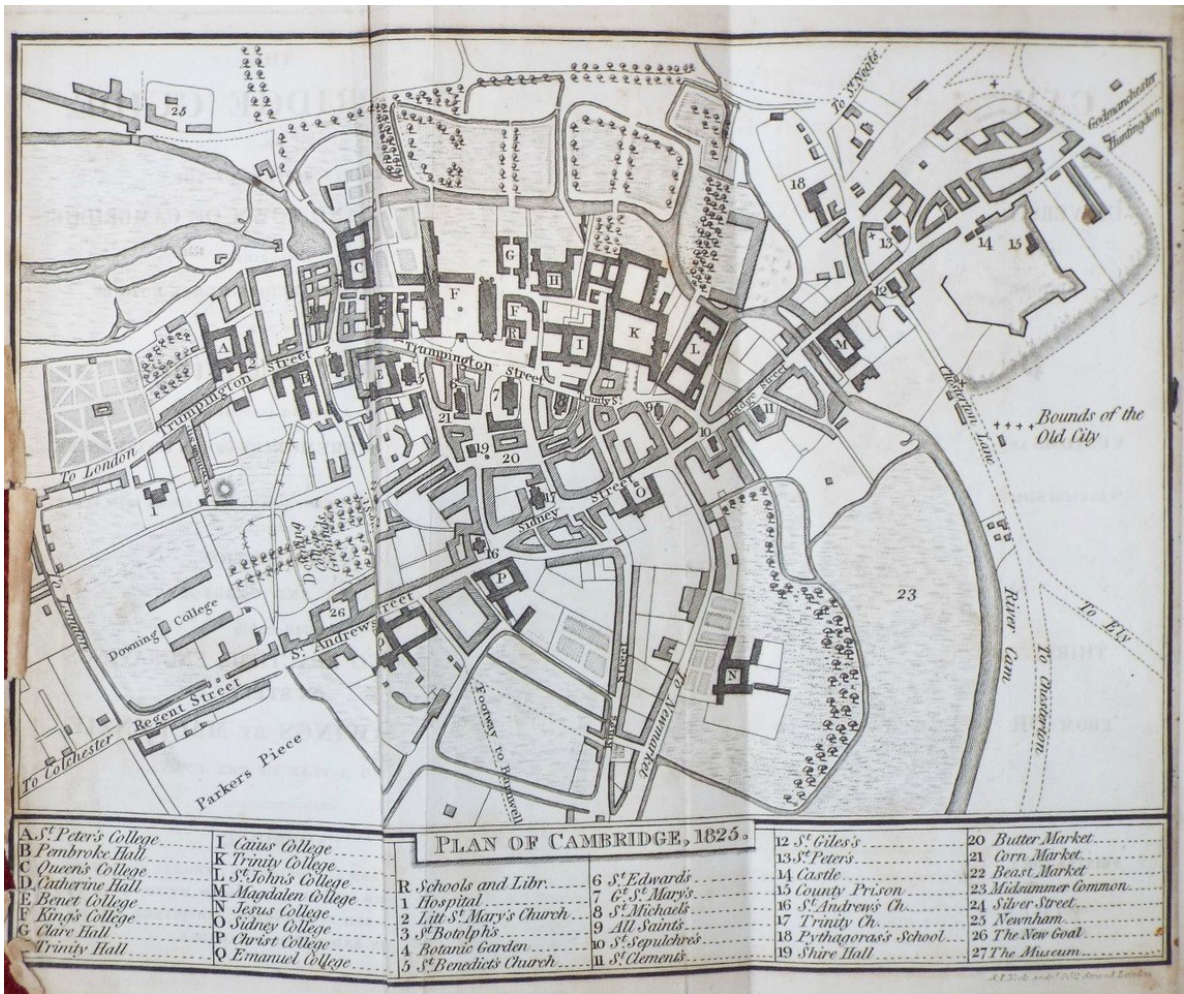


Figure 2. The whole of Cambridge in 1825 with King Street shown bottom middle and all built up. North to right.

ing a main route North from the centre. To the South and the West, academic buildings have largely replaced former commercial plots and this brings the focus back to the Eastern areas including King Street as a location where 'town' continued to thrive against the all-conquering growth of 'gown'. Nearby stood pastureland (now a Common) to the North and East of the main site of Jesus College and, close to the buildings of Christ's, the Fellows' Garden and a large area of park known as Christ's Pieces all helped to provide natural boundaries to King Street and the yards and rows of small houses that led off it.

With photography and archival sources such as the Census as aids, I have been able to recapture some impressions of King Street and its pubs as the Victorians had seen it. Around 1860 many of the old and simple two-storey houses were rebuilt in a taller configuration of solid brick but this

phase soon ended with the result that, when Tony Hill and others first beheld the street on 1963, it had matured in the wood for 100 years and presented to our view a curving mixture of walls, chimneys, attic windows and all the other ingredients of a seasoned, inviting 'down-town' area that was also well supplied with pub signs (Fig. 3). Even the old streetlights were suspended on iron brackets in the shape of question marks! How could we resist the temptation to explore this miniature version of London's Soho?

The King Street Run was a student drinking game that was supposedly invented in 1955 and, despite attempts to suppress it as reported in the local press from time-to-time, it was still being played during the Sixties and beyond. The rules were that a pint should be drunk in each of at least six known Fifties/Sixties era pubs in the street with optional top-ups to make a gallon either in King Street or in other pubs



Figure 3. King Street in 1960s with Cambridge Arms and The Corner House in middle distance. Source. Capturing Cambridge.

nearby as in Hobson Street. I know of two successful runs as reported by my 1963-66 group. As to me, I would not have dared to try it as four pints were about my absolute limit. The former Horse and Groom pub, with its fluctuating fortunes, has now changed its name to King Street Run and is currently thriving. It stands right in the middle of the Run's five best-known pubs as listed below alphabetically. Of these, a beer can still be found (COVID permitting) in four places of which only three are unchanged structurally. King Street is now well supplied with take-away drinks and licensed restaurants where wine has replaced beer to a large extent. The famed and much-loved-for-its-chips 'Corner House' also succumbed to the 1970s demolitions. It stood in an impressive three-storey brick building with a basement on the North side of King Street next to Malcolm Street (for those who wish to re-trace its former site) and it was run by a Greek or Cypriot family. There were no drinks, as was the common rule in the days of the Licensing Acts prior to their up-dating in the 1980s, but the absence of beer was not resented. Plenty of pubs stood nearby even though they had restricted hours of opening. A solid meal, including the chips, was bought for a few shillings (about 30 decimal pence) although other hungry students might prefer to go

elsewhere to the former and even cheaper 'British Restaurant' that stood from the 1940s until its demolition about 1970 in the ex-Post Office premises where it had supplied 1,000 meals per day in the War at minimal cost. This low-cost eatery, as then operated by the Council, was easily reached within yards across the street from the main College Gatehouse in St. Andrew's Street.³

The pubs in King Street in alphabetic order where 'Runs' took place and that survive

Cambridge Arms: this good example of a mid-Victorian public house dating to 1866 was an outlet for the products of Scales Brewery⁴ and was a place to begin or end a 'Run' due to its terminus location next to the Hobson Street bend nearly opposite Malcolm Street. It was not demolished in the 1970s and remained a pub until about 1990 when it was put into other uses. Scales were replaced by Barclay Perkins, by Wells and Winch (whose name was prominently displayed on the frontage in the Sixties) and finally by Greene King. See note on Scales Brewery as below for more about this interesting surviving building.



Figure 4. The Earl Grey (right) about the time the demolitions began.

Champion of the Thames: an establishment of mythical status that is adorned with photos of college athletes and other student memorabilia although it is now very popular with Cambridge regulars. Converted to pub use from a simple dwelling house perhaps about 1900 although this can be debated as some records trace it back as far as 1861 in pub use. There are two cosy, domestic-scale bar-rooms that make it ideal for a quiet drink. In the Sixties the beer was Greene King and was served from large barrels kept behind the bar. Early brewers were Star, then Bailey & Tebbutt followed by Greene King who supplied it from their Cambridge depot hence the sign outside that says 'Cambridge' rather than the usual 'Suffolk' ales. Recognised by Historic England and therefore its future should be secure.

Horse and Groom: another great survivor and its name was altered to King Street Run. It is the largest pub and has at times been difficult to control. A renaissance has recently taken place and it was known in the Sixties to Christ's College students due to its convenient location in the centre of King Street. Set up in the mid-1800s like London or other big-city improved pubs, it offered meals and billiards to its original customers and could accommodate on its three main floors the publican and his family and guests.

King's Arms (former name): this is the site of a pub where written records go back as far as 1839 (when such records began regularly to be published) and, after being re-built as part of the Jesus College large scheme of re-development, was opened with a ceremony on 16 May 1972 when Tolly Cobbold were the brewers (it was originally a Star Brewery pub). The site is next to the (former) King Street Corner House restaurant on the North Side of the street. The new pub has gone through a few changes of name etc. and serves meals on two floors as well as being the site of an in-house micro-brewery. In its original form it would have been included in the Run close to the Cambridge Arms on the opposite side.

Radegund: constructed in 1890 to make it the last of the collection of Victorian pubs in King Street. The original brewer was Star and, by 1934, it was not doing well, as the local press reported. Even so, it survived and became popular again in the post-War era due to support by the sporting fraternity of Jesus College. Tony Hill preferred it in the Sixties, see above, and its layout is unique. There is a basement or cellar but no upper floor. Premises like this are known as lock-ups and the single-storey configuration might derive from the need to avoid removing natural light from the rear of adjacent houses in Jesus Lane. The Rad plays host to such

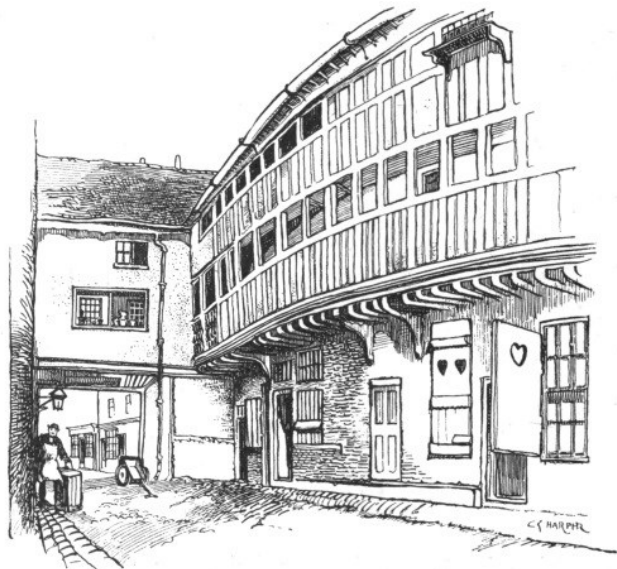


Figure 5. Falcon Yard off Petty Cury, an old inn depicted in 1906.

rare institutions as the Vera Lynn Appreciations Society and the Hash Street Harriers and it often feels more like a small club in its small-scale bar area. The pub's highly unusual name is taken, together with other placenames nearby, from Saint Radegund in whose name the old nunnery that stood on the site of Jesus College had been originally founded.

Other pubs of which records exist (a) in King Street or (b) in Petty Cury:

These locations are derived from records such as the Census, trade directories or brewery inventories. The earliest notice may not indicate when the establishment was first opened but, rather, when it was first recorded. At the other end of the historical scale, the building might have existed longer by going into other use (like the former Earl Grey). Some pubs might have traded into the 1950s and thus were visited by students conducting attempts on the Run. Up to the demolitions of the years about 1970 Petty Cury was also full of retail shops and the sites of ancient inn yards including those with links to Christ's College (hence their inclusion below). King Street was not exclusively occupied by pubs but, according to press notices and adverts, also contained TV and furniture shops, an ear-piercing salon, watchmakers and jewellers, printers, wood turners, a bicycle works and even a riding school beforehand. For many years 'The Mart' was a retail outlet for vegetables, rabbits and poultry etc. which could have been an early version of today's supermarkets.

Boot: not a fashionable name but fairly common in former times as at the ex-village public house in Sutton-by-Dover, Kent. The Cambridge 'Boot Inn' stood at No. 97 King Street and is believed to have traded well into the 20th century. Records between 1851 and 1916 indicate a typical small beer-shop on the ground floor with rooms above occupied by family and lodgers as was then a normal practice. Publicans would divide their income from a small beer-house with other trades. Pubs alone could not always provide a sufficient income and student trade was non-existent during the lengthy vacations. The Census shows 'Lucas', 'Page' and 'Mann' as the successive occupiers of The Boot with their family members, boarders and lodgers. Their tenancies cover the four decades beginning with the 1850s at a time when small pubs proliferated under the encouragement of the British government during this Victorian hey-day of beer consumption. Such a slow turnover of occupants indicates that the premises was regarded not merely as a pub but rather as the home and base for families living an established, respectable existence. The appearance of the Boot Inn is recorded in a charming photo of 1911 seen in the 'Lost Pubs in Cambridge' website where Royston Ales are advertised on its frontage.⁵

Carpenters' Arms: a name to suggest artisan patronage alongside typical dedications elsewhere to occupations such as, 'Bricklayers', 'Blacksmiths', or 'Coachmakers' (at John Street, Cambridge nearby and shown in 'Lost Pubs in Cambridge').⁶ The address of The Carpenters was 95/94



Figure 6. Post-grad protests in King Street, 1970.

King Street with records extending between 1851 and 1904 similar to those of The Boot Inn standing nearby.

Earl Grey: at a mid-point in the street it is seen here among the shots recording the views just when demolition was in progress about 1970 (Fig. 4).

Garrick's Head: identified in written sources from 1839-1879 at 53 King Street.

Glaziers' Arms: another pub named for a trade like the Carpenters' (above) and shown at 105 King Street from 1839-1881 in written sources.

Harp: shown in written sources from 1851 to 1875 at 84 King Street.

Millers' Arms: a former pub with this name is listed among the Anchor Brewery properties.

Royal Arms: one of the nearby Star Brewery houses and a possible pub that changed its name.

Sebastopol: found at 76 King Street in written sources 1861-1881.

White Hart: shown at 22 King Street in written sources 1830-1871.

Yorkshire Grey: at 64 King Street and recorded in written sources between 1839 and 1888. Once a Star Brewery pub.

(b) Petty Cury: This ancient street, with its much-discussed name, stands directly opposite the main entrance of Christ's College. It is now a modern shopping precinct (see below for its 1970s transformation that took place at the same time as the demolitions in King Street), but it had been known to our mid-Sixties year group for its many old shops, inns, one former pub that survives structurally and the small clubs and restaurants that came and went in premises situated in the narrow yards behind the main street. A few memories exist among us of times spent in this much missed quarter of old Cambridge. Our generation of students was the last to see it intact. As you might expect in such a busy, commercial street it once had many inns and pubs and might have provided up to nine places to drink in mid-Victorian times in premises generally larger in scale than the rival pubs in King Street.

Brazen George: an ancient site directly across the street from Christ's College's main entrance and connected in

history with the college, which had been bequeathed the ownership of this nearby property and had once attempted (in vain) to convert it into a student hostel. It is believed the Post Office took over the site late in the 19thC. Nothing now survives, but the George is understood once to have been an inn and a 'brewery tap' existed in the rear yard. The name of the Brazen George is known from the inn sign with Saint George depicted slaying the dragon in metallic colours.

Coach and Horses: one of the street's long-lost pubs seen in written sources 1830-1881.

Falcon Inn and Falcon Tap: one of the larger, former inns that stood until the 1970s on a long, narrow site in the centre of Petty Cury on the South side (Fig. 5). Recorded in written sources 1851-1881.

Grapes: a pub at No 1 as recorded 1871-1913.

Lion (or Red Lion): a further site of an old inn, later known as the 'Red Lion Hotel' and it maintained a small bar-room where fellow-students still enjoyed a beer together in the 1960s. It had occupied a long, narrow plot on the South side of Petty Cury mid-way along the street's length and thus formed a vital target for the eventual re-development of the area.

Star and Garter: now a listed building that has survived on the North side of Petty Cury at No. 34, but its days as a pub, once selling Star Brewery products, are long gone. Records exist from 1879-1888 when John Cain was the publican. We can see from the Census that the premise was also the family's home on the upper floors of the tall, narrow building and several staff members including a barmaid also lived-in. This paints a picture of a typical Victorian city-centre pub of the time enjoying a brisk trade including at lunchtime and thus requiring the constant presence of paid staff.

Unicorn Inn: another of the street's former inns.

White Swan: a Bailey and Tebbutt Brewery former pub.

Wrestlers' Inn: another well-known site that traded for centuries as an inn behind a picturesque frontage until its demolition soon after 1880 when the railways had finally put an end to horse-drawn travel.

Episodes of destruction

Cambridge fortunately suffered little War-damage in the Forties, but soon after the peace, the future of its built heritage was already being brought under review when the

Holford Report was published and the authorities in the Guildhall began working to implement long-cherished proposals to renew and update the ancient city centre.⁷ Its narrow streets were choked with traffic, parking was chaotic, 'classic slums' were being condemned as unfit in and around King Street or in other central areas and the city was considered to be lacking the infra-structure required for a regional shopping centre and commercial hub.

Renewal began with the formal rise of Cambridge to full 'city' status that brought all parts of the settlement into Guildhall control in the 1950s including newly-built housing estates that drew population away from the centre at some cost to its pub trade. Some new pubs were built in these outskirts with interesting architectural results in places (notably the pre-War 'Golden Hind', one of Tolly's architectural 'follies'). Holford recommended new road layouts and the eventual construction of updated shopping areas served by purpose-built car parks. The realisation of the proposals was slow to start at first: Bradwells Court was built about 1955 to replace the untidy row of buildings that formerly stretched along Christ's Lane between St Andrew's Street and Christ's Pieces and the architectural inspiration for this new small-scale shopping precinct was drawn from nearby Stevenage New Town. Trinity Place, a typical row of cheap cottages with workshops at the rear (about 20 dwellings in total) was condemned as 'unfit' by the City in July 1955. It stood, as other rows also did, just behind the main King Street frontages. Its strip of land lay next to the wall of the Christ's College Fellows' Garden on a site since occupied with a student housing block. This set the pattern for the improvement of King Street chiefly through demolitions, as was the general practice in this era. In 1956 part of King Street was made one-way only to vehicle traffic, a symptom of a widely felt desire for traffic reform. At the time it was seen as preferable to demolish sub-standard old housing and rebuild rather than to refurbish, extend and modernise such bijoux properties via private house-sales as we tend to do today.

Jesus College was the main landowner of King Street, with its estate being mainly on the North side. The situation post-War was no doubt a matter of dismay to the Fellowship. In an era when the value of properties like these was stagnant, the cost to the College was high to maintain these cheaply constructed and sometimes unsatisfactory small houses. Finally, the Bursar at Jesus began a correspondence with a firm of architects in Wallingford in July 1965.⁸ This was with a view to demolition and wholesale rebuilding of the street with blocks of medium-rise flats, purpose-built car parks and new shops and with the rebuilding of The King's Arms for Tolly Cobbold. The release of more details by Jesus College Archives is a recent and most welcome aid to



Figure 7. Model of full scheme to rebuild King Street (colleges are Jesus beyond All Saints Church spire and Christ's in foreground, Sidney Sussex to left; roughly the same area as in Fig. 1).

research; architects' plans and models are amid the documentary resources now available on-line together with the Head Porter's photos taken at the time of demolition work in progress. In the end, only about one half of the scheme was realised so the semi-abandonment has preserved much of the far end of the old street near to the surviving King Street Run and Radegund Arms pubs. In particular, the scheme's original intention had been to close-off the far end of King Street and to make the only exit from the area for vehicles via a new and widened Manor Street. Fortunately, however, you can still get out of King Street at the far end and reach the historic route via the Maids' Causeway to the Newmarket Road.

Post-grad students came out from Westcott House nearby (Fig. 6) to make an informal protest about this attack on the heritage and against the loss of such valued assets to student life as the Corner House and its chips. More formal com-

plaints were also under way and *The Architectural Review* began to reflect the long reversal of opinion about such losses as those in Cambridge with an article about the loss of under-valued built heritage that appeared in September 1971. Eventually, Sir John Betjeman, Poet Laureate (1906-1984) and others including his daughter, Candida, began to write and to campaign about the concept of 'Conservation' and, finally, an improved planning regime was put in place as supported by the Civic Amenities Act and the passing in 1990 of a new (and current) main Planning Act.

Although the Jesus College scheme in King Street commenced almost immediately after its inception (but was later abandoned at a mid-point) the re-development of Petty Cury went on apace in the 1970s two decades after it had been first suggested. The results were the bulldozing of massive areas along the whole South side including its former inn yards that stretched deep into the site. The University had

made some moves to oppose the project including coming forward with alternative proposals, but these were ignored. The 20 year period which had elapsed since Holford's report had come out in 1950 eventually gave rise by the end of the Sixties to dilapidation, to boarded-up premises in dark and dirty alleys and all the other symptoms of abandonment which seemed to make wholesale demolition inevitable. It was a classic case of 'planning blight'.

The breweries

Although Cambridge was well-supplied from elsewhere, some of the many breweries that were established during the 1800s continued to operate into the 20th century in the city. By the 1960s, however, mergers and take-overs had transformed several of the local breweries into depots for larger businesses and a further half-century would need to pass before a revival in local production was created by new micro-breweries. The story of breweries is often similar to Russian Dolls, with firms taking over the premises of their rivals and absorbing the pubs they owned or supplied in a confusing pattern that almost defies accurate description. Readers will be familiar with the Brewery History Society and other web-sites as well as with Lynn Pearson's (1999) *British Breweries: An Architectural History* which makes reference to six of the Cambridge ex-breweries, at least half of the number that are relevant to the former and current pubs in King Street and Petty Cury. Some of these breweries and their pubs in Cambridge are fully discussed by Ken Page in his article, 'The History of Hudson's'.⁹ Lacons, Tolly Cobbold and Green King were major players from the nearby region in the take-overs of breweries and pubs but the 1960s could also provide beers via bars or off-licences from the even larger national companies based in Kent, London, Burton-on-Trent and Edinburgh. A fellow-student who arrived from Norway to study at Christ's has recently reminded me of the Scotch ales we enjoyed in St Andrew's Street from the bar situated near The Regal (1937-1997, a major cinema and site for pop concerts and now a Wetherspoons on the ground floor). While famous brands such as Bass or Guinness came in, many of the former Cambridge breweries had also established a presence outside the city and sent their products into surrounding areas and even as far as Newmarket where there were several Star houses.

Another question is college beer. It had undoubtedly been made within their walls in the past, but when did this reach its conclusion? In modern times the colleges brought in supplies from commercial brewers, but had there ever been instances in earlier times of Cambridge colleges exporting beer to other places? A further question concerns 'pilsener': the Sixties had seen some impact made by this all-

conquering product, but I am unable to answer in any detail how much of it could be obtained in the pubs at the time. British brews and Irish stout still held sway with a nostalgic craving for London brews (or wherever you came from in Sixties Britain) and local brews took second place in general. 'Tolly' was widely advertised on the side of the red city buses as well as with bold, painted lettering on the walls of their pubs.

Two Cambridge breweries are worth highlighting with regard to King Street: the Star Brewery and Scales Brewery. Both were nearby with the Star located in the Maids' Causeway a short distance only from King Street and on land slightly to the East of Jesus College and with Scales on a site next to the Hobson Street bend at the far West end of King Street opposite Malcolm Street.¹⁰

The Star Brewery will be familiar to many Brewery History Society members as its existence, which spans the late-19th century into the 20th century, is widely recorded. For its time, the premises were quite large in size with two malthouses placed near the brewhouse. A formidable estate of pubs was established both in the district and in Cambridge itself including the Radegund Arms and others in King Street.

Scales Brewery also appears in many of the same sources cited above. The history of the business spans both the 19th and 20th centuries and represents a good example of how a small brewery might conduct its affairs at the time. It had a few pubs including the Cambridge Arms to which the brewery buildings were linked (Fig. 3), but was a local distributor of its own products and others to nearby customers many of whom were householders (probably). You could even pay for insurance at their offices! The buildings merge with those of Christ's College (see 1901 OS map) within whose biggest perimeter they were located. These former sites from the Hobson Street corner as far as the site of the old Trinity Place farther along King Street (but demolished, probably in the late 1950s) have progressively been occupied by the college for the construction of new student housing. This process is entering yet another phase as I write!

The old Scales building merges with the Cambridge Arms and the construction date appears to be 1866 for both. The former pub is represented by the bar-room on the right with the carriage arch in the centre leading to the yard of the brewery behind the ex-pub. To the left of the arch is a two-storey, quite domestic looking building of two storeys plus the attic which runs across the entire width. Brewing is believed to have ceased in 1926 and in 1938 the business was taken over by Wells and Winch of Biggleswade who remained here with their lettering displayed boldly outside until the 1960s (Fig. 3).

Dale's Brewery is the only ex-brewery in the city to survive structurally, but in other use. It stands in Gwydir Street (off the main route of Mill Road) where it was constructed in an attractive fashion in 1902 and appears to have specialised in non-pub supplies as there were few licensed houses attached to this modest-scale business. No known connection with King Street. It was taken over by Whitbread in 1954 during an era when so many Cambridge breweries lost their independence and brewing here ceased in 1958.

Conclusion

Derived from a largely nostalgic piece intended to stimulate an interest among my former year group and other readers of the Christ's College *Magazine*, this journal version now attempts to open the same topic for a much wider Brewery History Society readership, some of whom will not have seen Cambridge in person or even know much about the sort of pubs I describe. Breweries are our main interest although I believe the article also shows how the sale of beer and its enjoyment in pubs cannot be separated from its production. Some responses from readers of the college magazine have already been received since it was published a month ago. I have been unable to visit King Street from my home in West Sussex for two years now and COVID lock-downs have prevented me from making further site visits or conducting fresh library research. For these reasons the piece must be regarded as no more than a work-in-progress. Corrections and other input from BHS members would be welcome. More demolition and re-development is taking place as I write and the former Scales Brewery site has probably been further eroded.

Acknowledgements

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This journal piece has been specially adapted from the original which I published in Autumn 2021 in No. 246 of the annual Christ's College *Magazine* (viewable on-line via the college web-site).

References

1. Personal communication, Tony Hill, student of English, 1963-66. See acknowledgements above.
2. My own knowledge of pubs and breweries existing pre-1850 in King Street or nearby is scanty but the city's *Chronicle and Journal* on 19 February 1842 reports Thomas Nutter taking over a brewery from which William Henry Smith had recently removed. Members of the Society will wish to add further on what might have been discovered about those remote times?
3. Christ's College provided its undergraduate students with all the necessities for one or two years of residence inside its walls with average attendance during three terms per year amounting to 20 plus weeks. There were three meals on offer daily except on Sundays and it was at these weekends when nearby Greek, Chinese or Indian restaurants might expect student customers. Drinks in the college were reserved for special feasts but, otherwise, a service of half-pints of beer was available during the early evening at a closely supervised small bar, the Buttery, to be paid for either in cash or on credit. The college gate closed at midnight promptly, but all pubs also shut for business at 10.30 p.m. There was some demand for wall climbs and the authorities also turned a blind eye to this illicit practice. Other colleges, such as Trinity, contained valuable works of art and precious libraries in their vast premises and they employed at the time a virtual army of bowler-hatted security staff. Clad entirely in black, these 'bulldogs' were on patrol at night when unruly young men were out *en masse* in search of adventure throughout the colleges and the surrounding streets of the university city. Even today, the centre of Cambridge is full of walls and tall iron railings to create in a few places an almost prison-like scene that stands in stark contrast against the peace, quiet and great serenity of the many green spaces and beautiful college gardens (see Richardson, T. (2019) *Cambridge College Gardens*. London: White Lion). If we go even further back into the past to a time when many animals were also present in the same streets and when the market area was full of butchers' *shambles* etc. we can see how the creation of gardens within the walls of the old monasteries and colleges was vital for both health and sanity to the privileged few who lived there permanently in meditation, worship and study. Brewing was only one activity within the same enclosing walls as the institutions sought self-sufficiency and a relative isolation from the noisy and rather unpleasant public places. Fruit, some vegetables and herbs could be grown on-site in college gardens and small brewhouses were often placed near to college kitchens. At Christ's there is also an on-going tradition of honey-making from the hives standing in the Fellows' Garden.
4. Scales Brewery: it came as a surprise to discover during the research that my old college once had some buildings of a former commercial brewery within its perimeter. In addition, the college kitchens are believed to have had an in-house brewhouse adjacent, but this also remains uncertain to me and requires further research. The small service yard to the South of the main kitchen block is seen in old views and plans of Christ's College but this has since

been re-developed with Planning Permission in place for a further modernisation scheme as yet unrealised.

5. See <https://www.closedpubs.co.uk/cambridgeshire/cambridge.html>. Also Brown, M. (2003) 'On the Trail of the Phillips—Part 1', *Brewery History*. 111, pp.37-63.

6. The names of pubs like these of The Boot or The Carpenters' in King Street are also recorded from nearby Ipswich in the pages of Kindred, D. (2012) *Ipswich: Lost inns, taverns and public houses*. Selsey: Old Pond Publishing. This shows many Tolly Cobbold premises, as were also found in mid-20th century Cambridge, and it is richly illustrated with early photographs such as a shot of a cheerful night inside the Railway Tavern, Ipswich in 1954. For those who wish to view a record of beer pumps in use and the typical shelving at the rear see the picture on p.79 of Kindred's book.

7. Hoford, W. and Myles Wright, H. (1950) *Planning Proposals: Report to the Town and County Planning Committee of the Cambridgeshire County Council*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

8. The architects who worked for Jesus College on the King Street scheme were the Wallingford firm of Morton, Lupton and Smith. The late Ivor Smith (1926-2018) is believed to have been the partner responsible and some of the resulting material is illustrated here (Fig. 7). Ivor Smith and his colleagues had connections with the academic branch of the architectural profession and might have enjoyed the support and encouragement of Sir Leslie Martin, the head of the Cambridge University School of Architecture, who was also a Fellow of Jesus College from 1956 to 1973. The renewed fabric in King Street has similarities with schemes elsewhere of which Sir Leslie Martin was the chief architect.

9. Page, K. (2012) 'The History of Hudson's' (Cambridge & Pampisford) Breweries Ltd—1888-1931', *Brewery History*. 147, pp.34-50.

10. see (2013) Sheet 47.02a, Cambridge 1901, Old Ordnance Survey Maps. Consett: The Godfrey Edition.