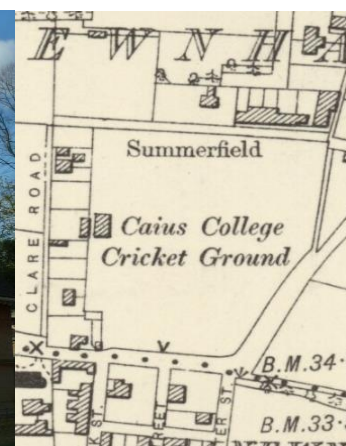


Gonville & Caius Sports Ground Pavilion, Barton Road



Caius College Sports Pavilion showing St. Mark's Parish Church in the background (T. Elliott, 26 February 2018)



Ordnance Survey map 1901

Preamble: Gonville & Caius Cricket Ground is itself a key open space and one of the green 'lungs' of Newnham. It complements Lammas Land across the road and when play is on, it creates a very invigorating impression: that of sport being played almost in the centre of town. The principle and practice of *mens sana in corpore sano* (a healthy mind in a healthy body) is impressed on the passer by, whether viewed from the double decker No.18 bus or peaking through the hedge below.

History: In 1489, Lady Anne Scroop 'devised the Manor [of Mortimers] to Gonville & Caius College', an extensive area of 100 acres or so in Newnham including Newham Mill, and Newnham Closes within which the College's cricket ground stands. The Victorian era saw the rise in popularity of cricket at public schools and universities. With it went the building of pavilions which served as a base where players could change into their sports clothes and from which friends and family could appreciate play.

In 1872, the College 'took part of the closes for a cricket ground; and subsequently, for the same purpose, took all the remaining parts lying west of the pathway through them [...]'.¹ Gonville & Caius College Pavilion was designed in 1895 by the Cambridge architect W.M. Fawcett, practising from 1 Silver Street². By 1896 it was up and running and received enthusiastically by the undergraduate cricket team, who were made partially responsible for organising the subscription for funds for its building and maintenance³. An entry in the College magazine, *The Caiian*, entitled 'The New Cricket Pavilion Fund' record that 'the builders, Messrs. Coulson & Lofts have been paid £1064. 12s. 7d. and the architect's fee comes to £57. 8s. 6d.' Together with incidental expenses, the total bill came to £1125. 8s.10d. Fulsome appreciation of the building is expressed in *The Caiian* thus:-

*'Mr W.M. Fawcett, our architect, has succeeded in designing a building which at once adds very greatly to the beauty of the ground, and admirably supplies all the needs of the Cricketers and other members of our Clubs.'*⁴

The first full accounts cover the period 1891-95. The undergraduates were quite successful in raising funds, and by 1891 they had obtained £200 from the College, £40 from Amalgamated Clubs. However, by 1895 they had only amassed £718, so fretted about the shortfall.

Cricket:

The Caiian regularly report the successes and failures of the Cricket Team, a particularly strong player having been a certain F. Mitchell, appearing in Summer Term 1894, whose batting was 'one of the features of 'Varsity cricket'. That term Caius won against Emmanuel, King's and Peterhouse. Summer Term was always tricky because 'work' and the Tripos got in the way of good play! Subsequently, other sports have come to be played, most recently rugby.

¹ Biographical History of Gonville & Caius College, compiled by John Venn, Senior Fellow & President vol.IV p.24ff (By courtesy of the Master and Fellows of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge)

² Idem. p.30

³ *The Caiian* (College magazine) vol.VI p.58

⁴ Idem. p.136 (same page regarding the accounts)

Architecture:



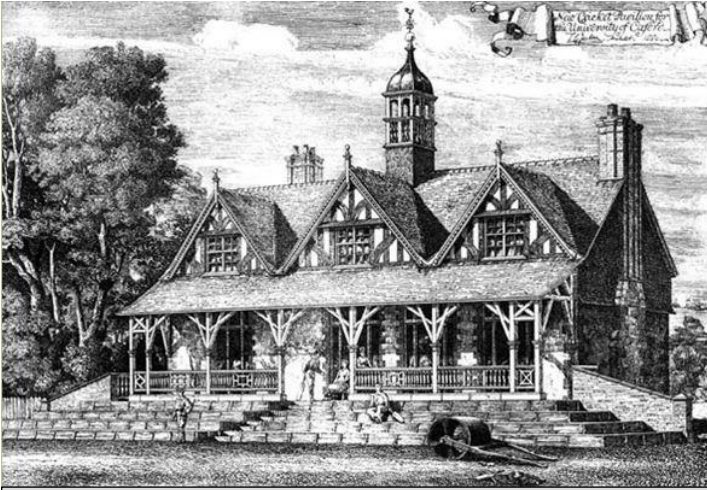
Not surprisingly, Gonville & Caius College turned to W.M. Fawcett to build the Cricket Pavilion. Fawcett had built their New Boat House in 1879 and was an architect of repute. He had built the Curator's Cottage for the Botanic Gardens, the Grade II Listed Master's Lodge at St. Catharine's College (1875-6), the King's Choir School (1880), Hughes Hall (1894-95). Not only was he active in Cambridge, but he also designed Breffy House (1890) in Victorian Scottish baronial style for the High Sheriff of County Mayo, Ireland, Dominick A. Browne.



The original architectural elevations and drawings of 1895 show lavish detailing of the brickwork, ornamental brackets and pillars supporting the verandah structure. Most features were retained in subsequent alterations, although the ornamental moulded brickwork seems to have become plastered over. The central clock tower we know today is a later addition, as, too, the balustrade, although this would have been in keeping with the aesthetics of Queen Anne Revival. According to

Fawcett's east elevation the woodwork was originally intended to be unpainted wood. By the time of the team photo of 1901 (see below), whilst the moulded brickwork under the gables is still visible, the woodwork has been painted in white, as befits Queen Anne Revival.

Fawcett laid much stress in his specification on the high quality of the materials: the red bricks were to be in Suffolk stock from Clare or Sudbury, with local white brick for the interior. Moulded bricks were to come from Norwich, the hearth to be of rubbed York stone. The carpenter is required to use oak 'of English growth of at least three years' fall'.... The verandah is to be in American pine. His enjoyment of, and attention to detail, typical of Victorian architects, is evident in his drawings of scrolls, and the pillar brackets supporting the roof of the verandah.



T.G. Jackson: Original scheme for the Oxford Pavilion, *Building News* XLI (1881)

It is worth comparing the Caius Pavilion to the rather more imposing and ornate Oxford University Cricket Club Pavilion. The latter is a grade-II-listed building in the grade-II-listed University Parks on the north-eastern edge of central Oxford. Designed by the architect and fellow of Wadham the Pavilion, Sir Thomas Graham Jackson, it was built in 1881 by Albert Estcourt of Gloucester, a specialist builder of pavilions. The Oxford Conservation Plan takes account both of its exterior and its interior.⁵

Significance: The Caius Cricket Pavilion is an important contributory factor on this landmark corner of Cambridge. It is a punctuation in the city's geography. Together with Lammas Land it defines the end of the historical boundaries of Cambridge where the countryside started.
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The Cricket Team and families posing in front of the Caius Cricket Pavilion in 1901⁶

Tania Elliott
On behalf of South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum
9th March 2018

⁵ The Parks Pavilion Conservation Plan, Oxford University Estates Services, May 2012

⁶ Photo by courtesy of the Master and Fellows of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge