



*Brooklands
Avenue
c.1905*

Cambridge BROOKLANDS AVENUE Scrapbook

1899 08 08

The holiday season is now in full swing and, taking advantage of it, the burglar is busy at his nefarious profession. There are rumours that sever of these well-known "gentlemen" have paid of their periodical visits to Cambridge and have commenced operations. There has been a report of the mysterious perambulations of burglars in the vicinity of Brooklands Avenue. At any rate the movement of strangers in that district have given rise to suspicion

1900 03 07

The ire of the undergraduate once roused, not even the powerful hand of Alma Mater suffices to entirely quell the wrath that has been kindled. An attacking force of undergraduates gathered many recruits as it made its way along Hills Road and it was at once seen that the objective was the Mayor's residence in Brooklands Avenue. They were dismayed to find the thoroughfare barricaded by a posse of police constables. The mob made a bold rush. The police partially yielded but not more than half of the 'Varsity flank passed through the cordon when the police closed ranks. The trap that had been set proved effective for those who marched triumphantly down the Avenue had not negotiated more than fifty yards when they were encountered by the Proctors mustered in strong force

1905 07 08

Mr Hutchinson of Brooklands Avenue attached a pair of natural wings to a swinging balance and actuated them by means of an electric motor in the way in which a bird's wings move. Encouraged by the experiments he constructed a larger machine with wings of 60 feet square, the power being supplied by a petrol cycle engine. The results are encouraging but no actual attempt at unrestrained flight has been attempted due to the probability of an unpremeditated decent. Were it to be exhibited at the Mammoth Show what a 'draw' it would be. 05 07 08b

1908 12 18

Last week two persons were summoned for riding cycles on the footpaths in Brooklands Avenue, one being discharged and the other fined half-a-crown. It is contended by some that the Avenue is a private road, as evidence of which they point to the gate which stands at one end. If it is so what powers have the magistrates to convict? One explanation is that the footpath on the north side of the Avenue is a public footpath and it was on this that the defendants were riding. If so why does the path remain a perfect quagmire throughout the winter? CWN 08 12 18

1909 07 30

Mr S.G. Wilkinson of Brooklands Avenue said that when he called in tradesmen the builder had a Scotch foreman, the electric light foremen were Scotch, the electric bells were muddled by two Englishmen and finally put right by a Scotsman! Cambridge men would be quite content to live on the dole and would exist in discomfort rather than exert themselves over much. Most lived for the enjoyment of the next pleasure. The fair, the excursion, the treat, the Hippodrome, the sweet shop or the public house was the matter of chief moment to them. CWN 09 07 30

1910

1912 12 20

Brooklands Avenue residents happy to repair road once council makes decision about scheme for including it as part of a thoroughfare from Newnham Croft to Hills Road - 12 10 04b

1912 12 20

Brooklands Avenue is a private road with a gate at the Trumpington Road end, which is sometimes closed, though one footpath, it is claimed, is a public path. Part of the road is invariably in a disgraceful state of repair and during bad weather is little better than a quagmire with mud up to one's ankles. Yet if a cyclist, to avoid the ruts and filth, takes to the public footpath he is liable to be pounced upon by a policeman. The road connects up Trumpington and Cherry Hinton, important parts of the extended Borough, and should be taken over by the Corporation. 12 12 20c

1913 01 24

Brooklands Avenue making up

1913 05 16

Council – tramways closure foreshadowed, Brooklands Avenue to be made up, Photographers exempted from early closing, Midsummer Common changes

1918 05 22

Rook shooting in Brookside and Brooklands Avenue – photos – 18 05 22b

1920

1922 03 11

Brooklands Avenue Inquiry. It was an attempt to make a road from Hills-road to Trumpington-road. At present the greater part of the Avenue was open but it was in regard to the smaller part at the Trumpington-road end that the application was made. At the present time there was a gate fastened there and kept locked by the owner. He understood that people going to houses in the Avenue were allowed to go though and he could understand that the gentleman would like to keep it a quiet place. Personally he would oppose it if he lived there.

1922 05 06

My readers will learn with great regret that Brooklands Avenue (Cambridge) with its countless romantic associations appears to be fore-doomed to destruction. The beautiful trees which provide the leafy tunnel which for generations has been so much admired are elms, and elms have an unpleasant habit of dismembering themselves with age. A good many of the trees must come down at once, as they are in such a decayed state to be liable to split and fall without warning. 1922 05 06
Brooklands Avenue trees

1925 01 31

Brooklands Avenue trees, p6

1928 12 06

For some time Cambridge bowlers have felt the present facilities were not attractive enough and they ran the risk of losing fixtures with first-class counties because of the state of the greens. Now an anonymous donor has offered a lease on ground in Brooklands Avenue; it would not require a great deal of levelling. The act was one of extraordinary generosity and should allow the formation of Cumberland turf greens and other sporting attractions.

1929 06 14

Brooklands Avenue bowls, p7

1930

1933 05 19

Sir – the gravel footpath from Brooklands Avenue along Hobson's River up Empty Common has long been known as Finch's Walk. But how did it get its name? Some people call it Senior Wranglers' Walk and connect it with the name of the Rev G.B. Finch who was Senior Wrangler in 1857. But he never mentioned that he had anything to do with it. In an 1834 deed relating to the Hobson's Conduit Trust there is mention of two trustees called Charles Finch, one of whom died in 1762, who had a foundry and ironworks in Thompson's Lane – W.D. Bushell. 33 05 19b

1940

1944 01 21

Awarded Military Medal. Trooper E. D. Smith has been awarded the Military Medal. He is the only son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Jesse Smith, of 20 Queen's Meadow, Cherry Hinton. Before being called up he was employed by Messrs Hallock and Bond at their warehouse in Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge.

1947 07 22

The death occurred at the Catholic Nursing Home in Brooklands Avenue of Mr Edmund Joseph Kett who has been ill for the past week. Mr Kett who was 85, was a partner in the firm of Messrs Rattee and Kett, builders and contractors where he started as a boy immediately on leaving school. He retired from the firm in 1925 when the business became a limited company. During his time with the firm he was responsible for the building of the Cambridge Catholic Church and was also connected with the restoration of Arundel Castle, the Duke of Norfolk's country seat. This took 16 years to complete

1947 11 17

The S.O.S. Society's Boys' Hostel at Winston House, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge was officially opened in the presence of a large audience, including magistrates from the surrounding district. Lord Huntingfield spoke its work in relation to its care for boys who had either come into contact with Probation Officers or had homes that were not particularly desirable. He commented "Youth, being what it is, does not always recognise the laws of the grown-ups and they are inclined to do things which bring them into conflict with the long arm of the law. These are the kind of boys taken in here and looked after".

1948 05 05

The experience of being stranded in a strange town, with nowhere to stay, is particularly unpleasant for young women. There must be many who, stranded in this way in Cambridge, have heard themselves being directed to the Bene't Hostel for Women which exists to provide such shelter. The hostel was started in Brooklands Avenue in 1943 to meet a wartime need and during the last year of hostilities 1,060 applications were received and the total number occupying beds was 8,265. Its continuing need being proved, a house was later bought at 1, Drosier Road where an average of 21 beds have been occupied nightly ever since

1949 03 30

Juvenile delinquency is very much in the news at the moment, and the problem of how to check it is increasingly occupying the attention of social workers. An experiment in this direction is being conducted in Cambridge at "Winston House", Brooklands Avenue. Here, boys in between 14 and 17, who have been in their first trouble, are given a chance to make good by making them happy members of a little family, providing useful outlets for their mental and physical energy and helping them to make right friendships and get a sense of responsibility and self-respect.

1950

1950 01 27

Brooklands Avenue trees, p9

1950 05 19

During the Nazi "blitz" of 1940, members of the Roman Catholic Order The Sisters of Hope were driven from their home in London and came to settle in Bateman Street, Cambridge. In 1944 they moved to Brooklands Avenue. "So good has come out of evil", said the Bishop of Northampton as he laid the foundation stone of the new nursing home at Hope House. This large extension to the present premises will be completed in 12 months' time and will increase the capacity of the nursing home from its present nine patients to 30

1951 04 18

Seventy-one year Mr Robert O'dell went to the Ministry of Labour offices in Brooklands Avenue, in response to instructions to go for a Z Reserve medical examination. Mr O'dell – Bowie as he is widely known in Cambridge, where he has a greengrocery business – was rather surprised to get the instruction, as he has never been in the army. He was told it was all a mistake. "I asked about my expenses for travelling and lost time", he said.

1953 08 04

To the everyday passer-by the tall stately elm trees in Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, give the impression of being sound and sturdy. But some have now been cut down and it can be seen that sections of their trunks are hollow! Six have been taken down and there are a further 20 which have serious defects and decay. It was in April 1950 that the City Council decided to remove all the trees and replant the Avenue with new ones, but owing to public opinion the decision was reversed. If the present disease continues it will not be many years before most of the common elm trees in Cambridge have been removed.

1953 08 29

The Eastern Region Food Office is to cease to function in Cambridge after 14 years. It opened in Corpus Christi College at the beginning of the war and remained there until November 1945 when it moved to its present offices in Brooklands Avenue. In December 1946 the Essex and Hertfordshire region was also brought under Cambridge

1953 12 28

At Winston House Boys' Hostel, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge each lad had presents sent from "Fairy Godmothers" who invited a number of them for dinner. For those who remained there was roast chicken and Christmas pudding. At The Grange Children's' Home, Swavesey the children hopefully hung up their stockings at the foot of the bed and on awaking found they had been filled. There was no shortage of presents at the Little Shelford Children's' Home, partly due to the generosity of the American servicemen station in the vicinity. An American 'Father Christmas' arrived from Wimpole Park bringing tennis racquets, bagatelle, darts, dolls and tea sets.

1955 02 05

Magistrates were told that the Royal Hotel, Trumpington Street, Cambridge had been granted a restricted licence in 1938, permitting them to sell drinks to residents and persons partaking of meals, but no person could go in solely for a drink. This could now be waived. It caused the management

some embarrassment. The hotel was a convenient place for motorists and passers-by and to go to other hotels a driver had to plunge into the centre of the town with its maze of one-way streets. Guests came from Addenbrooke's Hospital and Brooklands Avenue. It would not become 'a drinking house camouflaged as a residential hotel'. 55 02 05

1955 09 06

One of the finest clubrooms for civil servants opened next door to the bowling green in Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge. It is within easy reach of the officer and membership is one-penny a week. It would enhance the civil service's reputation for high standards of integrity and once members entered they should completely forget about rank. 55 09 06

1956 05 05

Britain is on the brink of war. Enemy forces are massed against us and it appears only a matter of hours that the first attack of World War Three will come. Although the man in the street is unaware of it the Army and Civil Defence are taking part in the biggest defence exercise the world has yet seen. It envisages evacuation of 800,000 people from London and authorities have joined together in the war room at Brooklands Avenue to assess the situation. 56 05 05a

1956 05 07

Biggest combined Civil Defence and military operation seen anywhere – co-ordinated from Brooklands Avenue – 56 05 07

1956 11 22

Several hundred civil servants at Brooklands Avenue will be out of work as a result of the Government's decision to close down this regional centre. Nine departments will be affected and only a very small nucleus will be retained at the site. It is more economic to have them operate from London. Cambridge sprang up as a Regional Centre during the last war. 56 11 22

1956 11 29

Preparation for petrol rationing began in mid-November and thousands of applications for supplementary rations are arriving at the Ministry of Fuel and Power at Brooklands Avenue. Local garages say there has been little panic buying as most motorists already have their tanks full and merely call in for the odd gallon to remain topped up. But when rationing is introduced garages will only be able to obtain supplies on production of coupons handed to them by customers. Should a garage run out of petrol they will have to go without for as long as the rationing continues. 56 11 29 a & b

1957 02 08

The National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service at Brooklands Avenue has doubled its strength since 1954 and has now moved to Queen Anne Terrace. It was set up to investigate the tremendous amount of waste of fuel through poorly insulated buildings or by untrained stokers. They help bring industrial plants up to high standards of fuel utilisation enabling savings of 15 per cent during 1955-56. 57 02 08

1957 07 17

Cambridgeshire Women's Bowling Association was founded in 1937. Now their new flag in the County colours of light and dark blue and old gold was hoisted for the first time at a bowls drive at Brooklands Avenue to celebrate its 21st anniversary. 57 07 17

1957 11 18

Bus stop near Brooklands Avenue is a danger – claim – 57 11 18

1958 11 08

The Ministry of Fuel and Power which administered fuel rationing during the war has moved its regional headquarters from Brooklands Avenue to London. At first there were two offices: the petroleum office in Chaucer Road and a general office which started at Corpus Christi College and later removed to Trinity dealing with coal, gas and electricity. At its peak 300 people were employed

but now a very small staff will remain to ensure that gas and electricity meters are working efficiently.
58 11 08c

1959 04 07

The Employment Exchange which has been sited in Newnham for nearly 30 years is moving to Brooklands Avenue. It provides a register of people seeking professional, managerial and senior executive posts and employees wishing to fill such vacancies. Nearly 200 men and women as well as ex-officers from HM Forces are included. The passports department and National Service registration office will also be affected. 59 04 07

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date

1961 03 20

Winston House, an experiment in mental after-care in Brooklands Avenue, was opened in 1958 to provide temporary accommodation for those recovering from mental and nervous sickness and looking for permanent homes of their own. It can accommodate 23 people in a homely atmosphere and since January 1960 there has been a waiting list. Last year 48 people left the hostel, 26 of them having gained benefit from their stay. 61 03 02a

1962 04 06

The newly-formed Cambridge branch of the Gideons International held its first public meeting. Almost all the local hotels have received Bibles, as have nearly 300 school-leavers and it is hoped to cover all such youngsters each year. Young folk from Queen Edith's Chapel have volunteered to read aloud Bibles given to the Blind Homes in Glisson Road. Twenty Bibles have been given to the Rehabilitation Centre in Brooklands Avenue. The replacement Addenbrooke's Hospital will be a major challenge in the near future 62 04 06b

1962 04 30

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's mock funeral march through the centre of Cambridge caused traffic congestion, provoked an anti-CND march and met with a noisy reception from undergraduates in the Market Square. The 'funeral cortege' stretched for 300 yards behind a child's coffin carried by two pall bearers. Altogether 400 'mourners' took part in the march including Mr Gabor Cossa, the antique dealer. A Committee of 100 contingent joined in a demonstration at the Government buildings in Brooklands Avenue 62 04 30a

1963 05 09

South Cambs RDC plan new offices at Brooklands Avenue or Sawston – 63 05 09b

1963 05 30

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Brooklands Avenue – 63 05 30

1963 06 14

The firm of J.E. Hanger of Brooklands Avenue is concerned with the supply and repair of artificial limbs. For nearly 50 years they have dealt entirely with legs. Measurements are taken, appliances fitted and minor or emergency repairs are undertaken. The workshop has legs of all shapes, sizes and styles, with or without shoes and socks or stockings. Repainted wooden feet are hung up to dry and a grinder is used for smoothing rough metal surfaces. Shelves of screw-top jars contain nuts, bolts and screws 63 06 14a

1966 01 18

Upper freight yard depot of British Railways to close on January 31st and part of the land may be used in a new road scheme connecting Brooklands Avenue and Newmarket Road. The public depot on the other side of the main line to remain open 66 01 18c

1966 05 07

Government offices, Brooklands Avenue – photo – 66 05 07

1966 07 16

Elmhurst, Brooklands Avenue, GORA headquarters for 30 years sold to Lloyd's Bank in one of city's largest property auctions for £74,000 – 66 07 16

1967 03 30

Lloyds Bank moving district office from Hobson Street to Brooklands Avenue building that housed Gt Ouse River Authority – 67 03 30

1967 07 06

Lloyds Bank move district office to Brooklands Ave – 67 07 06 & a

1970

1972 09 08

Just in case The Bomb should ever drop, eight powerful new air raid warning sirens are to be installed in Cambridgeshire. Although few people ever see or hear them, the Home Office has about 22,000 warning points in the United Kingdom equipped with electric or hand sirens for air attack warnings and maroons for fall-out warnings. Now they are to be replaced by powerful compressed-air sirens which are much more efficient and much louder. The eight which are to be installed in Cambridgeshire will be at Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, Waterbeach Barracks, Oakington airfield, Great Wilbraham, the old Duxford airfield, Bassingbourn Barracks Lt Eversden & Linton 72 09 08

1975 12 08

The official opening of the Cambridge Jobcentre was carried out by the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, Miss Rosemary Murray. She said a site in the centre was desirable for any supermarket – and jobcentres had been called job supermarkets. They are a new thing to get away from the old dole queue and form-filling image of job seeking. 30 staff have been transferred to the new Jobcentre from the employment offices in Brooklands Avenue. Currently the city has 1,650 out of work and 370 jobs on offer

1980

1982 04 26

A phenomenal epidemic of wheat bulb fly in the 1950s was responsible for nearly one third of the Fenland winter cereal acreage having to be redrilled. The devastation provided the impetus for the development of a whole range of counter-measures by Frank Maskell, an entomologist whose name has become virtually synonymous with the conquest of the cereal menace. He has just retired for the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, Brooklands Avenue. 82 04 26c

1985 08 15

Protest letters against plans for a 'hi-tech-village' near the junction with Hills Road and Brooklands Avenue are flooding into the planning department. Unex Property Group want to build 23 office-research units grouped around a central courtyard with shrubbery and trees together with 169 parking spaces. It means the displacement of E. Pordage, the vegetable wholesalers and the steel staircase company, Crescent of Cambridge. Unex say offices would be better than the existing warehouse and scrapyard. 85 08 15a

1988 05 20

Winston House, Brooklands Ave a residential home for people with psychiatric and psychological problems – 88 05 20

1988 12 28

Brooklands Avenue Government canteen to be repaired and refurbished – 88 12 28a

1989 05 19

Winston House in Brooklands Avenue, established in 1959, is a psychiatric rehabilitation centre owned by the SOS charity. There are 20 residents staying on average a year with care and advice on hand all day. All are encouraged to lead a full life and to do something constructive outside the house. But privacy is a problem in the 13-bedroomed house and an appeal has been launched to provide more single rooms and larger kitchens. 89 05 19b

1989 11 28

The National Extension College in Brooklands Avenue has more students than Cambridge University and offers courses from accounting to zoo-keeping. It was set up in the back room of a condemned cottage in 1963 to open the door to higher education through correspondence courses. It was the brainwave of Michael Young, Cambridge University's first lecturer in sociology and founder of the Consumers' Association. A forerunner of the Open University, it has 15,000 students and its expertise has been used by the BBC and Channel Four in preparing their own adult education programmes. 89 11 28

1990 03 14

Unex group has produced details of its big new development, Intercity House, on the former Pordage distribution site at the corner of Brooklands Avenue and Hills Road. It will offer air-conditioned offices with crèche, restaurant and gymnasium together with 301 car parking spaces. The windows will be high-performance anodised aluminium and the scheme will reflect the style and quality of the Victorian Royal Albert Almshouses across the road – 90 03 14