



Chesterton Road 1963 – 152.73

#### ***c.44.6: Chesterton Road area***

These are stories relating to the area west of Elizabeth Way to Mitcham's Corner

See separate file on Chesterton Lane – Gilbert Road area

1897 08 09

Sir - Now that the Jubilee accounts have been reckoned up it seems fitting we should start afresh the matter of the new bridge. The question of a new bridge to connect Chesterton with Cambridge at the Abbey Estate is of supreme importance. The ferryman knows no rest. All the people at Old Chesterton have to be crossed over long before the omnibuses are astir. The wheels of progress anywhere in the vicinity have moved round in the past with about the same velocity as a farmer's cart! Is this to drag on for ever? The advantage of another bridge over the now-sweetened Cam would be a great gain to both Chesterton and Cambridge in equal proportion - letter signed "Chestertonian"

1897 08 28

Henry Kimpton, grocer, residing on the De Freville Estate, Chesterton, made application for licence to sell beer. There were 111 houses upon the Estate, occupied by the class of persons who would have a great objection to sending their servants to the Old Spring or the bowling green public houses for the purpose of obtaining beer. They were well aware that although there were bottle and jug entrances, these were often used by persons frequenting the houses.

1897 12 15

Sir - The fearful state of the Chesterton roads at the present time calls for comment: they are worse than ever. Trees have lately been inserted on either side of this avenue of mud & slime. Omnibuses are running to and fro daily that are a credit to any town, especially are the horses in splendid form ready to take you from Chesterton church to the Cambridge station for twopence! The wear and tear on such roads must be very great. How very surprised people seem to be now-a-days that Victoria Bridge should have been opposed by some people. But the hour has struck when the necessity for another bridge is of equal importance. The folk at Old Chesterton, all employed in Cambridge, have to cross the classic stream either by grind or punt. The sooner both councils wake up to their duty in the matter of this great necessity, the better for people on both sides of the river - "Chestertonian"

1888 02 0-

Chesterton UDC discussed an ancient right of way known as Little Lane, leading from Chesterton Road to the back of Mr Foster's boathouse. It had been in existence as long as the oldest man in Chesterton could remember and there had been no obstruction of any kind. Now it had been blocked by the erection of a fence by a member of the Council

1898 04 02

Sir - the new bridge at Abbey Road Cambridge has become a supreme necessity. Everyone admits it now. Boats and punts have had their day, and should be done away with. Omnibuses of first class order are unable to carry people to most convenient places, and at low prices, for the want of another bridge to bring them into Cambridge. What enormous advantages to both Chesterton and Cambridge another bridge at this spot holds out. The great increase in traffic calls loudly for another bridge. The people near the Abbey again insisted upon another bridge but the Cambridge Rip Van Winkles sleep on, oblivious of anything. Procrastination is the great curse of Cambridge, and Chesterton should take warning by keeping abreast with the requirements of this important suburb – Chestertonian

1898 10 14

The eccentricity of a horse at Chesterton last night caused its driver and a fare some alarm. It bolted along Chesterton lane at a furious rate, resisting all the efforts of the driver to get it under control. The animal made a tour of Old Chesterton in record time and returned by the Milton road. At this point the driver came to the conclusion it was quite useless trying to hold the horse in any longer and advised the gentleman inside the cab to "quit". He took a flying leap into the darkness and grazed his face somewhat severely. The driver fell off the box and the off wheel passed over his legs. Continuing his career the horse came into collision with a gatepost at Northampton Street which knocked it on its hindquarters

1898 10 17

The "burgling" fraternity are already on the warpath. In pursuing his unworthy calling at Chesterton some impudent member of the fraternity paid a visit to a house in Victoria Road but got little, if anything, for his trouble. The family left home having previously secured the doors and windows. On their return they were alarmed at finding the front door bolted on the inside. This aroused suspicion and gave rise to the surmise that the house had been invaded by burglars. This belief was confirmed by the movements of the depredator in his haste to beat a retreat by the back part of the premises. By means of wax matches, the debris of which was strewn about the room, Mr Burglar had found his way upstairs and examined the contents of several drawers. It can hardly be imagined that the intentions of the housebreaker were strictly honest and honourable. Probably had he not been disturbed he might have got clear with a considerable amount of booty

1899 07 11

Sir – The population of Chesterton is mainly composed of people who have been turned out of Cambridge to make way for college and other improvements, and nearly all are employed in that ancient town. Every day brings evidence of the great need of another crossing of the Cam & that Abbey Road is the place goes without saying. The De Freville Estate, are absolutely dependent upon the old punts and other obsolete marine structures for crossing over to Cambridge. . It must be conceded that a bridge over this part of the Cam is of the highest importance – "Chestertonian"

1899 12 08

New Hotel, "Fleur-de-Lis", Humberstone road, Chesterton. This first-class hotel is now open and replete with every comfort. Billiards room in course of erection. Gentlemen visiting the hotel will find the Smoke Room fitted with every comfort – advert.

**1900**

1900 02 05

Cambridge Adverting Company reported that the hoarding in Victoria Road, Chesterton was in course of enlargement and one at Shelford has recently been enlarged to meet the demand for country posters. An additional hoarding has been secured at the Traveller's Rest, Huntingdon road, and is open to still further enlargement. The secretary and foreman billposter had been most attentive to their duties

1900 06 14

An inquest on a boy of eight, killed by a bus on Castle Hill, affirmed the death was accidental. It is hardly an exaggeration to describe Chesterton Corner as the death trap of Cambridge. Four road meet; they are all narrow, and the configuration of the corner is such that it is quite impossible for the driver of a vehicle up Magdalene Street to have the faintest notion that there is another coming along Chesterton Lane and if the two do not crash into each other it will be more of an accident than if they do. More room is needed at the corner. This would involve pulling down some old houses. The matter is one which the authorities ought to give attention at once.

1901 03 01

Chesterton Urban District Council met with the owner of the land hitherto used as allotment ground and others concerned in the development of the estate for building purposes and the making of the necessary roads. They had achieved one of the greatest possible improvements that had been effected in Chesterton in their time. The public must trust their representatives, with their fuller knowledge, to do what was right. The council approved the making of a path from Aylestone Road to Ferry Path, and the continuation and widening of Montague Road from Kimberley Road to Pretoria Road. One row of houses would have their back gardens towards Ferry Path. It was impossible to consider a 36-ft roadway because there would never be a carriage bridge as it was near Victoria Bridge, but it was suggested that a row of trees be planted to mitigate the unsightliness to the occupiers.

1901 08 07

A proposal to erect a new footbridge over the Cam between the De Freville Estate and Cambridge was advanced at a meeting of occupiers. It would put them in more direct communication with Fitzroy Street. A member of Chesterton Urban District Council thought it should be erected at the Fort St George ferry to benefit the owners of the new Central Estate; but this was a thing of the future. If they waited for this development they might wait five or ten years. They wanted a bridge for De Freville inhabitants immediately and would circulate residents for donations.

1901 11 26

A Chesterton lady, Miss A. Masterson of Humberstone Road, was among a number of passengers who underwent an alarming experience while travelling by the Central London Railway, which is better known as the "Twopenny Tube". A train was suddenly stopped as it was about to enter Marble Arch Station. The tunnel became filled with dense and suffocating smoke. Several ladies fainted and others became hysterical. People were rushing pell-mell from the front of the train, scrambling over seats to get out of danger. Then the lights went out. It was twenty minutes before the train moved back slowly. There was a terrible smell of burning flesh and it was learned that a gentleman had fallen in front of the train and been crushed to death.

1902 03 22

Sir – A beautiful permanent memorial of the Coronation year would be the building of a bridge at De Freville Avenue. The Avenue is planted with elm trees on each side, the houses are all substantially, and some very tastefully, built; they are all set back and have flower gardens in front, making a very attractive approach to the proposed new bridge. It would provide a safe road for children attending the best Cambridge schools and provide the nearest way to Newmarket Road and the Railway Station, thus benefiting labourers, working men, college servants etc. The more bridges there are built over the river the more surely you bind communities together to the advantage of both Cambridge and Chesterton – F.R. Leach

1902 05 31

New Chesterton bike, p1

1902 05

Won on Whit Monday at Dersingham by A. Brown of Milton, 1st prize, pair of solid silver candlesticks, value £7. This prize was won on a New Chesterton Bicycle, made to order. Racing machines a speciality. I invite customers to see their machines being constructed. Riding tuition free if a new machine is purchased. Tyres re-rubbered and repaired from 8/6 each. Repairs and machines overhauled at moderate charges by experienced workmen – W.J. Ison, Chesterton Cycle Works, Chesterton Road, Cambridge – advert.

1902 07 17

Cambridge Paving Committee had approached the vicar and churchwardens of St Giles' church to ascertain whether it would be possible to acquire a portion of the churchyard for the widening of Castle Street. They would agree provided that the work of excavating and collecting human remains be screened by a hoarding & the bodies reverently re-interred. Chesterton Road corner was a most dangerous one and when the improvement was carried out one corner out of the four would be cut back.

1902 09 16 c

Sir – Many people have felt genuine concern at the announcement that the Cambridge Omnibus Company is to be "wound up". Huntingdon Road, Old and New Chesterton, Mill Road and the rapidly growing suburb of New Cherryhinton have all benefited by its service. It is regretted that in spite of the hundred the Company has conveyed daily, the venture does not pay. Their difficulty is the Tram Company's opportunity and they should arrange for a good suburban service of 'buses to run in conjunction with their cars – New Cherryhinton

1902 10 07

Sir – Canterbury Road, Chesterton was made by ourselves, as owners, at a cost of £90, in the anticipation at the Council would take it over, which they promised to do. We have asked them several times to do so and the only excuse they make is that it must be steam rolled. We have had it rolled. We have worked in every way to conform to their orders and the only reason we have placed posts across the road is to protect and preserve the road from being cut up by vehicular traffic – J. Piddock, H. Riseley, E. Wonfor

1902 11 20

Unfortunately the Cambridge Omnibus Company have been unable to find a purchaser for their business as a going concern and their horses, omnibuses etc had to be sold at their stables in Chesterton Road. A two-horse omnibus to carry 26 passengers fitted with garden seats on the top sold for 20 guineas. Buses by the 'Star Omnibus Company' were not in such good condition and realised £10 while others went for as low a sum as £4.10s. The one-horse 'buses did not sell for much but a four-horse charabanc, "The Cambridge Belle" sold for 62 guineas to Mr Ellis Merry. Prices for horses dropped to as low as three guineas

1903 06 16

Numerous complaints have been received from residents of Chesterton Road about nightly depredations upon their flowerbeds and window boxes. Some of the prettiest gardens facing the road have been completely wrecked by mischievous persons. One garden was stripped of every flower. Many residents take a great deal of pride in their gardens and spend no inconsiderable amount of their incomes in keeping them smart and well stocked. It is to be hoped the police will keep a sharp eye for offenders and they will be dealt with in a manner which will prove a salutary warning to similarly-inclined persons.

1903 10 12

There was another heavy downpour of rain; the Cam has but in a few places overflowed its banks and the ferries between Cambridge and Chesterton are still working. The Granta has not behaved so well and the water is already over the banks; there is a vast expanse of water with the tops of the hedges and the trees only showing. At Grantchester mill the road is knee deep. The basement of houses in Newmarket High Street are flooded as are some of the low-lying streets at Saffron Walden and the railway line at Chesterford is threatened with being submerged.

1903 11 13

A lady from Chesterton says that since she took up her abode her house has been invaded by battalions of tradesmen's representatives, most of whom went away empty-handed, as they were all anxious to sell the same goods. One individual of righteous appearance bearing a bundle of what appeared to be the latest thing in tracts asked if the household was a teetotal one and hoped she would accept one of his pamphlets. When she came to look at the pledge form it was an advertisement for bottled beer. It is curious that all the others have been bottled beer men too.

1904 06 10

An important property sale was conducted at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge. Several lots were offered including the Wesleyan Chapel at Old Chesterton which, however, was not sold. The brick-built building with a class room at the rear was withdrawn at £165. A plot of building land opposite De Freville Avenue fetched £285; the residence 'Sepha Villa', Lyndewode Road was withdrawn at £640 and a modern family residence known as 'Lucerne' on Hills Road with gardens of a quarter of an acre was withdrawn at £725. Winthingham House, 199 Chesterton Road with gardens and a coach house was withdrawn at £1,850 but a University lodging house at no.9 Malcolm Street, licensed to let three sets (two at £11 and one at £7) sold for £355

1904 11 03

Chesterton Council has purchased land in Carlyle Road, Cambridge, for a recreation ground. They bought rights in the Brickfield Estate from Mrs Wragg-Gurnie and frontages to Alpha Road from Mr Thoday for £1,350. They then sold off the frontages and after paying for the land were left with a bill for £425 together with a further amount for fencing, laying out and planting the ground. This was a very small sum for so large a piece of land and they had carried out a great improvement in Carlyle Road by widening it from Dalrymple Terrace to the end of the road.

1904 11 10

The King's birthday is one of those occasions upon which a certain section of the 'Varsity and Town consider it necessary to turn themselves into public nuisances. This year they avoided the Borough police by making a raid on Chesterton. The mob made tracks for Midsummer Common with the object of having a bonfire. Several hundred crossed Jesus Green Bridge where a council of war was held. Carlyle Road was mentioned as leading to fuel for the fire but a number of the belligerents made an incursion down a private road. Several fences were broken down and flames shot into the air as the surreptitiously-obtained timber was thrown on to the fire. No police appeared on the scene, though a number of members of the Force were on duty on the borough side of the river

1904 11 19

No reasonable person expects to find a ferryman on duty after ten at night and is reconciled to the necessity of grinding himself across the few yards of water. About midnight a husband and his wife

returning from Chesterton determined to make a short cut across the river as rain was pouring down in pitiless fashion. The husband seized the handle of the grind to get to the other side as quickly as possible. But when they got to the middle the ferry stuck fast, nor would it go back no matter how hard he strained and pushed. For ten minutes they wrestled with that ferry in the pouring rain and were just about to shout for help when the unwieldy affair began to work and they got back to the bank they had left. As they walked around the road home they decided that ferries were contrivances of the Evil One

1904 12 08

Chesterton council considered a petition for the construction of a footbridge across the Cam between Victoria Bridge and Dant's Ferry, subject to £200 being raised by private subscription towards the cost. But by asking for a subscription they would be setting a precedent and they would never be able to carry out public improvements without asking local occupiers to put their hands in their pockets to help them. It would be an advantage to those on the De Freville, but they all paid rates. The bridge would be an advantage, but not a pecuniary one. If it was placed at the Fort St George it would benefit a very large number of people and no ratepayer would object to a farthing rate for the project

1905 01 26

Cambridge councillors were told of a fatal accident at Dant's Ferry a few days prior to Christmas when the breadwinner of a family was drowned. It was only one of many; during the present winter at least five persons had tumbled into the water at that spot. There should be a bridge in the neighbourhood of Abbey Road. But Victoria Bridge was not a long way from Dant's Ferry and before any bridges were built Chesterton would have to join Cambridge.

1905 02 23

A meeting of Chestertonians was held in furtherance of the scheme for constructing a bridge across the Cam at the Fort St George. The Council has accepted the necessity of a bridge and will spend £500 provided another £200 is raised by private subscription. It was not a large sum for such a district. Inhabitants should remember that once it was built they would save further expense on ferries. Several promises were made on the spot and various college boat clubs will be approached. 05 02 23a

1905 03 10

A company is being formed to provide a service of motor 'buses for Cambridge. Eight 'buses will be put down at first by which it is hoped to run a 15 minutes' service from Chesterton, another from the Huntingdon road district to the centre of town and a seven minutes' service to the railway station. Should the venture prove successful the more outlying districts such as Newnham Croft and Cherry Hinton will be catered for 05 03 10

1905 04 08

The Cambridge Motor Omnibus Company has been formed. It is nowadays essential for the business of the town to have a convenient and quick means of transit and the omnibuses will be appreciated by the public and become a source of income to the shareholders. With eight vehicles it will be quite easy to maintain a 15-minute service from Chesterton and the Huntingdon Road to the centre of town and a seven-minute service to the railway station. Should these prove successful it will be extended to outlying districts such as Newnham Croft and Cherry Hinton. There is little doubt that horse traction for omnibuses and tramcars will shortly be superseded by petrol and electricity. 05 04 08a

1905 05 26

Chesterton residents will be glad to see the inauguration of a new motor 'bus service by the 'Light Blue' company. Special arrangements have been made for the convenience of residents intending to travel to London by the early morning train. The 'bus will leave Old Chesterton Green at 8.25 and run through to the station in time for the 8.53 train. It will also run as frequently as possible between one and two-thirty for the convenience of residents employed in Cambridge who go to the suburbs for their midday meal 05 05 26

1905 06 27

Sir – may I protest against the needless pandemonium Chesterton residents are forced to endure during the Midsummer Fair by the hideous orchestrations attached to shows and merry-go-rounds, grinding out harsh and discordant sounds which make day and night a time of torture. No sane people can find pleasure in the ear-splitting metallic sounds emanating from these machines. Such a noise, coupled with the hooting of horns and the screeching of steam whistles render rest an impossibility – Nerves 05 06 27e

1906 03 01

New Chesterton Institute, p3

1907 01 05

There is a popular delusion among residents that Chesterton is neglected by the police. But last Friday in the small hours I noticed the glare of a fire from a burning shed in Springfield Road and saw a policeman sprinting round the corner of Ferry Path. He was followed within three minutes by four others, including a sergeant. This should convince residents that the police are alert for the safety of their lives and property. But superstitions die hard. 07 01 05

1907 01 18

When Dew Smith and Horace Darwin commenced the manufacture of certain scientific instruments for physiological work at the University Laboratory it was more as a hobby and not financially profitable. But it grew and in 1895 was turned into a limited liability company which is now flourishing at its pleasantly situated works off Chesterton Road. Among its important products is a kite used in meteorological observations and a machine for standardising small screws which has been supplied to the Japanese government. 07 01 18 & a

1907 03 30

Alexandra Gardens, Chesterton, was formally opened. Five years ago Chesterton Urban Council purchased disused brickpits with a frontage to Alpha Road. That portion was sold which enabled the council to acquire the remainder at a very moderate price. The upper part of Carlyle Road was widened, the land turfed, laid out with flower beds and planted with shrubs. It is proposed to have games of tennis and bowls as in vogue in seaside towns 07 03 30

1907 04 06

The Alexandra Gardens, Chesterton, is an excellent example of what can be done by local administrators who keep their eyes open. A few years ago what is now a delightful recreation ground for young and old was simply a collection of vile refuse, a danger and a nuisance. As the council cannot speculate in land Mr H.G. Whibley bought it for £1,350. He disposed of the Alpha Road frontage for £1,000 and made the rest over to the corporation for £350, providing residents a beautiful pleasure garden for a cost so small it is hardly worth considering. 07 04 06

1907 06 17

Cyclists have continued to ride on the footpath leading from Dant's Ferry to Cam Road, Chesterton, despite the notice prohibiting it. On 5th June PC Evans was on duty in the path and as a result a number of offenders were fined one shilling (05p). They included Powell Chandler, a clerk, James Huddlestone, a civil servant, William Heffer, a farmer and two auctioneers, Joseph Winship and Herbert T. Hockey. 07 06 17

1908 05 07

Chesterton Council is to write to the Motor Bus Company complaining of the vibration caused by the buses to houses on the route as they speed past at 12 mph. We feel that such vibration is the fault of Chesterton Road which is in a shocking condition. It is the constant bumping of the bus over the volcanic-like ruts that shakes the buildings so. The buses are a boon and blessing and we should be sorry to see anything which interferes with the swiftness and regularity of the admirable service. 08 05 07 & 07a & 09a

1908 08 21

The magnificent new schools at Milton Road, Chesterton have been equipped with every facility for instruction. Instead of sitting in cramped positions at unsuitable desks the tiny tots will be accommodated with seats to suit their various sizes and their lessons based on the Froebel principle, combining amusement with instruction. They mark a distinct advancement on elementary educational methods and the County Council is to be congratulated. CWN 08 08 21 p4

1908 08 29

The improvement makes a fine approach to the town from the Madingley Road, but one sincerely hopes that now the obvious danger of the corner has been removed, cyclists and others will not forget that the narrowness of the street remains none the less real. The larger portion of the traffic comes from Chesterton Lane and until the opposite corner has received the attention of the road-layer the improvement can hardly be regarded as complete. The great activity sadly disturbed the 'work-shys' who are wont to congregate at the corner for the purpose of holding up the wall. It was a delightful sight to see these groups huddling together, trying to snatch a snooze in the midst of all the clanging clamour of swinging hammers and picks. Now the road is to some extent open the human house-props are found at their usual haunts, though considerable indignation prevails among the more energetic. [CDN 29<sup>th</sup> August 1908]

1908 09 04

Sir – now the widening of Northampton Street is fast nearing completion the improvement of one of our many narrow and dangerous streets will be accomplished. But one effect will be that the traffic is greatly accelerated to the danger of those approaching the corner from other directions. The high wall around St Giles' church should be reduced: this would enable motorists to see more clearly, make the church more conspicuous and dry the road which in winter is often in a muddy condition, being hemmed in on both sides by high walls – Chestertonian. CWN 08 09 04 p7

1908 11 06

The council had been trying for some years to bring about the widening of Carlyle Road and have now been able to make arrangements with Miss Bell, Miss Pye and Mr Darwin who all owned land adjoining. The price agreed was a fair one and Mr Darwin had given his portion to the council. It was one of the greatest improvements in Chesterton for a very great time. Now tenders would be sought to construct a new wall using local labour. CWN 08 11 06 p5

1908 12 11

Chesterton school feud – Milton Road v St Luke's – case 08 12 25

1909 02 19

Considerable excitement was occasioned in Chesterton on Sunday by an outbreak of fire at 74 Montagu Road, occupied by Thomas Carter. Crowds congregated in the road and at the rear of the house, but happily did not witness the extensive conflagration expected. At noon Mrs Carter placed a bed to air before the fire in a back bedroom and soon found it on fire. The burning bed was pitched out of the window and buckets of water poured upon other burning material in the room by neighbours. For fire insurance on profit-sharing principles contact Rayment and Dickson, 104 Regent Street. 09 02 19

1909 05 05

Miss Martha Eyres told the court she managed a shop in Bridge Street. The prisoner called and asked for curtains to be sent on approval to him at the Bus Yard House, Chesterton Road. He promised to pay cash for those his wife kept. But no payment was received. George Clark, a retired butcher, said he had hired the Bus House Yard to the prisoner who'd left somewhat suddenly. 09 05 05

1910 05 13

William Hockey was the founder of the well-known auctioneering firm based in Bene't Street. As the agent for the De Freville Estate he had much to do with the development and planning of that part of

New Chesterton which has rapidly become of so much importance. He also held an important and confidential position at Trinity College, where he was highly regarded, and was Secretary of the Excelsior Building Society. For the past 20 years he was a very well-known and popular figure in the business life of Cambridge. 10 05 13k

1910 08 12

A new road between Rock Estate and Romsey Town would greatly improve communication between these largely populated and widely-separated districts, Mr W.P. Fison suggests. Rustat Road, which is a private road belonging to Jesus College could be continued until it cuts into Marmora Road. It would have to cross some allotments and a farm with a bridge over the railway line. There should also be a new road from East Road through Beche Road over a bridge into Old Chesterton. Both would provide work for the numbers of unemployed men in Cambridge 10 08 12e

1910 08 19

George Fawcett Winter, the well-known boatbuilder, became the proprietor of the boatyard near Victoria Bridge in 1876, succeeding the late Edward Searle. Ten years later he was connected with the boat-building industry at Eton: he used to spend the summer there and the winter at Cambridge. In 1900 he decided to relinquish his Cambridge business which came into the hands of Mr F. Pocock who is now carrying it on. He was well-known amongst University and Town rowing men and took an interest in the affairs of Old Chesterton. 10 08 19h

1910 02 09

Through the enterprise of Mr W.J. Ison, the Cambridge public is able to see the latest developments in bicycles as exhibited at the great cycle exhibition at Olympia, London. In the windows of his depots in Chesterton Road and St John's Street are to be seen samples of the all-steel Raleigh cycles which attained such wide fame. Doubtless many local cyclists will take the opportunity of inspecting these latest models of all that is best and most modern in the bicycle – 10 02 09c

1911 11 03

Cambridge Town Council wanted Victoria Bridge and its approaches to be declared a main road and maintained by the County Council. But they did not agree: the Bridge had been built under an Act of Parliament at the expense of Chesterton UDC and Cambridge Town Council. After the bridge was built Victoria Avenue had been declared and made a main road. But there was already a main road from Chesterton to Cambridge via Magdalene Street and over the Great Bridge 11 11 03i & j

1912 01 26

The long-sustained wet weather and recent snowfall have brought serious floods. Rising waters have caused the stoppage of the chain ferries to Chesterton, the towing path under Victoria Bridge was submerged and meadows between Grantchester and Newnham are under water. A ride on the Great Eastern Railway from Huntingdon to Cambridge presents a view of an immense lake studded with trees and the large Portholme Meadow is under water to a considerable depth. At St Ives basements in Bridge Terrace and kitchens at Filbert's Walk are flooded. 12 01 26b

1912 02 02

Cambridge Fire Brigade were called to a fire at a property in Chesterton Lane and turned out with the motor and fire engine. On arriving at the house, which is unoccupied and is one of a row which are being pulled down, they discovered the woodwork over the fire place and a cupboard adjoining were alight. The flames were quickly extinguished by the aid of the hand pump. Captain Greef, Lieut. Diver, Engineer Pearl and firemen Papworth, Brookman and others assisted. 12 02 02i

1912 02 09

Carpenter killed in fall from scaffolding at Scientific Instrument Works, Chesterton – 12 02 09a

1912 03 08

University lodging-house keepers have been venting their grievances. One woman has three sets of rooms; if she lets them all the year she gets £84. For rent, rates, taxes and wages of servant she pays

£53; that leaves her £31 for whitewashing, papering, staircloth, carpet etc and for food and clothes for herself. But this term all the rooms are empty. However in Chesterton there are many householders who let rooms to undergraduates; when they come part of Cambridge will the rateable values of their houses be increased? Lodging housekeepers should form themselves into a trades union. 12 03 08f

1912 03 22

Polling opened in the three contested wards of the districts to be added to the Borough – Cambridge Without, North and West Chesterton - under the most depressing conditions. Rain fell heavily which had an adverse effect on turnout. A sharp thunderstorm came on about midday, a very unfortunate time for those who wished to record their votes during the dinner hour. Some of the flashes of lightning were so vivid and the peals of thunder so heavy that doors and windows rattled while the rainfall was almost tropical in its intensity. In Chesterton East John Bester, who has done more than any other for the amalgamation with Cambridge, was returned unopposed. 12 03 22d

1912 03 29

Today the population of the Borough of Cambridge is 40,560. On Monday it will be 57,073. The extension of the boundary now brings in Chesterton and the urban portions of Trumpington, Cherry Hinton and Grantchester. These suburbs were inhabited almost entirely by people whose living lay in Cambridge but were separated from it by the River Cam or purely artificial borders. It means that the residents will now be under the care of the Cambridge Town Council. 12 03 29c

1912 04 12

Complaints have been made that since the enlargement of the borough boundaries the dust and refuse from houses in Cambridge and Chesterton had been collected less punctually. Also different street light times 12 04 12d

1912 04 12

Borough health statistics improve with addition of Chesterton – 12 04 12f

1912 04 19

Sir – Cambridge Corporation have instructed all persons in the out-lying parts to telephone the Central Fire Station in case of fire. We in Chesterton are in a very awkward position. We have no telephones for public use. The nearest fire alarm post is at Quayside and one would have to walk, run or cycle there, and then fumble about in a very poor light trying to find out how to work the apparatus. We need a telephone call office instead. A doctor might be sent for, goods ordered from various tradesmen or one might even ring up his best girl – Philip Clare 12 04 19f

1912 06 28

William Thomas Kirkup was the pioneer of the modern scientific system of chimney-sweeping and his business extended to nearly all of the colleges, notably Trinity and St John's. He formerly resided at King Street, then at Bottisham before returning to Chesterton Road where he passed away at the age of 67. He was an active member of the old Volunteer force and served 22 years as a bandsman. 12 06 28b

1912 09 27

Chesterton Road was the scene of a very remarkable fire. A motor lorry belonging to Messrs Sturton of Fitzroy Street, laden with cans of petrol was totally destroyed. The highly-inflammable spirit became ignited and a fire of extraordinary fierceness blocked the road with a sheet of flame. Can after can exploded flinging its contents in a blazing shower in all directions. The flames leapt to an astonishing height, reaching above the tops of houses and were accompanied by volumes of black, oily smoke. The paint on the door of a house on the river side began to blister and trees in the garden began to shrivel and smoke. It was impossible for the fire brigade to get near and it had to be left to burn itself out 12 09 27

1912 11 29

Mr Michael Rowell was the oldest victualler in either town or county. He had been at the Scales Hotel (the Portland Arms) for over 26 years having previously kept the Bleeding Heart in Old Chesterton. He also farmed and carried on a milk and contractors business. He was an elder brother of the once-famous Charles Rowell, the champion long-distance runner of the world who smashed all records on the path in a famous six days and nights 'go-as-you-please' race. 12 11 29e

1912 12 12

Miss M.B. Thomas, M.A. of Huntingdon Road has the distinction of being the first lady in Cambridge to resist paying her taxes on the ground that taxation and representation should go together. At the Spring Inn, Chesterton Road an antique pendant and two gold bracelets will be sold by auction by the Collector of Taxes. This is very unusual: R.B. Catling, the well-known auctioneer was approached but was unwilling to conduct the sale under such circumstances. A few years ago a farmer in Burnt Fen objected to paying the education portion of the poor rate and bought a new wagon to hand over for the purpose of distraint. It was painted red and he intended to have a record of each distraint recorded on a panel in black lettering, buying it back himself. He was convinced that by the time all the panels were filled in, he would be no longer called upon to pay the rate 12 12 12c

1913 02 14

It was with a thrill of horror that Cambridge received the news of the death of Captain Scott and the four comrades who had accompanied him on his final dash to the South Pole. Amongst them was Dr Edward Wilson, a former student of Caius College, whose talent as a water-colour artist was well-known in his Cambridge days. Another Caius man, C.W. Wright, was not among the party that met with disaster. Scott had received an honorary degree in June 1905 when the Public Orator spoke of his achievements. Mrs Keating of Chesterton Road is a sister of Mrs Scott who was on her way to New Zealand to meet her husband and was unaware of his death as the ship was out of the wireless zone. 13 02 14 p6 & 7 CIP

1913 02 28

St Luke's was a district lying between the Chesterton & Huntingdon roads, intersected by small streets in which were houses of working class persons. Victoria Road was an important thoroughfare with a great deal of traffic especially since the Victoria Bridge was opened. The bulk of the population was artisan and the parish was more or less a happy one to work in, the Rev Hird told Barnwell Clergy Fund 13 02 28 p5 CIP

1913 07 25

William Macintosh, a director of Messrs A. Macintosh & Sons told the court the landlord of the Spring public house, Chesterton Road had selected a bath and other things to be fixed at the pub, saying he would get the brewers, Lacons to pay it. But no payment was forthcoming. The defendant's solicitor said it was a most expensive piece of luxury. The judge: 'Do you call a bath a luxury'. 'It is here in Cambridge. We have no public baths here'. Judgement was given for the plaintiffs. 13 07 25

1913 08 01

Chesterton Road baker fire

1913 09 26

Lacon's brewery had 132 pubs in Cambridge; one of the best was the Spring Hotel Chesterton but a bath was essential if it was to do a good trade. Running and boating men were constantly complaining that saucer baths were inconvenient. So Lacon's Manager ordered a new one from Messrs Macintosh and they also replaced the lavatory which gave off a most offensive smell. But the brewery disputed payment and said it was up to the tenant to meet the cost. 13 09 26 p10

1914 04 10

Opposition to Guildhall Enlargement. In response to a petition by 80 ratepayers of Cambridge, the Mayor called a town's meeting at the Guildhall on Tuesday evening, when the following resolution was passed by a large majority. "That this meeting condemns the resolution passed by the Council at

the March meeting with reference to the; Guildhall extension, and if the Corporation find they require further accommodation for their officials, they should hire offices outside for the Education Department." With reference to a proposed carriage bridge at Chesterton the meeting carried, with less than a dozen opposing: "That this meeting, having considered the question of the postponement of the building of the bridge directed by the Cambridge Order 1911 to be built by April 1 1917, sees at this juncture no reason for such action." - 1914 04 10 CIP, – 14 04 10c, e

1914 05 29

Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company welcomed visitors to their workshops, test room, drawing office and stores. They were also shown the manufacture and operation of the various instruments made. Many are of great commercial value. The extension is the fourth addition since the works were moved from Panton Street to Chesterton Road. It is the chief of the few manufacturing concerns in Cambridge and now employs 180 hands 14 05 29d & e

1914 10 23

Under the 1912 boundary extension proposals Cambridge had to erect a bridge over the Cam to Chesterton within five years. Walnut Tree Avenue was the best site but whether this was the best time was a matter of debate. An Inspector from London had told them what they had to do and it was now the Law of the Land. Chesterton people had voted against it - in fact nobody wanted it. The only way to overturn the order was by going through all the expense of obtaining another Act of Parliament. Chesterton RDC Military roads

1914 11 13

Cyril Wright of Chesterton Road, a motor cyclist attached to the 1st Cavalry Division writes to his mother: Christmas is getting nearer and the war has not ended yet. I don't think it will last very much longer because of the terrible slaughter going on. I was in a village when the Germans opened a heavy artillery barrage, blowing the houses up as if they were made of putty. I was completely cut off so ran into a trench and had to stop there ten hours. After dark I crawled out under heavy rifle fire to my motor cycle only to find it smothered with broken glass and bricks. I was glad to get out of it.

1916 05 03

Military Wedding, — Great interest centred in the wedding at the Wesley Church, Christ's Pieces, Cambridge, on Saturday between Miss Lucy Irene Lavender; eldest daughter of Councillor and Mrs. G. H. Lavender, of 84 Chesterton Road. Cambridge, and Mr. Charles Arthur Shrubbs, 2nd Lieut., A.S.C., son of Mr. A. Shrubbs, of Hinxton. The church was filled by friends of the bride and the bride's parents, who are well-known and highly respected in the town. The bridegroom is a Downing man, and was at one time in the University O.T.C. The officiating clergy were the Rev. R. Winboulton Harding and the Rev-Dr. T. A. Barber, Headmaster of The Leys School. The service was choral. Afterwards a reception was held in the library of Wesley Church. The honeymoon is being spent on the South Coast.

1916 12 13

Thirty Years Hallkeeper.—Many, especially the older generation of Cambridge, will hear with deep regret of the death of Mr. James Jacob, who for 30 years (up to September, 1900) held the post of hallkeeper at the Guildhall, Cambridge. For many years past he had been residing at 15, Hertford Street, Chesterton. He was 83 years of age

1918 02 02

Chesterton Communal Kitchen, St Luke's vicarage, opens – 18 02 20a

**1920**

1920 03 30

Housing scheme land on Chesterton & Milton Roads, Mrs Gurney will sell her land

1920 05 20

Plans for tea and concert garden at Chesterton Road considered

1920 07 17

Y.W.C.A. Hostel moves from Barton Road to Chesterton Road overlooking the river

1920 11 04

Plans for cinema on site of Old Spring Brewery, Chesterton Road (Tivoli); first plans for a temporary building consisting of a stage and dressing room in the garden, later plans for roofing over the garden between the building and Chesterton Road

1921 07 27

A serious position has arisen in connection with the scheme for the erecting of houses by Cambridge Borough Council at Chesterton Road & Milton Road. The site was purchased some time ago and prepared for erection of 60 houses by direct labour. Construction of roads and sewers put in place. But Minister refuses to sanction other work unless whole of expense is borne by local rates. Work to stop and town will have a building site which cost over £14,000. It is impossible to proceed with building scheme without Government assistance – 21 07 27c

1922 01 11

Chesterton road bridge and position of footbridges to be left to electors to decide – 22 01 11 & a

1922 12 08

The urgent need for carrying out schemes of public importance in order to relieve the unemployment situation in the Borough were admitted on all hands at the meeting of the Cambridge Town Council. During the past two years they had been endeavouring as far as possible each winter to find work for those men who unfortunately were out of employ. Last year they were able to place 200 men on the Sewage Farm. That work had nearly come to a close. It was stated that there were 800 men out of work in the Borough which was an increase of nearly 100 over last year. Suggestions for further work included underground lavatories at the junction of Victoria Road, Chesterton Road and Milton Road, a bridge across the Cam at the bottom of Walnut Tree Avenue and a recreation ground on the Rock Estate

1923 01 12

After a long discussion the Cambridge Town Council today decided to embark on a scheme for the erection of 239 houses on the Chesterton Road and Milton Road site, viz 30 houses of the parlour-type, 165 houses of the non-parlour type with three bedrooms and 44 houses of the non-parlour type with two bedrooms

1923 02 01

The need for more land for the allotment holder was demonstrated at the first annual meeting of the Chesterton Allotment Association. Three hundred applications for land have already been received and it was reported that the Town Clerk is in communication with Clare College with respect to the purchase of a field in Milton and Scotland roads. There were some 24 acres contained therein. Mrs Stevenson said she was exceedingly interested in this East Chesterton's move towards getting satisfactory allotments. She thought it wise for this part of the town to see about getting their allotments before they got built over.

1923 04 13

A Cambridge boy, P S Milner-Barry, son of the late Professor Milner-Barry of De Freville Avenue, Chesterton, won the title of the first British boy chess champion. The title, which has been authorised by the British Chess Federation, was open to boys up to 18 years of age. Milner-Barry who is only 16 1/2 years of age, represented Cheltenham College in the competition, but his success also reflects credit on his old school, St Faith's preparatory, and the Cambridge town chess club, of which he is the youngest member

1923 10 24

Sir, - In some provincial towns the local authorities have adopted a scheme whereby tenants are given the option of purchasing the houses they occupy, upon slightly increased rent-purchase terms. Cambridge town council will soon have some hundreds of houses under their control, and it would surely be of advantage if some such arrangements were come to. Some hundreds of houses will eventually be erected on the Chesterton Hall site. Even now one cannot view the place without being struck with the depressing uniformity of all the houses - all one design, all one size, all one colour - not forgetting the flap over the front door. Considering that the council employ architects one would have expected something more varied to relieve the horrid monotony – “Chestertonian”

1923 10 26

Cambridge public health committee recommended the council make an order declaring the fried fish trade to be an offensive business. But Councillor Few said the council had power to insist there should be proper appliances for taking away the smell. Was it a question of the district where the shops were? Was it a case of no objections in New Street, but when it came to Chesterton it was offensive. He believed that in the case of the fried fish shop in Victoria Road it was the property owners that were backing opposition because they were afraid their property would suffer. Fried fish shops are the restaurants of the poor. If these shops were closed many people would be prevented from getting a hot meal

1923 10 30

Sir, - many Cambridge people can remember the "Dismal Jimmies" protesting at the suggested new road from the Four Lamps over Midsummer common and the bridge to Chesterton. The council stood firm, what is the result? Victoria Avenue and the bridge has proved a complete success, the trees have grown and have become a real avenue. And not only is it a boon and a blessing to Chesterton men; it is a credit to Cambridge. I trust the council will again stand firm and this time let the boon be for Newnham, with a roadway over Coe Fen that will prove a credit to the district and then we can cycle to business without expecting to be caught in the death trap of crowded Silver Street. – “Safety First”

1923 11 20

A ceremony unique in Cambridge and of a very impressive nature took place at the Carmelite convent on Chesterton Road when his eminence Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster gave an address. The ceremony was that of enclosing nuns. The house consists of two former dwelling houses joined together and possesses a small public chapel in which there will be public mass every day. With the exception of the nuns' choir chapel, no part of the building is actually new

1923 11 24

Sir with reference to the continuation bus service from Chesterton to Old Chesterton, I would like to point out that we ran the service in 1919 but it was an absolute failure and we were compelled to drop it. However as there seems to be a fresh demand I am giving it a trial. The terminus of the cars will be at Chapel Street, Old Chesterton, instead of De Freville Avenue as heretofore. The fare from Market Street to Chapel Street will be twopence. You will realise that it is quite impossible to revert to the penny fare over the whole of the services. It is true that the price of petrol has dropped, but the price of wages and labour generally has not decreased - John Walford, Ortona Motor Company

1924 10 05c

The 1924-5 edition of Spalding's Directory for Cambridge shows progress has been made with the development of various building estates and we find for the first time the names of Hawthorn Way, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Haig Road joining Chesterton and Cam Road, and Coleridge Road which is the name given by Jesus college to the new road between Cherry Hinton road and Romsey Town.

1924 12 02c

Progress is being made in connection with the erection of a bridge over the river at Chesterton but the Surveyor is overwhelmed with work. It is two or three years ago when the owner of the land necessary for the proposed bridge at Pretoria road said he was willing to sell the land at a reasonable

price. Over 800 people had paid for season tickets to go over the ferry and the council got something like 25s a week in odd halfpennies for casual passengers.

1925 03 16

The “Tivoli”, Cambridge’s new cinema on Chesterton Road will be opened on Thursday and many people have been speculating as to what it looks like inside. A representative of the CDN who had a look around came away very much impressed with the general air of comfort and the attractiveness of the interior. Over 600 people can be seated in the body of the hall and gallery. It has comfort, excellent lighting and excellent decoration. If you want a private box for six people you may have one for the sum of 15s.

1925 03 20

Described as “Chesterton’s super cinema”, the Tivoli made its debut before the Cambridge public when there were two opening performances. Elaborate, cosy, artistically lighted and efficiently ventilated, Cambridge’s sixth cinema has every justification for expressing itself in superlatives. It has a courteous staff of brown-uniformed attendants, an excellent orchestra and a screen sufficiently large to do justice to the most elaborate film productions. The projection last night was not perfect, but this was merely a matter of adjustment.

1925 05 28

“I promised the little girl at work that I would bring her some flowers” was the excuse which a 14-year-old errand boy offered to magistrates for wilfully damaging a laburnum tree at Victoria Great Jubilee Memorial Pleasure ground, Chesterton Road. The magistrates took a lenient view of the offence and fined him 3s.

1925 06 05

Cambridge council was told that the Brunswick school did not exist at the present time because the Borough surveyor drew attention to the giving way of the building, and they first of all had to pull down the Boys’ School because it was dragging the other part down, and eventually they pulled down the Girls’ School. The girls were in temporary premises at Paradise Street School and the boys in Fitzroy Street. They had to bear in mind that a new bridge was going to be built at Walnut Tree Avenue some time – (laughter) – and when that was done they would have to accommodate some children from old Chesterton.

1925 08 07

Sir – the proposed garage on Christ’s Pieces has called forth a crop of protesting letters; let them be directed against the ugly, barrack-like Councils houses at Chesterton and Cavendish Avenue. The majority of the houses are literally a blot on the landscape, badly designed, dreary and poverty-stricken, they are eyesores to every passer-by. Yet they are being built without a word of protest, while the cutting down of a couple of trees evokes a regular storm of indignation – Kappal

1925 09 24

Coun Porter said councillors might not realise what an old crock the ferry over the Cam at Chesterton was. When one went over in rough weather the water had to be baled out and the sides of the ferry shook. At the time of the fair the ferryman would not risk taking over a crowd of people because it was so dangerous. Children were taking a very great risk in using the ferry and the council taking the greatest risk of all in not taking steps to prevent somebody being drowned. The ferry was obsolete, it should be condemned at once and done away with.

1926 02 26

Householders in Chesterton Road have petitioned Cambridge Borough Council to lodge protest against the speed at which vehicles of the Ortona Motor Omnibus Company are driven down the road. “The effect of the excessive speed at which these jolting juggernauts are driven is to produce an intermittent earthquake which is doing great damage to our houses”. They should not be allowed to

exceed 10 mph, increasing to 15 mph when pneumatic tyres are fitted. The present indulgence, which allows solid-tyred vehicles to bump along at 20 to 25 mph, is altogether unreasonable, they claim

1926 04 26

An inquiry was held into the provision of two underground public conveniences at the junction of Milton and Chesterton and Newmarket and East Roads where there would be an island in the middle of the road. The Inspector asked whether they had designed the roof to carry the weight of a heavy motor lorry; it would be a very simple matter for a lorry to jump a kerb on a foggy night as had happened at Southend when people had been injured. He also raised the question of a convenience for women and the Mayor said the matter had been very carefully considered by the committee who were anxious to get on with the work as quickly as possible.

1927 01 06

Cambridge council agreed to spend £7,653 on the reconstruction and widening of Victoria Avenue. The scheme was criticised on the grounds that it would tempt motorists to increase their speed along the avenue. The Surveyor said that the railings should go back an extra 11 feet as far as the trees, making the road 55 feet. Chesterton wanted a vehicular bridge at Walnut Tree Avenue which would carry much of the traffic, but this had been coming for the last 35 years and it had not come yet (laughter).

1927 04 08

The Cam Conservators reported they had got the Fort St George ferry up, but it sank again. It was impossible to do anything with the boat and impossible to get another one. They had agreed to employ a man to do the work but could not undertake the risk. At lunchtime too many people crowded on to the boat and a man could not order them off. The Conservators had carried on the ferry at a loss for years. They had a contract to take the people across the water and had to do something. Chesterton people felt they had been badly treated.

1927 07 02

Sir – the work has been started to widen Victoria Avenue, Cambridge, from the Four Lamps to Victoria Bridge. The roadway when finished will be wide enough for vehicle traffic to proceed four abreast. The Bridge will not be so wide as the road and heavy traffic may mean serious congestion. Some suggest the road over the bridge may be made wider by making the footpaths overlap the river. If this were done the narrow road on the north side would be an obstacle and as this roadway cannot be made right through to Chesterton Road this scheme should never go forward – E. Clayden

1927 07 23

There was a good deal of grousing before the inhabitants of Chesterton had a footbridge over the Cam at Dant's Ferry. Now they have got one they have found something else to grouse about. At five minutes to eight every morning the instrument workers at Pye's are hurrying to work from the other side of the river. They curse and groan, trip and stagger under the burden of carrying their bicycles up and down a steep double flight of steps. Sooner or later some panting person carrying a bicycle will fall backwards or pitch into the river. The bridge was not made for cyclists who should get up earlier and ride up Victoria Avenue. [CDN 23rd July 1927].

1927 09 03

Chesterton folk looked very happy at the opening of the Pretoria Road footbridge and there was a fairly large crowd on both sides of the river. The bridge has been a very long time coming. There is an old proverb: "Bridges were made for wise men to walk over, and fools to ride over". Cyclists should remember this and the warning of the penalties awaiting those who do not dismount when crossing the bridge.

1927 11 03 c

A verdict of accidental death was returned at an inquest into a labourer from Tan Yard, Northampton Street, Cambridge who died as the result of injuries sustained in a motor accident. John Mayes,

cinema attendant at the Tivoli Cinema said deceased was pulling a handcart; he was in the shafts on the river side of Chesterton Road. He saw the left wing of the car hit the cart and the man went right under the car. William Tams, a photographer, estimated the car's speed at about 25 miles an hour. PC Brown said he saw the handcart being used to lever the car up in order to lift it off the man. The boy said "Some --- fool ran into me; don't let mother know".

1928 01 27

Cambridge council discussed recommendations to build a bridge over the river at or near Abbey Road. An inner ring road would circle the town on the outskirts which was necessary in view of the ever-increasing traffic and congestion in the centre of Cambridge. They suggested that a direct by-pass road be constructed by linking Chesterton Road with Milton Road

1928 02 21

Henry Percy Bowler, undergraduate of Pembroke College, was summoned for driving a motor car at a dangerous speed in Chesterton Road, Cambridge. Sergt Nelson, who admitted he had never driven a car, stated that defendant drove at 35 miles an hour round a corner on the off-side of the road. Defendant said he drove behind a small saloon car until he saw the road was clear and then passed it, his speed was about 27 miles an hour. The make of car was an H.P.B. and he assembled it himself. He bought the engine, which was 20 h.p. in 1912 for £6. A fine of 10s was imposed.

1928 07 09

Close to the windmill on the north side of Milton Road, opposite Chesterton Hall Crescent, occupying one of the highest and healthiest sites in the locality and surrounded by spacious lawns and trim walks stands the new open-air school for defective and sub-normal children. It is an ideal school, admirably adapted to its purpose and planned and equipped on a generous scale, a veritable children's paradise. The opening ceremony was an open-air function. Open air schools for delicate children have come to stay and in the future all schools will probably become open-air

1929 03 09

Sir – I have watched the progress of H.M.S. Dredger at present operating off the footbridge, Chesterton Road, Cambridge. Some months ago they dredged one half of the lower river in the vicinity of Jesus Locks and deposited the sludge on the Chesterton side in the river; later the dredged the river above the locks and deposited the sludge in the actual place previously dredged - 'One of the financing party'

1929 03 15

A case of considerable interest to people buying or selling goods on the hire-purchase system was heard at Cambridge court. Messrs Miller & Son sued the former musical director of the Tivoli Cinema, Chesterton Road over an H.M.V. gramophone and records. The agreement said that the machine was to be kept at a house in Chesterton Road but he had moved it to the nearby Spring Hotel without being granted permission. When he moved to the West Kensington Super-Cinema, London, the firm had seized the machine.

1929 03 22

Cambridge council is to introduce automatic traffic signals at the crossroads at Northampton Street and Chesterton Lane for a three-month trial. The present cost of a policeman on point duty was about £400 a year and the signals, with purchase, would be about £200 with about £25 a year maintenance and repairs. But Coun Stubbs described it as "robot policemen"; a friend in Liverpool had had to wait ten minutes with a clear road before he could get a move on. He did not see how traffic could be controlled as well as by human means: "I can see myself telling it to mind its own business" (Laughter). It was at the wrong place, being at the bottom of a steep hill; it would be better at the East Road – Mill Road crossing.

**1930**

1930 01 20

Demolition work has begun on the Chesterton Sub-Police station, Mitcham's Corner. At one time the office of the old Chesterton Urban District Council it became a police station on the amalgamation of Chesterton with the borough. Corner improvements have made its removal desirable. Workmen are hurrying in and out and already it is windowless and completely barren internally. It will be replaced by a police-box. The familiar fire standards are also doomed to disappear; five wall boxes have been erected which will be in operation as soon as the telephones are installed. The change has been made because the public dislikes the breaking of glass in the older standards and prefer to use a telephone case of emergency 30 01 20

1930 02 14

Large crowds gathered for the stone-laying of the new Arbury Road Baptist Church Hall and School. The new church will have the support of the Old Chesterton Baptists who will vacate their present chapel when the new building is complete. It will serve the needs of inhabitants of Green End Road, Milton Road and the Hurst Park & Chesterton Hall Estates and will be able to welcome members of other denominations. The ceremony was one of the most unique ever performed, there being six foundation stones laid. 30 02 14

1930 04 07

The new electric traffic signals are generally working well but it seems that the average motorist accelerates when the green light is showing in order to get through before it changes. This is particularly evident at the Northampton Street – Castle Hill crossing in Cambridge as a driver going towards Huntingdon seeing a stiff climb directly ahead naturally tries to get through and up the hill. But a driver coming down often finds his car has a tendency to accurate of its own and tries to get into Chesterton Lane a little too fast, swinging out into the standard erected in the centre of the road. 30 04 07

1930 12 12

The 'skeleton' of the Chesterton vehicular bridge came out of the municipal cupboard. It had been suggested when Victoria Bridge had been erected but the council subsequently rejected the proposals. In the meantime a temporary bridge had been erected at Dant's Ferry with the intention of moving it towards the Pike and Eel. Now it will be kept in the present position and lowered to make it easier to cross with perambulators. But it was a shame to spend £1,600 on a structure which had not been right when it was put up. 30 12 12c

1931 04 03

William James Ison started as a cycle dealer in Chesterton Road in 1897; his business prospered and at one time he had four shops selling and repairing cycles. He also put one of his own machines on the market. The 'New Chesterton' has become deservedly popular and a special racing model won over 100 prizes in 1908. His late wife was sister of Fred Lawrence of the Belmont Cycle Works in King Street. 31 04 03f

1931 06 12

The new road under construction between Milton and Histon Roads provides some exceptionally attractive sites for those wishing to erect a private house. It has much to recommend it as Chesterton is a very popular district but most of the available land within a reasonable distance of town has already been taken up. The plots are for the erection of private dwellings only and no bungalows or inadequate houses can be erected. 31 06 12k

1931 06 12

The complete reconstruction of the Cambridge Town Football Club is underway and when supporters pay their money at the gate next season they will be confronted with an entirely new sight. The old stand has been demolished and the network of frames for the new one seating 800 people erected together with a new pavilion. There will also be a full-sized Cumberland turf green for the Chesterton Bowling Club. 31 06 12l

1932 05 23

Cambridgeshire Insurance Committee considered moving to the new County Hall, Castle Hill. It was a very fine situation but what sane business man having a base in the centre would go a mile out of town to a place scarcely anybody knew - even though there was a free motor park. But future development would be on the north of Cambridge as the County had offered a very large acreage of land between Histon railway station and the old Chesterton village. 32 05 23 & a

1934 01 30

The greenhouses at Cambridge borough cemetery were beyond repair and would have to be scrapped. But more glasshouse accommodation was now required for the propagation of plants used on the recreation grounds. Two new 120 ft glasshouses could be constructed on the West Chesterton recreation ground where a house could be built for the man in charge, councillors agreed. 34 01 30

1934 04 07

Cambridge boundary extension, Chesterton reaction cartoon – 34 04 07

1934 05 05

Cambridge Mothercraft Clinic aimed to promote breast-feeding. It held clinics three days a week in Chesterton Road; over 2,000 mothers had attended and nearly 80 per-cent breast-fed their children. The class that attends the public clinics are not the best for an educational movement. They wanted to get people who are further up in educational interest, and perhaps intellectual development. The main aim was to keep well babies well. 34 05 05

1935 01 19

On one of the finest main roads of Cambridge has arisen a new garage that has been named 'Riley House'. No hastily conceived building this with its rows of pumps and oil cans bedecked in signs and colours. Here is a garage of dignity and restraint, logical in planning and design, fitted to be the new local headquarters of 'the Finest Light Car in the World'. Here one can fill up with petrol completely under cover while the workshop is equipped with the latest pressure greasing plant. Tom Cox Motor Co., Chesterton Road, Cambridge – Advert 35 01 19

1935 05 11

The new West Chesterton children's playground off Histon Road was opened by the Mayor and hundreds of youngsters thronged the ground for the occasion. Since it was bought as an orchard three years ago an immense amount of work had been necessary. It was not complete and they were hoping for swings and perhaps a roundabout later. It is primarily intended for younger children and not for the playing of hard-ball games such as cricket but old and middle-aged people could also enjoy the ground for sitting about. 35 05 11b

1935 05 18

Here is a wonderful opportunity to inspect the miracle-ride Studebaker that is sweeping the country. Not even a £1,500 car can give you such a ride: its swiftness, silence, smoothness and cutter security must be experienced to be believed. Features include independent front wheel suspension, compound hydraulic brakes and full five seats. Prices: Dictator regular saloon £298, de-luxe saloon, fixed-head coupe or roadster £348. See the models in our showrooms. Tom Cox Motor Co. Ltd, Riley House, Chesterton Road – advert. 35 05 18a

1935 10 25

The new Senior School off Gilbert Road, Chesterton contains separate departments for senior boys and girls, each with its own assembly hall fitted with a stage and cinema projection room. The boys department has science laboratory and woodwork and metalwork rooms while the girls' includes provision for cookery, laundry and dressmaking. A changing room, fitted with shower baths, has been included in connection with organised games. 35 10 25a

1936 01 10

New Chesterton Institute organised grand social at the Dorothy Café to celebrate their Golden Jubilee. The whole of the Dorothy had been booked for the occasion but even then the number had to be limited to 800 and several hundred were disappointed. There was dancing to Reg Cottage's band, a progressive whist drive and a concert in the Oak Room. Miss Queenie Chapman's pupils gave an excellent dancing display and Pat Peddle and Joan Metcalfe produced a version of 'Top Hat'. Suppers were served through the evening when a gramophone provided appropriate music. Many tired people were very glad of buses to various parts of the town. 36 01 10a

1936 01 31

There was a need for providing a community welfare centre for the housing estates on the outskirts of Cambridge where a large proportion of the houses were occupied by youngish married couples with growing children. Chesterton is like a new town, the people are isolated, lonely, vague and have no centre. Youngsters wandered aimlessly about with nothing to do and nowhere to go. They need a building for public meetings, concerts, dances, films and medical inspections. But it would not be suitable as a library and a site in Ascham Road would offer quietness and room for any necessary growth, councillors were told. 36 01 31 & a

1936 02 05

Premier Travel Ltd has been formed to take over the services of Royal Blue Coaches of Chesterton Road and the Harston and District Motor Services. Managing director, E.A. Lainson, says there is a definite need for a good independent transport company. They will offer special excursions to Hunstanton, Southend and Yarmouth, run motor tours to Europe all year round and also conduct a travel agency for steamship, motor coach and aeroplane services. 36 02 05

1936 11 07

Model liners built by F.W. Thiem floated in tank in garden at corner Chesterton Hall Crescent – 36 11 07d

1937 03 24

Men worked in gas masks when two heavily-laden lorries came into collision at the junction of Chesterton Lane and Castle Street. The crash happened at 5.30 am when the traffic lights were not working. The vehicles were an Eastern Railways lorry laden with ten tons of fruit and a lorry carrying 4,000 bricks. The impact threw the Railways vehicle on to its side and it fell on to the street refuge, the lamp standard and two posts. A passer-by was overcome by gas so workmen donned masks to move the load so a cock could be fitted and the gas turned off. 37 02 24a

1937 04 12

Opening Ascham Road library, the Mayor said it was a great day for Chesterton. In that beautiful building, with good light and accommodation they could look at the books and select them for themselves. The children's library would encourage youngsters to read. At present physical education was the fashion. We were in danger of producing a nation finely developed from the waist down. The library would help to counteract it. Ten months ago they opened a branch library in Rock Road and so far 87,799 books had been issued, very close to the number at Mill Road branch which had been in existence 40 years. (Applause). 37 04 23c & d

1937 09 21

New Chesterton Institute opened a new hall over the billiards room; it would be used for debates, lectures, whist drives, dramatic society work and other functions. 37 09 21

1937 12 21

Sir — in Cambridge we have a council which is over-ridden by an irresponsible official whose knowledge of local conditions is nil. Some councillors did oppose the removal of the pedestrian refuges at the junction of Northampton Street and Chesterton Lane but they meekly submitted and gave way to the arrogance of the dictator. It was said that large vehicles could not get round the

corners and that the lamp post had been knocked down 'scores of times'. But if certain transport companies have their way it will be necessary to remove St Giles' church and part of Magdalene College! - George Hall. 37 12 21

1938 01 22

New Chesterton Institute annual children's concert – 38 01 22

1939 02 08

The Grove Nursing Home was opened in 1920 with three beds. Nine years ago it was moved to Chesterton Road where there were nine beds. The most recent expansion is to 159 Hills Road where a newly completed extension gives accommodation for 20 patients as well as an up-to-date operating theatre with anaesthetising room and all the modern apparatus. The home is, of course, centrally heated 39 02 08b

1939 04 06

St Regis luxury flats, Chesterton Road. The main staircase has Rexine-finished walls with soft lights dispensing an atmosphere of well-being. The stairs are covered with cork to silence the noise. All flats are expensively fitted out and a resident caretaker will remove refuse and arrange for domestic cleaning. A unique feature is the provision of a large air raid shelter built under the garages. It has a concrete roof and will be perfectly safe against all but a direct hit by a heavy bomb. Provision has been made for gas-proofing it in case of emergency. 39 04 06a

1939 08 11

If the A.R.P. exercises which took place during the black-out had been the 'real thing', you, dear reader would not have a copy of this paper. For one of the buildings supposed to have been fired by an incendiary bomb was the Cambridge Daily News office. A patrolling warden summoned the A.F.S. unit which dealt with the 'blaze' effectively. But whether any vital damage was done by the fire was a matter left to the imagination. Thankfully only one pub was 'hit', the Jolly Waterman in Chesterton Road. 39 08 11a & b

## **1940**

1940 05 10

King Charles II at Newmarket. - Mr. Donald Dale, of Chesterton Road, Cambridge, in a letter to Watchman, refers to King Charles II's association with Newmarket, stating: The racecourse at Newmarket was one of Charles II's favourite resorts. Horse racing, indeed, was the most popular pastime of the Court, or nearly so ... In one of his poems, my Lord of Rochester refers to "Dragon," "Darcy" and "Gee," and these names would appear to refer to racehorses, the training of which was a pastime of many noblemen and the King himself. In October, 1680, Samuel Pepys, Prince of Naval Administrators and Diarist, was with the Court at Newmarket, taking down in shorthand (Shelton's tachgraphy) from the King's own lips the story of his escape after the battle of Worcester. The manuscript in longhand, is now in the Pepysian Library at Magdalene College. "I cannot tell whether the Rowley Mile is named after the Merry Monarch's nickname (Old Rowley) . . ." he says.

1943 02 05

Sole survivor of Air Crash. — Mr. John Howard, the young British diplomat, who was the sole survivor of an air liner crash in Peru last week, is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Howard, of 257, Chesterton Road. Cambridge. His parents on Friday received a cablegram from the hospital where he was taken, saying that there is no need to worry. Mr Howard, who is 28 years of age, was educated at the Perse School, and later at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, of which he is an M.A. He went out to South America about six months ago, and at the time of the crash was flying from Buenos Aires to Miami. News from Lima (Peru) described how Mr. Howard was catapulted from the back seat of the plane when the Liner crashed into a mountainside. The purser was sitting, with him, and was also thrown out but he died later from his injuries. For three days, it was stated, Mr. Howard lay injured beside the bodies of the victims before rescue services could reach him. The bodies of the

15 dead, who included three women and two other British diplomats, were taken to the Anglo-American Hospital at Lima.

1945 02 09

Road accident. The Cambridge Borough Police have issued an appeal for witnesses of an accident which occurred in Victoria Avenue near the junction of Chesterton Road, about 10.20 on Wednesday, when a pedestrian, received serious injuries after being struck by an Eastern Counties bus. The injured man was taken to hospital in the Borough Ambulance. The accident may have been seen by passengers on the bus and any witnesses are asked to communicate with the Borough Police as soon as possible.

1945 07 27

Cambs League. — Left about 100 minutes to get 166 to beat New Chesterton Institute, in the Cambs League on Saturday, Marshall's just failed to beat the clock, being 14 runs behind, with three wickets intact at the call of time. Feature of the Institute's innings of 153 for nine declared was the display of B. Arnold, who made 78 (including 10 fours) before being seventh out at 142. Half the side were out for 53, but B. Bull helped to add 75 for the seventh wicket. S. Kirby, who secured five of the wickets for 28, was top scorer for Marshall's with 46 (five fours). J. Peel, who hit a six and three fours, in his 26, was his partner in a second wicket stand of 64, and later B. Brown hit out, having two sixes and three fours in an unbeaten 40. Bowling unchanged for 19 overs, Bull took four wickets for 46 runs.

1947 11 26

Cambridge is well used to welcoming Very Important Persons but none is so sure of a vociferous reception from the youngsters as Father Christmas. He was received with traditional acclaim on Saturday when, in the presence of hundreds of youngsters, he arrived at Mitcham's Corner, Chesterton Road. On arrival he proceeded to deliver the goods in the traditional way, leaving his "reindeer coach", climbing up a ladder outside the shop and disappearing down a big chimney. A crowd of children saw him in Nurseryland, surrounded by his friends, the Three Little Pigs, Big Bad Wolf, Pluto, Micky and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and others. He will remain in residence until Christmas Eve

1948 11 22

A very important visitor who every child in Cambridge welcomes with joy, arrived on Saturday. He was none other than Santa Claus. He arrived from Toytown with a well-filled sack to deal with the seasonal requirements of the boys and girls. He was given a royal welcome. There were several hundred children of all ages ranging from tiny tots carried by their mothers, waiting in a state of great expectancy, at his destination, Mitcham's, Chesterton Road. Cheers from waiting children heralded the arrival of the smiling, rosy cheeked Santa and a knot gathered round and followed, Pied-piper fashion, to the foot of the ladder he had to climb up to the chimney before he disappeared down the chimney into Santa's Nurseryland where he will be in residence till Christmas

1949 03 14

Sir — the trouble with the Four Lamps roundabout is its bad design. It was put down many years ago and allows traffic to approach at too fast a rate. The new roundabouts on Chesterton road with its beautiful flower gardens and the one where Lensfield joins Trumpington road are of better design because they slow all traffic down to walking pace. A much greater terror is that most insane junction, Pembroke Street and Mill Lane with Trumpington Street. How people avoid being killed daily is always a marvel to me. It would be so easy to control these with traffic operated signal lights — D. McClure Campbell

1949 06 18

Winners in the Chesterton shopping week competition were presented with their prizes at the Tivoli cinema. The object was to show the public that all the goods they need can be obtained in their own area, without wasting time and energy in buses and in queues; at competitive prices and with good service and personal attention. Shopkeepers had many difficulties to contend with during the past 10

years including coupons, form filling and shortage of material, and at the present time, shortage of ready money. There was laughter when men's names were given as the winners of a home perm and two pairs of nylons

1951 09 11

Mr Joseph Henry Priest of Waterbeach, who died suddenly aged 73, was well-known in sporting circles. Fifty years ago he was an amateur champion cyclist and for over 40 years he has been closely identified with the Cam Sailing Club. Setting up for himself as a stationer and printseller in Bridge Street, Cambridge, he continued until the First World War when he opened up the premises as a ladies' outfitter in conjunction with Mr C.N. Mitcham. Later he took the corner premises now occupied by Messrs Peak in Fitzroy Street and carried on as 'The Quality Shop' and subsequently joined the firm of C.N. Mitcham's of Chesterton. In the heyday of amateur theatricals he was a member of the Bijou Amateurs.

1952 06 03 c

Ever since he was a young lad "Shorty" Hallen has been fascinated by motor cycles. Some 20 years ago he started a business of his own in a small shed in Chesterton. Then in 1936 he opened his showrooms at Chesterton Road, Cambridge. Now he has opened another shop at the Bridge Garage, St Ives. Who could have visualised that the rather tumbled-down buildings could have been turned into the magnificent premises they now are? Instead of a musty-looking building it is a brightly painted, well set out and amply stocked showroom with everything for the motor cyclist. It will add to the usefulness, drawing capacity and charm of the town.

1953 02 10

People of Cambridge are responding well to the Queen Mother's message broadcast by the BBC appealing for clothing for the East Coast flood victims. At the W.V.S. Regional Headquarters in Chesterton Road clothing is piling up on the floor. All morning people have been arriving from Cambridge and the outlying villages with armfuls of clothes and children's toys. The British Red Cross Society are busy and a long line of people have offered bedding and bedsteads of all descriptions. The Harvey Goodwin Nursery has made an offer of babies' cots

1954 03 09

Mr L.W. Hallen started his motor cycle trading 21 years ago in a low-roomed malting shed opposite Union Lane corner and shortly afterwards acquired premises in Hawthorn Way. During the war Government contracts for repair work on RAF vehicles helped the firm to expand and premises which were a dance hall were converted to the use of the business. They have now opened a spacious new showroom on the site of former almshouses that jutted on to Union Lane. Their empire now occupies an extensive stretch of Chesterton High Street

1954 07 19

The Minister's decision on the County Development Plan has been announced. The only major Cambridge items not approved are the site of the bus station between Christ's college & Emmanuel and the proposed development for residential purposes of the smallholding land north of Arbury Road. All the central area road proposals including the 'spine relief road', the new Guildhall Street and a cross-town route joining Emmanuel Street with Downing Street have been approved together with the new Chesterton Bridge over the Cam near Walnut Tree Avenue, a multi-storey car park in Corn Exchange Street and a subway at the railway station.

1954 11 18

Councillors discussed the problems of building a new school on Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge. It was known that the site was water-logged and deep piles would have to be provided for the foundations. Chesterton Library which had been built on deep piles was already cracking up and for the same thing to happen to this expensive school would be disastrous. These difficulties had been pointed out to the Planning Officer but they supported the 'green field' site that was now developing into a 'green G-string'

1957 05 15

A revolutionary – even fantastic – scheme has been put forward to use Cambridge Castle Mound as a multi-deck car park. Tunnels would be driven into it to provide space for hundreds of cars with be entrances from Chesterton Lane, Huntingdon Road and Magrath Avenue. The dirt excavated could be used for filling in Coldham's Lane pit, providing more parking spaces or building land. There will no doubt be many objections. 57 05 15

1957 08 31

A four-storey hostel for Clare College between the Shire Hall mound and Chesterton Road will provide the most modern accommodation in the University. Each of the 40 students will have his own bed-sitting room with adjoining washroom and clothes cupboards and central blocks of bathrooms and w.c.s. During vacations it will be used by delegates attending conferences. When the proposed Spine Relief Road is constructed the North side will face an up-to-date motorway. 57 08 31c & d

1959 11 05

Cambridge Instrument Company proposed new laboratories, Chesterton Lane – 58 11 05 & a

1959 10 15

Cambridge Instrument Company opened its new research headquarters in Chesterton Road. Its four floors comprise laboratories for the development of instruments for mechanical engineering, electronics and physical chemistry together with a specious drawing office. It was a tribute to the unswerving devotion of the men who had worked there over the last 80 years, said Lord Adrian, University Vice-Chancellor. He had declined the use of a car and arrived on bicycle for the opening ceremony where he was presented with a compass. 59 10 15c

***1960's The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date***

***1960***

1960 04 12

The parish of St Andrew the Great has had no Vicar for two years because it has had no vicarage to offer. Now it has bought a house at 142 Chesterton Road. The peoples' warden, J.W.W. Filby says it should remove the main drawback to the appointment of an incumbent to take over the place of Canon A.L. Woodard who officially retired two years ago but has been carrying on. The gift of the living is with the Lord Chancellor whose department is actively considering a successor 60 04 12b

1960 10 21

Since the opening of the New Chesterton Institute in 1885 members have not been able to obtain any alcoholic drinks in the club. But now it has opened a bar in an effort to increase the dwindling membership. One of the first to patronise it was 89-year-old Sam Gawthrop, who has been a member of the club for 72 years. His drink was a non-alcoholic ginger-ale. "I don't touch much of the stuff now, I am too old for that lark", he said. 60 10 21b

1960 11 02

Many roads were flooded following a torrential downpour. Policemen with red warning lights patrolled parts of Queen's Road which was covered to a depth of 18-inches in parts and the roadway at Chesterton Hall Crescent was also under water. Wilberforce Road was the most seriously affected where water poured off a nearby playing field and fences were pulled up to divert the flow away from houses. The Wheatsheaf Inn at Harlton and a cottage at Barton Road Haslingfield were also inundated. This has been one of the wettest years recorded in Cambridge. 60 11 02b

1961 02 17

The Old People's Welfare Council believes the best thing for the elderly is for them to live independently as long as possible. But many cannot and there are an increasing number of people

wanting care in their old age. The main problem is finding suitable premises to make into old people's homes. In 1948 the County Council had to do with Linton Hospital and a few beds at Chesterton Hospital. Since then they have been modernised and improved. After the war buildings were very difficult to get because of competition from firms wanting office accommodation and the rising cost of land. The first new home was The Grove, Fordham in 1951, followed by Willingham House and in 1956 Primrose Croft was adapted to take 35 elderly residents. The future plans are to erect purpose-designed buildings 61 02 17b

1961 03 22

The strong room at Barclay's Bank in Chesterton Road was blown open and £75,000 in notes stolen in the City's biggest bank robbery. The raiders piled stacks of office furniture and cushions to muffle the noise of the explosion which blew a hole three feet across in the strong room wall, then crawled through to help themselves to the money. Arrangements have been made to transfer the silver and copper coinage the thieves left behind. 61 03 22

1961 05 27

'The Willows', a six and a half acre piece of land at Cam Road, was one of the few building sites left in Cambridge. It was just a mile from the city centre with outline planning permission for the building of 200 flats in six blocks ranging from two to 15 storeys. The proposed new trunk road and bridge linking Chesterton and Newmarket road will pass the site. But it failed to reach the reserve price and was withdrawn from auction at £50,000 61 05 27

1961 07 01

Permission to build a temporary Bailey Bridge over the River Cam at Chesterton has been refused. The Minister appreciates the council's desire to reduce the amount of cross river traffic using the Victoria Avenue – Victoria Bridge route but it would attract additional vehicles through narrow and tortuous roads. Proposals to restrict the bridge to local traffic and impose weight restrictions to prevent its use by heavy lorries would not work, he says. Now the Council will proceed with plans for a new permanent bridge 61 07 01

1962 01 25

Castle Street, Chesterton Lane corner widening – 62 01 25

1962 05 01

An experiment at Mitcham's Corner designed to speed up rush hour traffic brought protests from road users and residents. Cars and lorries were brought to a complete standstill for up to ten minutes in Chesterton Hall Crescent which was used to siphon off traffic from Milton and Gilbert Roads. Residents protested saying it was a fiasco and the scheme should be abandoned. There were 16 children under ten years of age living in the Crescent and they felt strongly for their safety 62 05 01a

1962 09 14

Maurice Stevenson started as a cinema projectionist in 1927 as a lad of 16 at the old Tivoli Cinema in Chesterton Road. They were the silent days. Then he went to the Regal and later the Central. In the old 'disc' days you had to be careful even closing the door in case you shook the needle out of its groove in the record. If you lost the synchronisation between the record and film it was the devil's own job getting it back again, he remembers. The machinery is much more simple to operate now. 62 09 14

1962 10 25

New garage and flats on corner Chesterton Road nearing completion – photo - 62 10 25b

1963 10 04

St Luke's Mews, off Chesterton Lane, are the first moderately priced new town houses in central Cambridge. Although only ten minutes' walk from the centre, the houses stand in a quiet setting with mature trees. The completely modern design incorporates gas hot air central heating and independent

electric thermostatically controlled domestic hot water supply. They have built-in cupboard under the stairs, built-in dustbin cupboard, two bedrooms and internal bathroom. There are gardens to rear and a forecourt for car parking. Prices from £3,110. (£55,000 at today's prices) 63 10 04

1963 10 16

Lloyds Bank Chesterton Road opened June 1930; adds extra storey – 63 10 16

1963 12 31

Prince Chula-Chakta-Bongse, King of Thailand's cousin, dies. He installed the dog drinking trough Chesterton Road – 63 12 31

1964 09 15

The first stage of Cambridge's Inner Relief Road would comprise twin-carriageways starting with a roundabout at Murkett's Corner, on the junction of Huntingdon and Histon Roads. The planned road goes southward through the Rex Cinema site, leaving space for the proposed law courts near Shire Hall. As it approaches Chesterton Road there will be a flyover to take the main traffic flow over a roundabout. Then there would be a new bridge over the Cam before it crosses Jesus Green parallel to Park Parade. A subway will give access under the road to Jesus Green. 64 09 15

1964 11 09

H.C. Banham, the old-established boat building firm, might be forced to close if the Chesterton Road Bridge is built along its present line. It would involve destruction of major buildings, plant installation and machinery and cut their land in two 64 11 09

1964 11 11

Chesterton Bridge route would bring very heavy traffic within feet of residents – 64 11 10a

1964 11 27

Wallis Autogyros Ltd, formed by Wing Commander Kenneth Wallis and his cousin, produce some of the world's smallest aircraft. Military versions of his autogyro have been tested by the Army and reached more than 10,000 feet. Now the design is being simplified for amateur flyers. Twelve are being completed at a factory at 121 Chesterton Road. His father built the 'Wallbro' monoplane in St Barnabas Road in 1909, but it was destroyed by a storm 64 11 27b

1965 03 16

Chesterton Road house, Mitchams, being demolished for extension Barclays Bank – photo- 65 03 16b

1965 04 22

Wallis Autogyros set up in Chesterton Road with support from people at Coton – 65 04 22a

1967 03 03

Mitcham's Corner, second huge island created between Chesterton Rd & Victoria Rd – 67 03 03b

1968 01 04

J. Ward & sons cycle shop in Castle Street closes after 22 years, staff transfer to Chesterton Road branch – 68 01 04a

**1970**

1971 07 17

Runciman's veterinary surgeons: profile of Cambridge business; has just moved from Downing Street to Chesterton Road – 71 07 17

1972 03 01

The Cambridge M.P., Mr David Lane yesterday waived aside professional traffic statistics and asked those at the by-pass inquiry to use their eyes and their common sense. In a statement to the three-week old inquiry Mr Lane gave his whole-hearted support to both the proposed western and northern bypasses and claimed to have the backing of most people in Cambridge. A woman living in Elizabeth Way wrote "On this bend to which the big lorries cruise and then rev up hard out of it it is one frightful nightmare and the fumes are really killing". A man living in Chesterton Road wrote: "Life is now intolerable and the only acceptable answer is an alternative route by-passing the city altogether" In supporting the northern bypass Mr Lane said disturbance to Girton village must be minimised.

1972 11 30

A new hotel opens in Cambridge this week - and with 33 bedrooms it becomes the fourth largest in the city. The new Arundel House Hotel is a complex of red brick houses on Chesterton Road overlooking the River and Jesus Green. The development follows the purchase of number 61 Chesterton Road last year and its conversion into a 12-bedroomed hotel. Now John Norfolk has converted two other adjacent properties he owns - from flats and bedsitters to an integrated hotel complex. "With house prices as they are now it is virtually impossible to charge a proper rent related to these new values," he said. "The transition of Chesterton Road into a hotel was the obvious answer to get a proper return"

1973 01 26

Cambridge Moslems will soon have their own mosque if a scheme to convert a property goes through. The City's Moslem Association have bought 175 Chesterton Road and hope to use it for their Friday prayer meetings as well as religious festivals and other meetings. A Trustee of the foundation said "We have about 70 members and we hope that it will be a meeting place for all Moslems who are living or staying in Cambridge. If we get permission for it we shall be sending back to our home countries for donations and help from there"

1974 07 12

Time and cost, two major problems when you are having your own house build, have been drastically cut in a revolutionary new house in Cambridge. It took only three months to put up the tall, airy three-bedroomed house at 214 Chesterton Rd, and the cost (without land) was £7,200 – less than half the normal figure to build a house of this quality. This remarkable feat was achieved by a Cambridge University lecturer in architecture who designed it for his own family. His method was to use unconventional building material. A timber frame, flat asbestos sheets form the walls and a feature of the design is the huge expanse of glass. It is an exciting, attractive home which could set a new style in house building.

1974 09 21

The opening of Cambridge's new indoor bowls centre at Chesterton brings to a climax many months of work by a group of bowlers who can now boast the only six-rink indoor green in the country. Sited next to their outdoor green in Logan's Way, the impressive new building is the next best thing to bowling on a warm summer's day. Already there are 400 bowlers on the membership lists and secretary N. Harper-Scott says there is still room for more

1976 12 30

The Cambridge Polish community has a simple though to reflect upon. Fascism drove them out of their country and brought them to Britain & the advent of communism back home kept them here when the war ended. Poles like Henio Muszynski and Czeslaw Rataj, young infantrymen in 1945 recall the camaraderie of a post-war further education camp at Fowlmere where many were taught English and eased into British life. Cultural and social activities thrived; there was dancing and drama, "but we would just hire a place so that people would meet every week to talk Polish and just play cards", said Mr Muszynski. Four years ago the community raised the money needed to buy a three-story club house in Chesterton Road. It has 300 members and is a comfortably furnished piece of Poland in Cambridge.

## **1980**

1981 06 24

Scudamore's has decided to close its motor boat marina at Logan's Way, Chesterton – just four years after its controversial plans were given the go-ahead by the city council. The marina was only open for a month last summer and was no longer considered to be profitable. They ran the marina on council-owned land and negotiations are now taking place to work out what to do with the site. 81 06 24c

1982 03 12

Maurice Stevenson is Cambridge's longest-serving projectionist; he recently retired from the Victoria Cinema after showing films for 54 years. He started aged 14 at the old Tivoli Cinema in Chesterton Road, moved to the Central, then the Playhouse where he was chief projectionist at the age of 18. Later he was at the Regal. He has seen it all from the 'silent' days to the coming of 'talkies', then colour; from the advent of 3D and wide screen to stereophonic sound, from traditional projection methods to highly-developed technology. 82 03 12d

1984 08 28

Furious shopkeepers in Chesterton Road are banding together to fight plans to turn a derelict house into a hostel for the homeless. They claim it will be a home for drunks who will make life unbearable for people living in the area. The sub-postmaster says drug addicts and drunks are already a problem – on Thursday afternoons half the customers are drunk when they come in for their Giros. But the King Street Housing Association says it will be a refuge for the homeless with full supervision and not a place for alcoholics. 84 08 28 p5

1984 10 19

Kimberley Road, a quiet residential side street in the Chesterton area, may soon be renamed Nelson Mandela Avenue to commemorate the South African anti-apartheid freedom fighter. Residents are to be asked their views and if there is a hostile reaction councillors may turn their attention to Natal Road instead. It had been suggested that Mr Mandela be granted the Freedom of Cambridge but this is not possible under the council's laws. 84 10 17 p1

1984 11 14

Sir - This is the 50th anniversary of a great act of kindness to the dogs of Cambridgeshire by a distinguished foreign visitor. In 1934 HRH Prince Chula of Siam erected a memorial to his dog Tony in the form of a fountain at the correct height so that dogs could slake their thirst in hot weather. It still stands outside the Chesterton branch of Lloyd's Bank but is in a sorry condition. Can it not be cleaned up and maintained? - Paul Garside, Science Park. 84 11 14 p16

1995 08 07

The New Chesterton Institute was founded 100 years ago to promote the moral, mental and physical well-being of its members. Today with 1,100 members the NCI Sports and Social Club is still going strong. Meetings were originally held in the Coffee House, Searle Street until the present building was erected in 1891. In the early days it was famous as a debating society. Now it is known more for its sporting achievements and even has a crib team. 95 08 07a

1985 12 10

More than 200 young people entered the Rob Roy pub in Chesterton Road to hold a late-night disco. Sixty-five police prevented any more entering as toilet rolls, a chair and other pieces of furniture rained down. As there were no lights on, except for the disco light and with a crowd in excess of 200 police decided it would be unsafe to enter and clear the building. The pub had not been derelict but undergoing refurbishment and considerable damage was done to the upstairs room. It followed confrontation with several hundred youths outside the former Thakes cycle shop in East Road 85 12 10b

1986 04 24

A plan to turn the old Tivoli Cinema in Chesterton Road into an arts and entertainment centre has been turned down as it would cause noise and traffic problems in the area.. It hoped to have featured films, fashion shows, music and exhibitions and would sometimes have remained open for music and dancing until the early hours. But residents opposed the idea. The Tivoli was for a long time used as a storage warehouse and some months ago was granted permission to be turned into a public house and restaurant 86 04 24

1986 06 11

Chesterton Mill, in French's Road was built in 1847 but has stood derelict for the last 30 years. The eight-sided smock mill was only partially successful when driven by wind so the sails were removed in the 1890s and it was subsequently driven by steam, suction gas and diesel. It has now been renovated and starts a new lease of life as the home of Cambridge public relations firm Beveridge Kartupelis. 86 06 11a

1986 08 28

French's Mill was built on a high point in Chesterton in 1847 by William Beart. It was a wooden-walled smock mill but didn't catch enough wind, so it was jacked up and an eight-sided brick base added. But it was still not satisfactory so in 1868 William French converted it to run on steam power. Later the sails were removed and gas engines installed, to be replaced by diesel 14 years later. At its peak small bakers used the it regularly but when the adjoining land was taken as playing fields for St Peter's School it looked as if the mill was doomed. Now it has begun a new life as an office suite and the surrounding buildings house ten other small companies playing their part in the technology boom 86 08 28

1987 10 02

The City Council are negotiating to buy a £300,000 16-bedroom hotel in Chesterton Road with a large dining room, lounge, extensive kitchens and parking for 15 cars. All carpets, furniture, bedding and crockery are included in the price. It will be used to provide bed-and-breakfast for homeless families waiting for permanent accommodation and will work out cheaper in the long run. Property values are increasing rapidly and it could be sold at a profit if the number of homeless families falls substantially. But one outraged neighbour described it as an upmarket dosshouse not appropriate for the area. 87 10 02

1987 12 03

Cambridge has never offered a better selection of eating establishments according to three food guides. Midsummer House, opened last year, features in all of them but Twenty-Two on Chesterton Road provides probably the best food in Cambridge. The Free Press serves some of the best pub food in East Anglia while the Shao Tao is smarter than the average provincial Chinese restaurant. Outside Cambridge there is praise for the Old Fire Engine House at Ely, Fenland Lodge at Stuntney and the St Ives Motel. 87 12 03a

1988 04 21

When Margaret Badcock set up the new Cambridge tourist desk at the back of the library in 1971 there were three people who ran private guiding services. Now there are 150 official blue badge guides who have passed difficult examinations and are fluent in a second language. Then the University Arms was asking less than £6 for a double room with breakfast – it is now £57 - while the Sorrento Hotel in Cherry Hinton Road charges about £40 and the Belle Vue Guest House in Chesterton Road between £19 and £22, the average for a double room in a private house. 88 04 21b

1988 11 23

Cambridge's large Polish community celebrated 40 years in the city at the Polonia Club in Chesterton Road. They have built up an impressive network of activities ranging from a drama society and folk song ensemble called Klosy to a school founded in 1952 to teach Polish language and culture. When Josef Mazur came in 1947 the only employment open to Poles was labouring, work in the mines or

domestic positions. The older members of the community are suspicious that youngsters will not uphold the traditions, but they want them to survive. 88 11 23c

1988 12 15

The former Tivoli cinema building which opened on Chesterton Road in 1925 has been converted into 'The Exchange' with two large cocktail bars and a 120-seater restaurant. Later will come a basement gym, a punt landing stage and a roof garden restaurant with panoramic views over Jesus Green. Entertainment facilities include a huge electronic roll-down screen, the latest audio equipment and closed circuit television relaying film of the dance hall, But great care has been taken to preserve the distinctive atmosphere with plaster ceiling mouldings and a combination of rich dark and red wood 88 12 15a

1989 06 07

Angry residents are banding together to block plans to sell the former Roger Ascham School and part of the nearby Chesterton playing fields for a potential housing development. Founded as a school for children with physical disabilities, it closed in 1987 and is now used as a teachers' resource centre. Residents are worried about the increase in traffic and noise which would result. The amenity value and its potential for the community have been ignored, they claim 89 06 07

1989 07 06

Townsend's take over Ison's cycles which was started by W.J. Ison in 1893 and made the New Chesterton cycle. Albert Townsend started in 1890s making Cambridge Light Blue Cycles in Norfolk Street, moving to Burleigh Street in early 1960s 89 06 30 Townsend's history – profile – 89 07 06

1990 10 25

Andre Marsh Goldsmith company, Chesterton Road raided – 90 10 25a

1990 12 21

Chesterton Community College hall renamed Rex Freeman Hall – 90 12 21b