



*Fish
Market
Peas
Hill
1930*

10242

c.44.6: Peas Hill

1897 11 25

A well-attended meeting was held in Eden Street School, Cambridge to discuss the proposed expenditure on a new Guildhall front. Mr R. Sturton said they must have a new cemetery as he did not suppose sanitary science would advance sufficiently rapidly to go in for cremation en bloc. Then there was the new Police Station and something would have to be done to the Sanatorium. Mr Burwick though the more they beautified Cambridge the more good they would do to business. Why not have a police station at the town hall, offices for the payment of rates, swimming baths. He did not see why shops should not be built on Peas Hill so as to bring in a considerable amount

1899 10 03

Cambridge cabmen's union was told that certain ladies had volunteered to provide a cabmen's shelter on Peas Hill, close to St Edward's church. The chairman hoped the cabmen would always maintain their proper rank of respectability, and keep themselves above suspicion of rowdyism or anything approaching to it

1900 12 22

A serious fire occurred on the premises of Messrs Coulson & Co., drapers at Peas Hill, Cambridge, and the flames were not extinguished until the entire stock of goods in the shop were completely destroyed. Captain Greef of the Fire Brigade arrived as did 14 firemen and nearly a dozen constables. The fronts of the shop were much damaged. The cause of the fire is attributed to the overturning of one of the incandescent burners in the shop window.

1901 05 20 c

Messrs Bidwell, auctioneers, conducted a very successful sale of property in Wheeler Street and Parsons Court, Cambridge. Two shops with a dwelling house, being No.11 Peas Hill, sold for £2,050. Nos.1 & 2 Wheeler Street comprising a cabinet-makers shop, with dwelling house, and a harness maker's shop brought in £1,800 while a private house in Parsons Court was knocked down for £750

1904 06 03

Fire in Messrs Bell and Son's premises in Wheeler Street, an ancient building used as a corn and seed merchants premises for two or three centuries. Police constable Winter noticed fire and smoke at 4.30 am and gave the alarm. The hose reel from the Guildhall was affixed to a hydrant and a stream of water directed on the burning building. Firemen appeared on the scene with the horsed fire-escape and tender but the building of three floors and constructed largely of lath and plaster was burning fiercely. The flames leapt high through the roof and shot out through the windows. In a very short time the roof fell in with a crash and all hope for saving the property was destroyed. The efforts of 28 firemen and 15 police was directed towards preventing the spread of the fire to the adjoining property. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. There had been unusual activity among the rats and mice in the old premises, now taken as a sign that the fire had got a good hold on Sunday evening. The damage was extensive. The fire and second floors, used for the storage of fodder and seed were nearly burnt out, the ground floor and offices were severely damaged by smoke. The basement and the top floor and a small part of the roof of the 'Bell' public house were damaged by water as were the contents of the tobacconist's shop at the end of Wheeler Street occupied by Mr Canham. The window frames of the Cambridge Free Library were slightly damaged by the heat. 04 06 03

1904 06 16

Cambridge Library committee referred to the recent fire on Peas Hill and the destruction of the premises adjacent to the library. But for the skill of the fire brigade the reading room must have been destroyed and the contents lost. The accumulation of books, pictures and scarce literature could never be replaced. Now the old dilapidated buildings should be cleared away and a more appropriate building erected. Next year they would celebrate the jubilee of the opening of the library and the appointment of Mr Pink as Librarian. The Library Association should be invited to hold their annual meeting at Cambridge, free of charge.

1906 08 07

Cambridge fire brigade undoubtedly saved a portion of King's Parade, St Edward's Passage and Peas Hill from destruction by fire. There are numerous old houses, warehouses, sheds and outhouses of all descriptions, many constructed chiefly of wood. It broke out at Mons Buol's bakery, 17 Kings Parade; the bakehouse was gutted and hundreds of pounds of chocolate, almonds and sugar damaged. 06 08 07

1907 09 24

Cambridge Councillors considered the question of the old corn merchant's buildings on Peas Hill which were damaged by fire in 1904. The whole of the site, including the houses in Wheeler Street, should be used for municipal buildings with the basement and ground floor as an extension to the Central Library 07 09 24a

1908 11 13

A singular accident in which a taximeter cab played a singular part occurred in Peas Hill. The lamp of taxi cab number 214, driven by a man named Darby, caught the awning connecting a couple of stalls and there was a general upset. The stall of Mr Reynolds was practically demolished and the sweets strewn about with the result that a number of boys had a scramble and pocketed as much as they could. The adjoining drapery stall of Mr Nicholls fared better. The affair caused a great deal of commotion. 08 11 13

1909 11 19

Frederic William Hodgson carried on the business as plumber and decorator for nearly 30 years. He was a life-long abstainer and the oldest Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch of the Cambridge Sons of Temperance, having cycled some thousands of miles whilst engaged in propaganda work. The sad cortege proceeded from his house in Peas Hill to Mill Road cemetery where the first part of the funeral service was conducted in the chapel. The coffin was borne by fellow members of friendly societies. CEN 09 11 19

1910

1911 11 24

John Stanley, poulterer of Peas Hill sued the G.E.R. Company for damages sustained in the carriage of 84 ducklings and three geese from Liverpool Street to Cambridge. They were to have been sent by passenger train the same day. But instead they were taken on to Doncaster. He made numerous inquiries but it was not until 9pm that the birds arrived at the station but the GER could not deliver them until Monday, by which time they would have been bad. But he had an old contract that said the goods were sent at his risk and he lost his case. 11 11 24f

1912 10 18

Workmen digging at the rear of a shop in Peas Hill discovered the skeleton of a man and women, lying side by side. Nearby is the site of an old monastery and the assumption is that the remains were found in a former burying-ground. If so it knocks the bottom out of one of the best ghost stories in Cambridge, involving a wealthy banker whose young, beautiful wife took a lover who then disappeared. Half a body was later discovered in excavations at the Bijou Theatre Club's cellars. Now it appears they may all be linked. 12 10 18j

1913 11 21

River Cam dredged from Jesus Sluice to above Railway Bridge; to continue to Long Reach; wood blocks for paving from Hyde Park Corner to station and around Market Hill; 16 Sussex Street to be pulled down; 18 Peas Hill rebuild – a wretched, verminous house; Fair Street widening, 13 11 21 p7

1914 12 11

Fishmonger's child scarlet fever, Peas Hill stall

1915 09 10

Servant stole from Three Tuns, Peas Hill

1916 05 10

Reference Library and Education department, Peas Hill – photo & details – 16 05 10c

1916 06 21

Decorated.—Lt. Alex E. Bonham. 11th Royal Warwicks, who was when war broke out, a class master at East Road Boys' School, .has been awarded the Military Cross. Lance Corporal W. Hassock, London Rifles (who, previous to joining up was employed by Messrs. W and R. Fletcher, Ltd., Peas Hill) has been awarded the D.C.M He was attached to a machine-gun section and continued to work his gun when all his comrades had fallen

1920

1923 03 31

The forthcoming production by the Bijou amateurs brings into prominence once again a club that has held a big position in the life of Cambridge for the last 50 years. I 1870 Mr W B Redfern founded the Bijous, who took over premises on Peas Hill, where for many years was provided the only dramatic performance in Cambridge that were given with any regularity. As time went on the club found that the old Peas Hill theatre was not big enough for them and finally removed to the old skating rink in St Andrews's street, on the site of which the present New Theatre was built. It was not until 1881 that ladies were introduced into the cast, the female parts having before that date being taken by men

1923 06 16

A remarkable story of how a large sum of money was snatched from the jaws of death, as typified by the corporation refuse destructor reached me the other day. It appears that a certain tradesman on Peas Hill, Cambridge, had by some strange mischance consigned a wallet containing money to the dustbin. A frenzied telephone message to the contractor revealed that one of his dustcarts had collected at the address that day. The cart was searched, but without success. Eventually the missing wallet was

discovered on the very threshold of destruction and found to contain Treasury notes to the value of between £200 and £300. Some people back Derby winners and others have luck in other directions.

1927 09 19

Premises in Peas Hill, Cambridge, may be acquired for the purpose of extending the Guildhall. Trinity Hall, the owners of nos 15 & 16 will sell for £5,500; Mr Sennitt will sell no.17 for £3,500, the price to include compensation for disturbance of the business and the tenant to have the option of hiring the premises until required by the Corporation. Corpus Christi College has agreed £2,200 for no.19. The Council is to apply to the Minister of Health for sanction to borrow the sum of £11,700 for the purchase

1928 01 11

An inquiry was held into Cambridge council's application to borrow money for the purchase of property in Peas Hill for an extension of the Guildhall. There was an increase of administrative staff and the offices were not adequate to enable the duties to be carried out efficiently. With the acquisition of the property the Corporation would hold the entire island site which would facilitate the suggested scheme for the reconstruction of the Guildhall. They had been met in a conciliatory spirit by the owners of the property and a favourable provisional agreement had been arrived at.

1930

1933 09 19

Cambridge Guildhall dated back to about 1782 and there had been various extensions. In 1928 the Corporation bought shops in Peas Hill to allow for rebuilding. The possibility of providing shops on the ground floor had been considered but this would not allow sufficient offices for the extra staff needed to cope with their increased duties, an Inquiry was told. 33 09 19

1934 09 27

Hot Bargains at the great re-building sale at the Peas Hill Cash Drapery Stores. Household linens, blankets, dress and underwear fabrics at knock-out prices including Wigan sheeting, Jaspe bedspreads, Gent's fancy socks, Ladies artificial silk knickers (slightly fleeced) and interlock woven pyjamas. From college hire, 50 pairs of single bed sheets, once used and laundered, from 3/6 each. Six dozen heavy white Turkish Towels (one used and laundered) nine-pence three-farthings each. – Advertisement. 34 09 27

1935 03 07

Police guarded the closed gates of the University Arms Hotel while Sir Oswald Mosley was at a dinner organised by the University Fascist Society. Outside a meeting organised by the University Socialist Society was held on Parker's Piece with speeches by John Cornford, Maurice Cornford and Maurice Dobb. Then a torchlight procession by 200 undergraduates shouting anti-Fascist slogans such as 'We want Mosley dead or alive' and singing 'The Internationale' marched to Peas Hill where more speeches were made before a Proctor arrived and they dispersed. 35 03 07c

1935 03 13

A packed public meeting at Cambridge Guildhall voted against plans for a new building and called on the council to remodel the front to a more dignified style of architecture. Cambridge was a treasure house of architectural gems and they had no right to hand down to posterity a freak building, a flat and uninteresting example of early 20th-century abominations. Another motion dealing with the question of shops on the Peas Hill side of the building received scant attention as most of the audience had left before the end. 35 03 13 & a

1935 04 10

Demolition work on Peas Hill for the new Guildhall has led to an architectural discovery of outstanding interest. It has revealed the residence and business premises of a well-to-do Tudor merchant which was subsequently divided up into a detached and two semi-detached houses. The

magnificent front was covered up with lath and plaster in the reign of Queen Anne and finished with mock bricks. Dummy eaves were also added. Now each piece has been carefully taken down and numbered for preservation and re-erection. 35 04 10

1935 05 01

The Guildhall Protest Committee criticised plans for a useless portico of a most ornate and incongruous style which could be 'put on cold' in from of the proposed façade of the new Guildhall in two years' time if the town really wanted it. They maintained the main entrance should be on Market Hill. It would allow a terrace which would form a platform for addressing meetings on Market Hill and give a façade of distinction that the people strongly desire. There was also intense feeling regarding the question of shops on the Peas Hill side 35 05 01

1935 05 13

The number employed by the Disabled Persons Workshop has varied from 9 to 10; two are doing piece work in their homes, not being able to attend at the shop. Unfortunately three who are employed are not eligible for the deficiency grants from the Ministry of Labour which has hit the income. It has been a disturbed year owing to the difficulty of finding suitable premises in Cambridge for a shop. The workshops in Gloucester Street are out of the way and they had to leave Peas Hill because of demolitions, meaning there was nowhere to sell their goods. The new premises in Trumpington Street are outside the shopping centre and the rents and rates are a strain 35 05 13

1935 05 18

Cambridge Drawing Society exhibition includes many local views including 'Peas Hill' by Dorothy E. Bradford, 'Pembroke College' by Joyce Shillington Scales and Fenners by Mary Fyson. Fulbourn Mill has provided R.C. Lambeth with a subject. His detailed painting of the interior of the mill and its machinery will interest all with a mechanical turn of mind. Madame Raverat has some beautiful woodcuts including an unusually large cut of St John's Old Bridge printed from three wood blocks. 35 05 18

1935 06 15

The Cosmopolitan Cinema in Market Passage was started two years ago by Mr N. Openshaw Higgins as an experiment. Increasing numbers of people have welcomed the opportunity of seeing cultural films that do not appeal to be masses. Now it is moving to the new theatre being constructed in Peas Hill. There has been discussion as to the most suitable name for the new venture. The Arts Theatre was talked of, but a more likely choice now is the Market Theatre. 35 06 15b

1935 09 07

New theatre on Peas Hill takes shape – photo – 35 09 07

1935 11 26

Cambridge Disabled Soldiers' Workshop had been through a difficult period. The largest number of men in the workshop was 12 and at present there were only seven, none of which were complete in their bodies. One had lost his leg in the South African War. The shop in Trumpington Street was not in so good a situation as at Peas Hill and they did not get the streams of passing undergraduates. We should never forget the men who had served, suffered and saved our country through its years of dire peril. 35 11 26

1936 12 30

Peas Hill windows smashed – including Sennitt – 36 12 30 & a

1937 07 17

Rainwater heads on Three Tuns, Central Hotel, Peas Hill – 37 07 17b

1939 08 31

Lloyd's Bank practiced evacuating their staff to air raid shelters in the two strong rooms adjoining the main hall of the bank. Those in Lloyds Bank Chambers used a specially constructed cat-walk over the roof to the fire escape window. The two strong rooms are situated one below the other and a trapdoor will supply a means of escape should one of the entrances become blocked. In the event of a raid customers can accompany the staff or seek the nearest public shelter in wine vaults under Peas Hill 39 08 31

1939 09 09

Peas Hill air raid shelter opens; large cavity under road shelters 400 people in converted wine cellars – photo – 39 09 09, 09a

1939 10 04

Cambridge business is experiencing a war boom with the influx of thousands of evacuees and fewer facilities for getting to London to shop. A feeling of optimism prevails among tradespeople who point out that although prices will rise in the near future it will not be due to profiteering on their part. The Paris House reports a flourishing sale in fur coats and higher priced merchandise while Mr Hensher of Peas Hill says his shop has been crowded by purchasers of black-out materials, blankets and bedding. Millers say gramophones and wirelesses are selling well and they expect a rush on pianos. 39 10 04a

1939 11 10

The first part of the new scheme for improving the Central library is complete. In the new lending department book shelves radiate from a central staff inclosure, providing more room and improved natural lighting. The old lending library will become the newspaper reading room while the old reference room will be used for magazines. An innovation is the transfer of the reference room upstairs to the old Education offices, entrance to which is gained through Peas Hill. Refugees, evacuees and any person resident in Cambridge are eligible as borrowers. 39 11 10

1939 12 08

A News reporter inspected all types of shelter and was impressed with the comparative comfort of the interiors. The person who looks for armchairs will be disappointed, but in some of the larger basements there is plenty of space to walk about and in some there is even central heating. Most shelters have been constructed to withstand any likely fall of masonry and air locks to keep out gas have been installed. They have been arranged within a short distance of areas such as the centre of town where there are usually considerable congregations of people. They are primarily intended for the protection of people caught in the streets in an emergency. None are now ready with the cellars under Peas Hill holding 400 people 39 12 08b

1940

1940 02 22

Robert Henshaw, furnishing fabrics, Peas Hill/St Edward's Passage: illustrated advert – 40 02 22a

1940 11 01

Peas Hill air raid shelter interior, showing old wine bottles – photo – 40 11 01b

1940 09 06

Death of Mr. W. H. Francis. A familiar figure in Cambridge, of which he was Mayor before the Great War, Mr. Walter H. Francis, passed away on Thursday at the age of 82. His home was at 3 Grange Road and he had been in failing health for some time. Since the death of his brother (Mr. Musgrave Francis) Mr. Francis had been senior partner in the Francis and Co., solicitors of Peas Hill

1950

1951 04 02

Unfortunately the sight of flies swarming over the fish on a fishmonger's slab is still a much too common sight in the summer. It always horrifies me to see food exposed to flies and dust from the street and likely to be fingered or breathed on by prospective customers. I am pleased to report that one of the new refrigerated display cabinets for wet fish has been installed by Mr F.O. Sennitt, Peas Hill, Cambridge. I understand it is the first local fish shop to do so. The shop has also installed a machine with the same system of refrigeration for poultry and dry fish, which will be welcomed by all housewives

1957 02 14

Six girls dressed in attractive costumes acted as hostesses as Dutch Dairy Week was launched at a reception where members of the local grocery fraternity they tasted a variety of cheeses. It was a pity that so many famous cheeses had gone out of production, among them the local 'Double-Cottenham'. A Dutch caravan will be stationed on Peas Hill where people can sample as much as they could take. 57 02 14

1959 05 05

Modern traffic problems have brought to an end a Cambridge tradition. David's Bookstall has occupied its site on Peas Hill on Saturdays for more than 60 years but recently the street has been turned into an area where the parking of cars is prohibited during the busiest time of the day. Motorists objected that the stall took up as much space as any car so Mr Ashley Hubert David was asked if he would move his Saturday stall to its weekday position on the market square. Many customers are indignant about the change. 59 05 05 & a

1959 12 17

There are a quarter of an acre of tunnels under Peas Hill which were used as air raid shelters during the War. They were wired for electricity, lavatories were installed and wooden seats fitted in the tunnel recesses. Oil lamps were kept close at hand in case of emergency. Quite a number of people used the shelter during day-time raids and some slept down there when there was night bombing. 'Roadsters' used them every night to sleep. They were terribly damp when first used but after a few days became quite comfortable. 59 12 17

1959 12 21

The controversy surrounding the Central Hotel in Peas Hill, which King's College want to knock down and replace by a new hostel for students has reached a new stage with the publication of a booklet. The St Edward's Committee was established when it was announced that the Central Hotel, a largely 17th-century building forming an integral part of a square around St Edward's churchyard, was to all appearances doomed. They believe it could be preserved and are pressing for a public inquiry into the proposals. 59 12 21c & d

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

1960

1960 01 08

King's College has replied to criticism of its plans to demolish the 17th-century Central Hotel on the corner of St Edward's Passage and Peas Hill. Whilst the Midland Bank premises are scheduled as an ancient monument, the St Edward's Passage premises are not. The College has considered eleven schemes for the site, some of which would preserve the façade, but the preservation of the interior was a hopelessly haphazard proposition. Their architect has taken infinite care to ensure the new building preserves the essentially domestic character of St Edward's Passage, says Noel Annan, the Provost. 60 01 08b

1960 02 10

The St Edward's Committee may launch a fund to buy the Central Hotel in Peas Hill and house students in converted rooms. King's College, the owner, says it would prefer to sell the building rather

than undertake the work of preservation. The Holford Committee which suggested demolishing it has now decided to study the merits of the building 60 02 10

1960 03 24

Builders are now shoring up the interior of the Central Hotel in Peas Hill prior to demolition. Yesterday the Central Tea Bar, which occupied the corner of Market Hill and St Edward's Passage, closed and bricks were piled in front of its entrance. The Midland Bank will stay in the building although some changes will have to be made while the first phase is completed. The new building should be ready in about two years 60 03 24a

1960 04 08

A last-minute bid to save the Central Hotel was made too late. Fore builders are preparing for the final stage of demolition of the historic building in Peas Hill. 60 04 08

1960 11 26

Bus island in Peas Hill relieves traffic congestion outside Guildhall – 60 11 26

1962 12 07

John Shrive had osier beds at Horningsea and Fen Ditton until he died 40 years ago, employing five men to grow and cut them with bundles kept moist in the Green End ditch until needed. Most of the women of Fen Ditton were employed in peeling or cleaving on a casual basis, sitting on each side of the road with their bundles beside them. Stripped osiers were collected by horse and cart then taken to Mr Shrive's workshop in East Road where they were woven into baskets to be sold from his shop on Peas Hill. School reports up to 1912 list frequent absenteeism with children 'helping with rod peeling' 62 12 07a

1963 05 15

In 1869 William Weatherhead purchased the business of John Hatt, a bookseller and printseller in Union Street, now Peas Hill. Then in 1886 took over an established stationers' shop in Trinity Street. The two merged at his death in 1907, added a wholesale department and flourished until 1936 when they moved to its present premises in the Caius College development on Market Hill. Now it has been acquired by W.H. Smith 63 05 15a

1964 03 06

Alice Springs was named after Alice Bell, daughter of Peas Hill corn merchant – 64 03 06b

1964 04 02

The Mayor of Cambridge fed a parking meter on Peas Hill with a shilling "to make them hungry and ready to bite" as one official put it, and set the new parking scheme in motion. . Long queues of traffic soon formed in streets leading to the Lion Yard car park and motorists had some acid remarks about the meters. A moped rider complained about finding a ticket stuck to his bike with thirteen inches of sticky tape. From the number of excess charges shown on the meters the city coffers will soon begin to bulge 64 04 02b

1966 05 06

University Audio adds Record Shop to its high-fidelity audio. Peas Hill – 66 05 06

1970

1973 04 09

The Market Square ends of Guildhall Street and Peas Hill, Cambridge, were closed to traffic today as part of city council's plans eventually to make much of the central area into a pedestrian precinct. It is now possible to walk from Sidney Street to King's Parade without crossing a road. City surveyor, Mr Geoffrey Cresswell said that some motorists were still driving round Market Square attempting to get

into Peas Hill. The present closure is officially regarded as only "temporary" - although it will last for possibly another two years - while rebuilding of the adjacent Lion Yard site is under way

1979 03 05

The Mayor of Cambridge, Coun Alec Molt, faced 300 chanting cyclists outside the Guildhall and signed their petition demanding better provision for cyclists. The demonstration began with a lecture on road safety and bike maintenance by the police, then led by a Panda car, they took a 15-minute tour of the city centre streets before returning to Peas Hill to hear councillors' views. Their priorities include cycle lanes on the Huntingdon & Madingley Roads and a contra-flow cycle lane in Downing Street.

1980

1981 11 27

The first Cambridge tunnels dug under Peas Hill were used as wine vaults and one is blocked off by a wall of wine bottles cemented together. During the war they were wired for electricity and fitted out as air raid shelters for 400 people and later dossers used them as overnight hostels. In 1963 came proposals for an underground road starting at Maids Causeway and running down Jesus Lane and Emmanuel Road. There was also to be a three-storey underground car park. But the scheme was rejected. 81 11 27

1989 11 06

A poll-tax protestor hurled a petrol bomb through the window of city council offices in Peas Hill and daubed 'No Poll Tax' in red paint on the wall and doors 89 11 06

1990 03 13

University Audio founder Gruffydd Reece started University Cameras in St Mary's Passage after leaving the RAF in 1945. The business expanded and he opened Fencolour Laboratories in Newmarket Road, one of the first to offer colour developing and printing for amateurs. He was later joined by his brother Hugh and cousin Bryan Hyam who started University Audio in Peas Hill – 90 03 13