



*Sidney Street corner of Petty Cury, c.1935 - 87.18*

#### **c.44.6 : Sidney Street**

1897 12 14

In view of the approach of the Christmas season, and in order to assist our readers in their shopping we today give the first of our notices of the special attractions and goods which are to be found in the Cambridge shops. Every family, however unmusical at other seasons of the year, burst forth into song as Christmas Day approaches. Music for every taste can be bought at Mr Miller's warehouse, Sidney Street. Pianos and all instruments of the best makes are ready for purchase or hire

**1900**

1900 05 01

A branch of the Capital and Counties Bank Ltd has been opened in Cambridge at 63 Sidney Street. The fact that it has been thought desirable to set down another banking establishment is proof of the outside belief in the prosperity of the town. The bank was established in 1834 and have numerous branches in various parts of the country.

1900 05 19

Cambridge has suffered intense anxiety regarding the welfare of Baden-Powell and his gallant men who for the past seven months have been locked up in Mafeking. It was about ten when the glad news was first made known regarding the relief and people began to assemble in crowds to await with

baited breath the confirmation. The some half-dozen individuals emerged from Sidney Street and their lusty cheers led many to the conclusion that the garrison had really been relieved. As the little crowd moved along the streets the cheering increased, and people seemed intoxicated with excitement.

1902 10 24

The members of the Cambridge Y.M.C.A. celebrated their jubilee with a soiree in their rooms in Alexandra Street. 50 years ago the Church of England Young Men's Society and the Sunday School Teachers' Institute amalgamated, forming the Association. It settled in Rose Crescent. In 1853 it moved to larger premises at 5, Sidney Street, moving to Hobson Place in 1858 and then St Edward's Passage. In 1870 the first stone was laid of their present building; it was completed a year later. To call the soiree a success is scarcely adequate; the visitors never had a dull moment from the time they entered the door until the National Anthem brought the evening to a close.

1903 11 25

An agreement has been reached for the incorporation of the Capital and Counties Bank, London and Messrs Foster's bank in Sidney Street, Cambridge. The Capital was established more than 69 years ago and holds eminent rank among the leading London clearing banks. It is already well known here, having a branch in Cambridge under the management of Mr Guilmant, and others at Newmarket, Haverhill and Wisbech. We feel confident that the enlargement by this amalgamation with Messrs Foster of the Bank's sphere of operations cannot but prove of general advantage.

1903 11 27

A fire broke out in a storehouse at Messrs Lincoln's premises in Sidney Street, Cambridge; a quantity of petroleum became ignited and the fire assumed dangerous proportions. Three hydrants were quickly at work with hoses were taken through Trinity College and directed from college windows. But as the water streamed along the floor oil settled on the surface and becoming ignited created an effect of running streams of flame. At the time of going to press the fire was still burning but has been sufficiently subdued to enable some of the goods in the store-room to be removed. There were over 100 gallons of petroleum in store.

1903 11 28

As reported yesterday nearly 150 gallons of petroleum became ignited in a warehouse in Sidney Street, Cambridge. It appears that one of Messrs Lincoln's carmen sent a lad to the warehouse to trim a van lamp. The boy was apparently not aware that the warehouse is lighted by electricity and while trimming the lamp he allowed it to remain alight. The oil in the lamp by some means became ignited and he dropped it on the floor. Two tanks of petroleum and a cask of methylated spirits were soon blazing furiously and the interior was a mass of flame.

1903 12 23

Sidney Street sale, p3 \*

1903 12 23

An important property sale was conducted, consisting of various properties in Sidney Street, one of the most central and important positions in the business part of Cambridge. Naturally there was a large attendance and the bidding was spirited. It included the coachbuilder's factory of T. Hunnybun, including carriage showroom and harness-maker's shop. These were withdrawn but sold after the sale at a considerably enhanced price; we understand they will continue their business in Hobson Street. A draper's shop occupied by F. Blott found a purchaser at £3,600.

1904 01 21

Cambridge councillors considered the purchase of a steam fire engine. The two fires at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Fitzroy Street were bad, but took place under favourable conditions – in the first the wind took the flames away from the Hospital and in the other there was a brick wall, instead of lathe and plaster. Since then there had been two other fires, in Sidney Street and Rose Crescent which might have resulted disastrously. In the centre of town whole blocks of buildings might be burnt

down. The only additional expenditure would be the cost of an engineer. But the Fire Brigade did not want one and they ought to know more than councillors.

1904 02 12

Messrs. Church and King's establishment in Sidney Street is the first business in Cambridge to be cleaned by the Eastern Vacuum Cleaning Company. The settees in the showroom were a fair test of the process. In thick upholstery dust must necessarily accumulate but after the cleaner had been applied no amount of beating could raise a speck of dust. The carpet also was cleaned effectually and the colours brightened. Mr King said: "It takes absolutely all the dust out"

1906 01 13

When the election meeting at Newnham concluded the candidate's carriage was drawn to the Conservative Club followed by a procession which included a couple of motor buses. Just as it reached Cambridge Market Hill a similar procession of demonstrating Liberals poured out of Petty Cury. These two bodies of citizens conceived an intense dislike for each

1906 11 02

Eugen Sandow has opened consulting rooms in Sidney Street where advice regarding health matters may be obtained. Provided your ailment is not an incurable one he guarantees to bring you to a pitch of physical perfection. The Cambridge Manager will take particulars of your case and forward them to him in London where Mr Sandon will plan your course and the Cambridge Manager will show you how to correctly carry out instructions 06 11 02b

1907 04 30

In the records of sport there is no instance of one family attaining greater re-eminence in any particular branch of sport than that of the Gray family of Cambridge, in raquets. From 1863 onwards there have been five professional champions. Henry James Gray who was the first, is a town councillor and head of the well-known firm of athletic outfitters of Sidney Street. 07 04 30a & b

1908 02 15

Colonel Barnet William Beales of Sidney Street, was a splendid type of local patriot. He was a pioneer in the Cambridge Volunteers, treasurer of the Church Defence Association and churchwarden of St Michael's. To mention all the associations of his long and honourable career would involve re-telling many pages of Cambridge history but he found time for the duties of an Income Tax Commissioner and the Panton Brewery. Nine years ago he was knocked down by a retriever dog and never completely recovered. 08 02 15f

1909 10 08

St Botolph's Church reopened after restoration. The old ceiling in the nave, which was in a very dilapidated condition, has been replastered and re-decorated. A new hot-water pipe heating apparatus has been installed by Messrs Headley and Edwards together with a hydraulic appliance for blowing the organ by Messrs Miller of Sidney Street. CWN 09 10 08

1909 11 05

An old Fenlander walked to Cambridge seeking a good square meal. He searched a goodish few streets and wandered into colleges seeking a good juicy steak. Getting desperate he noticed a shop in Sidney Street where spread out on a gleaming white tablecloth was an amplitude of appetising cold viands. He entered only to emerge swearing: "That be a gas shop, and I am starving". He was right. It has been opened to demonstrate the popularity of gas for lighting, heating and cooking. CWN 09 11 05

## **1910**

1911 08 11

Street widening Magdalene Street, Sidney St etc – 11 08 11b

1911 11 17

'Charles Darwin lived here in 1828' is the inscription in red lettering on a stone tablet recently placed over Arthur Rutter's office in Sidney Street. This is the first tablet of its kind in Cambridge but another one has been put up over 22 Fitzwilliam Street recording that he also lived there. The idea is an excellent one and it is hoped that the example which has been set by the Master of Christ's and members of the Darwin family, will be followed by others 11 11 17

1912 01 19

Thomas Askham was one of the oldest and best-known of Cambridge tradesmen. As a young man he worked for Thomas Hunnybun, the coach builder of Sidney Street, and then founded the coach builder businesses on Newmarket Road, Regent Street and a house in London. But as the motor industry grew, there was less for him to do and he had to employ fewer men. Jointly with Mr Tudor, he built the Hippodrome on Auckland Road, of which he was proprietor at his death. Before the era of the picture palace this place of amusement was exceedingly popular and provided many with healthy enjoyment who would otherwise have been walking the street. 12 01 19c

1912 02 02

A new County Hall is needed. The existing clerk, a solicitor in private practice, works from his own office. The Education and Medical departments are on opposite sides of Sidney Street, the Finance Clerk in is Regent Street, the Architect in Hobson Street and the Surveyor in Hills Road. This is inconvenient and uneconomical and leads to inefficiency. 12 02 02h

1912 04 05

Cambridge Automobile Co, Sidney Street; list of second-hand cars for sale – 12 04 05

1912 05 24

Cambridge Automobile & Engineering Company, Sidney St action against George Dash, motor and garage proprietor, Jesus Lane for work done - 12 05 24b

1914 07 10

Cambridge Corporation had taken a strip of land from Sidney Sussex College for the widening of Sidney Street and Jesus Lane. They built a 12-high wall in place of the existing one, part of the old Franciscan Priory. The college claimed £1,763 compensation for the rebuilding of their old fives court. But it had been very seldom used and was very dilapidated. The Corporation claimed the land taken was worth much less as there was never any prospect of its sale for building purposes 14 07 10

1914 07 10

Borough Council Sued. At the Surveyors' Institution, St. George's Street, London, S.W. on Friday, the arbitration was open-ed in the matter of "The Masters, Fellows and Scholars of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and the Mayor, Aldermen and Bur-gesses of the Borough of Cam-bridge."It was stated that the claim was made by the College authorities in respect to the tak-ing (compulsorily) of a strip of land by the latter in connection with the widening of Sidney Street and Jesus Lane. Cambridge. The total claim on behalf of the College authorities amounted to about £2.650. The award was reserved. 14 07 10 CIPof

1916 03 08

Cambridge Automobile & Engineering Company, new showrooms, Sidney St: advert – 16 03 08g

1916 03 15

Cambridge Automobile and Engineering Company new works on corner Hobson St & Sidney Street – profile – 16 03 15h, advert 16 03 08g

1916 03 22

Death of Ald. W. P. Spalding, - We regret to have to record the death of Alderman William Potter Spalding, J.P., which took place on Tuesday morning in the midst of his family, in his 69th year. He was the eldest son of a printer, stationer and bookseller, Mr. William Spalding (Ipswich), and was apprenticed to his father. He started business in Cambridge on his own account in Sidney Street, Cambridge, in 1873. This prospered and was enlarged in many ways, and in 1881 he became a member of the Cambridge Town Council, proving an expert debater and administrator. Mr. Spalding was elected to the aldermanic bench and in 1908 was chosen Mayor in succession to his friend, Mr. H. G. Whibley. He had been appointed a J.P. in 1897. During 35 years of faithful public service, Ald. Spalding left his mark in many ways upon the affairs of the borough.

1916 09 27

Death of Mr. C. T. Holt, — The death took place yesterday (Tuesday) morning of Mr. Cuthbert Thomas Holt, the well-known leather merchant of 64 Sidney Street, Cambridge. Although of a quiet and retiring disposition, the late Mr. C. T. Holt was particularly well-known throughout the district, and was a man greatly respected and esteemed. A son of the late Mr. Henry Holt, the deceased gentleman was born in Cambridge 72 years ago, and succeeded his father in the business in 1888. This he carried on until his death, with the assistance of two of his sons. For several years he was an overseer for the Borough. He was a regular worshipper at Holy Trinity Church and for 14 years held the position of churchwarden. 16 09 27

1918 11 27

Comrades of Great War club to be opened opened above Halford's, Sidney, Sidney St – 18 11 27j

1918 12 25

Comrades of the Great War new Headquarters club opened Sidney St – 18 12 25d

1919 06 25

Property market \_ Sidney Street estate includes Price of Wales' Hotel, Dorothy Café, True Blue and Nag's Head, shops in Sussex Street and premises Hobson Street; bought by G.P. Hawkins; also houses, Duxford airfield machinery and plant – 19 06 25b

1919 10 22

Two new cinemas proposed, Sidney Street by Cambridge Picture Playhouse Ltd and Guildhall Street by A.J. Pointer – 19 10 22f

## **1920**

1920 01 14

Cambridge Picture Playhouse Ltd annual, meeting to alter articles of Association; have acquired site in Sidney St & Hobson St where propose to erect fine new building – 20 01 14a

1920 01 22

Sussex Street widening discussed – no widening except at corner Sidney Street as island site had been acquired by syndicate for erecting cinema

1921 04 06

Frederick Woor, Master Tailor, Sidney St, paid less than minimum wage to his women – 21 04 06c

1921 11 16

Sidney Street cinema – Corporation had refused as want to widen Sidney Street, were wrong – 21 11 16n

1922 06 15

Messrs W. Heffer and Sons have become well known for the excellence of anything exhibited at their Sidney Street galleries. Well above the standard of the rest of their exhibits is some of the truly

wonderful work of a Scottish artist, Mr William Watt Milne, who has a studio in St Ives. The six pictures which are exhibited have been painted in the neighbourhood of Houghton. "Flood at Houghton" is the title of a pretty little piece of work depicting the picturesque village street on a grey day with the threatening sky reflected in a pool of water in the foreground. One of the best pictures is that called "The Old Inn at Houghton", a superb piece of work

1923 09 20

The death took place of Mr James Newton. A Cambridge man born and bred he was respected amongst local butchers, farmers and others associated with the butchery trade in Cambridge. He had a remarkable record of continuous service with one firm having been apprenticed at the age of ten years, in 1852, to Mr John Goodliffe, of Sidney Street Cambridge, and remained in the service of the same firm all his working life. He retired in 1922 after 70 years faithful and interrupted service. Mr Newton was one of the founders of the Master Butchers Association which was established in March 1898.

1924 05 29

At Cambridge council Alderman Starr said a number of buildings in Hobson Street were coming down. It would make it a 40 feet road and they believed it would eventually become a very important thoroughfare. Unfortunately they were up against a very difficult problem at the Sidney Street end because they had a bank on one side and a college on the other. But this was really a safety point because converging traffic would have a slight obstacle to pull them up

1924 07 29

Sidney Street setting back, p4

1925 03 13

Messrs Bodgers of Sidney Street, Cambridge intended to reconstruct the interior of their premises, constructing a new shop front. Cambridge Council Surveyor suggested that the firm put the premises back 11 feet as required for their street widening policy. The Council must legislate for the future and in view of the serious traffic problems must attempt to widen Sidney Street. They would pay the proprietor half the cost of the land at the present time and the remainder when the setting back took place. Some of the committee felt these terms were not as favourable as those offered to Messrs Sainsbury and Woolworth.

1925 07 11

Part of a boot supplied by a Cambridge firm has led to the identity of an officer who fell in the first year of the war. During the work of exhumation and reburial recently carried out in France there was discovered part of a boot stamped with the name of Messrs G. Dewberry & Son of Sidney Street. An examination of their books showed it belonged to a pair supplied to Lieut. R. Walmesley, late of Magdalene College, whose family lived in Huntingdon.

1927 10 29

Bike parking, Sidney Street, p8

1928 10 23

What is probably the largest single deal in Cambridge business property ever known has just been completed. A well-known local young man has purchased property with frontages in Market Hill, Petty Cury and Sidney Street and this will be developed by a company consisting of Cambridge people. It includes premises occupied by the Craft Shoe Company, the Cambridge Chronicle offices and printing works and Boots the chemist. As Messrs Boots recently secured a large amount of property in Petty Cury and Sidney Street it would appear that big changes will be seen in this part of town when both sites are developed.

1928 10 27

There is much speculation regarding the £42,000 Cambridge Market Hill deal; a large cinema and café are spoken of, but there are no details at present. It would be for the benefit of the town if the whole island site could be taken over by the Corporation; then as the leases run out it could be cleared and would provide a magnificent site for municipal buildings. Road traffic now demands that all building operations should be planned for what will be needed in the future, with a wider Petty Cury, Market Hill and Sidney Street. Something of the sort must eventually be done unless it is the intention to remove the Guildhall and market nearer the station.

1929 04 27

Cambridge to have a modern caravanserie matched the modern splendours of Oxford St & Regent street where a thousand people may dine without strain on the service & dance too if they are so minded, a place of dignity & comfort & of surpassing resource. The old Dorothy cafe is to disappear - not so very old though as a modern restaurant - & a building of 3 storeys spanning space between Sidney St & Hobson street. Ground floor entrance Sidney St is shop & showroom & on eastern side a dining hall or restaurant. Principal staircase to first floor will be from hall at Hobson street entrance & access to a dance hall with black hornbeam floor on springs. This accommodation for 320 diners at a public banquet but specially prepared for dancing for 450 at once. At western end another dining hall. Another on second floor, seat 80, suitable private dinner of clubs & organisations. perhaps this will be the oak room which intention of Hawkins to decorate; also roof garden looking across to gardens of Christ's College. Nags Head inn will not disappear but be given place in the basement. Will take 18 months but Hobson St side will be completed before start made with Sidney St front to ensure restaurant open throughout

1929 12 02

An interesting improvement scheme will shortly be undertaken in Petty Cury and Sidney Street. Messrs Boots the Chemist have acquired extensive property with a view to re-housing their old establishment which has grown during some 30 years. Now the time is ripe to erect an emporium to provide an attractive shopping centre for patrons of all classes. The architect is Mr Percy J. Bartlett of Nottingham and his primary consideration is an external appearance that will harmonise with Cambridge's noble architectural traditions and raise the standard of commercial architecture. Building operations will commence early in the New Year

**1930**

1930 01 08

Sidney Street bus accident

1930 01 11

The new night safe at Lloyds Bank in Sidney Street is not yet in working order but I had a peep and was impressed by the ingenious working of the arrangement. The safe is Lloyds' own invention and the Cambridge branch is amongst the earliest to have it installed. There was a time when people of small means did not trouble the banks very much but now the humblest investor seems to be welcomed. There are various kinds of home safe including a tasteful little book safe in four colours

1930 01 15

From modest beginnings in Fitzroy Street the history of the House of Heffer is one of continuous progress. The Printing Works on Hills Road has been considerably enlarged, last year saw reconstruction of the Petty Cury Bookshop which is now twice its original size, and this year sees the reconstruction of the Sidney Street Stationery and Art Shop. It will be a shop worthy of its central position. The new premises will have five floor, the frontage will be in the Georgian style with pilasters, fascia and columns of grey polished granite and the upper part will be faced with red Flemish bricks with Weldon stone dressings to the windows. A unique feature will be the Picture Gallery on the third floor with a barrel-shaped ceiling

1930 03 11

Sidney Street photo – Caxton Court, p8\*

1930 03 19

Demolition work has just begun on the Sidney Street corner of Sussex Street as a first step towards the most important reconstruction scheme for the improvement of Cambridge in many years. Sidney Sussex College will develop the whole site on modern lines; within the next year an imposing block of buildings, providing shops and offices will rise. It will be connected to Hobson Street by an artistically-designed crescent and colonnade of 12 shops which will allow vehicles to pass freely in the middle of Sussex Street. 30 03 19b

1930 03 22

There never was a time surely when there were so many works of destruction going on as at present. Little bits of old Cambridge are going one by one and elaborate new buildings are rising up in their place. Following demolition in Petty Cury and Sidney Street now we see old houses and shops in Sussex Street being knocked down. No wonder that those who come back to the town after a few years' absence express amazement at the changes they see. When we think of the bridges built at Newnham and Chesterton, of the streets that have been widened, the new recreation ground opened and the great business changes effected in the heart of the town we may well gasp. 30 03 22 a & b

1930 06 21

Six Cambridge bus drivers involved in the 'battle' of Sidney Street on the first day of the May races appeared in court charged with obstruction. Only Ortona buses were allowed to stop there but a long line of coaches had filled the whole side of the road. The drivers said the monopoly was unfair. They also complained that Ortona had increased the price of a ticket to Fen Ditton from twopence halfpenny to sixpence a trip. 30 06 21aa & b

1930 09 24

Shop Mill Road, Sidney Street, p3

1930 10 16

Five miniature golf courses are now in operation in Cambridge. There are Messrs Grays in Sidney Street and the octagon course in King Street. The Premier Hall, Old Chesterton, has added midget golf to its other attractions and the Newmarket Road has the course in the club-room at 'The Bell'. Its holes represent hazards encountered during a trip from 'Trafalgar Square' to 'The Oval'. The latest 18-hole course at the Belle Vue Gardens is all-weather and open-air. It features a howitzer gun and a water jump and has been laid down by Capt Mullett who has constructed others in Vancouver and San Francisco. 30 10 16c

1931 12 25

Sir – when Mr W. Rouse Ball and myself were invited to consider a local guide for publicity purposes we also recommended a volume of old views of Cambridge. In our local library and with the Photographic Club and many citizens, there are many old pictures which would prove of lasting interest as a record of the past, a volume which would appeal to all those who are interested in the township – Charles Porter, Sidney Street. 31 12 25c

1932 10 28

John Yeomans came to Cambridge at the age of 19 in 1857 and purchased the shop at the corner of Petty Cury and Sidney Street from Mr Lyons where he carried on business as a chemist for 40 years. He had a vivid recollection of events: he knew George Stephenson personally and was a passenger in the first railway engine to run in England. 32 10 28e

1933 02 04

A young salesman employed at Sainsbury's in Sidney Street was found dead in the bathroom over the shop. The housekeeper said there were about 80 employed; eight boys lived on the premises, three maids and herself. They were the only ones to use the bath. They were told to turn off the gas before

getting in. People might be enjoying the delights of a bath and suddenly find themselves overpowered by carbon monoxide fumes. The coroner hoped Sainsbury's would not use the geyser again or see it was placed outside the bathroom. 33 02 04a

1933 05 20

Sidney Street rebuilding – 33 05 20a

1933 05 26

Proposals to set back the line of buildings in Sidney Street would leave only two small properties jutting out between Woolworth's and the corner. There was no room for people to move on the pavement and it would be a great improvement. But Mrs Rackham said it was unreasonable to pay so much money: the owners demanded compensation that equated to nearly half a million pounds an acre. This was not new: when a building line was prescribed in King Street, property which formerly sold at £1,500 immediately fetched £2,000. 33 05 26 f & g

1933 08 26

Millers Music shop, Sidney Street – 33 08 26

1933 12 19

Bus crowds in Sidney Street – 33 12 19

1934 05 15

Marks and Spencer's new shop will be opened on Friday morning. The premises have a frontage to Sidney Street. The ground floor space is devoted entirely to sales while the first and second floors contain stock rooms, offices and other accommodation for the staff of 60 assistants who have been mainly recruited locally. There is a dining room where staff can obtain lunch at a cost of sixpence. There will be no 'stunt' lines at opening and 90 per cent of the goods sold are of British manufacture. 34 05 15

1934 06 19

An agreement has been reached in the long-running dispute over the rebuilding of the Dorothy Café in Sidney Street. In spite of the conflict over details Messrs G.P. Hawkings now have a really beautiful, modern and commodious building that has earned praise from the Cambridge Preservation Society and the Illumination Congress while the builders are no longer under any imputation of incompetence. 34 06 19

1934 07 21

Diamond Jubilee memory – Sidney Street photo, p6

1934 08 02

Councillors considered a scheme for compulsorily purchasing the old Post Office on the corner of Petty Cury and other properties in Sidney Street to widen the road. Cambridge could not progress unless it spent money. Money was never cheaper: the banks were bursting with it. There were the materials, the men and the money available for the work. But having compulsory orders hanging over the properties would influence the price they could be sold for. 34 08 02

1935 01 31

New street proposed from Downing St towards Sidney St – 35 01 31a

1933 03 27

Coad's new store, beside Woolworth's in Sidney Street, with its new arcade and island cases is a glowing example of the shop fitter's craft. There are now three floors and the splendid oak-panelled stairway has been retained. The fashion salons are already quite famous for their remarkable values in coats, woollies and blouses and the millinery salon is well lit. At the farther end lies the Lingerie and

Corsetry Salon and a Younger Ladies' Department where the woman to today can shop like mother does. 35 03 27a

1935 04 10

Corporation proposals for the widening and improvement of Sidney Street and the lower part of Petty Cury met with vigorous opposition. In 1922 they had taken powers to prescribe frontage lines and in 1924 when Messrs Woolworth's and Sainsbury's came to Cambridge they agreed to set back their premises and gave the land to the Council. Various other places were reconstructed and now the frontage line had been prescribed from Sainsbury's to Millers with the exception of Almond's and the Prudential Assurance Company. The Surveyor said the street was urgently in need of widening to cope with increased traffic. The Livingstone Hotel had been carried on in Sidney Street for 30 years. Under street widening proposals they would be left with the second, third and fourth floors which they could not get at at all. It was used by travellers who could not afford more expensive hotels. 35 04 10 & a, 35 04 11

1935 08 28

New front to Lloyd's Bank, Sidney St – photo – 35 08 28a

1935 10 17

Sidney Street to be widened at no cost to council 35 10 17

1935 10 25

Sidney Street widening, p1

1936 05 12

Marks & Spencer tender £26,000 for 10-11 Sidney Street as a general stores – 36 05 12a

1936 07 04

Cambridge street lighting is being brought up to standard. Hills Road and St Andrew's Street are already ablaze. So is Sidney Street. Twenty-three miles of streets will be illuminated by autumn. Side lights properly equipped with seven watt bulbs are all that are now required by motorists. Pedestrians and cyclists are now visible from afar after dark. The lamps are lit automatically by clock devices and soon the familiar figure of the lamp-lighter will disappear from the streets forever 36 07 04

1936 10 17

Two old Churchwardens pipes over the string course of the parapet of Messrs Almond's shop at 11 Sidney Street, now being demolished, are a reminder that it was once used by Joshua Lee for the making of clay pipes. Mr A.T. Potter recalls that there had once been a large kiln in the centre of the shop in which the pipes were baked. There is also a very fine old lead head to the down pipe which has cross clay pipes embossed on it. 36 10 17b

1937 01 15

The head offices and showroom of the Cambridge University and Town Gas Light Company in Sidney Street, where all the most modern and efficient appliances for heating, cooking, refrigeration and lighting can be seen, were built in 1909. Today the total number of consumers is in the region of 25,000. Recently the villages of Willingham, Longstanton and Oakington were supplied with gas and mains are being laid to Sawston. 37 01 15b

1937 07 24

Messrs J. Johnson and Son's premises at 51 Sidney Street, usually referred to as 'Johnson's Shirt Shop' is probably one of the oldest outfitters in Cambridge, the premises being first opened in 1880. In 1922 the business was acquired by Mr A.G. Mole and is now under the sole charge of his son, Cecil. Much of the success of this specialised Men's Outfitting business has been due to consistent advertising in the C.D.N. 37 07 24

1937 12 08

Dear Ladies. Let me help you to choose a Christmas Gift for your menfolk. How about a shirt? I can show you excellent ranges in neat stripes and plain shades with two collars to match. Is your man warm and cosy at night? If not, let me suggest a suit of woollen Pyjamas. Is he in a hurry? How about a 'Corby' stretcher press so he can start the day immaculate with perfectly creased trousers. I remain, always at your service, S. Phillips, head salesman, shirt and hosiery department, Johnsons, 51 Sidney Street, Cambridge – Advertisement 37 12 08b

1938 03 05

Part of Sidney Street was closed to traffic following the development of a bulge in the front wall of the premises of Austin & Co., coal merchants. The bulge is sufficiently marked to be easily visible. Last night crowds gathered in the expectation that the wall might fall, but they were disappointed. In shops on either side it was a case as 'business as usual'. Traffic has been diverted via Petty Cury and St John's Street while builders work on the affected wall 38 03 05 & a

1938 11 29

Gift ideas. New fashion gloves in rich suede, fine glaze kidskin, pigskins, calfskin ... all beautifully styled. Classic shortie, gauntlet, costume types – George Stace, Petty Cury. British made sewing machines and stainless bread knives – A. Macintosh, Market Place. Private Christmas cards; sample book sent to your home for inspection. Autograph cards from 6d per box – Harry Johnson & Nephew, St Andrew's Street. The popular G.E.C. electric cleaner will be welcomed because its period of service extends far beyond the festive season; £8.15.0 cash or 8/6 a month – Allin's, Sidney Street.– Adverts 38 11 29a

1939 10 06

Suggestions for brightening the black-out at Cambridge. Heffer's have a selection of indoor games such as Autobridge, dominoes and jig-saw puzzles. Coad's stock khaki wools and other artistic shades for personal shoppers while Johnson's have a range of novels as well as black-out paper. Gray of Sidney Street can supply miniature billiard tables but those who prefer the real thing should visit the Guildhall Street Billiards Saloon which is open from early morning till late at night. 39 10 06b

## **1940**

1943 07 03

B.W. Beales' retirement marks end of tailor and robemaker's business started in 1800; his shop in Sidney Street the last with small-paned windows – 43 07 03a

1944 03 10

Daring Shop Robbery. A daring robbery, carried out in broad daylight, resulted in rings valued at £1,079 being removed from the display window of Messrs. Walter Stockbridge and Son, the well-known antique dealers, of Sidney Street, Cambridge. "The rings, which were of gold, set with diamonds, were in place in the window at 11.30 on Saturday morning," Mr. Stockbridge said "They were missed at 12.10, when we next had occasion to visit the window. It is not known whether the thief, had an accomplice who distracted the attention of the assistant while the robbery was carried out.

1944 10 13

Bus overturns in Sidney Street – 44 10 13

1947 01 14

One-way traffic extension scheme – Sidney Street, St John's Street, p5

1947 07 30

Sir - When will something be done about the disgraceful state of the traffic in Petty Cury, Cambridge. I understood some time ago that steps were being taken to stop the parking of cars on the left side of

this narrow thoroughfare. Far from this being done, it is now worse than ever. Saturday, with the exception of the entrance to the Lion Hotel there were 15 large cars parked from Sidney Street to Guildhall Street, and as prams and mail carts can only use the sidewalks, pedestrians who venture on the street are taking serious risks of getting knocked down. Truly a street only fit for the quick or the dead - letter from W.M.F., Gt Shelford

1947 11 20

Many people unable to be in their homes listened to the broadcast of the Royal Wedding in Cambridge cinemas, all of which were thrown open for the purpose, free of charge. The biggest audience is reported from the Central Cinema who estimated the total as being in the neighbourhood of 500. The sound equipment at the Regal broke down at the last minute and the small queue which had formed there was diverted to the New Theatre opposite, where a set had been hastily brought from his home and installed in the foyer by the Manager and the thrilling, impressive and historic service of the wedding of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, future Queen of England and Lieut. Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, was heard by a number of people. Messrs Miller and Sons, Sidney Street, to meet many requests from customers, televised the proceedings in one of their studios, which was packed

1948 06 01

Today the one-way traffic system designed to relieve congestion in the centre of Cambridge came into operation. In Sidney Street and Bridge Street the traffic will flow in a northerly direction towards Magdalene Street from the town centre, while in St John's Street and Trinity Street it will flow in a southerly direction towards King's Parade. In Green Street traffic will flow in one direction from Gifford Place to Trinity Street - and the remainder of Green Street will be open for two-way traffic. This extension of "one-way" traffic will link up with the system now in operation at St Mary's street, Market Hill (north side) and Market Street

1948 07 29

D.E. Knapman, telephone manager of the Cambridge area told Rotarians that there were 4,000 people in the area waiting for telephones. He said there are two separate wires running from the exchange right back to your house which are yours and only yours. It would be impossible to run out a separate pair of wires every time somebody asked for a telephone. They try and forecast 30 years ahead the number of subscribers they will get and then lay cable under the ground. In Sidney Street are seven or eight thousand wires serving Chesterton and the Milton Road districts

1949 11 07

The quietest Guy Fawkes night "rag" long-service Cambridge police officers can remember passed off without even a street lamp being extinguished – another "within living memory" record. A crowd gathered on the Market Square by 7pm and fireworks were thrown. A police car which arrived on the scene radioed for reinforcements. These shepherded the crowd off the square. After that police posted at the entrances to the square prevented people entering the area. Early in the evening a few rotten eggs were thrown, and a smoke bomb exploded in the Sidney Street area. These incidents, and the intermittent throwing of fireworks, constituted about the only "excitement" of the evening, though there was an occasion when a "bulldog" pursued a man at full speed in front of the Guildhall.

**1950**

1950 01 06

About half-a-dozen women bargain hunters waited all night for the opening of Messrs Heyworth's Sidney St, Cambridge, sale today. The first queuer had waited 15 hours for a brown suit reduced from 79/6 (£3.95) to £1. All the fur coats marked down from £37 to £10 have been snapped up but the main rush was in the children's section. It was expected that the bargains will just about last out the two days of the sale.

1950 09 09

Messrs G. Heyworth of Sidney Street took the opportunity to let their suppliers see their stand at the Cambridge Trades Fair. Mr Heyworth said theirs was one of the older types of family business with a progressive outlook. Special reference was made to the excellent standard set by the CDN and the trouble the editorial staff went to in order to get inside knowledge and get their facts right on any particular matter they wished to present to the public.

1951 03 24

The Cambridge Plate Glass Mutual Insurance Society has reached its centenary and this important milestone is being observed by the waiving of premiums for 1951. It was founded to defray the expense of accidents to plate glass windows and the first meeting was held at the King's Head Inn, Sidney Street.

1951 11 10

A year ago Cambridge was the scene of an exciting street chase – engineered for the purposes of a film. “The Scarlet Thread”. Now it is complete and will be shown at the Victorian Cinema. It has a “cops and robbers” story concerning the theft from a jeweller's shop in Sidney Street and a chase across Market Hill. This part was filmed from the top of the Victoria Cinema. The film was made by the International Realist Coy and stars Kathleen Byroa, Lawrence Harvey and Sidney Tatler

1952 05 05

Cambridge city council would like to see Christ's Lane opened out as a thoroughfare to be used by the omnibuses and other traffic to alleviate congestion in the City centre and provide relief for Emmanuel Street. The present country bus station at Drummer Street would then become the main stopping place for the local buses which now pick up and set down passengers in Sidney Street constricting the traffic flow. They also propose a new road on the line of Post Office Terrace to Wheeler Street. With Corn Exchange Street widened this would provide for a good circulation of traffic in the city centre.

1952 07 18

First arrival in the queue at Heyworth's, Sidney Street, Cambridge, sale was a man. He arrived at 3.45 a.m. to buy his wife a red whipcord coat reduced from £10.10s. to 29s.11d. He was joined at 4 a.m. by a commercial traveller who got up at this early hour to buy his wife a grey gabardine suit marked down from £21.10s. to 59s.11d. One or two bargain hunters had walked three or four miles to join the queue and by 9 a.m. tickets had been given out to 370 waiting to secure the many half-price bargains. Everybody was happy, and there were no sale fights.

1952 10 08

It has long been the ambition of Heyworths of Sidney Street, Cambridge, to be able to claim that they catered for their women customers from head to foot. But there was one thing missing. They did not stock shoes. This has now been rectified and a brand new women's shoe department was opened in the basement. Only “Lotus” and “Delta” shoes will be sold, including shoes for day (fashion and walking) and evening wear. The innovation is welcomed by customers and trade has been brisk.

1952 11 17

Mr George Hawkins, who has been the sole owner of G.P. Hawkins Ltd has announced that he has disposed of his entire shareholding to the Cambridge Co-operative Society. The firm was founded in 1838 in Fitzroy Street, which is still one of their shops. At the beginning of the century the late Mr G.P. Hawkins opened a shop and café in Sidney Street. In 1929 these premises and the adjoining site were extensively developed resulting in the opening in 1931 of ‘The Dorothy’ as it stands today

1953 04 30 c

While on a football visit to Cambridge three Oxford undergraduates took a 4ft by 2ft sign valued at £50 from outside the shop of a Cambridge outfitter, intending to take it back to Oxford as a souvenir. Two girls saw a crowd outside Messrs Johnson & Sons shop in Sidney Street. A man was bending down and another balancing on his back was unhooking the sign. The police were informed and Sgt

Ellison of the Bedfordshire Constabulary, after receiving a telephone message from Cambridge, stopped the undergraduates' coach outside Bedford and retrieved the sign.

1953 09 25 c

In a hundred Victorian houses landladies are renewing notices in the bathrooms. Along Sidney Street a young man in a yellow polo-neck sweater trundles a handcart bearing a tin trunk, two leather bags, a violin case, a worn armchair, and a gaily-painted bird-cage. His un-oiled hair slips sideways towards his ears as he pauses to allow a busload of office workers to hurry by. Gently rumbling towards Magdalene comes a mechanical horse towing twenty-two identical cabin trunks. A new term has begun

1954 01 20

Cambridge planners are contemplating the rebuilding of premises in Sidney Street to complete the road widening between Petty Cury and Holy Trinity Church. In 1939 the Essex Insurance Company agreed to rebuild nos 62-64 Sidney Street but owing to the war the scheme was postponed. Then in 1943 they sold no.64 to Messrs Boots who are now seeking planning permission for change of use and this is an opportune time for the scheme to go ahead.

1954 03 09

Sir – although I call myself a robemaker I do not personally make gowns. This is done as it has been for hundreds of years by operatives working in their own homes and many of them can trace back a couple of centuries. One of the best known names in Cambridge is that of Maltby, a member of which family is still active and busy in that occupation. Any unfamiliar details which we require we can generally obtain from this source with its accumulated knowledge – A.R. Almond, Sidney Street, Cambridge.

1954 08 13

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Lloyd's Bank in Cambridge. In 1804 two brothers named Foster who were already trading as millers established a bank in Bridge Street. In 1835 they transferred to the Turk's Head in Trinity Street and opened branches in St Ives, Saffron Walden and Ely. In those days two members of staff were boarded on the premises, one sleeping on a bed in front of the strong room armed with a rusty sword. At no time was the building left unattended. In 1890 they acquired a site at the junction of Hobson Street and a new building in Renaissance style was opened in 1894. The Capital and Counties Bank took them over in 1904 and 14 years later they amalgamated with Lloyd's. In 1919 the two offices were merged and the Sidney Street premises chosen as the main branch. In 1935 a considerable extension was built on the corner site

1954 10 13

An attractive demonstration theatre is now in full operation at the Eastern Gas Board's headquarters in Sidney Street, Cambridge where gas consumers will always be welcome to see the latest developments in gas appliance design. Demonstrations will be conducted by the Home Service Adviser, Shirley Snow, whose advice is readily available either in person, by post or telephone.

1954 11 01

Miller's music shop has transformed its Sidney Street Cambridge premises with an up-to-date, spacious and extremely attractive front of an entirely unique design. The windows are non-reflective and the lower ground floor, which is so popular with record lovers but previously almost completely hidden away, now has a mirrored view from the street. You can now pause in your shopping and look in the window, whether it be the television set your husband has promised the family for Christmas or one of the many different instruments on display

1954 11 06

There was absolute chaos in Cambridge as traffic was held up to allow Dick Turpin, complete with Bonny Black Bess, to go galloping through the streets. Outside Emmanuel College a Flying Bedstead made periodical attempts to get airborne while a gent dressed as an arm of the law directed traffic into

Downing Street, whether cars and cyclists wanted to go or not. In Sidney Street traffic was halted when the "Vice-Chancellor's" procession walked slowly down the centre of the road, complete with pick-axes and shovels slung over their shoulders. It was part of the Poppy Day Rag.

1956 03 24

Miller's Music Shop began a 100 years ago when Mr A.T. Miller opened a workshop in Hobson Street as an organ builder and piano repairer. The family home was above his wife's millinery shop in Sidney Street and one of the rooms was opened as a pianoforte showroom. His son introduced the sale of instruments and sheet music and later came harmoniums, gramophones, radio and television and now electronic organs and tape recorders. 56 03 24d

1958 08 09

Messrs Coads' department store in Sidney Street will cease trading on September 27th with a special feature sale prior to closure. It is intended to replace the Cambridge store, which has limited accommodation, by the acquisition of premises nearer London. The site has been acquired by F.W. Woolworth as an extension to their existing store which adjoins it. 58 08 09a

1959 02 12

Work has begun on greatly increasing the area of Messrs Boots the Chemist's premises in Sidney Street by the demolition of the old Essex and Suffolk Assurance Company buildings. It will double the width of the frontage and the shopping area behind and provide twin entrances on to the street. The staff accommodation will be more than doubled and the facilities vastly improved. Boots believe that the staff cannot be expected to look after customers properly unless their own interests are properly served by the company: contented staff means contented customers. 59 02 12b & c

1959 11 21

Percy Piggott was owner of a printing business, a journalist, a keen Tory, an Amateur theatrical producer and a leading light in the Cambridgeshire Sailing Club. His father, Frank, founded the printing business in what was then called Caxton Court (now the front of Boots' in Sidney Street) and had been editor of the Cambridge Chronicle. Following in his father's footsteps he was University Correspondent for 'The Times' and official scorer of the University Cricket team, managing them on tours and producing a booklet '50 Years at Fenners'. 59 11 21a

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

**1960**

1960 09 07

The widening of the Market Street – Petty Cury area of Sidney Street will complement the part that was completed before the war when the Boots and Trueform buildings were erected. Some people feel that the road nearer Jesus Lane is a greater priority but the widened section by the two bus stops outside Holy Trinity will relieve traffic congestion. There is no intention of completing the process right through to Bridge Street says T.V. Burrows, the City Surveyor. 60 09 07

1961 09 20

Barclays Bank has opened a new branch at 35, Sidney Street. The front of the building is in Portland Stone and mahogany has been used for the counters, cashiers tills and doors. The first floor is sound-proofed from the banking hall and accommodates the typewriters and customers' statement machines. These statements are sent to the banking hall by means of pneumatic tubes, a quick means of communication which helps to keep the noise down without impairing the speed of the service 61 09 20

1963 02 01

Macintosh and Sons of Market Hill, Cambridge, one of the oldest ironmongery firms in the country, has been sold to an unknown purchaser. The firm's earliest records date back to 1688 when the

business was sold to the Finch family. They kept it going for 200 years before it was taken over by William Macintosh who'd been in business in Sidney Street. A major redevelopment scheme is proposed for the site after their retail premises close in September. The wholesale, agricultural and workshop departments will continue to trade from 349 Mill Road 63 02 01a

1962 04 27

In 1851 Mr Alfred Bodger, 'Hosier, Glover and Shirtmaker', founded his Gentlemen's Outfitting shop opposite Holy Trinity Church. As business grew he added a tailoring shop and in 1934 moved to the present site on the corner of Sidney Street and Green Street. In 1946 the ready-to-wear site was enlarged. More expansion followed in 1954 and now internal alterations are complete allowing a full range of goods to be shown. But friendly and personal attention is always available – Advert 62 04 27b

1962 08 30

Painting lamp standard Sidney St – 62 08 30a

1962 10 13

Police cleared hundreds of lunch time shoppers from Woolworth's main shop in Sidney Street in five minutes after an anonymous telephone call warned that two time bombs had been placed in the store and were to blow up at 1.30pm. A thorough search was made but nothing was found. This is the third bomb hoax in Cambridge in the last three months. On two occasions police cleared a coffee bar after a similar warning. This time the caller had a foreign-sounding voice. 62 10 13

1963 05 04

Sidney Street hostel on site of Sainsbury's – 63 05 04a

1963 05 21

The firm of E.J. Pigott (Tools) was established in Sidney Street 100 years ago and moved to Sussex Street before the war. It has been handed down from father to son with always some member of the family behind the counter. Its handicraft shop in Hills Road was the first of its kind in East Anglia and they've recently opened an ironmongery department. It has ceased to sell hip and slipper baths but stocks 140 different types of pocket knife 63 05 21a & b

1963 12 28

New bus shelters in Sidney Street – photo – 63 12 28

1964 02 04

The biggest pillar box in England, in Sidney Street, may be moved to relieve traffic congestion – 64 02 04

1964 02 29

Wray's Court, Sidney Street to be demolished – 64 02 29

1964 06 26

Large postbox being moved further along Sidney Street – 64 06 26a

1964 06 27

A giant post box has been moved from its position in Sidney Street to a spot a few yards away. It has been there for 30 years. The box is one of the largest in the provinces 64 06 27

1965 12 09

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Sidney Street – 64 10 15 Sidney Street Christmas lights photo – 65 12 09b

1966 08 02

Cambridge city centre deserted – Sidney Street – on date world cup final – 66 08 02

1968 08 22

Eaden Lilley move out of Sidney Street store for new student hostel – 68 08 22

1968 11 25

Trinity College start new accommodation block on site of Matthews in Sidney Street releasing land in Petty Cury for Lion Yard – 68 11 25

1969 04 30

Sidney Street properties to keep façade during major changes by Trinity College – 69 04 30

1969 06 06

Sainsbury's want two self-service shops to replace their antiquated premises in Sidney Street, one in Trinity Street, the other in the Kite – 69 06 06, 06a

## **1970**

1971 12 10

Sidney Street and Bridge Street townscape analysis report – 71 12 10a

1972 05 30

Sainsbury, who open a new supermarket on the Matthews site in the centre of Cambridge on August 1st, are to auction their old shop in Sidney Street. Property values in central Cambridge are soaring, agents talk confidently in top rental terms of £6 and more a square foot on prime sites. The closure of the Sidney Street premises is part of Sainsbury's policy to do away with service stores. The new shop is in standard supermarket style, p30

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

1973 12 10

A series of explosions rocked the centre of Cambridge over the weekend and so far the cause remains a mystery. Gas board officials say the bangs have nothing to do with natural gas leaks. The bangs were reported to police by householders in the Green Street – Sidney Street area. They brought people rushing from their houses, but they could find no cause for the explosions. While the people were outside more bangs occurred, apparently from underground

1973 12 24

Shoppers in Cambridge defied the gloom of crisis-torn Britain and were out in force to do their last-minute Christmas shopping. At Woolworth's in Sidney Street the manager said: "People are determined to enjoy Christmas despite the gloom and doom". Tesco, in Regent Street, said they were fairly busy. The general manager of Joshua Taylor said that trade was about 20% up compared with last year. 73 12 24

1974 01 11

With heavy symbolism and an optimism to fight the gloom of the national crisis, Cambridge's erstwhile unlit Christmas lights were lit up in all their glory last night. At least a small group of them in Sidney Street were aglow for just two minutes. In the face of the ban on public decorative lighting the Chamber of Commerce could not have the cheerful Christmas light gaiety in the city centre. But,

because they had bought new lights, they thought they would like at least a glimpse of what might have been, had it not been for the Government bans.

1974 06 25

The Newmarket millionaire racehorse owner, Mr David Robinson, is to sell Cambridge city centre property in Sidney Street. The site, which includes Millers Music Centre, the Arts Cinema and part of the Eaden Lilley store is due to be auctioned in London. But the future of the Arts cinema, on which the lease does not expire until 1981, is safe. Any future owner will have to retain its use as a cinema

1975 06 11

The much-criticised second stage of Cambridge city council's central area traffic experiment has been abandoned and traffic flow systems introduced five weeks ago withdrawn. This means there is again two-way traffic in Regent Street, Parkside, Emmanuel Road and Short Street. Through traffic is still banned along parts of St Andrew's Street, Sidney Street & Kings Parade. City police said many motorists were confused by the changes which it was improving impossible to enforce. Long traffic queues had built up at major junctions since the start of the experiment which brought traffic chaos to the city

1975 07 09

Dozens of traders in central Cambridge have mounted a campaign aimed at persuading the city council to drop its traffic control scheme, which prevents cars from going along parts of King's Parade, St Andrew's Street & Sidney Street. They are complaining about a big slump in business since the scheme started six months ago. Some say they have experienced a 50% drop. Shops are hit by the traffic ban during the day and restaurants, pubs & places of entertainment suffer at night. Tomorrow the council will be recommended to ask Whitehall to make the scheme permanent.

1976 08 03

The Government has decided that the experimental traffic restriction system in the centre of Cambridge can become permanent. Through traffic will be prevented from going along Sidney Street and St Andrews Street between Emmanuel and Market Street junctions, and along King's Parade. The experiment was introduced 18 months ago – against a background of support from amenity organisations and opposition from city centre traders who carried their protests to a public inquiry.

1977 12 02

Sidney Street, Cambridge can be a battleground at this time of year. The narrow pavements and heavy traffic are a strain for anyone trying to shop. A right turn down Sussex Street may prove more fruitful. It has a solid old-fashioned atmosphere and a tightly-packed variety of specialist shops. The decorations and window displays are refreshingly quiet. The shopper can get a bite in the newly-opened Took's snack-bar, or relax for a shampoo at Diane's Hair International. Pigotts has a large stock of ironmongery and clothing shops include Paris House and the Rose Cavern Boutique, Easifit shoes and Charles' leather shop.

**1980**

1981 08 08

Johnsons, the menswear shop in Sidney Street has closed down after 150 years' trading in Cambridge. It started on its present site in the 1830s; the founder Octavius Johnson handed the business to his son and it passed down the family until Alfred Mole bought it. Cecil Mole who took over in 1930, said the shop's three employees had all found other work. 81 08 08

1981 10 09

The closure of Wards, means another long-established name will disappear from the streets of Cambridge. Recently Jack Carter, the outfitters in Portugal Place announced it was to close, before that Johnsons menswear shop in Sidney Street decided to end 150 years of trading and last year Walker Wallpapers, a family firm for nearly 60 years also called it a day. Reasons vary from rising

rates and rent bills to increased competition or simply that the old family has run out of members. 81 10 09e

1984 03 30

It is exactly 50 years since Marks and Spencer moved into Cambridge at a time when there were major alterations in the narrow Sidney Street which attracted several major stores. It quickly established itself, extending to 10,000 feet in 1937 and doubling its space in 1966. There was further development four years ago when a third floor was added. In 1965 the firm established a warehouse in a former garage in Occupation Road previously owned by Progressive Coaches. Now they are appealing for memories from previous members of staff for a special display. 84 03 30 p24

1984 12 14

Foreign competition is forcing Grays to stop volume production of wooden squash racquets early next year due to the difference between the cost of labour and overheads in Cambridge and Taiwan. But production of a limited range of top-quality specialist racquets will continue as will its cricket bat and ball factories in Sussex and Kent. The 129-year-old company, which has its headquarters at the Playfair Works in Benson Street and a sports shop in Sidney Street, employs around 110 people locally. 84 12 14

1985 10 02

Bodger's, one of Cambridge's oldest-established university menswear shops which has been on the corner of Green Street and Sidney Street since 1922, is up for sale as a going concern. It is a very prosperous business employing ten full-time staff but the most valuable part of the concern is the freehold of the shop. It includes sales areas on two floors, a cutting room and canteen together with an attached doctor's surgery with a separate entrance and is valued at £800,000. 85 10 02

1985 10 15

Pigott's, the family ironmongers which has traded in Cambridge for more than a century, is up for sale. It was in 1863 that John Pigott, son of a Landbeach farmer, opened an ironmongers shop in Sidney Street and a chain of shops were set up in Market Hill, Mill Road, Norfolk Street, Bridge Street and Hills Road. The Sussex Street branch, an established feature of the street since the late 1930s, shut down last September. The business, now in Victoria Road, includes two shops, a warehouse, stores and office. 85 10 15a

1986 05 14

An amusement centre in Sidney Street has been approved by a government planning inspector, overturning the City Council's rejection of the scheme. It would attract responsible adult customers because of the type of machines installed, he believes. But councillors fear the decision will open the flood gates and that Cambridge will end up looking like Blackpool front. A similar centre opened in Mill Road last year. 86 05 14

1986 08 21

Woolworth's in Cambridge is to undergo a massive facelift to bring it up to date. The shop in Sidney Street will close for five weeks while builders work round the clock to gut and rebuild the interior. The new shop will be brighter and more modern with an 80-seater coffee bar, an extended children's toys section and a bigger record department. Out will go bad sellers – men's and women's clothes and food lines, and the range of toiletries and electrical goods will be drastically reduced. 86 08 21

1986 10 23

Work to widen pavements in Market Street and Sidney Street and reduce traffic using the city centre are attracting a storm of protest. 86 10 23

1987 12 29

Bargain hunters were out in their thousands as sale fever hit Cambridge. Shoppers queued right into Sidney Street as they waited for the doors to open at Eaden Lilley while Joshua Taylor said they had

never seen a sale go as well. Woolworths' record department was the most popular with people spending their Christmas money and vouchers. At MFI furniture store all lines were selling well and there were long tailbacks in Coldham's Lane as people waited to get on to the Coral Park Trading Estate 87 12 29

1988 01 26

Joshua Taylor, one of Cambridge's most prestigious department stores has been sold. The new owner, London property developers Arlington Security plans to retain the name and upmarket image. Each of the 160 staff have their jobs guaranteed and will get an average loyalty bonus of £1,500. Included in the deal are the main Sidney Street shop, the Bridge Street houseware shop and the Taylor family's academic robe-making business. The deal ends three months of doubt over the 128-year-old store's future following the Taylor family's decision to sell up in the face of fierce competition from national chains 88 01 26

1988 02 20

Cambridge is set for a battle of the booksellers after news that the Waring and Gillow furniture store in Sidney Street will be refurbished as Dillons Bookstore. 88 02 20

1988 03 02

Mr 'Jimmy' Wild was a law student at Sidney Sussex College 75 years ago but in 1914 volunteered to go to the front. He returned to practice law in Cambridge in 1934 renting an office opposite Emmanuel College. Three years later he employed a young assistant, Roy Hewitson and the business flourished, moving to Sidney Street where they were joined by Peter Shaw. It is now one of the largest legal firms in East Anglia and has just relocated to Shakespeare House on Newmarket Road with a team of 23 partners and over 100 staff. 88 03 02a

1988 04 21

Major refurbishment work has been completed at Cambridge's long-established department store. Joshua Taylor opened his first shop in Ely in 1810 which continued until 1923. His son started in Sidney Street Cambridge in 1860, spreading to Bridge Street in 1955. It became a household name to shoppers, symbolising a traditional way of life. This will continue say the new owners Arlington Securities who plan 'an exciting future' for the shop. They have retained the elegant sweeping central staircase and now with expansion and financial backing, the future looks rosy. 88 04 21c & d

1989 06 27

Bodgers the outfitters founded its reputation on old-fashioned courtesy and service, specialising in the sale of traditional clothes for traditional gentlemen. For 138 years generations of both town and gown have visited its respectable Sidney Street premises. But the shop, founded in 1851 is to close because of soaring interest rates, four years after it was bought by rival company Shepherd and Woodward of Oxford. The site is one of the only central freeholds not in college hands and is a prime site for speculators. 89 06 27

1989 07 13

The Dorothy was the social centre of Cambridge for many years, a place where town met gown and people enjoyed the regular afternoon dances. During the 50s its Blue Room became a major attraction for the young with rows of motor bikes and scooters lined up outside. Its oyster and fish restaurant opened in 1965 with an air-conditioning unit wafting away fishy odours and meals were cooked at the tables, under customer's noses. Now the property's owner, Dillons Bookshop has leased part of the Sidney Street building to Festival Catering and the building has been reborn with a tearoom, pub, restaurant and function room. 89 07 13

1990 01 24

Arlington Securities, which already owns Joshua Taylor and Arts Cinema buys Beach Villas on corner Sidney St & Market Passage – 90 01 24

