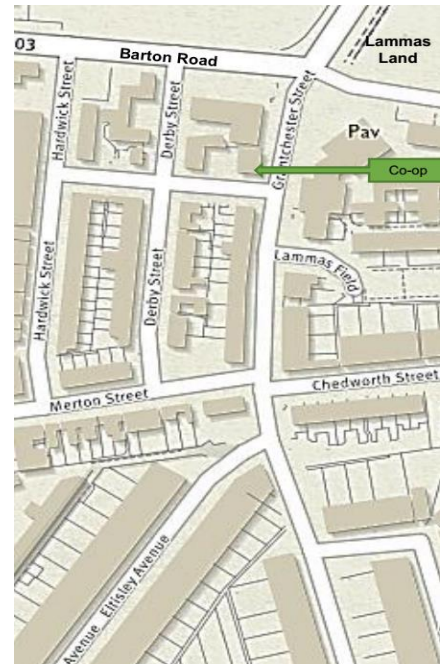


The Co-op, Grantchester Street (since 1912)



History: Mr William Ernest Ellis, who had taken over the Bakery in Derby Street in 1890, had also added a grocery business and sub-postmaster's trade. In 1904 so thriving were the latter two businesses that he was able move them to a newly built shop at the corner premises next to his home, St Mark's Lodge, at No.1 Grantchester Street. This adjoined the Victorian Maitland House, predecessor to the existing Maitland House by DC Wadwha. In 1912 it would appear Ellis sold his business to the Cambridge Co-operative Society which opened its branch No.9 on the corner premises, with Mr Sidney Maskell as manager.¹ The sub-post office moved to No.9 Grantchester Street (later renumbered 21, Mr George Tolliday² becoming the sub-postmaster. Mr Ellis continued living at St. Mark's Lodge. In the 1920s the Manager of the Co-operative was Mr W.J. Allen, whereas Mrs Maskell (widowed?) was living at No.1. By 1923 the Co-op has acquired the number 3 Grantchester Road.

Architecture: The present day building is rather undistinguished. It replaces the earlier Co-operative Society building, to allow for expansion and it was built in collaboration with Pembroke College which houses its students above and behind. The building is three-storeyed and in buff-coloured factory brick. It has gabled dormer windows projecting on the top floor and wooden panelled projection picked out in grey as the entrance to the shop. This projection is supported



¹ Spalding's Directory, 1912

² The Tollidays were a prominent family in Newnham. A C. Tolliday became President of the Newnham Croft Institute, later Social Club (see separate article). He is also recorded as a member of the committee of St. Mark's Church in 1910, living at 33 Selwyn Road. His family later had a shop which repaired garden machinery in King's Road until the 1980s.

on two pillars likewise painted grey. It does little to enhance Grantchester Street and if anything detracts from it.

Importance to the Community: The Co-op has grown from strength to strength since its inception. It now provides a wide variety of foodstuffs, particularly focusing on ready meals, which are popular with the growing community of students. It has also expanded its range of useful household goods. It is also licensed to sell alcoholic drinks. The quality of its fresh chilled fruit juices is now on a par with those sold by the big stores. So, too, are its vegetables. It has a particular function in serving those on a budget without their having to go to far flung supermarkets.

T. Elliott
On behalf of South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum
24th February 2018
(photos by T. Elliott unless otherwise specified)