CAMBRIDGE MAYORS:



MODERN RELATIONS

THE MAYORAL CHAINS OF OFFICE

The Mayoral chain of office was presented to Cambridge in 1890 by Colonel T. Walter Harding, who owned Madingley Hall. The chain worn by the Mayoresses of Cambridge was presented in 1911 during the mayoralty of George Stace, who owned a ladies outfitting business in Petty Cury.

Right: George Stace, 1906/1907, 1910/1911. Far right: Mrs Dryden, Mayoress, 2006/2007, wearing the Mayoress' chain of office.





In 1957, Cambridge twinned with the City of Heidelberg, Germany. The formal Agreements of Friendship were exchanged in 1965. Since then, many cultural, community, and civic exchanges have taken place. In 1980, the City promoted the development of the Cambridge-Heidelberg Partnership Association. This is open to representatives of all groups in Cambridge who wish to participate in exchanges with similar groups in Heidelberg. After the success of two festivals held at Easter in 1980 and in 1981, the Association decided that an annual Easter Festival, alternating between Heidelberg and Cambridge, should be held.

In 1987, a friendship agreement was signed with the City of Szeged, Hungary. Members of the City Council visited Szeged in 1987, to help to develop the link. Since then a number of exchange visits have taken place, including local schools, officers of the Council, representatives of the University of Cambridge and the Cambridge Woodcraft Folk. The Cambridge-Szeged Society was formed in 1996, to promote contact between the two cities. The Society has arranged concerts, a photographic exhibition, a stall on Cambridge Market selling Hungarian produce and a promotional stall on Parker's Piece as part of the City Council's Big Day Out.

Robert May, 1975/1976 and Betty Suckling, 1983/1984.

ROYAL VISITS

In 1975, during the mayoral year of Robert May, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal officially opened the Lion Yard Shopping Centre.

In 1984, during the mayoralty of Betty Suckling, Her Majesty The Queen officially opened the Cambridge Grafton Centre. In 1950, Cambridge sought County Borough status. However, the minimum population required was 100,000, whereas Cambridge had only 75,000.

In 1951, during the mayoralty of Archibald Taylor, Cambridge was awarded City status by King George VI. On the same day – the twenty-fourth of March – Cambridge won the Varsity Boat Race!

A third attempt to become a County borough was made in 1962, but this failed.

In 1973, Local Government Reorganisation took place. The proposals included the abolition both of Aldermen and of University representation on the City Council. All responsibilities were transferred to the new Council (under the Chairmanship of Alderman Jack Warren), which worked in tandem with the City Council for one year.

The old City Council met for the last time in April 1974. Its last vote was for the £1.4m Lion Yard Library. The Queen agreed to Cambridge keeping its status as a City.

