CAMBRIDGE MAYORS: 800 YEARS

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

MODERN ISSUES



Above left: Eva Hartree, 1924/1925. Above right: H. G. Whibley, 1907/1908.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN

1908 saw the first attempt by women to gain seats on the borough Council. This was during the mayoralty of H. G. Whibley, who was an Alderman for Castle Ward.

1924 saw the first appointment of a woman Mayor: Mrs. Eva Hartree. She was a Member of the Executive Committee of the British National Council of Women, serving as President for one period. She was also Secretary of the Cambridge Branch of the League of Nations. On the death of her husband, Mrs. Hartree moved to London, where she worked with refugees.



Above left: George Kett, 1891/1892, 1898/1899, 1901/1902. Above right: Thomas Hovell, 1835/1836.

SOCIAL CHANGES

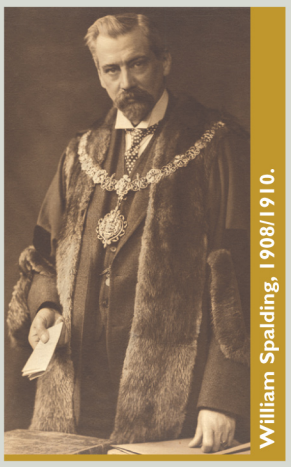
The first police force was established in Cambridge in 1836, during the mayoralty of Thomas Hovell. He was a haberdasher and mercer, who jointly owned the store which was later to become Eaden Lilley in Market Street.

In 1902, during the mayoralty of George Kett (of the building firm Rattee and Kett), the Education Act gave the Council the power to manage schools. It was in the same year that the Cambridge Daily News complained of difficulties in attending Council meetings.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

In 1910, during the mayoralty of William Spalding, who was a stationer in Sidney Street, the Borough extension was opposed by Trumpington and Fen Ditton. It was supported by Cherry Hinton.

In 1911, the Borough extension proposal was defeated in the Commons. However, the Local Government Boundary Act extended the area of the borough by over 2,000 acres and fifteen representatives. Councillors now numbered forty-two (with three new wards added) and fifteen aldermen.



William Spalding, 1908/1910.

In 1933, the Ministry of Health agreed to a boundary extension – an additional 4,601 acres. In 1934 the boundary was actually extended and now covered 10,000 acres. In 1910 it covered just 3,200 acres. So, in just over twenty years, it had grown to three times its original size.

THE GUILDHALL SITE

The current Guildhall building was rebuilt between 1936 and 1939 by the architect C. Cowley-Voysey. However, there has been a connection with Law and Order on this site since 1224, when King Henry III had the premises converted into a gaol. This continued to be used until 1790. The dates of the building which immediately preceded the present one are 1782 to 1936.



The Guildhall today.



Left: Algernon S. Campkin, 1904/1905, 1911/1912. Right: William Briggs, 1936/1937, 1943/1944.

PERSONALITIES

Algernon Campkin was a pharmacist in Rose Crescent. During his mayoralty, on the first of April, 1912, Chesterton became part of the Borough. Cambridge applied for County Borough Status for the first time. This gave the Council control of secondary as well as elementary schools and control over the main roads.

1936 saw the appointment of the first Labour Mayor. Mr. William Briggs worked on the railway from the age of fifteen-years-old. He represented Romsey Ward on the Council for thirty-six years and Bill Briggs Court is named after him.