

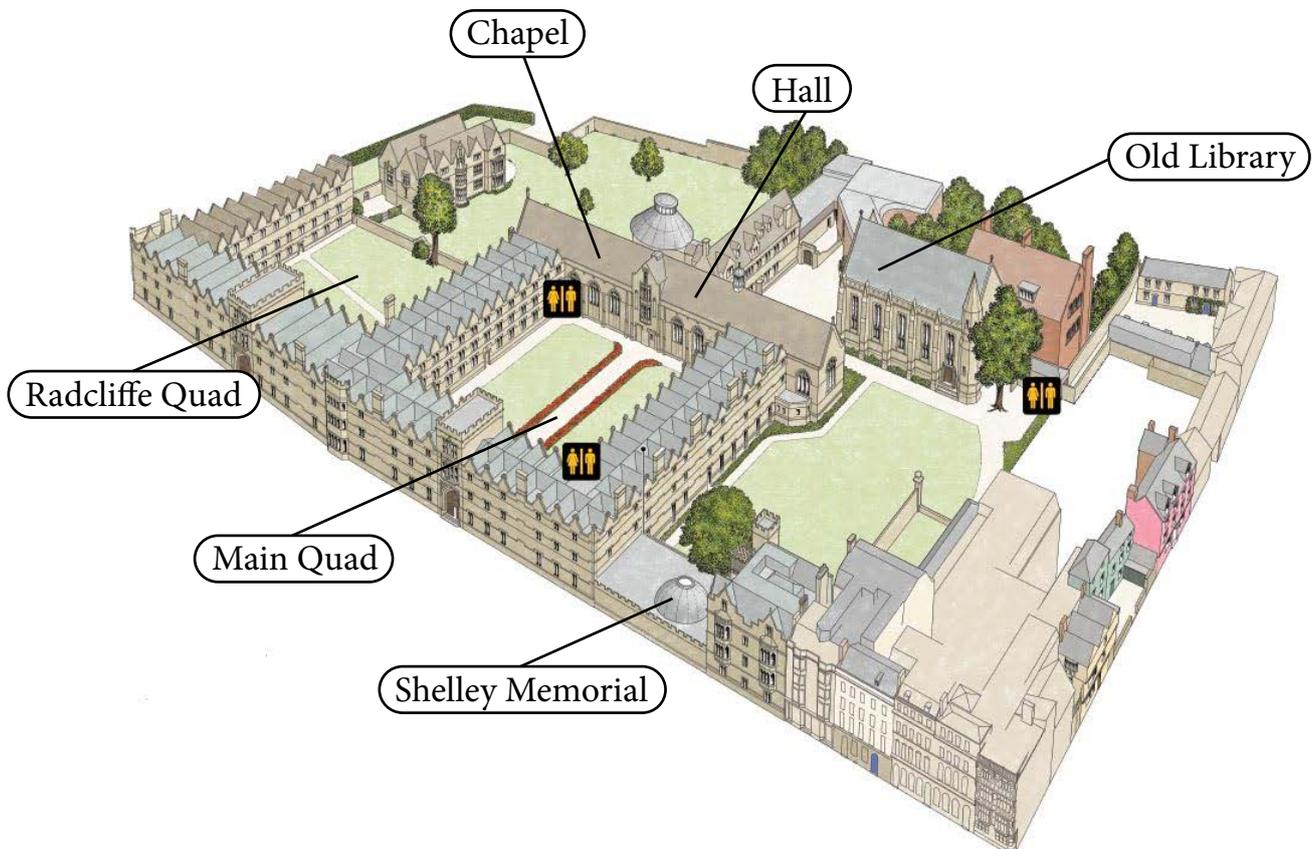
UNIV  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

OXFORD  
OPEN  
DOORS

A very warm welcome to University College (or just “Univ” for short.)

Tap or click a button below to find out more, or just keep scrolling to read all about Oxford’s oldest College.

We hope you enjoy your visit during Oxford Open Doors.





## MAIN QUAD



Once Univ began to accept undergraduates in larger numbers, our medieval quad was no longer large enough to accommodate everyone comfortably.

In 1631, an Old Member called Sir Simon Bennet died, leaving the College a large sum of money, and it was possible to start afresh with a new quad designed by Richard Maude. Its foundation stone was laid on 17 April 1634.

The west range was built first because we did not need to demolish any of the existing structures, and was finished in 1635, with work then starting on the north range, facing the High Street, with its tower. This was finished in 1637.

In 1639 work began on the south range, with the Hall and the Chapel, but, just as the outer walls were finished in 1642, the English Civil War broke out and all building work stopped.

In the 1660s work restarted in earnest. The Chapel was finished in 1666, and then the Kitchen wing to the south of the quad was started in 1669. Finally in 1675 work started on the last range, on the east. This was completed in 1676 – over 40 years after work began on the quad.



Much of the Main Quad remains unchanged in appearance since 1676. However, the facade of the Hall and the Chapel has been altered twice, first in 1799 when one of our Fellows, James Griffith, designed it in a more Gothic style, and then in 1957 when Stephen Dykes Bower created the facade we see today.

The Main Quad originally had no statues. The statue of James II inside the Quad, above the entrance, was given to the College in 1687 and is one of only two statues of James in the country (the other one is in London, outside the National Gallery). If you look carefully at the statue you will see that he has no right hand. A photo from the 1870s showing James with both hands has come to light, but we know nothing about when and why he lost one of them.

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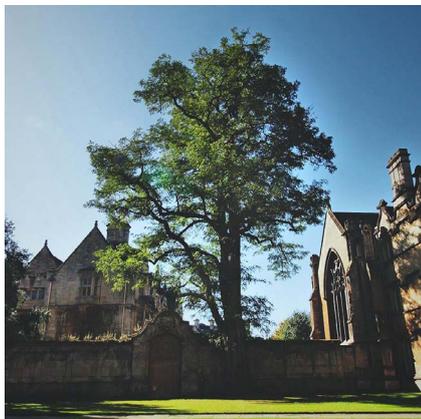
# RADCLIFFE QUAD



The Radcliffe Quad was built in 1716-19 thanks to a large legacy from Dr John Radcliffe (1650–1714), a former undergraduate of the College who had established himself as a successful (and very wealthy) society doctor.

Radcliffe’s gift of a new quad, however, came with strings attached. The new building, he wrote in his will, should be “answerable to the front already built.” It was therefore built in the same style of the Main Quad, designed back in the 1630s. To give you an idea of how old-fashioned this style of architecture was by now, look at Queen’s College across the road from us, which was being built at more or less the same time, but in the then very modern classical style.

As originally intended, the eastern side of the new quad (now Staircases X-XII) was intended to be the Master’s Lodgings. In 1879–80, after the current Lodgings had been built, this range was converted into student rooms, and Staircase XII was created from scratch.

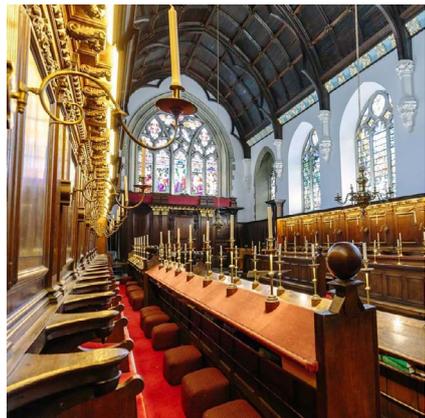


Radcliffe Quad is remarkable in one other aspect: the quadrangle proper is set out on the same axis as that in the Main Quad, but both High Street and Logic Lane curve round at this point. There are therefore barely any square or rectangular rooms in the whole quad.

Of the statues in Radcliffe Quad, Dr Radcliffe himself stands on the inside looking over “his” quad, while a statue of Queen Mary II looks out on the High Street to the outside. Both were installed in 1719, just as work on the quad was coming to an end.



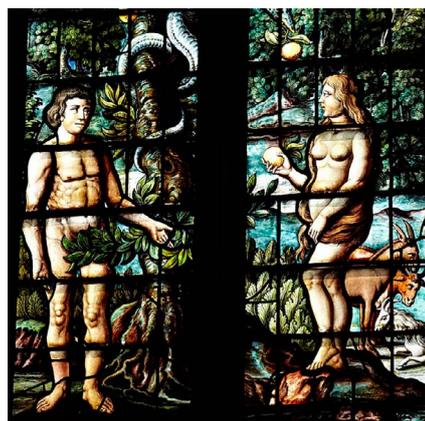
# CHAPEL



Our Antechapel is typical of many in Oxford and Cambridge with several memorials to former members and our war dead. Of particular interest may be our latest memorial, on the South wall and installed in 2018, which commemorates Rolf Wilhelm Baron von Seldeneck, Univ's only German casualty in either World War.

Work started on our Chapel in 1639, as part of the building of our South range and a set of painted windows from Abraham van Linge, a Dutch artist who had produced spectacular windows in various places in Oxford, including Lincoln, Queen's, and Christ Church, was commissioned.

The side windows were finished in 1641, but before van Linge could begin the East window, the English Civil War broke out, and all work was suspended, the windows put into storage and his project left unfinished.



In the 1660s, after the Restoration of the Monarchy, work resumed on the Chapel: the windows brought out of storage, and a roof and furnishings built. The Chapel was consecrated on 20 March 1666.

A few changes were made in the Chapel shortly after its completion: an East window was installed in the 1680s, and in 1694 a splendid screen, designed by London joiner Robert Barker and separating the Chapel from the Antechapel, was installed.

It was the Victorians, though, who changed the Chapel the most. In the early 1860s, Sir George Gilbert Scott, having designed our Library, was commissioned to refurbish it. He installed a new roof and east window (both still in place) and installed a stone reredos at the East end, totally out of character with the rest of the Chapel. In turn this was covered up by the original wooden reredos, and some red curtains, in the 1920s.

The Chapel was originally built without an organ; it was not until 1863 that one was installed. The current organ was created in 1955.

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# HALL



Work started on the Hall, like the Chapel, in 1639, but halted in 1642 when war broke out.

Work resumed in December 1655 and a fine hammerbeam roof was built between March 1656 and July 1657; it is possible to read “1656” in the carved lantern near the centre.

In 1766 it was decided to redecorate the Hall broadly in a Gothic Revival style, and the chosen architect, Henry Keene, clothed it with fresh panelling and covered its roof with a dramatic fan-vaulted plaster ceiling.

The new interior was much admired by contemporaries, but later intensely disliked by the Victorians, as it was so greatly at odds with their conception of the Gothic style.



In 1904, as student numbers rose, it was decided to lengthen the Hall westwards. The old roof was discovered above the 1766 ceiling largely intact and was restored, and the current set of windows fitted; these include the coats of arms of many College benefactors.

Two remnant of the 1760s decoration that survived in Hall are the fireplace and the marble roundel of King Alfred above it.

The many portraits in Hall include British Prime Ministers Harold Wilson and Clement Attlee, Festus Mogae (President of Botswana 1998–2008), Bob Hawke (Prime Minister of Australia 1983–91), numerous former Masters, and Helen Cooper, Univ’s first woman Fellow, who arrived in 1978.

The photographic portraits that hang throughout Hall are part of the Young Univ Gallery, designed to highlight and celebrate the sheer diversity of our alumni’s backgrounds and the careers that they enjoy.

# SHELLEY MEMORIAL



Percy Bysshe Shelley came to Univ in 1810, and was expelled the following year for, as the College Register of the time put it, “contumaciously refusing to answer questions proposed to [him], and for also repeatedly declining to disavow a publication entitled *The Necessity of Atheism*”.

At the time, the College thought it had washed its hands of a troublesome student; it only realised later that it had expelled one of England’s greatest

romantic poets.

In the later 19th century, Shelley’s daughter-in-law Jane devoted herself to nurturing the poet’s memory and commissioned a grand memorial of her father-in-law to be placed in the Protestant cemetery in Rome where he was buried.

Unfortunately it proved too large for the plot, and Lady Shelley offered the sculpture to Univ, along with money towards an enclosure to house it. The College eventually agreed, and in 1893 the Shelley Memorial was formally inaugurated.



The monument is the work of Edward Onslow Ford, a prominent member of the “New Sculpture” movement, and the enclosure was designed by Basil Champneys. Recent restoration work has attempted to recreate the original colour scheme of the memorial, so that it can be seen as its sculptor intended.

The statue used to have a gilt-bronze laurel wreath on his brow, but this was removed in the 1930s after one student prank too many.

# OLD LIBRARY



The earliest space in Univ which can be identified as a Library was a small room above the Antechapel in our medieval quad. In the 1660s this was replaced by a purpose-built Library to the south of the new Main Quad, above the kitchen.

In the 1840s, the 2nd Lord Eldon commissioned a sculpture of his grandfather, the 1st Lord Eldon, and his brother, Lord Stowell, two of Univ's greatest Fellows. It was shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851, but then struggled to find a permanent home. Univ was suggested and agreed upon on the understanding the family paid for the creation of a new library to house them. This new Library was built by George Gilbert Scott in 1858–61, and initially had only one floor, with the statues at the west end.

In the 1930s, a mezzanine floor was installed, to create a reading room on the first floor and a book stack and a librarian's office below. In the 1990s, it underwent its second great transformation when its ground floor was converted into a new reading room, with a new office for the librarian. The two great statues, which in 1937 had been brought into an entrance hall, to glower there at all visitors, were now moved to their present situation on the first floor.

## Did you know?

Univ offers conference facilities hire, dining and catering, and even bed & breakfast. To find out more visit our [website](#) or email: [Marilia.Arezes@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Marilia.Arezes@univ.ox.ac.uk)





# UNIV HISTORY



Univ began life as a small and poor College, with enough funds to support just four Fellows reading Theology. During the Middle Ages, this number gradually increased thanks to additional benefactions. The College had next to no undergraduate members until the 16th century, when most other colleges had begun to accept undergraduates, and Univ followed suit.

As Univ slowly grew, work began in 1634 to replace its medieval buildings with a new Front Quad. Although half was finished by 1640, it took almost thirty years to complete the remainder, because of the Civil War. The College was luckier with its other Quad - the Radcliffe Quad - which was built in only three years (1716-1719) thanks to a bequest from Old Member, John Radcliffe.

In the 18th century, Univ became one of the most intellectually active Colleges in Oxford, with former students and Fellows found in senior positions in the government and the judiciary.

The early 19th century, however, was a less distinguished period: the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley came here in 1810, but was expelled the following year. It was only later in the century that Univ began to expand and improve again. In 1842 the so-called New Building was erected, and a Library was built in 1861. The 19th and 20th centuries also saw a great rise in organised student



activities: the College first produced a rowing team in 1827 and a Music Society was founded in 1930.

In 1979 College admitted its first women students.

In 2020 Baroness Amos became the new Master, the first woman Master of Univ and the first black head of an Oxford college.

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# TIMELINE OF MASTERSHIP

2020–	Baroness Valerie Amos
2008–2020	Sir Ivor Martin Crewe
1998–2008	Robin Butler, Lord Butler of Brockwell
1989–1997	Wyndham John Albery
1986–1988	Kingman Brewster
1976–1986	Arnold Abraham Goodman, Lord Goodman
1963–1976	John Primatt Redcliffe Maud, Lord Redcliffe-Maud
1951–1963	Arthur Lehmann Goodhart
1945–1951	John Herbert Severn Wild
1937–1945	William Henry Beveridge, Baron Beveridge of Tuggall
1935–1937	Arthur Blackburne Poynton
1923–1934	Sir Michael Ernest Sadler
1906–1923	Reginald Walter Macan
1881–1906	James Franck Bright
1870–1881	George Granville Bradley
1836–1870	Frederic Charles Plumptre
1821–1836	George Rowley
1808–1821	James Griffith
1764–1807	Nathan Wetherell
1745–1764	John Browne
1722–1745	Thomas Cockman
1722–1729	William Denison (a rival claimant to the Mastership)
1692–1722	Arthur Charlett
1691–1692	Thomas Bennet
1689–1691	Edward Farrer
1676–1689	Obadiah Walker
1665–1676	Richard Clayton
1660–1665	Thomas Walker
1655–1660	Francis Johnson
1648–1654	Joshua Hoyle
1632–1648	Thomas Walker
1610–1632	John Bancroft
1597–1610	George Abbot
1584–1597	Anthony Gate
1572–1584	William James
1561–1572	Thomas Caius
1558–1561	James Dugdale
1557–1558	Anthony Salveyn
1551–1557	George Ellison
1547–1551	Richard Salveyn
1546–1547	John Crayford
1518–1546	Leonard Hutchinson
1509–1518	Ralph Hamsterley
1487–1509	John Roxborough (possibly 1488–1509)
1473–1487	William Gregford (possibly 1473-1488)
1441–1473	John Martyn
1428–1441	Thomas Benwell
1423/4–1428	Richard Witton
1420–1423/4	Robert Burton
c.1408–1420	John Castell
c.1401–1408	John Appleton
1398–c.1401	Edmund Lacy
1396–1398	Thomas Duffield
1393–1396	Thomas Foston
early 1390s	John Middelton (possibly Master)
fl.1376–1379	William Kexby
fl.1353–1362	Roger de Aswardeby
1340–1343	Robert de Patrington (possibly Master) 1340–3
1332	William de Nadale (possibly Master) 1332
1307	Hugh de Warknetheby (possibly Master)

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