



## International Women's Day 2019

Friday 8th March is the International celebration of Women around the world throughout history. Our wonderful Archivist, Helen, has put together a list of notable women who have made a difference to Cambridge across time.

### WOMEN WHO FOUNDED COLLEGES

**Clare College**, the second oldest after Peterhouse – was founded in 1326 and generously endowed by Lady Elizabeth de Clare, Lady de Burgh, granddaughter of Edward I.

<http://www.clare.cam.ac.uk/College-History/>

**Pembroke** – Mary de St Pol, widowed Countess of Pembroke, was granted a licence for the foundation of her College on Christmas Eve in 1347, by Edward III.

<https://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/college/about-pembroke>

**Queens' College** – charter granted by Margaret of Anjou in 1448 (wife of Henry VI); then under the patronage of Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward IV.

[https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/files/downloads/queens\\_college\\_cambridge\\_tour\\_guide\\_2012.pdf](https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/files/downloads/queens_college_cambridge_tour_guide_2012.pdf)

**Christ's College** – founded by William Byngham in 1437, but generously endowed by Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII, in 1505 (and named Christ's at that point).

<https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/history-christs-college>

**St John's** – Lady Margaret Beaufort then went on to found St John's College in 1511 (after her death in 1509)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\\_John%27s\\_College,\\_Cambridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_John%27s_College,_Cambridge)

**WOMENS' COLLEGES:** Girton College founded 1869, moved to Cambridge 1873. Granted University Status 1948 Newnham College founded 1871. New Hall (now Murray Edwards) founded 1954.

**FIRST WOMAN GRADUATE:** Queen Mother was the first woman to receive a Cambridge degree, at Senate House, on 21st October 1948. Honorary Doctorate of Law degree.

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/news/the-queen-mother-a-friend-remembered>

Pathé video at <https://www.britishpathe.com/video/VLVA7L4Q48SJWXBY3EFDXONZIJKDF-THE-QUEEN-MOTHER-RECEIVES-DEGREE-FROM-CAMBRIDGEUNIVERSITY/query/wildcard>

### FAMOUS CAMBRIDGE WOMEN GRADUATES

1. Jane Goodall, primatologist – studied chimpanzee behaviour in Tanzania – Darwin
2. Thandie Newton, actress – Downing
3. Zadie Smith, novelist – King's
4. Queen Margarethe of Denmark – Girton
5. Jocelyn Bell-Burnell, Astrophysicist – New Hall
6. Germaine Greer, author, critic – Newnham
7. Diane Abbot, Labour MP – Newnham
8. Sylvia Plath, poet – Newnham
9. AS Byatt, author – Newnham
10. Clare Balding, sportswoman and presenter – Newnham
11. Mary Beard, Professor of Classics – Newnham
12. Rosalind Franklin, one of the discoverers of DNA – Newnham
13. Emma Thompson, actress – Newnham

## WOMEN MAYORS

Cambridge's first lady mayor was elected in 1925. Eva Hartree had previously studied at Girton, taking a Tripos in 1895. <https://lostcambridge.wordpress.com/2017/01/11/another-hero-of-cambridge-the-first-woman-to-become-our-mayor/>

Second lady Mayor was Florence Ada Keynes, in 1929 – mother of John Maynard Keynes <https://lostcambridge.wordpress.com/2018/04/28/florence-ada-keynescambridges-2nd-woman-mayor-on-the-front-page-of-the-vote/>

See also a selection of women Councillors from the 'Women Workers' series in the Cambridge Independent Press, Jan to June 1930. Online images at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/puffles2010/sets/72157682386803233>

**From the team of ladies at Westminster College, Happy International Women's Day!**

