



UCEM's former premises, 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields, after the bombing in 1941 which destroyed it.

## WELCOME TO OUR APRIL ISSUE

Registrations have now opened for our Housing for Good event and our Student and Alumni event! Both are being held in September.

**The Housing for Good in Reading Event** is being held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from 6.30pm onwards in the Concert Hall at Reading Town Hall. The event will celebrate 100 years of UCEM, 'Building Futures 1919 – 2019'. There will be a panel event and evening reception in aid of our charity partner, Launchpad Reading, who help to prevent some of Reading's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people becoming homeless.

The panel discussion and audience Q&A will explore innovative ideas for the creation of a long-term, sustainable housing solution that aims to provide safe, secure homes and will set the standard for a more positive Built Environment of the Future. Guests will then be invited to view our exhibition during a champagne and canapé reception hosted in The Story of Reading Gallery at Reading Museum.

**The Centenary Projects for Good Event** is being held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at Lincoln's Inn in London. This event not only commemorates our heritage but looks to the future

of the Built Environment and we have invited our global community of UCEM students and alumni to join us where it all began - a stone's throw from the University College's first permanent home in Lincoln's Inn Fields. The area holds special meaning for UCEM as the institution delivered teaching from its premises at 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields from 1921 until 1941, when it was devastated by incendiary bombs during the Blitz.

In the run up to this event, we are running a Centenary Projects for Good initiative in collaboration with the National Union of Students. Centenary

Projects for Good is a professional development opportunity, through which our students and alumni are invited to create positive change in their workplace through the undertaking of a socially, environmentally or economically sustainable project, supported by a project coach from UCEM or NUS. Three participants will be invited to speak at the event, where selected projects will also be showcased.

The event will feature two talks by senior industry executives themed around sustainability, followed by three Centenary Projects for Good case studies and a champagne and canapé networking opportunity.

The **UCEM Centenary Fund** is now also open and more information can be found [here](#). If you would like to donate some money towards helping a student study, then please visit the site and

mark our centenary by contributing to their future.

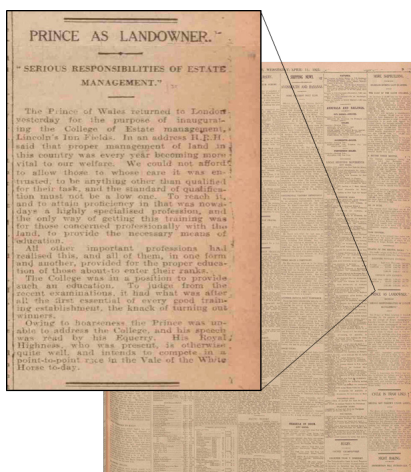
To find out more about the exciting events that we have planned this year, and how you can get involved, please visit [www.ucem.ac.uk/centenary](http://www.ucem.ac.uk/centenary)

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## ON THESE DATES | APRIL

### 1<sup>st</sup> April 1921

Although the College of Estate Management was founded in 1919, it took some time to evolve from an exam preparation tutorial school (Parry, Adkin and Parry, founded in 1891) to a national institution which would provide academic and practical instruction for the profession. Having acquired funding, premises and staff, the College commenced full tutorial work on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1921. In the academic year 1921-2, the College had 11 full time students, 184 evening class students, and 615 postal students.



Article from the Western Daily Press on the CEM Inauguration Ceremony



The Prince of Wales at CEM in 1923



Student registers from 1921-1922

### 10<sup>th</sup> April 1923

The granting of the Royal Charter was celebrated with an Inauguration Ceremony on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1923. This established The College of Estate Management as an institution of national significance.

The Inaugural Ceremony was attended by H.R.H. Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII). The Prince of Wales was unable to speak due to a cold, so his words of congratulations and wishes of success were read by his equerry.

The press published these words the following day, reporting that "H.R.H. said that proper management of land in this country was every year becoming more vital to our welfare. We could not afford to allow those to whose care it was entrusted, to be anything other than qualified for their task, and the standard of qualification must not be a low one. To reach it, and to attain proficiency in that was nowadays a highly specialised profession, and the only way of getting this training was for those concerned professionally with the land, to provide the necessary means of education."

"The College was in such a position to provide such an education. To judge from the recent examinations, it had what was after all the first essential of every good training establishment, the knack of turning out winners."

Sir William Wells outlined the College's aims, which focused on the education of practitioners, accumulation & dissemination of knowledge, and provision of technical literature.

It is interesting to note how much of what was said by H.R.H. Prince of Wales and Sir William Wells remains true today.





Students at St Albans Grove, Kensington, in 1962

## 1st April 1964

The 1950s and 1960s saw great growth by the College. More students than ever were studying a wider range of courses, which put pressure on the College's site at St Alban's Grove, Kensington. The College was already using additional sites to teach Rural Estate Management in Kent and Reading.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> 1964, the College began a year-long rent of two floors at 21 Cromwell Road from the Royal College of Arts to help accommodate its ever-growing student population.

A year later, the College's Postal department expanded into a new site in 19 South End, Kensington.

The ongoing pressures of space eventually led the College of Estate Management to move to Reading.



CEM premises at South End, Kensington

## IN THIS DECADE | 1940 - 1949

**This decade between 1939-49 was the darkest and most challenging in the history of the College.**

Upon the outbreak of war, the College lost many students and staff to wartime work, and Academic Board meeting minutes from 1940 see the Board members questioning the College's future.

By 1940, the College's site at 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields has also been destroyed by German bombing raids, and the College was temporarily rehomed until the end of the war.

However, it was decided that the Royal Charter placed upon the College a duty to continue, in order to prepare the profession for a post-war world.

Therefore, between 1939-45 the College continued to send correspondence courses to civilians, and military personnel including Prisoners of War and members of the Women's Land Army.

After the war ended, the College moved to a new home at St Alban's Grove, Kensington, and sought to rebuild and recover.

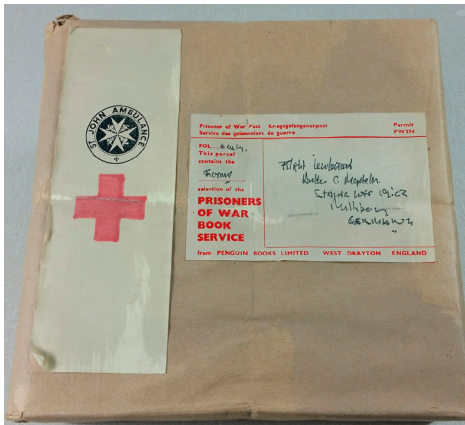
However, the second half of this decade faced a great number of challenges, including the logistics of returning staff and students, the revision of courses in line with updated legislation, as well as a shortage of paper and frequent electricity cuts.

1945-49, the era of reconstruction, was a great challenge, but by 1949 the College was in a more secure position and the new premises in Kensington had been rebuilt.



The damage to 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields caused by the Blitz

## DID YOU KNOW? | THE WARTIME EFFORT



A parcel of educational books sent to students in prisoner of war and internment camps

The Channel Islands were the only British territory to be occupied by Germany during the Second World War. Upon the occupation of the Channel Islands, thousands of civilians were deported and interned in camps across Europe.

The College of Estate Management sent correspondence courses to one student at a civilian internment camp in Germany. John Amphlet Moule was deported from Jersey to an internment camp in Biberach camp, Germany.

## COMING UP | NEXT MONTH



The Crystal, London

The UCEM Flagship Centenary event will be taking place in May: **The Built Environment of the Future at The Crystal**. This day-long event will feature three panel discussions as we not only commemorate our heritage but look to the future with a host of industry-leading professionals and influential thinkers. The event will conclude with a champagne and canape evening reception and complimentary entry to the world's largest exhibition on sustainable development. The May edition of the Centenary Newsletter will detail what happened at this event.

50 staff members will also be involved in another **Employee Volunteering Day** in May, this time supporting Reading Borough Council with their commitment to preserving and improving the Borough's parks and open spaces for generations to come. There will be more information about what they did on the day, in the next edition of the Centenary Newsletter.