The Old Library
First Court, Magdalene College, Cambridge

The Library rooms will be open to the public for viewing on the First Thursday of each month in Spring 2020. 11am to 1pm.

Distinct from the Samuel Pepys Library, which is also at Magdalene, the Old Library has housed the historic books of the College in First Court since the fifteenth century, in what was the medieval Prior’s residence.

[Readers and researchers who wish to consult the collections are asked to contact us in advance for an appointment.]

As well as enjoying the historic, book-lined rooms, Visitors will see displays of items from the College’s special collections and archives, which are not normally seen in public.

The programme of special one-day exhibitions is as follows:


5th March 2020: GEORGE MALLORY: from Student to Mountaineer. An exploration of George Mallory’s life from his undergraduate days at Magdalene College (1905-1909) to his final expedition to Everest in 1924.

2nd April 2020: FERRAR PAPERS: a selection of the Old Library’s Ferrar Papers recently returned from exhibition at the Jamestown Museum in the United States. The selection of papers on display will focus on the lives of women who travelled from England to settle in Virginia four hundred years ago and what challenges they encountered.

ALL WELCOME - FREE OF CHARGE