

'Shepilinda' on New College in 1738

New College¹³ was founded by William of Wickham Bp: of Winchester in 1386. The Society have within some years past made great improvements to the Buildings Their Chappell is very Solemn & splendid & at the end of it is their hall which answers to the Magnificence of the Buildings they have a lofty Tower, with a Ring of 10 Bells in it;¹⁴ a Library well furnish with Books; & a garden laid out in a curious form. The College has a Warden 70 Fellows and Scholars 10 Chaplains 3 Clerks 16 Choiristers – The Visitor is the Bp: of Winchester

William Poole (New College) and Geoffrey Neate (Bodleian Library)

¹³ One wonders whether this postscript – Shepilinda appends a similar paragraph to all her descriptions of colleges – is from a separate reference work, but it is not from any obvious edition of Chamberlaine's Notitia or Ayliffe's Antient and Present State of Oxford we might suspect.

¹⁴ Five bells were turned into eight first of all: see the late seventeenth-century poem 'On the Bells of new colledge in Oxon lately were molded; and from 5 were turn'd into Eight', MS Rawl. poet. 84, fols. 105r-104r (reading retrograde), also transcribed in this issue. The last two bells were early eighteenth-century additions.