THE CAMBRIDGE UNION SOCIETY

THE FIRST TWO HUNDRED YEARS

13th February 1815
CAMBRIDGE UNION SOCIETY FOUNDED

20th February 1815
FIRST DEBATE HELD

28th March 1817
PROCTORS BURST IN TO THE UNION AND SUSPEND DEBATES

March 1821
DEBATES RESUME WITH RESTRICTIONS

1832
UNION MOVES FROM THE RED LION, PETTY CURY, TO THE HOOP INN, BRIDGE ST.

1830
DEBATING PERMITTED WITH NO RESTRICTIONS

20th November 1829
FIRST DEBATE AGAINST THE OXFORD UNION

1850
UNION MOVES FROM THE HOOP INN TO A FORMER METHODIST CHAPEL IN GREEN ST.

Lent 1850
FIRST JEWISH PRESIDENT ELECTED (SIX YEARS BEFORE JEWS ALLOWED TO TAKE THEIR DEGREES)

1857
BUILDING FUND ESTABLISHED TO CONSTRUCT PREMISES OF THE UNION'S OWN

Michaelmas 1862
FIRST AMERICAN PRESIDENT ELECTED

30th October 1866
UNION BUILDING OFFICIALLY OPENED

4th June 1864
FOUNDATION STONE FOR UNION BUILDING LAID

Michaelmas 1882
FIRST ETHNIC MINORITY PRESIDENT ELECTED

1887
FIRST GUEST SPEAKERS INVITED TO DEBATES

24th February 1886
NEW WING OF THE BUILDING OPENED

Lent 1905
JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES IS PRESIDENT

1910
PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT VISITS THE UNION

1912
UNION VOTES AGAINST ADMITTING FEMALE MEMBERS 127–63

13th February 1915
UNION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY PASSES UNMARKED

8th May 1914
ELECTION OF OFFICERS SUSPENDED FOR FIRST WORLD WAR

Michaelmas 1919
HIGHEST DIVISION RECORDED IN A UNION DEBATE (1,003 MEMBERS)

February 1919
DEBATES AND ELECTIONS RESUME

15th November 1921
BELATED CELEBRATIONS FOR THE UNION'S CENTENARY HELD WITH FUTURE KING GEORGE VI

Lent 1920
WINSTON CHURCHILL VISITS THE UNION TO SPEAK IN A DEBATE

Michaelmas 1925
FIRST LABOUR PARTY SUPPORTING PRESIDENT ELECTED

1933
SUBSTANTIAL REDECORATION OF THE UNION BUILDING; LIBRARY MOVED UPSTAIRS

Easter 1931
WOMEN GUESTS PERMITTED INSIDE THE UNION FOR MEALS

Lent 1933
'THIS HOUSE PREFERS FASCISM TO SOCIALISM' DEFEATED 335–218

Easter 1936
HAILE SELASSIE, EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA, VISITS THE UNION

October 1939
ELECTION OF OFFICERS SUSPENDED FOR SECOND WORLD WAR; RAF COMMANDEER BUILDING

Lent 1939
FLOOR DEBATE AND 'POINTS OF INFORMATION' INTRODUCED TO DEBATES

October 1944
ELECTIONS RESUME; RAF CEASE USE OF THE BUILDING

28th July 1942
UNION HIT BY LUFTWAFFE BOMBS; THREE PEOPLE KILLED

28th–31st March 1944
UNION COMMANDEERED BY THE ARMY FOR D-DAY PLANNING

May Week 1950
CAMBRIDGE UNION VS. OXFORD UNION BOAT RACE ON THE RIVER CAM

Easter 1950
FIRST TELEVISED UNION DEBATE (FROM ALEXANDRA PALACE)

14th June 1946
FIRST FEMALE GUEST SPEAKERS (LADY VIOLET BONHAM CARTER AND VISCOUNTESS DAVIDSON MP)

24th April 1953
RECOLLECTIONS OF THE CAMBRIDGE UNION, 1815–1939 BY PERCY CRADOCK PUBLISHED

22nd April 1955
A SEPARATE WOMEN'S UNION SOCIETY HOLDS ITS FIRST DEBATE

Lent 1958
JENNIFER PLATT (NEWNHAM) BECOMES THE FIRST FEMALE STUDENT TO SPEAK IN A DEBATE

4th November 1963
THE UNION VOTES TO ADMIT WOMEN 449–180

Michaelmas 1964
SHEENA MATHESON (GIRTON) FIRST WOMAN ON STANDING COMMITTEE

1960–64
THE 'CAMBRIDGE MAFIA' – LEON BRITTAN, JOHN GUMMER, MICHAEL HOWARD, KEN CLARKE, AND NORMAN LAMONT – ALL PRESIDENT

13th February 1965
UNION'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED WITH A DINNER AND DEBATE

Michaelmas 1967
ANN MALLALIEU (NEWNHAM) FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT

12th May 1970
HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES (TRINITY) MAKES HIS MAIDEN SPEECH AT THE UNION

22nd April 1972
UNION MEMBERS VOTES 730–703 TO MERGE WITH NEW THE CAMBRIDGE STUDENTS' UNION; SCHEME FOUNDERS AFTER A NUMBER OF ICRS VOTE AGAINST IT

May Week 1975
UNION CHAMBER DAMAGED BY FIRE; SUBSTANTIAL REPAIRS NEEDED

25th February 1978
FOOTLIGHTS MOVE IN TO THE UNION CELLARS

Michaelmas 1981
THE UNION BECOMES A REGISTERED CHARITY

20th November 1981
CELEBRATORY FEAST HELD AT KING'S TO MARK THE UNION'S 500TH TERM

March 1990
DISCO HELD TO MARK THE UNION'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

October 1990
175TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER HELD AT THE SAVOY HOTEL

9th December 1990
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN SPEAKS AT THE UNION

Easter 1991
HH THE 14TH DALAI LAMA VISITS THE UNION

Easter 1997
F.W. DE KLERK VISITS THE UNION

January 2001
UNION WINS THE WORLD DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP IN STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA

2005–6
FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR WITH THREE SUCCESSIVE FEMALE PRESIDENTS

October 2014
LAUNCH OF 'CUS LIVE', A PERMANENT ONLINE STREAMING SERVICE

2015
UNION ENTERS INTO COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH DELOITTE LLP

7th February 2015
200TH ANNIVERSARY DEBATE

20th February 2015
BICENTENARY BALL

13th June 2015
BICENTENARY GARDEN PARTY

26th September 2015
2015 LONDON DEBATE HELD AT MIDDLE TEMPLE

1820 1840 1860 1880 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

1815 1830 1850 1870 1890 1905 1915 1925 1935 1945 1955 1965 1975 1985 1995 2005 2015