



An interesting take on ways to avoid the strict regulations enforced at Florence Boot. From *Impact* magazine 29 January 1986, East Midlands Special Collection

Students traditionally lived at home or in digs. The first male hall was Mapperley Hall, a small country house, which accommodated 42 men. Women lived in hostels in the city centre.

In the 1950s and 60s the conventional wisdom was that students should 'live in', leading to the building of halls of residence.

Hall discipline was strict, but students were adept at climbing in and out of windows, and hiding from inquisitive wardens! The quality of the food was variable. But hall life was fun, and many alumni made friends for life.

"The food was awful and several girls ended up in the health centre with malnutrition. I was once given six chips with my dinner and sarcastically said: 'Ooh, careful you don't give me too many!' The

chef promptly removed three of them!"

Irene, Nightingale, 1972

"I do remember the warden Audrey Beecham. It was said that she had fought in the Spanish Civil War and had taken a potshot with her rifle at one of the male students who was slipping out of the Hall after hours."

Mary, Cavendish, 1973

"I loved every minute of my year in Derby Hall. I am quite a quiet person but I was swept up in the excitement of the first week and made friends in no time."

Charlotte, Derby Hall, 2006

Today many students choose to live off campus.



## HALLS OF RESIDENCE



Florence Boot Hostel, as it was originally known, opened in 1928 exclusively for women. Entry and exit was through a single door guarded by a porter. Women were given far less freedom than men until the 1970s. The image shows students working in the hall library, c.1948. From University Collection UMP/1/2/3 Courtesy of Camera Press Ltd



Mapperley Hall, an 18th-century country house, let to the University College for male student accommodation. Photograph by Mark Bentley



Rutland Hall topping out ceremony. One of the new halls built in the 1950s and 1960s. Pictures courtesy of Graeme Addison and Rutland Hall

### TWO UNIVERSITY HALLS "TOPPED OUT"

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT  
NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 3

The ancient roof-level ceremony of "topping out"—to ward off evil spirits—was performed at Nottingham University today to mark the completion of the super-structure at two new halls of residence, each of which is to accommodate 210 students.

The ceremony, 30ft. up on the sloping roof of Rutland Hall, was intended to serve both this hall which opens in January next year, and Sherwood Hall, next door to it, opening this October. Roof tiles were hammered into position below the distinctive spire by Dr. W. E. Addison, lecturer in the chemistry department, who will be Warden of Rutland Hall, and by Mr. W. R. Chalmers, lecturer in the classics department, who is to take charge of Sherwood Hall.