

castellum

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DURHAM CASTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

No. 28 1975

DURHAM CASTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

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^{*} Communications for the Secretary/Treasurer which are not private should be sent to him c/o the College Office, University College, Durham Castle, where formal matters receive attention.

THE MASTER'S LETTER

The continuing problems of inflation made 1974/5 a very difficult year for colleges in Durham as for everybody else. We have had to make a further series of major economies. We now have continental breakfasts and have reduced the scale of room service for students. But the outcome for the year was not so bad as it might have been. We are still embarrassingly dependent on cross subsidy from other Council colleges to the extent of some £5,000 in 1975, and this is a burden that it is increasingly difficult for them to bear. The University generously agreed to increase Council's subvention to the college to match rising costs, and once again the college staff were able to increase very significantly our net income from vacation functions, conferences and room lettings. As a result, if we exclude transfers to reserve, the net deficit of the college has been reduced from £11,000 in 1972/73 (£40 per student) to £7,500 in 1973/74 (£29 per student) and virtually eliminated in 1974/75 at £3. The present position is due almost entirely to the major effort and personal sacrifices made by all sections of the college community. At the same time we have been able to take a stage further our plans to strengthen the long term financial position of the college and remove our dependence on other colleges in the University.

The Sutton Site building to provide additional resident places behind Saddler Street has made good progress. The S.P.C.K. Bookshop accommodation, converted from some of the houses fronting on to Saddler Street, was completed during the summer; and the new study-bedrooms will be ready for occupation by the college early in 1977. It has been agreed that when the project is finished we shall give up Block A in Bailey Court to Hatfield and the rooms that we now borrow in Parson's Field House to the Graduate Society. The existing appearance of Saddler Street will be maintained; and the new block of student accommodation has been carefully designed to nestle at the foot of the Keep slope to replace the derelict industrial buildings of the last century that lay behind.

The design is an imaginative one which should fit in well with the surroundings and tidy up an important historic part of Durham City. In recognition of this, the project has been given a grant from the Department of the Environment. Some of the new rooms will be made from conversions to the old Archæology building that lies right beneath the city bastion. It will be very attractive to have this extra accommodation so near to the college, instead of the annexe at Parson's Field House.

During the year the college has been looking seriously at two further building projects. The first is to convert the Servery so that we can introduce a cafeteria form of service for breakfast, lunch and weekend meals from October, 1976. The second is for a series of conversions to rooms in the Norman Gallery, Keep, Owengate and Hall Stairs which should provide some thirty additional places within the existing areas of the Castle and Owengate. At present the college suffers from having to redecorate, heat and maintain a much larger area per student in its older accommodation. The project being investigated will enable the college to accommodate the extra students within the existing areas that are maintained. The feasibility reports suggest that both projects can be carried out in a tasteful and acceptable way and will considerably improve the financial situation of the college. At present it looks as though we should be able to start the Servery conversions in the summer of 1976 and the internal conversions during the spring of 1977.

The project to refurbish the Lower Tunstal Gallery has at last been trimmed within the sum of money left to the college as a bequest by an Old Castleman and the much simpler scheme has now been carried out. The incongruous fluorescent lights have been removed and replaced by simple wrought-iron wall light fittings designed by Mr. Pace. The floor has been renovated and fitted with a simple durable carpet. The result is an attractive and dignified approach to this sensitive area of the Castle which serves as a meeting space for students during term and a conference reception area during vacations.

The second stage of the Elvet Riverside building providing accommodation for the Language Departments and the Department of Sociology and Social Administration was completed and brought into use in the spring. The landscaping has still to be finished; but the University now has an impressive range of facilities between New Elvet and the river as far as Dunelm House and Kingsgate Bridge. The reconstruction of the old Saddler Street lecture room to provide accommodation for the Department of Archæology should be finished by the end of the year.

There have been further changes in the City during 1975. At last the new Elvet Bridge has been opened, relieving the centre of the heavy through traffic from which it has suffered in recent years. During the autumn the City Council will be able to take the next steps to implement their plans for the pedestrianisation of Silver Street, the Market Place and old Elvet Bridge. Many of us will, I suspect, regret the passing of the police box in the centre of town and the removal of the TV control of traffic which has puzzled strangers to Durham for the past 25 years. Across Framwellgate Bridge the new shopping centre in Milburngate is nearing completion and the first tenants have moved into the new shops facing on to North Road.

In spite of these changes Durham remains much the same—a delightful and friendly Cathedral and University city bustling with the life of students during term and crowded with an increasing number of visitors during the summer months who come to admire its incomparable buildings and to enjoy the peaceful walks along The Banks.

D. W. MACDOWALL.

A STRIKING TALE

The passage of time took on a new meaning at the 1974 Reunion when Bernard Goodwins drew attention to the state of the Hall clock which featured prominently in the memories of many generations of Castlemen. Perhaps with the perversity which befits age it had decided "not to strike". The meeting warmly supported Goodwins' proposition that something should be done about the matter and as all eyes turned to the Chairman to await his decision he reflected the matter back to the meeting (with a skill which is normally achieved by Masters of this college only after many years of practice) by thanking our reverend colleague for his offer to have the matter looked into! As the pastoral care of an ancient time-piece lay beyond the experience of even the most ecumenicallyminded parson, it seemed appropriate that technology should come to the aid of theology and thus began an adventure involving a great deal of time (of various shapes, sizes and degrees of antiquity) over the ensuing twelve months.

A well-meant, but ill-informed, suggestion from the meeting that the old clock should be electrified produced reactions to such sacrilege from the several learned authorities who were approached on the matter which could only be described as horror-logical. We were advised most strongly that a clock of this type should be put into the hands of a competent clock repairer and we were further informed that such a facility was available at the Northern Goldsmiths in Newcastle. The latter were approached and they indicated their willingness to examine the clock and provide an estimate for the cost of a full overhaul and repair. The writer was thus provided with another excuse for a visit to Castle to collect the clock which was carefully, and perhaps appropriately, packed in a beer crate for transport to Newcastle. This it clearly enjoyed and whilst steadfastly refusing to record the finite duration of the journey it signalled its appreciation by reacting to Saddler Street with stentorian chimes and to the faster but smoother journey along the motorway with a more fairy-like tinkle.

A few days later the recommended repairers announced that a full overhaul would cost in the region of £40. This alarming information was immediately referred back to Castle and produced a predicted reaction from the Bursar—a very long silence! A further proposition was called for without the authority or backing of the A.G.M. "If the college could cover the bill in the first instance we would see what could be done at the 1975 Reunion to recoup as much as possible from the assembled gathering of Castlemen?"

Permission to proceed was given and the Northern Goldsmiths, who by then realised that they were dealing with an organisation possessing a clock but no funds, made two contributions to the matter. The first was helpful in agreeing to the removal of the ormolu fittings from the clock which were then cleaned with the application of ultrasonic energy from the physicists and unmentionable solvents from the chemists of a neighbouring industrial laboratory. The second was most unhelpful as they suggested that the clock might be significantly more valuable than its present owners (with their apparant parsimonious attitude to the matter of its repair) were aware. The situation did not improve when a vaguely similar time-piece without a price-tag was noticed a few weeks later in the window of an eminent Bond Street shop. On investigation (what nerve these Castlemen have) it turned out to be valued at £14,500. Inflation is with us but this matter was rapidly getting out of hand. A local antiquary suggested that research should be directed towards a valuable book of reference, Britton's "Old Clocks and Watches". A copy existed in the Central Library at Newcastle and yielded many illustrations of old clocks spanning the era 1690 and 1760 which were vaguely similar to, but not identical with, the item under investigation. By this time repairs were complete and after a further inspection in an attempt to identify a maker's name or date the clock was returned to Durham. Whether the College authorities were likely to be pleased at the discovery of its potential value was a matter of uncertainty. The increase in College assets seemed somewhat academic and the need for greater insurance would be a most unwanted additional burden on revenue. Thoughts that it might be sold with the institution of a Clock Scholarship were supported by the concept that the scholar, instead of reading grace, might well be called upon to call out Ding Dong at appropriate intervals throughout formal dinner. More realistic progress was made by a second approach to the learned authorities accompanied by some rather revealing photographs taken with the hope of identifying the object more precisely. An untutored thought that the manufacturer may have been a Mr. Whittington of Westminster, was dashed by the discovery of a selection pointer on the main dial for the choice of alternative sequence of chimes. Continued research led ultimately to no less an authority than Mr. Beresford Hutchinson of the Department of Medieval and (significantly!) Later Antiquities at the British Museum who replied briefly but with confidence that the clock was most unlikely to be of any great value as it would have been at variance with the undirectional and monotonic qualities of time itself for our chiming clock to have been manufactured before the date of construction of the clock in the Palace of Westminster in the latter years of the last century. In fact, he added in a damning and deflationary phrase, that he thought it was "a rather free copy" of a mid-eighteenth century style which enjoyed a revival in the period 1880-1910.

Nevertheless it was probably worth £40 to have it repaired, or at least the 1975 Reunion thought so because Castlemen generously contributed the sum of £37.50 to the collecting box which was circulated at the AGM and at the Annual Dinner. At that particular moment the clock was not on show in the Hall as its final resting place had not yet been selected and also because, despite its repair at Newcastle, the return journey (no doubt Saddler Street again) had persuaded it once more to go "not on strike". This matter was rectified shortly after the Reunion by a visit from the clock repairer and perhaps some of us who return to the Reunion in 1976 to meet an old friend firmly mounted and restored to duty will pause for a moment to reflect on the remarkably variable value of time.

P.L.K.

J.C.R.

It was with an overwhelming feeling of pride and honour that I took up office last September and I shall always look back on my year as Senior Man of University College as probably one of the most enjoyable and stimulating periods of my life. It was, without doubt, a magnificent culmination of my three years in Durham.

It is most unfortunate that the year will probably be remembered as the one in which the quality of undergraduate life in Durham first started to decline. The national economic climate has at last made itself felt in the form of forced reductions in living standards. These manifested themselves in both the J.C.R. and S.C.R. sectors and, I hazard to suggest, make the prospect of living in college less and less attractive. This submission can only be reinforced by the ever-rising numbers of both J.C.R. and S.C.R. members wishing to live out. Could these trends herald the death-knell of college life as we appreciate it? I hope not.

One such economy forced an extraordinary J.C.R. meeting to make a decision to abolish either cooked breakfasts, replacing them with the continental variety, or hot lunches, replacing them with a soup and salad type lunch. In point of fact the meeting decided, wrongly in my opinion, to abolish the cooked breakfast. The decision was arrived-at after much heated but channelled debate. The J.C.R., whilst abhorring having to make such a non-choice, were conversant with the need to make such a reduction in standards. It all seems so demonstrably ineffectual, since the level of student grant for next year is going to force the college into attempting new and even more severe reductions in standards. At no time has the J.C.R. seen fit to recommend to University Council that the maintenance charge be raised to cover the costs. It has always asserted that a policy of "rationing by price" is utterly reprehensible.

Perhaps as a result of J.C.R. policy (more correctly the maxim that labour be sacrificed before essentials such as food) the bedders' hours have undergone a substantial reduction. Although these cuts were brought about by the mechanism of natural wastage, I should still wish to suggest that the goodwill of those bedders remaining has undergone somewhat of a snubbing.

Two sub-committees of University College are presently involved in the provision of extra student places for University College. The Sutton-Site Sub-Committee, even after invaluable financial assistance from the Castlemen's Society, and protestation from J.C.R. Executive, seems intent upon being the primum mobile in the provision of decidedly second-rate accommodation in Sadler Street. No longer will Bailey Court be the architectural laughing-stock of the University! The second of these bodies concerns itself with the provision of extra student places within the confines of the Castle itself. This objective will be achieved by dividing the largest rooms in college into smaller units. This is a particularly odious task to perform, no matter what justification may be proffered. It can only be hoped that the proposals are absolutely effective; if not, some of the most beautiful and historic undergraduate rooms in the country will have been unnecessarily and irrevocably destroyed.

J.C.R. meetings were, by and large, well attended throughout the year and contained some moving and eloquent speeches. The incorrigible O'Loan was able to demonstrate that he, at least, was still able to maintain a firm grip on reality, albeit Irish reality! I congratulate him. One extraordinary meeting had to be called at the direction of D.S.U. Council to debate a motion on South African Disinvestment. As it turned out the motion was ambiguously worded (and was not open to amendment), making it impossible to countenace investment and decry apartheid at the same time. Overkill carried the motion and accordingly the Anti Apartheid movement claimed (wrongly) the complete support of the DSU Council.

Throughout the year the JCR Executive has been a heavily influencing body and was well able to command the respect that it deserved. It was particularly efficient and alert in its rigorous selection of next year's Bar Chairman, Bar Vice-Chairman and Social Chairman.

The new post of Social Chairman is one that works very well, leaving the Senior Man free to attend to his other duties. John Stagg developed the post admirably, especially considering that he had no set structure to guide him. Under his direction the three Big Socials of the year were most successful, although it seems that the concept of the "£1 Ball" has outlived its usefulness, not to mention its practicality. The Social Committee managed to pull the occasional rabbit out of the hat but must still work hard to shake off the image of being nothing more than a gang of furniture shifters.

The June Ball was, in my opinion, the most enjoyable social I have ever attended in Durham. It was most refreshing to see old Castlemen coming back to Durham, lured, as it were, by the Ball. For all those present I am sure it was a suitable high-note on which to end the year. For me it certainly goes a long way in representing what being an undergraduate at Durham is really all about. It only remains for the present Social Committee to improve upon it this year. I am sure they will succeed!

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Laurence, John Stagg and John McGahan for all their efforts throughout the year. My special thanks go to Chris Foster, whose unselfish hard work is worthy of special mention (even though we did disagree about most things), and to Andy Stott who performed the impossible by giving away record quantities of beer and still showing a very healthy bar profit. I am also very grateful to have received advice and assistance (amongst other things) from Mr. Price, Mrs. Vine, Jean Oliver, Mike Solan, Mac, David, and John. Thank you all.

Finally, I should like to wish Nick Mercer and his Executive every success. After their struggle to the top they will find their year in office both stimulating and rewarding.

> STEVE WHITTLE, Senior Man.

1975 REUNION

The Annual Reunion was held on 19th April, 1975. A successful dinner was well attended and the Toast to the College was proposed by Mr. N. J. Hill. The Lowe Librarian, Dr. Duncan Bythell, replied for the College.

At the Annual General Meeting Jack Spedding was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer and Keith Orrell as the Society's Representative on the College Governing Body. Derek Holbrook was re-elected Editor of Castellum and David Mallett and Chuck Metcalf were elected to the Committee. An arrangement was confirmed whereby the charge to receive Castellum will be 50p per year. Undergraduates will be able to become Life Members and receive four issues of Castellum for £2.

On this basis the Master on behalf of the Committee presented figures showing that it should be possible to continue Castellum but on a truncated basis, with many familiar features missing and austere treatment in other respects as well. A critical factor was postage costs and the need to keep the magazine together with the Reunion notice within the minimum weight and size. These measures were agreed.

OBITUARY

The Reverend Harold E. Crouch (1921-1924) who attended many reunions died during 1975.

I. R. N. Phillips (1970-1973) died of cancer in December, 1974, having just started his second year as a post graduate research student at Sheffield University.

NEWS OF OLD CASTLEMEN

(The Editor apologies for the ruthless foreshortening of many of the news items sent this year, which also loses some of the more graphic expressions. It has been necessary to do this to keep the size of this section down so that the magazine stays within the cheapest possible postage rate: this does not mean, however, that all news items will not continue to be welcomed and included to some degree).

Professor G. M. Brown (Malcolm Brown, 1944 and 1950) has been elected Fellow of the Royal Society. Professor H. S. Offler has been elected Fellow of the British Academy. Professor P. L. Kirby has been awarded the O.B.E. Christopher Bakalarski (1967-1970) organised a charter train for the Rail 150 celebrations, which travelled by steam between Sheffield and Newcastle headed by the Flying Scotsman and travelled through Durham Station on 21st September, 1975, at nearly 60 miles per hour in each direction, including Christopher on the footplate. Jonathan Beer (1964-1968) abandoned teaching for Marks and Spencer in 1970. Still in touch with Dave Myers who is in Germany.

Brian Chambers (1959-1962) has been travelling in China and the Far East as an Export Manager and is now on the Board of a Chemical Company. Geoffrey Griffith's Church at Chapel-en-le-Frith is only two miles from home. Geoffrey Coles (1967-1970) grew tired of auditing in Zambia and has now moved to South Africa and likes it. Douglas Cook (1953-1957) will shortly be joined in the same Department at his school by Duncan Johnstone who is organist at St. Columba's, Pont Street, London.

David Cross (1970-1973) is a Career Officer in Cumbria. Was best man at the wedding of Robert Barr at Carlisle. Tony Orchard, Adrian Burnett, James Mather and Richard Gaynor were also there. He has also seen Alan Farrar, now a Classics Master at Clayesmore School, Dorset. J. A. Flanagan (1969-1972) at Bury St. Edmunds teaching Humanities. In touch with Ian Russell and David Burden. Bob Foster (1967-1970) completed his PhD. in 1973 and is a

Geologist in Rhodesia. He makes a 170 mile round trip to play soccer in Salisbury each weekend. Michael Gerighty (1965-1968) has taught since Durham at the "Costa del Hartlepool". In touch with A. E. Hemmings and Mark Hepher. The Reverend Bernard Goodwins (1920-1923) and Mrs. Goodwins celebrated their Golden Wedding on November 17th, 1975. Richard Haigh (1966-1969) has managed the London Sinfonietta for two years and now setting up a branch office of Dr. G. de Koos Concert Management in London. Has met Graham Brownsell and Michael Beauchamp who is at the Coliseum Theatre. Also Jeremy Taylor who produced "Two Gentlemen of Verona" at the Young Vic, and Andrew Potter who is in music publishing. J. Anthony Howarth (1959-1962) now in the Wirral and sees John Baggley and used to see Hugh Foot.

Edgar Jones(1947-1951) was one of the winners of *The Times* Children's Story competition and the story was published in *The Times* Anthology of Children's Stories, John Lawton (1962-1968) is lecturing at York University. The Reverend Graham Marshall (1957-1963) is Precentor of Manchester Cathedral. Chris Morrison (1968-1971) has left Berlin and is in regular contact with ex-Owengate colleagues such as Ken Watson, Roy Lilley and Z Big O.

Graham Forrester-Paton (1969-1972) ("finally married Jane Kerley in 1974") at the moment he and his wife are jobless, an illness having prevented them going to Egypt on V.S.O. work in September. Peter L. Patrick (1964-1967) is working with Graeame Potter (1965-1967), and have been in touch with Dave Twinn, also in same firm, Price Waterhouse. Peter works in Paris.

W. D. Robinson (1951-1954) is now an Honorary Canon of Blackburn Cathedral. David Speight (1953-1958) is now Headmaster of the Castle School, Taunton, and Peter Luff succeeded him as Deputy Head in Aylesbury. Derek Stockdale (1953-1956) is an Inspector (Physical Education) with the Inner London Education Authority. Peter Townley (1960-1963) is Traffic Manager with the West Yorkshire Road Car Company at Harrogate. In contact with John Kemp, Sedgefield, David Noble and Neil Wooler. Peter Varney (1958-1961) after ordination and parish work in

London did field work in Borneo for a Sociology Ph.D. and is now Assistant Secretary at Christians Abroad which recruits teachers for developing countries. Sees Ian Thorn at Farnham. T. E. Worsley (1966-1969) occupies a house called "Sea View" in the middle of London, N1, and is working as Economic Adviser with the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth. Anthony Suter (1962-1966) living in Toulouse has published a collection of Poems, "Epitaphs for a Dying Time".

DATES OF 1977 REUNION

Friday, 15th April to Sunday, 17th April, 1977, the Reunion Dinner being on Saturday, 16th April, 1977

DURHAM CASTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

The Thirtieth Annual Reunion of the Society will be held on Saturday, 20th March, 1976.

FRIDAY, 19TH MARCH

4.30 p.m. Tea (Hall)

7.00 p.m. Dinner (Hall)

SATURDAY, 20TH MARCH

8.30 a.m. Communion Service (Tunstal Chapel)

9.00 a.m. Breakfast (Hall)

10.00 a.m. Committee Meeting (Master's Office)

* 1.15 p.m. Lunch (Hall)

4.00 p.m. Tea (Hall)

5.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting (Undercroft)

7.30 p.m. Reunion Dinner (Hall)

SUNDAY, 21ST MARCH

9.00 a.m. Breakfast (Hall)

*Arrangements have also been made by the Durham University Society to hold a Lunch in St. Aidan's College on Saturday, 20th March (12.30 for 1 p.m.). The cost for this is £1.80 and the Society will be very glad to see Castlemen at this party.

The charges for the Reunion will be:-

(1) Reunion Dinner only ... £3.00

(2) Full Reunion (including Reunion Dinner) £9.16

(3) Reunion Dinner + Bed and Breakfast ... £5.50 Saturday/Sunday

A very special invitation to attend the Reunion this year is extended to those who were up at the Castle in 1926, 1936, 1946, 1956 and 1966.

If you intend to be present at the 1976 Reunion you should complete and return the tear-off slip to the Master by March 15th at the latest. Accommodation in College will be available on Friday and Saturday nights. If anyone wishes to stay on in the College after breakfast on Sunday would he please ascertain in advance from the Master that this can be arranged?

May I remind you that the Editor of 'Castellum' would welcome any items of news which might interest Castlemen.

J. SPEDDING, Hon. Secretary D.C.S.

DURHAM CASTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

ANNUAL REUNION 1976

I propose to attend the Castlemen's Reunion and shall require:—
Friday, 19th March: Tea, Dinner, Room overnight.

Saturday, 20th March: Lunch, Tea, Reunion Dinner, Room overnight.

I wish/do not wish to attend the D.U.S. luncheon (cost £1.80 extra).

I enclose a cheque (payable to Durham Castlemen's Society) for £

Name		
Years	of Residence	

DURHAM CASTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 1975

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Balance Sheet as on 31st March, 1975

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There is a contingent liability in respect of producing future copies of 'Castellum' for life members during their first six years of membership in the estimated sum of £450.00. Note:

*This figure is not strictly comparable with the figure for 1974/75 since it would include a proportion of contributions paid in advance.