



castellum

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DURHAM CASTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

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DURHAM CASTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

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THE MASTER'S LETTER

During 1975/76 the College continued to suffer from the national problems of inflation and the relentless increase in the cost of almost all College activities; but we have succeeded in riding the storm very successfully. We have been able to implement further stages of our longer-term strategy planned during the early part of 1974, and we are beginning to reap some of the financial benefits of that policy.

After a successful experiment in 1975, the College offered overnight accommodation to tourists visiting the City of Durham again during the Long Vacation of 1976. During the summer months, when there are no students in residence, it is possible for members of the public to stay overnight in the splendid surroundings of the Castle and to dine in the Great Hall. Many of the older rooms are spacious enough to provide good double and family accommodation and the College now has a regular entry in the hotel lists of the English Tourist Board and similar publications.

Although drinks have been sold to many generations of students, the Castle has not held any Justices' Licence to sell alcohol. It has been held that the building as a former Palace of the Bishop of Durham had ancient rights; but there is no documentary evidence to support such a claim or to define what these ancient rights were. The College was puzzled and uneasy about its entitlement to serve alcoholic drinks to our new overnight visitors during the summer. An approach was therefore made to the Clerk of the Magistrates in Durham asking him to exchange letters in which we proposed to set out the College's understanding about the ancient rights of the Castle and would expect the Clerk to confirm that this was also his understanding of the position. In the absence of any documentary evidence the Clerk refused to do so and warned the College in selling alcohol even to students without a licence, it was, in his opinion, acting in violation of the Licensing Laws and all those involved were liable to prosecution. To rectify the position the College therefore applied for and was granted a conditional Justices' On Licence of the type that is regularly given to other Colleges in the University of Durham.

Building work has continued in several locations during the year. The Sutton Site project, which has been planned to provide the College with 127 study-bedrooms behind Saddler Street and below the Keep slope, has now taken recognisable shape and members of the Governing Body have formally decided to call the new accommodation Moatside Court and Northgate. There have been repeated delays to the original programme but the accommodation should now be ready early in the summer of 1977 for occupation in Michaelmas Term. The project forms part of a larger plan to rationalise the accommodation held by Hatfield College and the Graduate Society and as a result we will only gain a net increase of 27 student places at the end of the day; but it will mean that the Castle will have a relatively compact range of buildings and all its residential places within a short distance of the central Castle facilities. Some of our number will, I suspect, miss the fifteen minutes' walk from Parson's Field House, and we must see whether in the future, a generation of Castlemen will remember our facilities there with the same affection that many older Castlemen still retain in retrospect for Lumley.

During the summer vacation of 1976, there were extensive alterations to the Servery at the side of the Great Hall. Much of the equipment and most of the fittings were near the end of their useful life and some programme of renovation was long overdue. The University agreed to meet the cost of the alterations out of their Minor Works Programme, because it was part of our plans to improve the financial viability of the College. The new Servery is attractive and well-designed and is fitted with modern equipment which enables the College to provide caféteria service. The new pattern of meals was introduced in October, 1976, and has been generally welcomed. It gives students a choice of alternative main dishes and sweets not previously possible; and allows a more flexible and longer period for the service of lunch. Formal dinner is retained on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays; and these meals have in fact become much more formal occasions greatly appreciated by all members of the College.

The 1975/76 Accounts show for a full year the results of the critical reappraisal in 1974 of our pattern of operations. By utilising as shared accommodation most of the sets that are to be fully converted in 1977, we have improved our net income substantially, and the 1975/76 Accounts show a full year's income from our decision to offer summer accommodation to overnight tourist visitors. Concurrently we have managed to tailor our use of catering labour much more closely to the pattern of need—particularly in vacations. We have made arrangements with Hatfield for our residents to be served jointly with theirs for weekend vacation meals and this has enabled us to avoid expensive weekend working when there are few members of the College in Durham. As a result we have been able to break even financially in 1975/76 after making the necessary provision for our immediate liabilities and for reserves and replacements on the scale considered necessary by the Committee of Bursars. It is a most remarkable achievement of which the College can be justly proud. It is due on the one hand to the hard work of the Bursar and his staff and their success in securing profitable vacation business, and on the other to the willingness shown by all members of the College community to accept personal sacrifices to achieve solvency so that we can hand over to our successors a financially strong and viable College.

The Department of Archæology is now installed in its new premises in Saddler Street. These have been converted in an imaginative way and make it possible for the Department to have all its facilities under a single roof. The use of the Old Fulling Mill by the river (one of the buildings formerly occupied by the Department) is still being discussed. The Professor of Archæology would like to see it turned into a museum. With the major cutback in Government capital expenditure, the University's proposals for a new library have not been approved and the problem of library space is becoming critical. A small extension to the Oriental Library at Elvet Hill is under construction and this will serve as a store for some of the volumes that are now kept on Palace Green but are used infrequently. The University is having to consider a series of *ad hoc* measures to provide adequate storage and reading space

for the Department of Law and the Government publications, on Palace Green, but the final solution has not yet been determined. It looks as if the University will have to wait several years more before it can hope to make any start on the projected new main University Library adjacent to the existing Science collections. Throughout the University it has been necessary to carry out a number of minor projects of fire protection to satisfy the requirements of the Fire Officer. Fire protection work is being carried out at St. Mary's College and a programme is being discussed currently for the older buildings of the Castle and Owengate.

In the centre of the City, several streets have now been closed to traffic. Silver Street has become a pleasant pedestrian thoroughfare and the Market Place has been laid out in an attractive way. The multi-storey car park is completed and fully operational and this has led to some easing of the parking problem in the City. But the difficulties in Saddler Street remain as acute as ever. Although motorists no longer have to circumnavigate the police box, there are serious problems of congestion when the narrow street is blocked by vehicles delivering goods to commercial premises. When the City reappraises the success of its pedestrianisation scheme it is to be hoped that they will find a satisfactory solution for this area as well. The Millburngate Shopping Centre has been formally opened and provides a welcome addition to the facilities of the town. In the process this scheme has tidied up the area beyond Framwellgate Bridge very satisfactorily. Some of us will regret the loss of the old half-timbered houses in that quarter but one of them at least has been carefully restored and overall the project has certainly improved the amenities and general appearance of the City.

In many ways 1976 has been a year of consolidation both for the College, University and City. In spite of changes Durham remains much the same—a small, friendly Cathedral and University city that enjoys what must be one of the finest groupings of buildings in Northern Europe. College spirit remains high. In times of change we too have had to make some changes, but we have been able to maintain unchanged the essential ethos of the College.

D. W. MACDOWALL.

LEN SLATER, C.B.E.

Congratulations to Mr. L. Slater on his award of the C.B.E. for his work in connection with the Hospital Service in North East England.

Mr. and Mrs. Slater went to Buckingham Palace to receive the award in December.

KATHLEEN PROWSE

Many Castlemen will be sorry to learn on reading this of the death on 31st July, 1976, of Kathleen Prowse, wife of Dr. W. A. Prowse, Vice-Master of University College from 1953 to 1965. She had not been in robust health for some time but her sudden death came as a shock. In Brancepeth Church there was a funeral service on 6th August and a memorial service on 25th September, 1976. At the latter I gave a short address and it has been suggested that extracts from it would be appropriate for *Castellum*.

“Born of Durham and of Hebridean Scots stock, with some infusion from Yorkshire; a doctor’s daughter raised and schooled in Auckland and Durham; a “Home Student” in the University (that is, a member of St. Aidan’s) and a 1929 graduate in Botany and Geology; then came courses in Horticulture in Cheshire and professional training as a dietician in Edinburgh, specialising in food preservation for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for which she did vital work in war-time. Interposed in time were residence near and work in Oxford which thereafter had a special place in her interest and affections, replenished when Elizabeth her step-daughter was a student there. Another absorbing activity for her energies was her creative care of some half a dozen gardens: in Framwellgate Moor soon after marriage; Dun Cow Cottage and the garden behind the Union Society on Palace Green; at Lumley Castle; Craigmore, near Neville’s Cross; Van Mildert grounds and garden, and finally in Foxes’ Row, Brancepeth. Her skill as a needlewoman in embroidery was maintained throughout her peregrinations as was her culinary expertise.

She took the keenest interest in and derived great pleasure from the varied social life of College and University whether it was at the grand colourful occasions of pomp and ceremony or in the sharpening of wits and minds of a handful of folk informally enjoying their coffee or sherry. From the delightful Dun Cow Cottage domestic style she went, when Arthur became Vice-Master of University College, to Lumley, there taking advantage of and great pleasure in the baronial trappings of a fourteenth century castle in the scale of her entertaining friends, colleagues and students. Characteristically she made herself very well informed about the history of the Castle and the Lumley family. Then came the translation of Arthur and Kathleen, on his appointment as Master of Van Mildert College—to a spanking new College and Master's House in a picturesque lake-side setting unique in Durham—again a new life-style to exploit and experience.

Throughout and until they retired to the comparatively peaceful domesticity of Brancepeth her art and skill in gardening and in making and preserving things to enjoy at the table seemed such a fitting complement to Arthur's activities either for years in the laboratory and lecture room or later in artistic creativity at the easel, capturing in paint the elusively attractive. Her home in Durham with Arthur, his daughter and her mother demonstrated a family harmony quite confounding the folk-lore about stepchildren and mothers-in-law, much of this undoubtedly due to Kathleen's unobtrusive yet definitive and benevolent influence. I have written elsewhere of Kathleen's exceptional good neighbour qualities to my wife and me when for a few months in 1946 we lived next door in Dun Cow Lane. The bonds then forged lasted thirty years and of those years there is a wealth of memories to treasure. I remember her dry wit and trenchant comments and readily hear again in my mind's ear the crescendo bubbling to the peal of her laughter. We thank God for the richness we had; and know we have been blessed by the friendship with and affection for Kathleen Prowse. Requiescat in pace."

L. SLATER.

CANON NORMAN A. VESEY, 1909-1911

Norman Vesey died at his home in Keswick on 5th December, 1976.

Norman Vesey resided in the Castle for three years in those blissful times well before we older generation thought of the first world war ever happening.

On completing his theological training, Norman Vesey returned to his beloved Durham to be ordained in Durham Cathedral in 1912. He served his curacy in the Durham Diocese.

He then moved to Yorkshire where he was born. He there held a number of important posts among which were noticeably the parishes, Macclesfield, Beverley and Whitby and wherever he ministered, souls were blessed, and young and old alike saw something of the splendour and majesty of God.

Norman Vesey was a priest in the very best traditions of the Church of England and above all it was the quality of the man himself that impressed all who were privileged to know him.

In 1958 he was made a Canon and Prebendary of York Minster.

In 1962, Norman retired to Keswick to be a neighbour of the writer. Here he worked assiduously as ever, refusing the doctor's orders to enjoy a well-earned rest. His Bible Class was undoubtedly a great feature of his work, his scholarship attracting both young and old.

V. R. HILL.

Stanley Powell (1958-61) died last September, aged 36 years. He worked with British Titan Products at Billingham and had recently been appointed Technical Administration Manager. He leaves a widow and three young children.

J. L. Mawson (Castle graduate 1912) died in March, 1976. He was a solicitor in Durham City for many years.

Edgar Dodd (1902-04) died in August, 1976.

ANNUAL REUNION

The sum being raised by the Durham Castlemen's Society towards the extension of University College on the Sutton site in Saddler Street has now exceeded the £10,000 aimed at.

This is the total of seven-year covenants together with income tax refunds and some donations.

The success of the scheme was announced by the Master of the College, Dr. D. W. MacDowall, at the annual college reunion, during the weekend. He recalled that the decision of the society to attempt to raise the money tipped the scales in favour of the project being given the go-ahead by the University Grants Committee, Construction is now well under way.

Most of the covenants run out in 1977. Accordingly, the society had decided to investigate the possibility of forming a charitable trust controlled by it to continue covenants to accumulate funds for specific objects.

DINNER.

At the annual dinner of the society in the Great Hall of Durham Castle the toast of the college was proposed by Canon F. S. M. Chase, vicar of South Westoe and Rural Dean of Jarrow, who was at the college from 1934 to 1938. He recalled that sport was then a major part of college life. In their formative years the fellowship of talking—through supper parties, college clubs and Union Society debates, added to the fellowship of learning and healthy argument, with respect for discipline and authority, stood them in good stead for later life.

The Chaplain, the Rev. A. H. Nugent, replying, said the college was in good heart, with encouraging results in final examinations, members engaged in research and Castlemen holding important places in the University and represented fully in University teams.

Additional impromptu speakers called on were Mr. Leonard Slater, the former Master, and the Rev. V. R. Hill.

A.G.M.

J.C.R. offer to consider making donation to the Society to purchase copies of *Castellum* for distribution to final year students.

Regional volunteers to organise travel to Reunion. Publish names and addresses of volunteer co-ordinators in *Castellum*.

Address List—to be issued with 1977 *Castellum*.

Appeal Fund.—Explore further formation of Charitable Trust controlled by the Society to accumulate funds for specific objectives.

Election of Officers:—

Secretary/Treasurer: J. Spedding.

Editor of *Castellum*: D. Holbrook.

Governing Body Rep.: K. Orrell.

2 Members of Committee: J. A. Robson and Canon Corden (B. L. Covington and C. D. Wakeling retiring).

A proposal for a Reunion Dinner in London was not supported. Mr. Easthope said that all Castlemen would be welcome to attend D.U.S. meetings and dinners in London. The proposal was made by D. J. Mallett (1962-65) in a letter to the Master, who after the A.G.M. replied as follows:—

I raised the points you made about the possibility of a London Reunion at both the Committee Meeting and the A.G.M. Members present were not too enthusiastic about the idea because of the problems of cost and the relatively small numbers (about 40 I understand) who attend the Durham University Society Dinner in London. I hastened to reassure them that you did not suggest in any way that a London Reunion should be a substitute for the Castlemen's Meeting in Durham, and so the meeting suggested that you might like to put the proposal forward more formally if you were able to attend next year's Reunion. The Castlemen who discussed the proposal were of course the first to admit that as they had actually come to Durham, and many of them did not live too far away, they were not the best judges of how many might in fact be able to attend the London meeting. Perhaps you could take this up yourself directly with Castlemen next year. . . .

THE KIRBY GRIP

At the Annual General Meeting there was a discussion on the Reunion and on how the numbers attending might be increased, as a vital part of the life of the Society. It was agreed that *Castellum* could help in this.

An item in future issues will describe some of the happenings, chance meetings, at the reunion or other items of news about Castlemen which emerge during the Reunion week-end. A Reunion reporter has been appointed to write each issue.

In accord with usual standards of equity and justice the burden has fallen on a member who spoke to the point at the A.G.M. He will wear a badge of office over the week-end so that he may be identified for the receipt of items of news. It is hoped that the many Castlemen who attend the 1977 Reunion will give the unfortunate individual their full support. The reporter's identity can be revealed as Peter Kirby.

J.C.R.

1975-6 has on balance, been a very successful year for Castle, particularly in the sphere of our involvement in the University athletically, academically and administratively. Not only have most of our sports clubs reached the semi-finals, if not the finals of their inter-collegiate competitions, but individual Castlemen held positions of great merit and responsibility within the student body and University administration. We began 1975 with Castlemen as Editor of *Palatinate* (Tim Laurence) and President of Durham University Athletic Union (John Steel). We began 1976 with John McGahan President of Durham Students' Union and Peter Wilkinson Director of Rag. I hope this is a sign of genuine resurgence for Castle; the new colleges have had the limelight too long.

On the domestic front 1975-6 has been a lively year. At times intensely depressing, at times equally exhilarating: always exhausting.

The Sutton Site has finally blossomed this year. Most of the Undergraduates had already seen the plans and anxiously inspected the new premises. Though the overall reaction has been one of disappointment at the smallness of the rooms, visually the finished product will be extremely pleasant and, hopefully, when students actually move in they will be better pleased with the new rooms than they seem at the moment. Such is the dismay at the physical size of the rooms that the J.C.R. may ask that we keep 'A' block in Bailey Court instead of giving it to Hatfield, as it is planned when we move into the new site. I think few Undergraduates realise that fixed sums of money are allocated for fixed numbers of study bedrooms, and, with inflation the project nearly founded. I hope some recognition is given to the efforts of the Castlemen's Society, without which there would be no new rooms at all on the site itself.

A further bone of contention has been the splitting up of the best rooms in College into smaller units. By next year there will be only one student-set in College, and most of the old rooms will be Bailey-Court sized. Bitter arguments have gone on in the J.C.R. over this; most of us felt that we were losing the only real material

advantage Castle offers—good rooms for 3rd year men. But the College is now too large to provide places in its old buildings for all final year students; more rooms will at least accommodate them all, and we have a moral duty to make as many places available as possible so that the maximum number of people can enjoy the experience of three years in Durham.

Castle is a rapidly changing place. One of the most far-reaching changes is the introduction of cafeteria meals. Many welcome faster eating and greater freedom; others see it as the final indignity, and intend eating in their rooms in lonesome pomp! Only about two-thirds of the College will be able to get into the hall at one go. To allow all the students the chance of two formal meals per week (about the average in the other colleges) we needed three formals per week. Initially, Governing Body proposed three formal dinners but thought the expense of formal Sunday lunch at double wage rates unacceptable. However, the students stuck their heels in, even withholding payment of their college bills, until the matter was settled in their favour, not, I think, because they revere Sunday lunch above big rooms or breakfasts, but because they felt the other sacrifices reasonable, whereas in the light of our improved finances this was unnecessarily mean. The sight of the most conservative and traditional College in the University declaring a "Rent Strike" caused many raised eyebrows, not least in the J.C.R. itself.

The Undercroft Bar is the most important activity undertaken by the J.C.R., and we began the year with grand plans for re-furnishing it as the present fittings have become rather sparse over the years. However, our hopes were thwarted at the beginning of October, when the Master confided that he was worried about our lack of a liquor licence for the bar—an anomaly arisen over the years. This was potentially very dangerous. We had, up to now, enjoyed a fair degree of freedom over the running of the bar. The Master set the hours, and, provided good order reigned, we were our own bosses. This was very useful, in that we were able at the end of term to give away remaining stock and go on drinking on the last night of term literally until the beer ran out; the bar at

College dinner was open as long as there was demand; since we were allowed to serve until 10.45 the Undercroft was a wonderful last stop coming back from the town and free of the rigours of "drinking up time".

Nothing more was heard about the licence until three days before the end of term, when the Master found that the Clerk to the Magistrates, when asked to clarify our position blandly threatened prosecution. I was horrified; we hardly slept for the few days until the end of term, reading the licensing acts and consulting various solicitors. It eventually emerged that, although we might have a privileged case it would take a law-suit to prove it. This Dr. MacDowall would not do, nor had the J.C.R. the funds or authority to go it alone. The outcome is that although unable to serve anyone who is not a resident or University member, we have a pub licence. Thus we are in effect a large scale club encumbered with all the disadvantages of a public house. 10.30 closing, and rigid 10 minutes drinking up have brought a 30% drop in turnover, nor may we make any off sales through the bar, a great inconvenience to individuals and ours sports club. Perhaps worst of all, the police have the right to visit the premises when they wish, a prerogative they have exercised three times already.

However, "the bar fiasco" had greater consequences. A further condition of the licence was that no more than 300 people could attend a dance. Since we always offered any Castleman, old or young, a ticket, we normally catered for 600. This seemed the final disaster! Nor were the fire officer or clerk to the courts very willing to speak to us. Eventually we got the fire officer down to the Castle, who promptly and apparently arbitrarily allowed us 450 people. It seems this is as much as we can hope for, but we will go on trying for further extensions.

Despite being in total jeopardy up to a week before the dance, we still had an excellent June Ball. Tickets had to be wickedly expensive to maintain the same standard, but those who bankrupted themselves to buy them were amply rewarded. We still provide a

better dance more cheaply than any Oxbridge College, as those who were at Trinity the week before the June Ball were quick to assure us. All glory to Roger Rawlinson who almost single-handed organised the whole thing and passed his prelims! However, only the closer proximity of the Summer Ball puts the others out of the limelight. Organised by John McGahan, the Informal particularly, still bettered all the other colleges. The decorations were staggeringly well done by Gordon Beck, and Steve Topham, whose eagle on the wall of the Tunstall was visible in Shincliffe.

J.C.R. meetings were lively and well attended. We went to considerable lengths to arouse interest and entertain our "audience", even to the extent of arriving by Rolls for one meeting. Three important changes came out of this year's J.C.R. meetings. Firstly, Governing Body has granted us access to the Fellows' Garden in certain hours of the summer term. Secondly, our Treasurer is now a member of Finance Sub-committee, which effectively controls the College financial policy. Thirdly, in future our Senior Man, Secretary, and Treasurer will hold office for Easter to Easter, not June—June as is now the case. This latter change should encourage more people to stand for office who now do not, for fear of jeopardising their degrees, and not giving the J.C.R. of their best in the run up to Finals.

J.C.R.—S.C.R. relations have I hope improved. We have tried to entice the Dons into the bar more often, even to the extent of giving free coffee, though this was not very well attended since fewer Dons who live out come in to Dinner, and anyway the S.C.R. coffee is better! College dinners became rather subdued when Dons complained of not being able to converse above the entertainment and that the high spirits of some Undergraduates were discouraging S.C.R. attendance. As a compromise we began inviting the high table to dine on low tables for ordinary evening meals which was very successful and I hope continues. It is vital if we are to have any valid claim to collegiate status that Dons and students mix as regularly as possible and moreover as a matter of course, not only on "special" occasions or termly 'surgeries'.

On the sports side we have acquitted ourselves creditably, especially since we tend to be an all rounder college, not specialising in one sport (or selecting our Freshers with the aid of a rugby ball). We lost to Hatfield in the rugby final. Though considering that half our side were footballers and hockey players because of injuries to regulars, we played well. Mike Leatt and Mark Hinton distinguished themselves for the University side during the year. In the football we again reached the Trophy final only to lose to Bede. Since, however, we now sport two elevens, prospects for next year are good.

In Boats we had a change of captain mid-way through the season. Our 1st IV, though containing two novices and rowing at Senior C, won the Durham University Challenge Cup at Durham Regatta, having only lost the final of the Corporation Cup by a canvas the previous day. It was our first major success in boats for over three years and great was the rejoicing. Congratulations to the crew: D. Fieldson (Bow), V. Hesketh, P. Magor, S. Spowart (Stroke), D. H. Farquharson (Cox) and to John Snowdon who as well as coaching them got his half palatinate. We have retained for the second year running the Novices' League Trophy, and got the most bumps in both the winter and summer bumps regattas. It is good for the College that so successful a captain should come from amongst the Freshmen, for I'm sure Phil Magor will repeat this year's high success rate next season.

In the hockey we again came up against Hatfield in the Trophy final and, despite dominating the game, lost 2—1 by two soft goals; the captain assures me that it should have been 4—2 the other way.

We lost the final of the Squash to Bede 3—2 despite hard work by Charlie Barker-Wyatt, the captain, and Peter Charge, captain of the University side, who gave generously of his time and experience to coach the Castle players. We, however, won the tennis thanks to Steve Topham—were third in the cross country and swimming and fourth in the athletics where Steve Corbin won 28 of our total 41 points. We were also unlucky to lose the golf in the semi-final, both Steve Harman and David Phipps having gained palatinates. Finally, we have again retained the inter-collegiate Fives cup

(unchallenged since 1961)! In sport, thanks should perhaps go above all to Neil Derbyshire who played in nearly all the teams, including the football, cricket, rugby, cross country and athletics.

Our non-sporting activities flourish as well. We have a madrigal group which is probably the best small choir in Durham. They gave an excellent concert in the Epiphany Term. The Chapel has been anxious to diversify and encompass as many persuasions as possible—an aim in which it achieved great success. The choir has once again been the pride of the Chapel with “capacity crowds” at the carol service and Sung Evensong in Durham Cathedral and York Minster. The Library also flourishes despite rumours that it was to be turned over to a bar, though some of its users seem to combine the two functions!

An extremely eventful year, yet the College is essentially as it ever was; at least the Castle—Hatfield war goes on unchecked. At the beginning of the year there was a spate of flag-pinching. A short visit over the road yielded a large quantity of toilet paper, 23 ball cocks, and every bathplug and piece of cutlery in the place. I only wish I could have seen them eating cornflakes and bacon and egg with their fingers! Needless to say the flags soon returned but just to press the point, Hatfield College awoke on the morning of their “Day” to find every window in the place whitewashed, though I’m sure that couldn’t have been us.

I should like to thank everyone who contributed to the year, not least John Jefferies, Dave Goody, David Wykes, Dave Holden, Mike Solan, John, Mac, Dave Watson, Mrs. Vine, Cicely, everyone in the J.C.R. and S.C.R., and Jean Oliver without whom I’m sure the Castle would instantly crumble.

May I also wish all the best to Vince Hesketh and his exec., who have already shown themselves completely capable of all that will be asked of them.

NICK MERCER (Senior Man).

