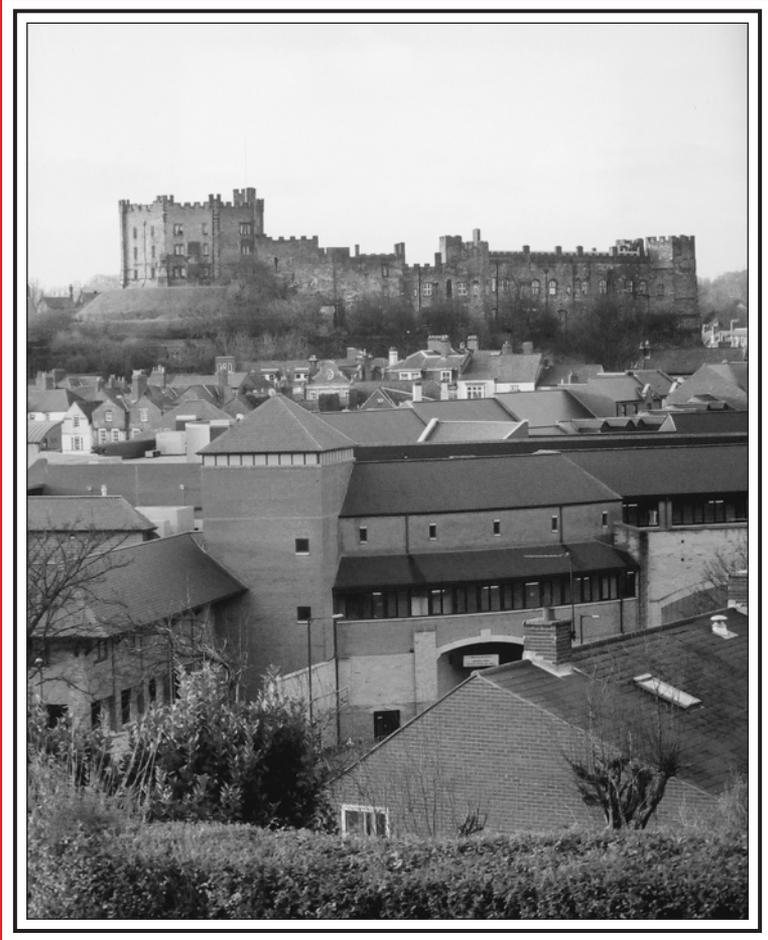


# Castellum



THE MAGAZINE OF THE DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY



No. 53  
2001

DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

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

*Cover photograph: Durham Castle Keep and North Range from Durham Prison.*

# THE EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

So here we are. Early February and Castellum about to go to bed. Only two tasks to do: write these jottings and work out the pagination so the whole lot can be transferred from the typesetters to the printers on Monday. Then, wait for the finished article and send my own application off to go to the reunion.

It'll be a difficult one for me this year because whilst at the University I was a member of the now defunct Group for Industrial Archaeology. This was an excuse to get out of Durham and visit old lead workings, old railway stations, traditional pubs and for me to drive the Student Union minibuses to places and on roads one could be sure they had never been on before. Once a year they have an informal reunion of anyone who happens to be available, with families, by taking a Rent-a-Hostel from the YHA. This year it's at Edmundryers and takes place on the weekend of 24th March: same date as the Castle reunion. Typical for an event managed by a Hatfield man. So I shall be flitting between the two bearing in mind the limitations of driving after alcohol, which I think will limit my involvement in the DUGIA event to the Sunday when it is on, and we disperse after breakfast. The itinerary of the DUGIA event will be much less predictable than the format of the Castle reunion, details of which are enclosed and have indeed been published for some time at the Society's much improved website at [durhamcastle.org](http://durhamcastle.org), somewhat more memorable as a web address than the one published in the last Castellum.

Your magazine comes to you in much the usual format, produced by the usual team of Tech-Set the typesetters and Vasey Boe the printers. For much of the latter half of January each year I am popping in and out of Tech-Set with more copy and corrected proofs. They are specialist typesetters, mostly working for big publishers producing university and school text books, and have a speciality in mathematical and technical work. Frankly, Castellum is a simple job from their point of view, and one of the few small jobs they do each year. They have just moved into larger premises, the third since dealing with them first in 1987, and have the latest in typesetting technology, which means we can take full advantage of the fact that more and more of the copy is produced electronically. This article is simply being composed as an e-mail to Bill Baty at Tech-Set and will in all probability appear as a page in the magazine when I call in later today. For Tech-Set, ours is a small job, although I never feel we are given insufficient priority at the time when it matters.

If Tech-Set is at the cutting edge of technology, we find our printers near the other. You have seen gleaming printing presses and neon lights on high streets advertising the latest in print: Vasey Boe do not claim to be in this league, and a visit to their works in the middle of suburban Gateshead, surrounded by terraced houses and a cemetery, is much the same now as when I first visited. They can even handle letterpress with racks of wooden letters available downstairs, and in north-east parlance would be considered more towards the Beamish end of the market. But the service is friendly and efficient: we are in the queue behind the Burnopfield Parish Magazine, which

I used to edit, but the new editor is just as satisfied with the service, and stays there. For Paul and his team, Castellum is one of the biggest jobs they do each year, and has become bigger: when we first printed there (after trying some commercial offset printers on the Team Valley who were pricy and unreliable) we were on 1,000 copies. This year it is 2,075 as a result of the recruiting drives. Vasey Boe will produce a clean copy with the cover the right colour, delivered direct to the Castle.

Why tell you all this, when there is a vast amount to tell about my little railway station at Chester-le-Street, and how we are poised to take over what was British Rail on the internet? Because I took a risk last year and printed an advertisement for my station on the inside front page. Instead of opprobrium, many people found it useful, and complimented me on making the facility well known, and we were happy to issue rail tickets throughout the country for Castlemen.

Here I must lapse into **Gill Sans**, the *typeface of the railway*, to remind you that you can get us Monday to Friday from 0730 to 1800 and until 1300 Saturdays on 0191 387 1387, or fax 387 3386. Our website is **www.nationalrail.com** (yes, that's right, and the new name for British Rail is National Rail). Chester-le-Street station is now at the heart of the railway network, in the town in which the Bible was first translated into English. Something else made simple and understandable in Chester-le-Street now: the National Fares Manual and that great work of fiction, the National Rail Timetable.

Commercial over, and back to Palatino, I was of course goading the Society. It's an interesting job being editor, but one day someone will stand up at the AGM and say how dreadful the magazine is, how the typefaces are old fashioned, the articles dry and boring, and how he or she could do the job a whole lot better. Would that not fill the average editor's heart with fear?

Gentle reader, I dream of the day! Until that wonderful moment when this mantle is wrestled from me, I shall continue to encourage you to send in your contributions and manuscripts. Feel free to phone me on 01207 270013 if you want to chat over an idea for an article first, or ask advice about text formats for e-mails (in practice we can cope with about anything which is virus-free, and plain text is preferred for us to convert to house style). Things tend to gather in a box from reunion time until New Year when it's time to think about the next edition in a bit more detail, and a few hapless people like the Senior Tutor are inveigled into writing something. Paula Stirling, whose job is more like a juggler than a tutor, filling quotas and rooms completely but without going bust, as it were, will be contributing next time, I hope! If you want to pen me a few lines on what you are doing now, we can expand this part of the news service. Send it now, by post or by e-mail to [anylex@lineone.net](mailto:anylex@lineone.net), or at any time until 10th January 2002, when subject to the rigours of democracy, I may still be Editor of this organ. Until then, I hope you enjoy the first Castellum for the new Millennium!



Burnopfield, Co Durham  
February 2001

# THE MASTER'S LETTER 2001

This has been an extremely busy year for the College, and the JCR and MCR have been very active too.

As you will know from last year's report, our application in October 1999 to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a £4M grant to undertake substantial external repairs to the Castle was deemed ineligible since we are an educational establishment. Following on from this, and with a view to obtaining sympathy and support at a regional and national level, the building was put on the At Risk register of English Heritage in June 2000. There was a lot of good publicity in the media over our particular problems, which you may have seen, and now discussions are planned at the highest level between the Vice-Chancellor, the Minister of Culture, HLF, EH and HEFCE with a view to securing major funding. Our planned development of the West Courtyard area to create 3 more communal rooms for the JCR ran into a few obstacles, mostly concerned with procedures within the University, but these are being overcome and hopefully the work will start in the near future. We also have the University's agreement to start planning the refurbishment of bathrooms in Hall Stairs, the Keep, Owengate and Bailey Court, and installing en-suites where possible. We are also hoping to cable some parts of the College in the next year so students can access the web and e-mail their tutors and friends directly from their rooms. As it is now, all communications with the JCR from the College are sent electronically.

The number of undergraduates in Castle seems to be creeping up by a few each year, as the University is allowed to expand a little by the Government. We think this College has reached its limit, since we are dangerously close to the position when we will not be able to guarantee undergraduates 2 years living-in. If that should happen the whole ethos of the Durham colleges will be at risk – and we will lose the 'Durham difference'. University College continues to be the

most popular with undergraduate applications, you will be pleased to know – with 2200+ people applying for the 190 places last year. However, this does mean that it is extremely difficult to decide who to offer a place, and the extra-curricular activities of the students become the decisive factors. The degree results 1999-2000 were really excellent, with 74% gaining upper seconds and firsts. There were 39 firsts (we think this is a record for this College).

On the playing fields the College is having a good year, although no major intercollegiate tournaments have been won yet. See the Senior Man's report for details of last year's successes. Sadly we did not beat Hatfield at rugby this season. The Hatfield Cup for the novice rowing champions, that we won last year, was postponed because the river was in flood for most of November, when the regatta is usually held.

Castle Arts Week in March involved displays of paintings, photographs and intriguing glass sculptures on the Tunstal Gallery. The Castle Symphony Orchestra performed in the Great Hall; there were poetry readings in the Norman Chapel, and *Hayfever* was the play for the week. In June the Castle Theatre Company did *Romeo & Juliet* in the Fellows Garden, and managed to avoid the thunder-storms. It then had a successful tour to stately homes and castles in the south of England. In November, the *Duchess of Malfi* was performed in the Norman Chapel, and very atmospheric and realistically gruesome it was too!

On the social side, the June Ball theme was Children's Stories, with a yellow-brick road leading to the champagne reception on the Norman Gallery. The Great Hall was decorated as the *Jungle Book*, where the main band *Dodgy* performed, and the Undercroft was a desert island with Robinson Crusoe and a steel band. The highlight of the evening of course was the singing of *Floreat Castellum* in the Courtyard, accompanied by laser and fireworks display. Ladies night was held in November this year, and the theme was 'America in the 1930s'. The University Big Band played during the meal in the Great Hall; there was a disco in the Undie and a 30s swing band in the Hall later. Of the other

College social events, allegedly the 31st Club continues its activities (running starkers around Palace Green at midnight before the clock finishes striking 12). The Van Mildert Club continues to flourish with its termly dinner and the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, by the Rev Bernard Mather and his contemporaries, was celebrated in June 2000. Several past presidents were able to come for the most enjoyable evening. The Lumley Run still takes place every term, and around half-a-dozen complete the course each time, much the worse for wear though.

The year 2000 was marked by some of the most dramatic weather in Durham. The worst floods in living memory came in early June, and Maiden Castle sports centre became an island. Shincliffe was cut off from Durham. Elvet Riverside car park opposite the Three Tuns was under 3 feet of water, as the river rose 12 feet above its normal level. In November, the river again flooded, cutting the road to Shincliffe and Maiden Castle yet again. There are now plans to raise the levees and improve the flood defences all along the river. And then at the end of December, thick snow – the first substantial fall for at least 10 years, blanketed Durham and was accompanied by sub-zero temperatures.

A summer school for 36 gifted and talented 11-13 year-old children from Middlesborough was held in Castle in August 2000 and the students all stayed in the Keep. This brought some excellent publicity for the College and University, and we are hoping that it will become a regular event.

The Castle Reunion in March 2000 was the largest for 10 years with over 140 graduates returning, including 24 first ladies. It was a really enjoyable event. The Master (and Mrs T) attended the Northwest England Castle Society reunion at Whalley Abbey near Clitheroe in late August. It was a very pleasant occasion and we are grateful to Canon Geoffrey Williams for organising this.

The Middle Common Room, established to provide a focus for postgraduate members of the College, had a successful first year with parties, dinners, and a termly JCR-MCR-SCR debate. The St Calais Room was put to good use. The SCR also

had a busy year with several after-dinner talks and wine-tastings, in addition to the very popular formal dinners themselves.

Professor Moletsane, the Vice-Chancellor of Lesotho University, was the Slater Fellow in the Easter Term 2000 and was here to reinforce the Durham-Lesotho links in Theology and Education. David Cross is the Slater Fellow for 6 months, October 00–March 01, and is researching the attribution and provenance of the Bishop's paintings in the Castle.

Substantial sums of money have been pledged to the College this year by our graduates through our own Millennium Appeal and the University Development Office's efforts in their telephone campaign. We are most grateful to all of you who have made donations to Castle; it is very kind of you indeed and does help considerably in our efforts to improve the facilities for the JCR. The Boat Club is very grateful to Guy Tritton for buying a four for the College. The boat has been named *Master Blaster* but unfortunately it lost in every race at the June regatta! I expect it is just getting used to the water up here.

The University has had many successes in raising money for research this last year. Many millions of pounds will be spent on an Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology and for a major project in Astrophysics. Chemistry and Biology are both getting new buildings. The Department of Classics is expanding too, from a large Leverhulme grant to employ several new staff. The University hopes to increase its student numbers again next year, mostly in Law and Computer Science, and through a new degree in Business Studies. There are plans to build new student blocks at Van Mildert, Trevs, Hild-Bede and Grey Colleges.

In Durham City, the new Millennium development is fast taking shape on the site of the car-park and carpet factory at the bottom of Claypath. It will include a concert hall for 500 people, new library, six new pubs and clubs. You may have read of some of the goings-on in *Private Eye!* A new hotel complex and houses are being built on the sloping grassy area leading up to the railway station. There are now numerous

restaurants and coffee bars in Durham, although they frequently seem to change hands. There was great excitement in October when *Harry Potter* was being filmed in the Cathedral.

As you know, the position of Master is only half-time, and the rest of my time I am in the Department of Geological Sciences, mostly undertaking research on limestones. This year has been hectic. I have started a new project in Egypt, working on the coral reefs in the Red Sea and the effect of flash floods on them. I was also carrying out fieldwork in Mexico – looking at petroleum reservoir rocks which might have been produced by meteorite impact at the end of the Cretaceous, the one that killed off the dinosaurs. I also attended conferences and lectured in Norway, Brazil, Argentina, Dublin, Paris and the Canadian Rockies, and completed the third edition of one of my textbooks.

I am pleased to have the opportunity here to thank members of the Castle Society and other graduates of the College for their support in the last year. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Reunion in just a few weeks time.

*Maurice Tucker*  
*January 2001*

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## **Durham Castle Society is now On-Line!**

Check out the Society website for details of the University College Durham Trust, list of members, membership form, covenant form, information on legacies and bequests and registration forms for the reunion.

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**[www.durhamcastle.org](http://www.durhamcastle.org)**  
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*Material for the website can be sent to the Master at Castle*

## THE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

The Chaplaincy was fortunate last year to have been well-served by its student officers. In the music department, the Chapel Choir performed to a high standard at the Thursday Choral Evensongs, sung at Evensong in Durham Cathedral in all three terms, and made visits to St Cuthbert's, Billingham and to Belmont, receiving favourable comment on each occasion. Richard Scothton (Organ Scholar) has presided with skill and flair, assisted by Elizabeth Robinson, who succeeds him as Organ Scholar for 2000–1. At the beginning of the year the Master's Singers was founded, an additional choir to cater for the welcome number of singers in College. This choir has sung on many Sundays and at weekday Eucharist services on major Feast Days in the Christian Year. It also sang at the annual Remembrance Service for NUAS in the Norman Chapel.

Chapel services have been well-supported, particularly the Thursday Evensong, typically with an attendance of 40–50 drawn from all three Common Rooms. Special Services, such as the Chaplain's Licensing by the Bishop of Durham in October and the Advent Carol Service in December have attracted capacity congregations of students, senior members and staff. The Chaplaincy has heard a range of preachers, including the Bishop of Durham, the Van Mildert Professor of Divinity, the Chaplain of University College Oxford, the Area Dean of Durham, the Sub-Dean of St Albans Cathedral (Castleman) and several members of the SCR. There is the possibility of a BBC live broadcast from the Norman Chapel at 8.07 on a Sunday morning, written and presented by the Chaplain and involving students and senior members. In February 2000 some ten students and the Chaplain made a weekend retreat at the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, thus reviving the regular visits to this monastery which took place in the 1970s and 80s.

Two Chaplaincy Dinners in aid of charity were held in the Senate Room by kind permission of the Bursar. The first raised £150 each for choir music and the repair of the Tunstal Chapel misericords. The second raised £300 for St Cuthbert's Hospice.

In the Michaelmas Term 2000, our activities continued much as before, although the combination of inclement weather and the

railway difficulties meant the cancellation of at least one visiting preacher. The Chaplaincy Dinner this term was in aid of Emmaus, a charity which provides accommodation and training for the homeless in houses across the UK, and of which Terry Waite CBE is the President. We have been fortunate to have with us in residence for 2 terms as Leonard Slater Fellow Mr David Cross, who was Chapel Clerk 1971–72. The term ended as usual with the Advent Carol Service, full to overflowing. This was followed by a new innovation, informal Carol singing on Palace Green in aid of charity, organized by the JCR. The two events went very well together, and raised considerable sums.

The Chaplain's academic activities as Solway Fellow continue: he has been invited to give a paper at the biennial Congress of Societas Liturgica at the University of Santa Clara, California, in August, and January 19th 2001 sees the publication of *A Companion to Common Worship* (SPCK, £19.99!) to which he has contributed a chapter on the Calendar. In November he gave a paper to the Liturgy Seminar of the Department of Theology which was subsequently published. Two essays in a collection on the priesthood in the contemporary church will appear later in 2001.

News of two former Chaplains has been received: Canon Peter Brett retired as Residentiary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, and was succeeded by Canon Richard Marsh, who takes over as Canon Residentiary and Director of the Education Centre. Our congratulations and good wishes to him, and to Canon Brett for a happy and healthy retirement.

Old Members of College who are in Durham in term time are most welcome to attend Chapel services: the main occasions are the Sunday College Eucharist at 11am, and the Thursday Choral Evensong and Sermon at 6pm, both in the Tunstal Chapel. The reunion weekend includes a Eucharist on the Saturday morning.

**The Chaplain would like to encourage Old Castlemen who are clergy to come to the reunion this year. It would be good to share news, memories and experiences. Also, if any Old Castleman has any material (photographs, documents, memories of Chaplains etc.) relating to the Chapel which they would be willing to donate or have copied, the Chaplain would be most interested to hear from them.**

*Benjamin Gordon-Taylor  
Solway Fellow and Chaplain, January 2001*

**54th Reunion Dinner  
Saturday 25th March 2000**

**GREAT HALL**

**Smoked Breast of Chicken  
Green Salad  
Lemon Dressing**

**★ ★ ★**

**Cream of Leek & Potato Soup  
Granary Rolls**

**★ ★ ★**

**Tournedos Rossini  
New Potatoes  
Sugar Snaps  
Carrots  
Kenya Beans**

**★ ★ ★**

**Fresh Fruit Salad with Kirsch  
Cream**

**★ ★ ★**

**Coffee and Tea  
After Dinner Mints**

**★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★**

***TOASTS***

**THE QUEEN The Master  
THE COLLEGE David Mallett and  
Douglas Pinnock  
REPLY The Master  
ABSENT FRIENDS The Master**

# Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 25th March 2000 in the Undercroft, Durham Castle at 5:30 p.m.

## *In the Chair*

The President of the Society, Prof. M E Tucker, Master of University College.

## *Present*

52 members signed the attendance register.

## *Apologies for Absence*

Samantha Beddoes (Senior Man elect), John Bridges, Rev P R Bryan, Norman Butterworth, Albert Cartmell, Kenneth Darwin, David Moore, Gordon Rawson, Ted Salthouse, David Silvester, Eric Thompson, Bill Worswick.

## *Minutes of the Previous Meeting*

The minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 27th March 1999, having been published in Castellum, were accepted as a true record and signed by the chairman.

## *Matters Arising*

*College Flag:* The Master apologised for the fact that a new college flag was not already flying over the keep. He explained the complexities of the consultation process and committees he has been through to consult on the shape, colour and design of a college flag. A decision has now been made to commission three flags, two paid for by the Society and the third a gift from Chris Horrocks.

The Late Late June Ball due to be held in September 1999 had to be cancelled due to lack of ticket sales. Thanks had been expressed to Tim Fowler for his efforts in leading the organisation of the ball.

## *Correspondence*

Letter received from David Silvester, advising that although he appears on the list in Castellum of those attending the 1999 reunion, he did not actually attend due to a misunderstanding of the date of the reunion. There was no other correspondence.

## *Treasurer's Report*

Martin Gunson talked through the Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1999, as published in Castellum. This shows a surplus of income over expenditure of £4,778.03 and a balance of £17,799.13.

These amounts allow for the fact that current undergraduates each pay £30 through battels for 7 years membership in advance.

Although a cheque for £5,000 has now been raised for the contribution to the Len Slater fellowship agreed at the 1999 AGM, this was not cleared in the 1999 financial year so does not appear in the accounts.

The cost of Castellum was slightly cheaper in 1999, although it is expected to be higher again in 2000.

Following an investigation into changing our bankers, we are continuing with the *status quo*. An offer from Cater Allen of a high interest account with no charges was withdrawn once it was realised that although our account involves only six or seven cheques a year, there are 40 to 50 pages of incoming standing orders.

Barclays have been asked about the possibility of setting up direct debit mandates rather than standing orders, but we are awaiting a response from their regional office.

Membership renewal date is 1st April, so the increase in membership to £10 p.a. agreed at the 1999 AGM will be deferred to take effect from 1st April 2001.

There were no questions from the floor and the accounts were adopted on a general aye.

#### ***University College Durham Trust – Financial Report***

As Chairman of the Trust, the Master reported that we currently have approximately 67 covenants with bring in over £6,000 p.a. The value of our investments is approximately £235,000.

The launch of the West Courtyard Phase II project with Castellum has started to generate additional covenants and lump sum donations.

The Trust supports a travel scholarship, which this year is being presented to a third year student who will work with Inter-Country Peoples' Aid on a squatters settlement in Zimbabwe.

The Trustees have also now agreed to fund a second annual scholarship of £300 'to promote personal academic development'.

#### ***West Courtyard Project Phase II***

The Master stressed the importance of the project to the College. With 600 undergraduates the Undercroft is getting rather small.

A display illustrating the proposed project has been set up in the Great Hall during the reunion, and an appeal leaflet sent out to all Castlemen. Six new covenants have been received, and the Master hoped this would be the first of many.

A donation of £2000 has also been received from our fund managers, Schroders.

At the reunion dinner, paintings kindly donated by Peter Kirby will be auctioned, and a 'write your name on a £5 note' draw will be held, with all proceeds going to the Trust.

*Business from Durham Castle Society Committee*

*Donation to Trust:* A motion to donate £10,000 to the Trust, to support the West Courtyard Phase II project, was approved on a general aye.

*Year Representatives:* Nick Mercer, Membership Secretary, commented on the fact that some years manage to attract only one or two members to reunions, while others achieve nearer 20. Any volunteers willing to act as year reps to 'rabble rouse' and drum up attendance from their peers should contact Nick.

*JCR gym equipment:* Tim Johnson, the JCR's Castle Society Representative, and Richard Hughes, Senior Man, described the work going on to establish a new gym in an old music practice room in Bailey Court.

A motion requesting a donation to the JCR of £1,000 to purchase an ergo rowing machine was approved on a general aye.

*Subscriptions for post graduates:* The Master reported that the number of postgraduates in the college has been growing steadily. There are now approximately 50, 12 of whom live in college. A new middle common room has been established, and the Committee is keen that members of the MCR are encouraged to join the Society.

A proposal that MCR members be offered a three year subscription at the discounted rate of £15 was approved on a general aye.

*Partners at reunion dinner:* Nick Mercer outlined the Committee's view of the importance of our younger members of the Society 'getting the reunion habit'. For those who experienced life in Castle as a mixed college, the inability to bring partners to the dinner was seen as a major disincentive to attending the reunion. Faced with the possibility of the numbers attending reunions declining, and the average age increasing, it was felt that the time was right to consider a change to the long standing tradition of only Castlemen being allowed to attend the dinner. Attendance at the reunion dinner is typically around 140, while the capacity of the Great Hall is 200.

After wide ranging discussion from the floor, a motion to allow partners to attend reunions on a trial basis for two years was put to the vote.

The motion was passed, with 21 in favour, 16 against, and 13 abstentions.

*Proposal for honorary membership:* The Master put forward a proposal raised by Albert Cartmel, that Dennis Jones, the College Architect, be made an Honorary Member of the Society. He loves the Castle, and has a warm affection for the College and SCR. He is the man behind every building project in the College for the last 30 years, and gives up a lot of time to Castle, much of it for free.

The motion was passed on a general aye.

*Alumni reunion weekend:* It was announced by the Master that the Castle Society would host a Sunday lunch for Castlemen and their partners at the Alumni Reunion Weekend, 23rd to 24th September.

### *Election of Officers*

The following officers were re-elected on a general aye:

Secretary	Kevin Hawes
Treasurer	Martin Gunson
Membership Secretary	Nick Mercer
Editor of Castellum	Alex Nelson
Representative on Governing Body	Alex Nelson
Trustee, University College Durham Trust	Nick Mercer

Nominations for the remaining posts were as follows: Two members of the committee to serve until 2003 – Barry Crisp (proposed by Fiona Wilcock, seconded by Nick Mercer) was elected unopposed. There were no nominations for the second vacancy. The Committee will need to consider co-opting.

### *Any Other Business*

Ian Watson commented on the unique service offered by the college staff. 'At what other establishment would you be greeted as "you effing bugger"?' he asked. He felt that the excellent service to Castlemen at reunions merited recognition. After the Bursar advised that there are approximately ten bedders and ten kitchen and servery staff involved during the reunion weeken, Ian proposed that at every reunion the Society pay a gratuity of £5 to each member of staff. This was passed on a general aye.

A question was raised as to the location of the Memorial Book. The Master advised that it was currently in the Tunstall Gallery while the showcase is restored, after which it will be replaced in the Great Hall.

In response to a question on whether a replacement mantle clock should be obtained for the Great Hall, the Master advised that the clock in the SCR had been stolen three times, and was now alarmed.

Fiona Wilcock asked that maiden names of female Castlemen be shown in the reunion attendance list.

Nigel Hill asked that the option of wearing black tie at the reunion dinner be advertised in the invitation. This was seen as particularly appropriate now that partners are to be admitted. A rather politically incorrect suggestion that 'ladies will provide a bit of colour at the dinner' was met by protest from Ian Watson, who stood up to proudly display his colourful waistcoat.

We were reminded that the Whalley Abbey reunion will take place on 25th August 2000.

### *2000 Reunion*

The 55th reunion will take place from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th March 2001.

## Senior Man's Report 1999-2000

As I reflect on the past year I recall the fresh Exec enthusiasm which set the telephone lines ablaze as preparations were made for greeting and entertaining the one hundred and ninety seven fresh faces who were getting ready to invade the Castle. When it finally arrived the invasion was as smooth as could be expected, due in large part to the hard work put in by both the College staff and the JCR, with many Castle men and women being more than happy to act as pack horses for the day. Almost immediately these new faces got into the great freshers week tradition which tested the Undercroft to its limits and as a direct consequence there was a fair share of mischievous conduct (the Master and Dryburn were not amused!).

To the credit of the entire College it was not long until everyone had settled down and the nasty rumours of lectures and tutorials had become a reality. There was to be no dampening of Castle spirit though with its first real test of the year being passed with flying colours. When the Hatfield horde descended upon the Castle the sheer arrogance of this College to welcome the invaders with open doors cunningly outwitted the 'old enemy' leaving them to disperse with a whimper rather than a roar. Through the shining example of Castle students at the outset of the year college rivalry stayed on the field of play where it belongs, and hopefully it will remain there for the future.

Cardinal pride was once again most evident on the playing fields and on the river. The rugby team defeated all odds in making it to the flood-lit semi-final, earning themselves the deserved nickname of "Giant Slayers" as they defeated both Hatfield and Hild Bede along the way. University College Boat Club maintained its strong reputation as a premier force in college rowing and earned many deserved victories throughout the year. It was also an excellent season for Castles' smaller sports clubs with the women's football team topping their league and the table tennis team returning from a successful tour.

Music and the arts flourished as Castle displayed its wealth of talent through the symphony orchestra and through the many events organised for Arts Week. I had the pleasure of attending an evening put on by the Castle Symphony Orchestra and the skill and professionalism displayed during the evening indicated clearly the amount of organisation and effort that had gone into the evening. The standing ovation at the end of the evening was nothing less than the evening deserved.

On the social side, formals were so incredibly popular that for the first time ever sign-up sheets had to be introduced to prevent overcrowding. Thankfully most people behaved themselves and I had to impose very few fines (much to the annoyance of John!). Another first at formals was the introduction of the string quartet twice a term which was welcomed by the JCR and most of the SCR. I hope that it will become a tradition as it most definitely added an extra touch to the evening.

There is no doubt that the June Ball is the pinnacle of Durham's social calendar and I could not think of a more appropriate way of bowing out of my position as Senior Man. Being surrounded by the people who mean so much to me while enjoying an evening that everyone will remember for the rest of their lives is, and always will be, a memory to cherish. As I said on the evening the best thing about being Senior Man was the people I met and worked with. There is no way that anybody can do the job without the support that was given to me by the members of the JCR, the Master and the Bursar, all the College staff and of course the Exec.

Durham is very much still alive in my heart and always will be. I wish you all the very best of luck and I hope that I will keep in touch with the many people that I am already missing. It has been a privilege and a pleasure.

Floreat Castellum

*Richard Hughes*  
*Senior Man (1999–2000)*



## *University College, Durham*

*presents three editions, each limited to 350  
lithographically produced prints of **The Keep**,  
**The Courtyard** and **The Great Hall**.*

The prints are now available as a limited edition of 350 copies each individually signed and numbered by the artist, Dennis Roxby Bott, R.W.S., at a special pre-publication price of £89.99 each, £159.99 for two or £229.99 for three. The sizes of the prints are approximately 15" × 10" presented in bevelled hand cut mounts, the overall sizes being 20" × 15". They can be ordered from Contemporary Watercolours (01474 535922) using the form on the next page.



*The Keep*

*The Courtyard*





# Castellum

## NEWS ROUND-UP

### **DURHAM DIAMOND EXPERT REPORTS TO THE WHITE HOUSE**

The US Government has called in a University of Durham geologist for advice on diamonds in an effort to crack down on the illegal gems-for-arms trade.

**Dr Graham Pearson** is one of a group of international experts and government representatives invited to the White House Diamond Conference, convened in conjunction with The National Economic Council, National Security Council, Department of State, National Sciences Foundation, Department of Treasury and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

At the Conference, policy makers, scientists, engineers and representatives of non-governmental organisations looked at chemical and physical analyses to determine the origin of rough diamonds, and technologies to support a certification of origin regime.

Dr Pearson, a Reader in Geochemistry at Durham, said the discussion centred on the need to regulate international trade in diamonds. He said: 'Over the past decade there has been a dramatic expansion of the diamonds for arms link, so-called "conflict diamonds"; the exchange of small, easily transported yet highly valuable gems for arms used in regional conflicts. The two most significant areas in this regard at present are Sierra Leone and Angola. This trade not only fuels these regional conflicts but undermines the economies of governments legiti-

mately trading in diamonds where the industry forms very substantial portions of the national economy, such as Botswana and Namibia. Diamonds form up to 70% of the national economy of Botswana. In addition to the death resulting from weapons purchased with conflict diamonds and the financial damage to legitimate economies, the trade produces a large refugee problem, with over 3.5 million people having been displaced in Angola alone.'

'The problem is to try to find means of eliminating the trade in conflict diamonds without penalising the legitimate traders and hurting the economies of developing countries. This is not an easy task.'

Dr Pearson and colleagues are already engaged in research at Durham, and at sites around the world, to find ways of establishing the 'regional identity' of diamonds from minute chemical or physical features.

### **£155,000 BOOST TO CANCER RESEARCH IN DURHAM**

Scientists in Durham – carrying out vital research into blood cancers such as leukaemia – have received an award of £155,000 from Leukaemia Research Fund (LRF). This is the first time LRF, the UK's leading blood cancer charity, has funded a major research programme at the University of Durham.

The research programme is led by **Dr Nicholas Hole**, a blood cancer expert from the University's Department of Biological Sciences.









## **Partners at the Reunion**

Following a decision at the last AGM, partners are invited to the 2001 Reunion, to help avoid the situation where they are left alone in College or Hotel rooms during the event. All meals will be open to partners and the only event they cannot attend will be the AGM itself, which is for members only.

Of course the majority of members will probably continue to attend alone, but both accompanied and unaccompanied Castlemen will be equally welcome this year.

## “GO NORTH, YOUNG MAN”

*Edward Underhill is the last remaining of a group of worker priests who came to the north-east and stayed to work in Durham diocese before and after the War. He is still in post, and writes in his own forthright style about his experiences, and the current problems of the Church of England. He is Vicar of St. George's in Gateshead.*

THE IMPERATIVE WAS OBEYED AND HERE I'VE STAYED. Coming up to Castle in 1947, and theological college and a couple of curacies in Rochester and Kenya later, I returned to Durham County as vicar of St. George's Church in Gateshead in March 1957.

They tell me that 44 years in the one parish makes me the longest current holder of any ecclesiastical cure in the northern province. This is not of any significance or value, but at least it has enabled the parish to get a grip of its buildings and to do a £2 million restoration and development, as well as to maintain its splendid and nationally-known “Father” Willis on which top Cathedral organists love to come and play recitals.

### CHANGES

Over the years in Gateshead I've seen many changes. There is still bad housing in the area, though less now than in the early 50's. Over the years there is an ever diminishing social mix; you get out of Gateshead as soon as you can. Communication systems are much better since the Western Bypass has been built, but, dare I say it, the schools and standard of education are worse than when Lynn Mock (Castle 1947–51) came to teach – and stay – in Gateshead, introducing rugby football into this “soccer-mad” ghetto. Lynn, I seem to remember, played Bridge all night, slept most of the day and got a “first” in Maths.

### DURHAM CHANGES TOO?

Life in Durham must have changed too, though one can imagine things going on quietly and purposefully just as in

Verdant Green's day. To get into Castle now will probably require a different technique from that of 1947. The Master, then Lt. Col. Macfarlane-Grieve, called me up from Kent for interview and said, "You seem to be able to pass examinations, but you've no background. Come in and we'll give you some. Oh yes, – I hear that you are a decent athlete; we could do with some new blood; go and talk with the Bursar." I was in.

The Master – the Scottish Laird who generally wore no socks – was always on the tow-path and anywhere else where games were played. In those days we were regularly head of the river, winners of most teams games within the Durham Colleges and champions in field, track and cross-country events. One year we needed someone to throw the discus to complete the athletics team. I remember Ted Corrin (ex R.N.) volunteering to learn from scratch, training every afternoon in that summer term to pick up for us a few most useful team points. Some 55 years later is it possibly true to say that undergraduates are working too much?

Breakfast, luncheon and dinner were all taken in Hall. Chapel Services were sung each weekday at 6.30 p.m. allowing one to go straight into Hall. I had rooms on Garden Stairs, with a coal-fire. There were no door keys. Numbers in College were smaller; no bad thing?

## **LIBERAL EDUCATION**

Castle gave me much – too much to specifically recall half a century on. But two things stand-out from the delightful background of Union Society debating, D.I.C.C.U. meetings and Bible Studies, Theological Societies with Michael Ramsay dominating the architectural delights of Palace Green, the friendships (I wonder is David Bowen, ex R.N. "Met" Officer, still around!), the "scholarship boys" straight from Gateshead and Manchester Grammar Schools, my first sight of the Roman Wall on a trip with Professor Birley, and the rest of the Durham delights. Durham gave me a love of the poetry of Catullus and introduced me to Rugby Fives taught by Bernard Mather. Eton Fives followed at St. Aidan's Birkenhead to complete my education!

Yes, I do have one regret. The Fives courts have gone from the Fellows' Gardens, which itself has been vandalised with the intrusion of new office buildings. Is nothing sacred?

# PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**"HAS NOT THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
BECOME A CHURCH WITHOUT A STRUCTURE  
OF AUTHORITY CAPABLE OF SPEAKING WITH  
AUTHORITY, AND WORSE, A CHURCH  
WITHOUT A VISION ..."**

*Bishop Stephen Sykes, Principal,  
St. John's College, Durham.<sup>1</sup>*

The Church is torn asunder by deep and wide differences as to the nature of biblical authority. The Editor has offered me the opportunity to describe some of the elements of this severe dichotomy and its effects, which a former Bishop of Durham, Hensley Henson, chrystalised as being virtually Roman in "type, temper and tendency" on the one hand, while the other, he said, was "not even in any tolerable sense, Christian". The bishop added, "I do not think it possible that any Church can long cohere when such radical divergence on essentials is tolerated".<sup>2</sup> And now, as the disasters of this cleavage have come home to roost, the powers-that-be (do we mean the bishops?) are making confusion worse confounded by rushing in and floundering about attacking the symptoms and not the causes of the sickness of the Church. The cure they prescribe is a pathetic mix of sticking plaster, short-term pain killers, politically correct initiatives, and 1960's failed management techniques, all of which make the majority of bishops look like managers of Local Authority Social Services Departments.

In case the quota-paying pew-fodder may be getting restless, then let us throw in the occasional "call to urgent prayer"; a diocesan mission might not be a bad thing, either. The over-burdened and demoralised clergy, operating into enemy territory from the trenches – poor lads (and lassies) – desperately need two or three more full-time paid

“Counsellors”, with travelling expenses paid at 40p per mile. Another Archdeacon plus a Director of this or that? Why not? Keep up the flagging morale.

## MANAGEMENT OF DECLINE

In the pews there is a mass of seething discontent, itself resulting in an almost total lack of confidence as the rank and file see those in authority making such a glorious mess of managing decline and which they are, in fact, exacerbating.

It is important to notice why people are disillusioned and are taking their money out of the system. Many are saying that it is too late to do anything about it; “they’ll not listen”; the Church is “in terminal decline”.

## PARISHES – NOT DIOCESE

The initial and basic stumbling block and cause of discontent is the *denigrating of the parishes* by central bureaucracies. The work is done in the parishes. Coal is won at the coal face – not in committees, career-structured diocesan hierarchies or money-guzzling Archbishops Councils. Michael Ramsay, in his *Canterbury Essays and Addresses* (p.109) describes how the parish parson “works within his own allotted sphere as a man under authority with his soldiers under him – the laymen whom he trains like elders to be his fellow-workers in the care of the parish. The parochial system is still the pattern of the life of our Church in England”.

But the bishops and dioceses who hold this view can now be counted on the fingers of one hand. In most cases it is “the diocese rules UK”, and you are going to like it! Currently in the diocese of Durham the “top-brass” have issued their manifesto, pushed and pursued by a 12 man/woman “Task Force”, that all parishes must go and be replaced by “locality” ministry. If you want it that way you will lose even more support, buildings will not be maintained and the decline will, in fact, be terminal, and that quickly.

Closely related to this trend is that of increasing and top-heavy bureaucracy. In one of a number of letters to the Editor of *The Times* recently, Canon Glynn rickerby says that "Within dioceses there are full-time archdeacons (a late 20th century development) and increasing numbers of bureaucrats and sector ministers who mostly enjoy advantageous hours of work, pay and conditions in comparison to parochial clergy." He concludes that the Church is become "so top heavy as to be in danger of toppling over".

The Church is now seen as a liberal and week body where "it doesn't matter much what you disbelieve so long as you believe in "shared-ministry" and "collaboratedness".

For the liberals anything goes; and please don't talk too much about the authority of the Scripture – much too definite – might put some people off.

### **COMMON WORSHIP?**

Are we to have a new, politically correct, inclusive gender liturgy every 20 years? What poor rubbish we are being asked to use as a vehicle for the worship of Almighty God. The lectionary is inadequate and Roman slanted. The 1662 Book of Common Prayer is vandalised, with Collects left out. The 1611 Authorised Version is nowhere to be seen, the doctrine is suspect, the syntax outrageous and, in fact, "the Pelagian tendency permeates this new book". Peter Mullen – *The Theology of Common Worship* – Article pp.145ff – *The Real Common Worship*, Edgeways, 2000.

These multiple problems facing the Church of England may be collected into four baskets:

1. Liberal theology being rampant.
2. Excessive overheads, top-heavy pseudo-management structures.
3. The 1992 disaster of the very tight vote just "allowing" the ordination of women.
4. Extreme and widespread lack of confidence in the pews, resulting in people taking their money out of the system and with a large exodus of the under 40's into the independent Churches.

So what do we do about it – that is, those of us who haven't left yet? We must be "bloody, bold and resolute" in radical action, with clear directives, to get rid of time-serving men in the upper reaches of the hierarchy. The Archbishop's Council must be abolished; save £5 million, is it? Rescind the measure that allows women to be ordained. Eliminate most of the non-parish based, unwanted, non cost-effective posts. Restore the freehold, without which the essential quality of the ministry will not be restored.

A tall order? Not at all. There are two large and vigorous power blocks already gathered and raring to go. "Forward in Faith" and "Reform" will not be able to wait much longer. The Third Province cannot be far off. The sooner it is in place the better.

*Edward Underhill, Castle 1947*

*Any comments: right of reply assured!—Editor.*

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*We have also heard of the death of John Bright Richardson Carter in March 1999 from his wife Barbara, after three-and-a-half-years enduring Alzheimer's Disease. He was at Castle 1934–38, a great friend of the late Canon Frank Chase. He had been married to Barbara for 58 years, after meeting when she was a schoolgirl in his home town of South Shields.*

# Pump Aid 2000, Mozambique

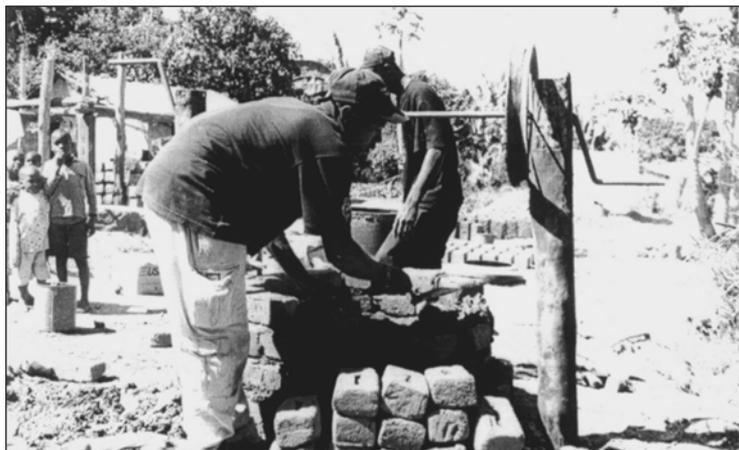
## Report of Expedition funded by a travel grant from the University College Durham Trust

During the summer 2000 vacation a research expedition went to Southern Africa from Durham University. The venture was the latest in a succession of projects led by Castle Undergraduates, and was in part a follow-up of an expedition to Zimbabwe led by Jeremy Thornley in 1997. We were working for a small non-governmental organisation called Pump Aid based near Mutare in the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe. The charity exists to build appropriate technology water pumps for rural communities for drinking and irrigation purposes and though it currently operates on a small-scale with only a few pumps built each week it is about to expand its operations. The first stage of this expansion will be into the adjacent part of Mozambique, and our *raison d'être* was to undertake a preparatory investigation of the area. For this we did participatory work in various communities in four districts of Manica Province, met many organisations that currently work there, and built a total of nine demonstration pumps.



*Leonard Tedd and Robert McCourt, human cement machines.  
Gondola, Manica Province, Mozambique.*

The first week of the project was spent in Zimbabwe working with Pump Aid, building pumps and conducting pre-pump case studies. We were staying with families and this gave an un-paralleled insight into Shona life. Their staple food is maize eaten as a starchy mass, the ubiquitous sadza. It is always taken with a kind of sour spinach and occasionally chicken. Though satisfying after a hard day's work the menu was not exactly varied. In material terms life there was pretty basic with no running water or electricity and with each family having relatively few possessions. However, Shona culture has a strongly family base with the fire in the circular kitchen being the centre of gravity for each homestead.



*Farai Madziwa, Pump Aid Builder.*

The main period of the expedition was in Manica Province, Mozambique. Working in Mozambique was a unique experience. It is a country whose recent past was cursed by being one of the battle-grounds where the clash of cold-war ideologies was fought out. During the war all infrastructure was systematically targeted and destroyed by the rebel Renamo movement; this included the senseless murder of doctors and teachers. The war continues to be a barrier to development because many areas are still mined; there are many beggars with crutches, though the British Halo Trust is working hard

to clear the mines and alleviate suffering of their victims. Despite all this, Mozambique is a lively optimistic country, focused on its future.

Pump Aid is able to better the situation of rural people by improving the quality, availability and security of drinking water by building water pumps. In Mozambique we found a desperate need for this improvement. In one instance I saw where a primary school and seven families collected water, a stagnant pool with animal hoof-prints around. Our project involved talking with health and education professionals working in Manica to establish the most appropriate level for Pump Aid to begin building pumps in the province.

The last portion of the expedition was spent back in Zimbabwe where the results of all the activities was brought together into a resource pack, and a full report was written on our activities.

Pump Aid is now preparing for pump building in Mozambique. With the likelihood of increased natural disasters in the next decades, water security will continue to be the primary focus of poverty alleviation. Each pump costs only £200 to build and can improve the situation for up to a thousand people, for example a school and its neighbouring households. We are looking for people to support this work, in return a photograph and details of the location of the pump will be provided. If you are able to support this please contact me: Leonard Tedd, Llys Blodau, Iorwerth Aye, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 1 EW. I am grateful to the Castle Society for helping me participate in this rewarding expedition.

*Leonard Tedd  
November 2000*



# A COUNTRY LAD AT DURHAM

by Edgar Jones

Shortly before last Reunion my bookseller friend, Norman Butterworth, sent me a photocopy of the last few pages of a book, *Country Boy*, the autobiography of an unknown Richard Hillyer. In those pages Hillyer, a more or less self-taught labouring lad, recounts how he has come up to Durham to sit for a scholarship. He sits the examination in Castle's Great Hall. The year is 1919.

I have to thank Norman for sending me those pages, and the book afterwards when I told him that I wanted to write about Hillyer for *Castellum*. Norman has donated a second copy to the Lowe Library. It makes inspiring reading.

Richard Hillyer was born and brought up in what was not much more than a hovel, in Brandy Hole Lane, in a remote south country village which he calls Byfield. It was a village which, as he put it, imprisoned, and then consumed, its own children. His father, a farm labourer, bore patiently his dumb oxlike existence; his mother, the clever one, fretted under it.

The book is no *Cider With Rosie*; for all his cleverness and his excellence as a classic, Hillyer is more scholar than poet, which is not to say that he had not a poet's ear and eye. Neither is there much drama in his story, though the suicide of the mad recluse Barky Britnell, after he has laid out his sadistic tormenter Spicer with a pitchfork, in its tragic inevitability bears some resemblance to the murder of the returned villager Vincent, in Laurie Lee's book. But it is a painstaking, and often painful reconstruction of the grinding and utter hopelessness of a rural England which was pitifully rarely Merrie.

From his earliest days Hillyer was fascinated by 'coloured words'. He read voraciously, though precious few books came his way. Of social life in his hamlet there was almost none. He writes though of the Bank Holiday Flower Show, when Miss Lucy, one of Rector Driffield's three unmarried daughters,

would dot about among the flowers and the bushes around the Rectory lawn dozens of little red and yellow lights. Did he, one wonders, remember these when he went, as one hopes he did, to a magical June Ball in Castle and walked, as one hopes he did, with a young lady on his arm in a moonlit Fellows' Garden?

But in the here and now he must get up in the middle of the night to help his labourer father cut the farmer's beans in the fresh of the morning. The hot weather of later on left the fields so dry that the shank of the hook as it struck them rattled half the beans onto the ground.

At twelve the boy Richard becomes the man Hillyer, for his brief schooldays are over and he joins that patient army of folk doomed by 'the system' to a lifetime's doltish labour.

It was with his shilling a week out of the five he earned in the fields and in the milking shed that Hillyer's liberation began, for he went on his Saturday evenings to neighbouring Billington, not like the other lads to josh the giggling village girls but to pick over the books in George Stubbs' junk-stall in the market. There were only two prices: thin ones 3d; fat ones 1/-. It was here that he one day came across a little bound pile of Latin books, a grammar, a dictionary, and some texts, all heavily thumbed and scrawled over. There was no clue as to who was Hillyer's unwitting benefactor; only the sulphurous threat on the title-page of the dictionary: 'If anybody takes this book I will punch his nose in the bogs after tea.'

Classics are born, not made. Dog-tired after his day in the fields Hillyer yet made himself proficient in Latin. Noone perhaps might ever have known, save that after the mad Barky Britnell's hanging himself from a beam the Rector called at Hillyer's house to speak to him, he having been the first to knock against that swinging pendulum of despair. And there the Rector found Hillyer's mother painfully repairing the boy's Latin dictionary, which was now falling apart from use.

Classics have always been bound together by a freemasonry as firm as any faith. Through the monkish centuries, and through the flowering of Latin secular poetry under the Wandering Scholars, and in despite of the arid philistinism of

the Age of Enlightenment, they have formed the Brethren of Learning into whose select company only the elect are favoured with initiation. The Rector brought Hillyer's Latin up to scratch and then started him on Greek. And at last the day comes when he says to him, 'You have got to get to a university. Now I understand from a friend of mine, that Durham University has some scholarships that might be within your reach.'

Only the socialist Stubbs, whose junk-stall had set Hillyer on the road to learning, sounds a sceptical note: '[The education] you will get at Durham University, Latin and Greek and all that stuff . . . [is] only good for parsons and school teachers. If you were going to study something useful, like economics, and the state of the people, it would be different.'

Durham has, by a stroke of malign fate, crossed his path once before. Those were the years of the 'Kaiser's War', and the spendthrift prodigality of the donkeys who led the lions through those years of unmitigated folly and disaster ensured that hundreds of little pitmen, used to working underground in the warm, spent the winter under canvas 'in conditions that would have made the most weather-hardened labourers suffer.' They caught pneumonia and died by the dozen, before ever they took ship to France to be killed by the thousand. One of them, Arthur – was he, one wonders, in Lowe's beloved Durham Light Infantry? – is billeted on the Hillyers in Brandy Hole Lane. 'His northern speech sounded like a foreign language.' But he says little to them; only that he is called Arthur. And he dies of pneumonia in his bed overnight.

The ploughboy Richard Hillyer, then, takes train for Durham. He is to stay, while sitting for his scholarship, with the Rector's friend Mr Boddington, who lives in 'a pleasant, eighteenth century house which stood among similar houses in a hilly street that ran along the edge of a steep bank above the river. Opposite to it, on the other side of the stream, were the western towers of that soaring cathedral.' And as with many another, Durham ravishes him at first sight. But even before he gets to that incomparable city he betrays that he is a classic born and not made, and imbued throughout with the balanced, the Greek, view of life.

For he has passed in the train through the satanic landscape of the industrial north. 'The old world, was dead,' he told himself with the incredible optimism of those who survived that catastrophe which killed off civilisation; 'the war had killed it ... the new one that took its place would have to be better ...' But nagging away at the back of his mind was the thought that the old world had something good too: loyalties and decencies which he hoped would not disappear altogether.

Those loyalties, those decencies, the Durham of the 'Twenties taught Hillyer, as it taught them to me who was born when Richard Hillyer was in his second year at Durham. No better lesson was there ever to be learned.

His examination began at ten o'clock the morning after he arrived. It was held in that Place of Miracles, Castle Great Hall. But let him tell the story.

Across an ancient bridge, he went, and 'up a little street, with a jumble of old shops on either side; then up a steep, cobbled way that brought me out onto a broad place set round with brown stone buildings, ripened by many centuries, and a smooth grass plot in the middle ... Everywhere there was peace and fulfilment, and the perfection of time's work. The place was like a benediction.'

There was an arched gateway, with a lodge on one side of it, where a porter sat reading a newspaper. The quadrangle was empty. One one side was a flight of steps leading to a great door, that looked as if it was closed for the vacation. A smaller door, further on, stood open as if he and his fellow travellers were meant to use that; beyond it were some stairs, and at the top of them the college chapel, where he says a prayer, 'the place, the hope and expectation within him' supplying the impulse. Seeking the examination room, Hillier takes a long gallery, with pictures and statuary on either side of it. It leads him indeed to the field of his trial by ordeal.

The gallery led into a noble hall, with portraits of men in academic dress on the walls, huge polished tables filling the floor; and a gallery, with ancient armour, looking down upon it all.

A man in a black tailed-coat ticked Hillier's name on a list he carried, and sent him to a place in the far corner, under the picture of a bearded personage with a globe in front of him, who did not appear to be particularly welcoming. There were fifteen or twenty candidates in waiting, and more arrived as Hillier looked round. Some of them were younger than he; but most had the look of men who had just left the army: one hobbled in with a stick; another had lost an arm.

At the end of his week's travail this 'raw farm boy', as he calls himself, went home, the elation of the weeks of expectancy and the week of hard slog having ebbed away to leave him empty and hopeless. After all, he had never taken an examination before in his life. He has no real expectation that he will have done well enough to be considered for a scholarship.

Yet that is what he gets. 'Not the best,' he says in all honesty, 'but one that I could live on, if I was careful, and went to one of the less expensive colleges.'

What then happened to him, this ploughboy turned scholar? For what follows I am deeply indebted to Dr Roger Norris, of the Chapter Library, and to our own Canon Geoffrey Williams.

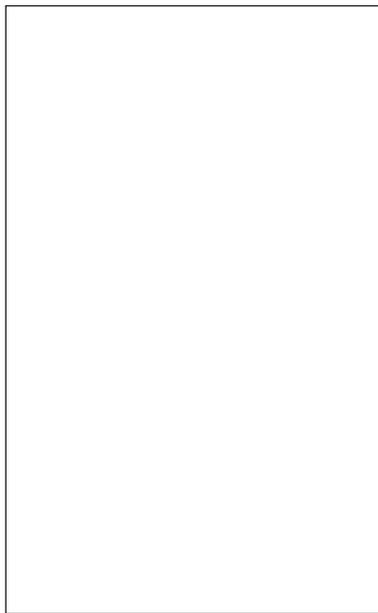
Well he was not Richard Hillier but the Venerable Charles James Stranks, and his College, as he knew it would not be, for it was out of his reach, was not University College but St Chad's. The list of his achievements is formidable: 1928-40 Missionary in Japan; 1947-54 Warden of Whalley Abbey, Canon of Blackburn and Director of Religious Education; 1958-73 10th Canon of Durham; and 1954 6th Canon of Durham, one of the Golden Canonries; and Archdeacon of Auckland until 1973. And he wrote books, and became a renowned authority on a divine not altogether unlike himself, the 17th Century Jeremy Taylor. He lived, while in Durham, in the College, 'in the long low house which is the first on the right as you emerge from the Cathedral Treasury and Restaurant.' And while he was there, with the chatter of the jackdaws and the low murmur of the Cathedral bells forever in his ears, he repaid his debt to the City and the Cathedral and the genius loci that he loved by writing what Canon

Williams has called, 'that splendid book on the history of Durham Cathedral: That Sumptuous Church.'

He died in 1981.

What sort of a man was he, this Venerable Charles James Stranks, whom I have got to know so well this year? After such an apprenticeship to life we could not expect him to be other than austere. We never knew him as 'Charles' , our Canon Geoffrey told me; 'he was always either Canon Stranks or C. J. Stranks. That is perhaps significant.'

But Richard Hillier would have gone into our Fellows' Garden on one of Castle's June Ball nights, of that I am sure, for as I said he was a poet at heart. And, a poet at heart, or rather a scholar at heart at whose ear poetry was always tweaking, he would have fancied, while he listened to the faraway music of the band in Castle Great Hall, Lucy Driffield's slender unfulfilled ghost straightening the fairy lights as they winked along the pathways in the dew-wet grass.



# Uganda Gold

## An African trip supported by a College Travel Grant

This year I was lucky enough to be selected to be part of the team going to Uganda to run a Guiding Overseas Linked with Development (GOLD) project in association with the Girl Guides of Uganda. The aim of our project was to run four training sessions for Guiders and Young Leaders to enable them to run effectively their own Guide units, to identify developmental projects for Guide units, to train the participants in basic first-aid and to build upon the trainings given by the GOLD teams in the past two years.

While we were in Uganda our team of six travelled to four different locations around the country to offer trainings as well as seeing some sights and going on safari at the end of our three week trip. Our first training centre was at Adjumani, a United Nations refugee camp in the far north of the country on the border with Sudan. We flew from Uganda's capital Kampala up to Adjumani in a 19-seater plane with various stops to deliver papers and go to the loo and on arrival at the airstrip (complete with 'airstrip lounge') we were met by a UN landrover to take us to our accommodation in the World Food Programme compound. As we drove along the red dirt roads we saw streams of refugees stretching to the horizon, many without shoes, and young children alone or with their mother carrying the entire family's belongings in a basket on her head. We learnt from the



*Playing games in Adjumani.*

head of the UN High Commission for Refugees sub-office that in less than two days some 3880 refugees had flooded over the border.



*GOLD Team in traditional dress.*

Our training at Adjumani took place in what is to be an orphanage but which is empty at the moment. It was a single room with no glass in the windows but which provided some shade from the sun. Most of the 80 or so participants were Sudanese; some were teachers and many had brought their babies with them. The training was generally very successful and we had a lot of fun both teaching and learning songs and games as well as doing first aid sessions and focussing on self-esteem, leadership and communication which were skills the Ugandan Girl Guide Association were keen we targeted during the trainings. The three-day training was interspersed with insect and animal incidents and our reactions to orange lizards dropping from the ceiling had the participants in stitches! After a wonderful, though less than safe, campfire on our final night in Adjumani, it was time to move on to our next training after spending a couple of days in Kampala.

Training number two was in Kumi, a small town in the east of Uganda and on our journey there we visited the source of the river Nile at Jinja. I have to admit that it took a lot to convince me that the Nile flows up through Sudan and Egypt to the Mediterranean rather than the other way round!

In Kumi we stayed in a new guest house which was very nice and proved to be relatively bug free although the novelty of being woken up at 7am to be given a bucket of hot water did wear off after a while! Our training centre was part of Kumi University and consisted of a room, again without glass or doors, but with blackboards which saved us using the limited supply of flipcharts which we had brought with us.

We had about 70 participants at the training which, although we were told to expect 200, was quite a good number. We did lose quite a bit of training time as we were taken on the obligatory rounds of the local dignitaries which took forever and our transport also proved to be less than reliable, stalling intermittently along the road. Nevertheless the training went quite well and despite the hold ups and the fact that many of the girls were younger than we were hoping for, we had a lot of fun and hopefully taught the participants the basics.

Whilst in Kumi we got the chance to visit a primary school and a hospital, both of which were very interesting but the latter certainly encouraged me to stay healthy while I was there. We also spent an evening with Joyce, the training coordinator in Kumi who taught us to make peanut sauce (something we ate rather a lot of) and how to roast ground-nuts. We had traditional dresses made although we had to choose the fabrics by candlelight as there was no electricity and some of us didn't realise how bright they actually were!

We travelled straight from Kumi to Lira, a town in central Uganda. The journey lasted four hours and we arrived in Lira looking as if we had been well and truly 'tangoed.' We, and our blue and white striped uniform shirts, had seriously suffered from the orange Ugandan dust which filled the

minibus as we drove. We discovered that instead of the hundreds of girls we were expecting we had fifteen participants which was a bit disappointing. By the end of the training we had 36 girls in total as some arrived from Gulu as their coordinator had heard of our coming on the radio. Nonetheless the small number gave us a chance to have a rest as instead of splitting into three groups we took turns to train in pairs, leaving the others free to explore Lira. Due to the poor turnout and late starts we gave the participants a bit of a whistle stop tour through the training but hopefully they will have taken something away.

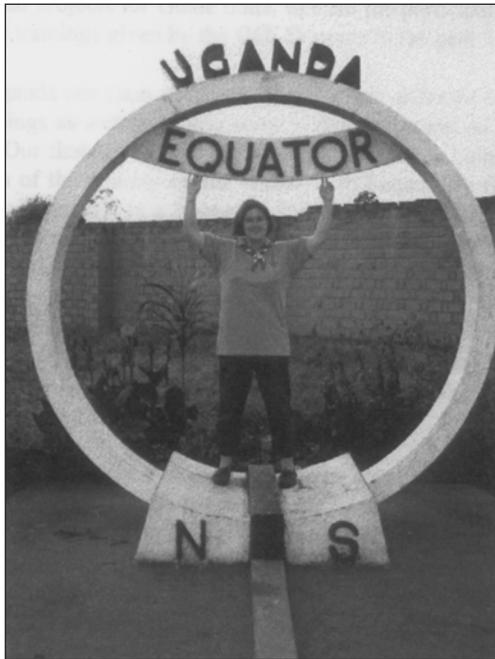
Our final training was in Kampala so we boarded a public bus, complete with chickens (dead and alive) to head back to the capital. Here we had another disappointment when we heard that just six of the 340 girls we were expecting had arrived. We decided to postpone the training until others turned up and so had a relaxing day at our guest-house. We did eventually put on a single training day for 37 participants which was fine and the day ended with a closing ceremony with the national commissioner as guest of honour.

As we had a few days to spare before flying home we went on safari at Murchison Falls National Park. Here we stayed in what seemed like the height of luxury after our time without hot water or electricity in a tented camp at the Sambiya river lodge. We went on a trek to see Murchison Falls. It was a fantastic sight to see the entire river Nile pour through a gap in the rock only six metres wide. We went on an early morning game drive where we saw giraffes, warthogs and lots of antelope. In the afternoon we took a boat trip down the Nile and saw elephants drinking, hundreds of hippos and crocodiles. Our final morning at Murchison Falls was spent chimpanzee tracking and despite all the warnings not to get our hopes up we were lucky enough to see three or four chimps and heard what sounded like thousands more.

So our trip was finally and sadly over. I flew back to the UK having had a fantastic experience and desperate to go back. The people were lovely, the training was a challenge

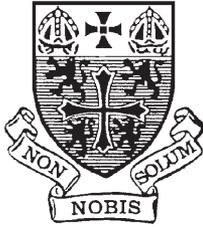
and the lifestyle just so laid back its nearly horizontal. With two years of the GOLD project left to run in Uganda I can only hope that future teams will have as good a time as I had. I am grateful to University College Durham for providing a travel grant to enable me to participate in this scheme.

*Catherine Grey*  
*November 2000*



*Catherine Grey.*

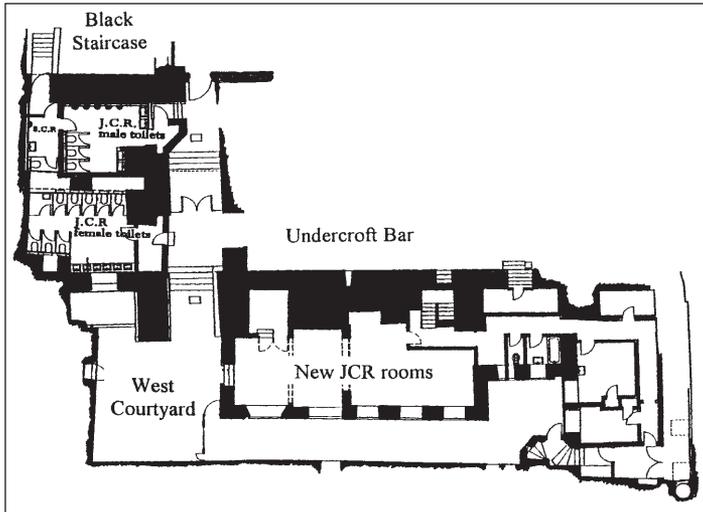




# The Durham Castle Society

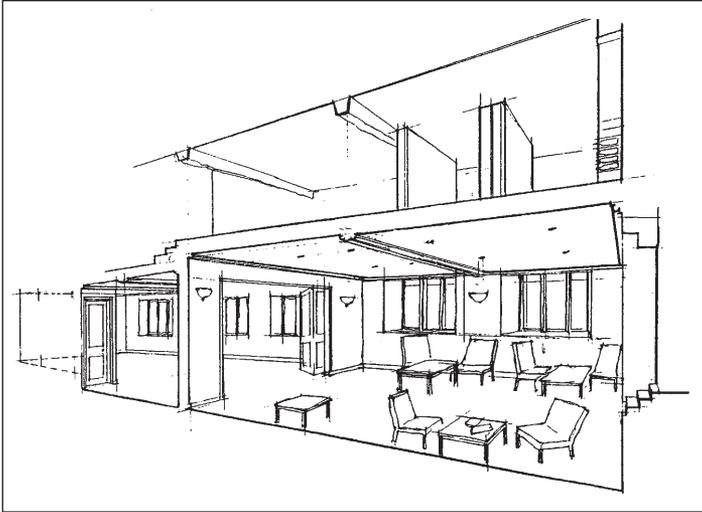
## MILLENNIUM APPEAL FOR WEST COURTYARD PHASE II

University College



*Plan of the proposed extension of the West Courtyard area.*

The Durham Castle Society is appealing in this Millennium year for support from Castle graduates to fund an extension to the West Courtyard area to provide more communal space for the Junior Common Room. There is a shortage of common rooms in the Castle for the JCR, now that there are around 600 members of the College. Plans have been accepted by the City to extend the West Courtyard area to create three connected rooms. These are effectively behind the main wall of the Undercroft and below the Servery.



*Architect's impression of the new JCR rooms.*

The estimated cost of the project is £130,000 and we are hoping to be able to raise half of this through our graduates and the Durham Castle Society.

**Durham Castle Society Website: [www.durhamcastle.org](http://www.durhamcastle.org)**

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## Where are they?

Does anyone know the whereabouts of any of the following ...

<b>Mr. N. R. Anthony</b>	<b>1975–78</b>
<b>Mr. W. A. M. Jenkins</b>	<b>1957–60</b>
<b>Mr. S. P. Meyrick</b>	<b>1981–84</b>
<b>Mr. T. M. Palmer</b>	<b>1985–88</b>
<b>Mr. N. J. Walshe</b>	<b>1978–81</b>
<b>Miss. S. L. Wilson</b>	<b>1990–93</b>

... contact the College if you have any information.

# NEWS OF CASTLE PEOPLE

James Ogden

(1954–58)

Tegfan, Llandre, Bow Street, Ceredigion

I don't think I have sent anything for this section recently, so I had better say I am now fully retired. I am still fairly active in research and edited a collection of essays on *King Lear*, *Lear from Study to Stage*, Associated University Presses, 1997. I expect to publish an edition of *She Stoops to Conquer*, New Mermaid series, A. & C. Black, 2001.

Among my Durham contemporaries I still try to keep in touch with A.I. Doyle, Ian Thompson, Richard Bailey and others connected with the Department of English. Callers and correspondence welcome.

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## Mr. Mike Craven writes:

... I was at Durham, University College from 1964 to 1967, and I had a good friend – John Troop. We lost contact a number of years ago since I am now in South Africa and he had domestic problems and I was wondering if you could help in re-establishing contact. To help you, John graduated in 1967 with a 1st in Arabic – if I remember correctly he was the first student to do so – and he started a PhD the following year. I have looked on the list of alumni and no person was found with surname Troop. I shall be in UK next April and would like to meet with him if at all possible.

Apart from my wife, Elizabeth, who was at St Hilds from 1965 to 1968, I have contact with Geoff Ellerton who graduated in 1967. *Can anyone help?* Replies to [mikecr@absa.co.za](mailto:mikecr@absa.co.za)

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## from Mr. B. Spedding, 10 Front Street, Newbiggin by the Sea, Northumberland

... I thought you might be interested to know that Matthew Spedding who graduated BSc at the Castle last June is a grandson of J Spedding, DSO, DFC, RAF, PFF.

Jack Spedding graduated BA at the Castle in the early thirties and was Secretary of the Castlemen's Society for 25 years, retiring due to illness in 1979/80.

I trust that DCS is as strong as ever. My last visit to the Castle was to a Flower Festival organised by Pat Slater. I am too decrepit to visit now, however I did attend Evensong a few years ago when Matthew was singing in the Castle choir one evening at the Cathedral, A kind friend drove me over. I don't suspect you have many members who remember Jack! With kindest regards!



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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## WORLD HERITAGE SITE



# CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEWS

Please return this form (or a copy) to the Editor at Barras House, Front Street, Burnopfield, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE16 6PY, fax to 01207 270999, or e-mail [anylex@LineOne.net](mailto:anylex@LineOne.net).

Name:

Years in Residence:

Address:

Please send to arrive by 10th January 2002 for publication in 2002/2003 Castellum.

## DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2000

	2000	1999
	£	£
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Subscriptions	9,221.00	8,230.00
Donations	—	11.76
History Sales	—	100.00
Interest Received	1,103.13	910.45
	10,324.13	9,252.21
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>		
Castellum	2,942.70	2,674.02
Membership List (Booklet)	1,067.54	—
Reunion Expenses	367.51	170.38
Postage	934.49	610.13
Other Printing & Stationery	181.44	189.42
Miscellaneous	50.30	412.63
Secretarial Costs	108.00	417.60
	5,651.98	4,474.18
	4,672.15	4778.03
West Courtyard Project	10,000.00	—
Leonard Slater Fellowship	5,000.00	—
University College Flags (2)	710.88	—
	15,710.88	—
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	£(11,038.73)	£4,778.03

## DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

### Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2000

	2000	1999
	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
High Interest Business Account	18,845.54	26,415.80
Business Premium Account	729.86	2,358.33
Community Account	100.00	100.00
	19,675.40	28,874.13
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Subscriptions in Advance	12,915.00	10,850.00
Sundry Creditors	—	225.00
	12,915.00	11,075.00
	£6,760.40	£17,799.13
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Accumulated Fund:		
Opening Balance	17,799.13	13,021.10
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(11,038.73)	4,778.03
	£6,760.40	£17,799.13

*Martin E. Gunson, F.C.A., F.R.S.A., Hon. Treasurer*

## COLLEGE OFFICERS, 2000–2001

### MASTER

M. E. Tucker, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S., C.Geol.

### SENIOR TUTOR

Paula H. Stirling, LL.B.

### BURSAR

E. A. Gibson, M.B.A., F.I.Mgt.

### SOLWAY FELLOW AND CHAPLAIN

Rev. B. Gordon-Taylor, BA., MA.

### LOWE LIBRARIAN

R. I. Higgins, BA, MA, PhD

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F. W. Pritchard, LL.B., Dip.Lib.

### TUTORS

\*J. Bialek, M.Sc., Ph.D.

\*P. Bowcock, B.A., Ph.D.

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\*W. A. Callahan, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

R. H. F. Carver, B.A., M.A., D.Phil.

\*A. W. Craig, B.A., Ph.D.

B. G. Davis, B.A., D.Phil.

M. R. Dyer, B.Eng., B.Sc, D.Phil.

\*H. M. Fenwick, B.A., LLB., CNAA

F. J. Fitch, M.Mus., Ph.D.

Mrs. C. B. Fowler, B.A.

T. Fowler, B.A.

Rev. B. Gordon-Taylor, B.A., MA.

\*Ruth A. W. Gregory, M.A., Ph.D.

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M. Iannizzotto, B.Sc, M.Sc.

P. Koutrakos

M. Leyland, Ph.D.

S. W. Lindsay, B.Sc., Ph.D.

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P. Maropoulos, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

A. J. Olechnowicz, B.A., D.Phil.

Samantha Pearson, B.Sc., Ph.D.  
 \*G. Phillipson, B.A., LL.M.  
 F. W. Pritchard, LL.B., Dip.Lib.  
 A. Purvis, B.Sc., Ph.D., C.Eng., M.I.E.E.  
 \*J. D. Rigg, B.A., Ph.D.  
 J. Rougier, B.A., Ph.D.  
 \*D. Rowley-Conwy  
 \*D. Sadler, B.A., Ph.D.  
 A. L. Sanders, B.A., M.Litt., Ph.D.  
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 V. Tucker  
 B. R. Turner, B.Sc., MSc., Ph.D., FGS.  
 \*G. Welsh, M.B.S.S., M.R.C., P.G. \*joint tutors.

### **Dates of 2001 Reunion**

Friday 23rd March to Sunday 25th March 2001.  
 The Reunion Dinner is on Saturday, 24th March 2001.

### **Dates of 2002 Reunion**

Friday 22nd March to Sunday 24th March 2002.  
 The Reunion Dinner is on Saturday, 23rd March 2002.

## **Applications for admission to University College**

The Master requests that any old Castleman whose sons or daughters are applying for admission to the College should let him know the name of the applicant by June of the year in which the application form is submitted.

### **Telephone Numbers:**

<i>General Enquiries</i>	0191 374 3800
<i>College Office</i>	0191 374 3861
<i>University College Fax</i>	0191 374 7470
<i>University Main Switchboard</i>	0191 374 2000



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