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Castellum



THE MAGAZINE OF THE DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

Floreat
Castellum!



No. 56
2004

DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

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2004 John Robson

2005 Vicky Rubin

2004 Phil Dawson

2006 Henry Ashworth

2005 Peter Crowley

2005 Roy Heady

Society Representative on the College Council:

Mr. Alex J. Nelson

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 photographs: Royston Thomas Photography, by kind permission.

EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

When I first became Editor of this august organ, I introduced a new cover photograph of the gatehouse, which was replaced a few years later with a new policy of changing the picture each year. Sixteen years later and the wellsprings have run dry, and I have no photographs suitable for the portrait shaped cover. To the rescue has come Royston Thomas, author of the new book "Images of Durham" which was so warmly commended by the Chancellor, Sir Peter Ustinov, when it came out last year. "This is a book to be treasured, to be referred to often, to be continuously available," he wrote.

Royston Thomas Photography has been featured in Durham First, the magazine of the University Alumni Association, with individual prints available as well as the book containing 69 evocative black and white photographs which offer a personal view of Durham. The cost is £15.00. Details at:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/Alumni/prod/royston.php3>

Castellum has been invited to use pictures in exchange for a plug for the excellent book which can be ordered on line or by post. (For enquiries about despatch, including overseas delivery, please phone or fax 0191 384 4120.)

We also introduce lots of photographs taken for the Year Book which comes out each summer, which gives Castellum a more contemporary feel and I am delighted that for the first time in a few years we have a detailed Senior Man's JCR report which gives a detailed picture of last year. Don't forget that in ten year's time, memories of those who were there and the report in Castellum will be all that recognises the achievement of the year. It's worth having a full report in Castellum for posterity!

There comes a time when your magazine may no longer be of any use, and some Castlemen, before their demise, make arrangements to pass on their magazines! For example, Colin Wakeling in Galashiels made contract with me recently to offer a run of Castellum from 1962 onwards as he rationalises his bookcases. If anyone is interested in acquiring back numbers, please let me know. Personally I have a complete run back to 1948 when the Society was started by Len Slater to keep in touch with those who had been in the College earlier in the War and were on His Majesty's service prior to returning to complete their degrees. Their spirits will hopefully be raised, in the great Common Room in the sky, by the knowledge that the magazine now prints 2,750 copies each year, is sent all over the world, and introduces colour for the first time in its 56th edition. Enjoy!

*Alex Nelson
Burnopfield, Co. Durham
March 2004*

LETTER FROM THE MASTER

DECEMBER 2003

As I write this letter on the last day of 2003, I look back and wonder where the year went. So much seems to have happened in the College and in the University in 2003, and as always the JCR keeps me and the other College officers on our toes. We have had many successes, but some sad incidents too.

It continues to be very difficult to choose students for places here, with there now being over 3,500 applications to Castle for around 200 places. When the UCAS form comes to the College, the applicant has already been accepted for a course and we are looking to see what extra the student can bring to the College community, in the way of art, drama, sport, music, etc. We have one of the lowest drop-out rates of the Durham Colleges; just six left during the year 2002–03 (<1%). I am pleased to report that for the most part Castle students work very hard and overall they did very well in their final exams last year; 74% of our students gained 2.1s and 1st's in June 2003.

This October the University burst its seams and took 300 more students than the 3000 expected. This was partly because of the better than expected 'A' level results and because too many offers were made in some Colleges (not this one!). We took in 229 freshers, 209 home and 20 overseas. This is the most the College has ever taken but luckily we managed to find rooms for all our home students and some from abroad, and we just had to rent two houses in the city for our Erasmus students – those from Europe here for a term or just one year. Some Colleges had to 'head-lease' numerous houses for home freshers, a great shame since this goes against the ethos of Durham, that we provide rooms in College for all freshers. As a result of the pressure on rooms in this College, we did not have any postgraduates living-in for the second year running. I really feel this is a mistake and when the new College is built (see below) I hope we can go back to having a dozen or more PGs living-in again.

One very sad incident occurred on the first day of term: one of our freshers, who had only been in Durham for four days and was walking up to her first formal dinner, was very seriously injured when a driver-less council van parked on Palace Green rolled back down Owengate and crushed her against the wall there. She spent six weeks in hospital here in intensive care before she could be moved to a hospital in Derby, near to where she lives. We sincerely hope she is able to come back this October to start again.

On the social side, the Epiphany term 2003 was noteworthy for the first College Feast – a black-tie dinner in the Great Hall for the JCR, MCR and SCR, preceded by fizzy in the SCR and followed by cheese and piano accompaniment in the Middle Common Room (St Calais Room, old TV

room), and coffee and jazz in the Undercroft. This event was held during Arts Week, when *Arcadia* was performed in the Lowe Library; there was a chamber concert in the Hall, and an art exhibition on the Norman Gallery.

June Ball this year was notable for some experimentation; there was no giant marquee in the Fellows Garden but dinner for 400 was served in the Courtyard, under two smaller awnings. There were three illuminated water fountains there too, as well as a string quartet. Fortunately it was a balmy summer's evening, so it was an enormous success. As usual, the fireworks overhead and the singing of Floreat Castellum brought tears to many eyes! To cool off, an ice-rink was set up in the Fellows Garden (actually it was plastic – although you would not know it); however, it was stopped early after someone fell over and then got run over and was taken to hospital! – nothing broken – don't worry.

The Castle Theatre Company continues to thrive and put on a wonderful *Midsummer Nights Dream* in the Fellows Garden in June. This was then taken on tour to some country houses in the South of England.

The College now has its own Big Band and they performed in the Hall at the end of the Michaelmas term to great acclaim. The 18-piece band entertained over 100 people to great foot-tapping, happy music. A really enjoyable and witty pantomime, *Aladdin*, written by 3rd year Tall Kate, was put on by QwikFix Productions, an offshoot of the Castle Theatre Company. The latter was also on the stage in December doing *Richard III*, with extremely realistic and enthusiastic, almost dangerous, sword-fights.

Another special occasion in 2003 was the unveiling of John Atkin's portrait at a dinner in May when the artist, Andrew Radcliffe, and the VC came too. Fortunately John has now fully recovered from his broken ankle, sustained through a fall on ice outside his house in January 2003.

The MCR continues to flourish – see separate report – and they organise dinners, debates, wine tastings, musical evenings and talks in the common room. There are some 65 postgraduate members of College and it is good to see them playing an active role here.

One amusing incident to relate is that one Sunday in November we noticed someone had written in extremely large letters in white emulsion MADE IN TAIWAN on the grass sloping down from the Keep, facing Gilesgate. Apparently the University had received phone calls about the message for a few days before, but no-one had told us! It took the gardeners several hours to remove the letters, achieved in the end by cutting the grass very short! We suspect Hild-Bede, since theirs is the only College from which the message could be seen. We also had an incident in which all the pansies were removed from the flower bed by the tennis court in Hatfield and a message – CASSLE WOZ HERE – written in sand. On being summoned by the Master of Hatfield, I blamed Hild-Bede! After all, we can spell!

There have been several important developments within the University in the last year – beginning with the publication of the Strategic Improvement

Plan (SIP) that seeks to raise the University to one of the top five for research (in some league tables we are placed around twelfth for this) in the country. The main consequence of the SIP was the decision to close three departments (Linguistics, East Asian Studies and Middle East Studies) for undergraduate teaching and to restructure some others; this made the headlines in the broadsheets, as some of you may have seen. The rationale here is to concentrate resources so that some departments are expanding as a result of the redistribution of the resource saved by the closures. For example, the department I spend half of my time in, now renamed Earth Sciences, has benefited and we expect five new posts in the next two years. Law and the Business School are also recruiting. Earth Sciences also has a brand new building – completed last week in fact, an impressive, silver-fronted structure located between Engineering and Geography, where some low huts (Biology) had been for decades.

Another major change is that St Mary's College will go mixed (will it change its name I wonder!). The University has agreed to continue to provide some accommodation for women only, however, but it has not decided where this shall be. The main reason for this change is that Mary's receives few direct applications – less than 200 in fact.

The University has also announced that it will build a new College – name still to be decided, located on the Howlands site, beyond Collingwood, where Ustinov College (formerly Graduate Society) is based. New accommodation is also being provided for Cuths and Ustinov in the Parson's Field area (Old Elvet, by the Law Courts), so that by 2006 there will be 1000 more beds within the University. All this should alleviate the accommodation problems within the City, which have given rise to some adverse publicity and criticism from the local MP and others.

2007 will be the 175th anniversary of the University and it is hoped that by then the University will have raised £175,000,000 from various sources, starting from four years ago. Over half has already been raised, mainly in increased research income. There are various major fund-raising projects associated with this and of note for us is the aim to raise £7million for renovation of the Castle, mainly repairs to roofs and walls. Anyone got any dosh under their mattress?!

Another major issue for the University, and for the Cathedral too, is the ambition of Durham City and County to enlarge the World Heritage Site. Most people visiting Durham come for two or three hours and do not stay overnight. The City would like to enlarge the WHS to include the whole Peninsula and river banks, and develop the Site as more of an attraction (new riverbank gardens for example), so that tourists stay longer (two new 500-bed hotels planned) and spend more money in the shops (which would offer more in the way of quality). For the University however, the priority has to be restoration of the Castle, and then its removal from English Heritage's At Risk register, before any expansion is considered. Both the University and

the Cathedral are worried about the dilution of the WH experience through enlargement, as well as the reduction of the chance to obtain funding if there are many other buildings within the Site seeking money for restoration.

Within the City itself of course we have had congestion charging for over a year now, whereby from 10-4 pm, Monday through Saturday, motorists have had to pay £2 to drive out of the Market Place. This has led to a remarkable reduction of traffic in Saddler Street and on Palace Green during the day, down to 15% of 2002 levels. However, I do know of eleven cars that have been hoisted up on the rising bollard as a result of a driver not realising he had to pay or trying to avoid paying or just the system going wrong! The bollard typically causes several £1000 of damage as it goes through the engine, floor or petrol tank of the car!

As for my other life with limestones that keeps me out of mischief and takes me away from the Castle, my travels this year have involved research along the Red Sea coast of Egypt, and lectures and conferences in Copenhagen, Belem in Brazil, Opatija in Croatia, Oman, and Ghent. I still visit the carboniferous limestones of Teesdale and Weardale, however. Indeed my last two papers published in 2003 have been on these.

As always thanks to all of you for your continued support of the College.

Floreat Castellum

*Maurice Tucker, Master
31st December 2003*



The Master, the Senior Tutor and the Chaplain lead the Freshers to matriculate in the Cathedral

OBITUARY

Peter Jeffreys (1949–1952)

I first met Peter, who came up to Durham just after me, at a long-ago Reunion; and at every Reunion after I looked out for him, for he was the most amiable of souls, the best table-companion one could wish for – engaging, charming, witty.

He was never one to thrust himself forward; to impose his personality on those around him. Quiet-spoken and unassuming, he had the good manners of an earlier time; and unlike many, if not most, he could laugh at himself as well as at others.

When he came to my birthday party in London a couple of years ago, his present to me was a bottle of wine labelled Old Git.

And there was once a pub in Durham's Market Square, the Wheatsheaf, which has long since been pulled down in the interests of progress. Up for the Reunion, we always filed into it before Saturday luncheon because it was the only 'house' which sold Draught Bass.

We were about to push the door open on one such Saturday when Peter excused himself: 'Got to make a phone call. Don't forget my Bass!'

One of us – it was Mike Pulling – gave the order: 'Eight pints of Bass, please, and one of your ordinary.'

Peter coming in lifted his glass of 'ordinary' against the light, savouring its reflecting amber. Then he took a long pull; before exhaling loudly and exclaiming: 'Ah, lovely drop of Bass!'

Later he told me he had known all along what we would do.

For his time at Durham and his life after it . . . He was up at Durham from 1949 to 1952, reading PPE. He played Fives for Castle, and was the Fives Club Secretary in his finals year. He was a computer man, at one time lecturing in data processing at Hatfield Polytechnic, before moving to the Polytechnic of North London to take over their computer system.

At last Reunion we, his concerned friends, saw that the old spark in him had dimmed – if it had not quite gone out. We did not know why. Yet he broke his usual reticence to me, in the Saturday night courtyard lit by its artificial moons and rich with the subdued laughter of Castlemen old and young.

'I love this place,' he said.

I knew he expected no answer; perhaps guessing it was the place itself, the *genius loci*, he was talking to and not me.

He died on 17th of May of last year – of stomach cancer.

A private man, as you can see, he had a private funeral. At his own request the only music that was played was 'The Blaydon Races'.

Edgar Jones

OBITUARY

The Venerable W.D. Robinson

Mrs. Carol A.R. Robinson was in contact to inform the College and Castellum members of the death of her husband, The Venerable W.D. Robinson who passed away on Thursday, 12th June 2003 with the funeral taking place on Wednesday 18th June at St. Oswald's Church, Warton. Prior to his death The Venerable Robinson had included a donation for the University Durham Trust. He was the man who acted as host, as a fellow cleric of the Blackburn Diocese, at Whalley Abbey, the day after Canon Geoffrey Williams died.

John Robson, another regular attender at Whalley Abbey and Durham Reunions has died and an appreciation will appear in the next edition. John was a member of the Society Committee.

THE WHALLEY REUNION

Well, this year's Whalley Reunion, the first since its founder Canon Geoffrey died, went off so swimmingly that we have no fears for its future.

A number of aficionados could not come; and three, grievously, had died. But there were enough of us there to justify the title of Reunion.

The next Whalley Reunion is on Friday, 3rd September 2004. If you bring a lady, remember to bring with her a fat cheque-book, for there's a stunning ladies' wear shop in the village, and a stunning ladies' shoe shop within a stone's throw of it. And having indulged your stunning lady you can window-shop for yourself before the mystifyingly sumptuous gents' outfitters close by while you jingle the small change in your trouser pocket.

But who cares? For it's the euphoria come from meeting old friends, dining with old friends, and raising a glass with old friends that gives to Reunions such as ours at Whalley that glow that passes understanding.,

Make a point then of coming on the 3rd! Ring me on 01970 623514!

See you there!

Edgar Jones

Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 29th March 2003 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

Approximately 50 members were in attendance.

Apologies for Absence

Norman Butterworth, Jim Corben, E Forman, Wilfred Hastings, Gordon Rawson, J E Thompson, K I Johnson, J A Robson, J S Morland, D Holbrook, Len Hamer, J G Bridges, G Hutchins, David Moore, Michael Walters, Roy Todd, Neville Pearson, Albert Cartmell, Tommy Worswick.

The Master was sorry to report that the following deaths have been reported to the Society:

Graham Rodmell, Pro-Vice Chancellor
Canon Geoffrey Williams
Peter Gould
K B Gibson

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 23rd March 2002, having been published in *Castellum*, were accepted as a true record and signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising

None.

Report of Chairman of University College Durham Trust

The Trust is in good hands, but due to market conditions this year the value of the trust fell to £250,931, down from £292,000 the previous year. Significant donations have been received: £5,000 from Canon Williams, £4,000 from Dr Doyle. Sconces – fines for JCR members stepping out of line – have made a number of additional contributions to the trust – e.g. disgracing oneself at formal dinner £20; putting a sock over a fire alarm £100. It was suggested we should consider having more fire alarms installed. The recent appeal mailing led to an increase in regular contributions and one off donations. The long-awaited Owengate bike shed will be installed next term. A hope was expressed that the space behind the bike shed will have a softer surface than concrete.

Report from the Editor of Castellum

Sixty pages this year. This year's feature was on Lumley Castle. Next year's will be on Moatside, to link to the proposed refurbishment of Moatside in 2004. Alex is keen to encourage contributions of photographs, and is willing to include colour if he has suitable pictures to use.

The meeting expressed its appreciation to Alex.

Report from Representative on College Council – Previously Governing Body

Nothing to report.

Whalley Abbey Reunion

This has been run for thirteen years, hosted by Canon Williams in Whalley Abbey, near Clitheroe. Although this was originally a reunion for those in the North West, it has been attracting Castlemen from all over the country. It will continue in 2003, organised by Edgar Jones, with a dinner on Friday 29th August.

Report from the JCR

Chris Storr – Senior Man. This has been a spirited year for the JCR, with over 200 freshers, only one of whom has left. Castlemen are now playing hard, but also studying hard as well. Lots of people have been involved in charitable events – for example a group of students ran from St Cuthberts in their underpants, raising over £500. The rugby captain, Quentin Hicks, is running across the Sahara Desert in aid of Alzheimer's research. Kenneth Dalgleish, chapel clerk, is running the London Marathon in aid of the Red Cross.

Sports. This year the University has adopted a high performance strategy – Team Durham. This means that those who don't wish to make the lifestyle choice of dedicating themselves to this level of commitment have come back into College level sport, enhancing the standard at which we are able to compete. Profits from the Undercroft bar have also been ploughed in to support Castle's sport. The boat club now have over 120 members, but wrote off their eight on the Tyne last year. The men's crew are rowing at the Tideway head today. The Lumley run continues.

An Arts Week was held in Castle this week, culminating in a College Feast – in black tie and gowns.

The Chapel Choir is the best in Durham.

The Castle Theatre Company tours the south of England again this year.

The West Courtyard Common Room has enhanced the JCR facilities, and is very well used. The JCR pass on their thanks to the Castle Society for helping to make this a reality.

The last social event was a Stock Market Ball, in which the price of drinks fluctuates depending on demand. The irony was that the whole market crashed at around 10:30 p.m.!

Presentation of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2002

Martin Gunson talked through the Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2002, as published in *Castellum*. This shows a surplus of £8,580.89 and a balance of £18,782.32.

Our expenditure last year took the following into account:

- Trophies were purchased by the Society and awarded at the sports event held at the reunion for recent graduates.
- The Sports Store was completed.
- The Fonteyn Doors were completed by Estates and Buildings without needing our contribution.
- A £500 grant to the Castle Theatre Company wasn't taken up as they didn't go to the Edinburgh Fringe.

John Hollier proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Mike Pulling and carried on a general aye.

Martin again thanked the College for the work done by the College Secretary, the Bursar and his team.

Business from Durham Castle Society Committee

- "Peter Crowley authorised to act on our behalf to spend up to £8,000 (including his own £3,000 donation) on a piano for the College, with our Treasurer having discretion to increase this figure by up to £2,000 if an opportunity to purchase the right instrument presents itself. The piano to be available to all in the college with the ability to play it. The College to be responsible for regular maintenance and tuning." Martin Gunson explained that there are many musicians in College who would play a boudoir or baby grand piano, but rely mainly on a variety of keyboards of varying quality.
- "£750 grant to the JCR to purchase a sound system for the West Courtyard." This proposal is to improve the ambience of the new JCR area, by purchasing a suitable sound system, controlled from the security of the Toastie Bar.
- "A grant of £2,000, plus a matching amount to the funds raised by the boat club, towards the total cost of £6,445 plus VAT for a new four, up to a maximum of £4,750." This recognises that the Boat Club have already done a tremendous fundraising job to purchase a new eight. A new four would be well used following a growth in membership.
- "A donation of £5,000 to the University College Durham Trust."

These four motions were carried en bloc in a general aye.

Election of Officers

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

Secretary	Kevin Hawes
Treasurer	Martin E Gunson
Editor of Castellum	Alex Nelson
Representative on College Council	Alex Nelson
Trustee, University College Durham Trust (to serve until 2005)	John Hollier

Nominations for the remaining posts were as follows:

Two members of the committee to serve until 2006 – Henry Ashworth proposed by Vicki Rubin and seconded by Chris Storr, and Roy Heady, proposed by John Hollier and seconded by Mike Pulling. There being no other nominations Henry and Roy were duly elected.

Any Other Business

A protest was registered about the absence of draught beer in the bar. We were promised that this will be rectified next year. Appreciation was expressed to Henry Ashworth for attempting to get a barrel at short notice for this evening.

The Shakespeare has been closed for two months. We are advised that the current Bar Chairman and JCR Treasurer have applied for the licence of The Shakespeare.

2004 Reunion

The 58th reunion of the Durham Castle Society will take place from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th April 2004. A reunion for recent graduates will be held in June 2003. The Whalley Abbey reunion dinner will take place on Friday 29th August 2003.



JCR REPORT 2002–2003

An intake of well over 200 new Castlemen and women kick-started what was to be another vintage year for the JCR of University College. The student body was larger than ever before, as the College continues to be forced by the University to accommodate ever more undergraduates. Despite spiralling numbers of students, however, Castle's spirit and collegiality remained undiluted and as potent as ever. Thankfully, out of the record number of Castle Freshers who matriculated in October, all save one remained at Durham for the entire year. This leaving rate is well below the average at other Colleges and is, I believe, testament to the range and the quality of student support within College, and indicative of the unique sense of community that Castle embodies.

College spirit was especially strong this year, with the 'work hard, play hard' ethos proving especially evident. In addition to the academic successes of our finalists, Castle remained committed and successful on the sports field, and the envy of other Colleges in the arts and social spheres. Aided by a particularly active first year, which immersed itself readily into all aspects of college life, sports and societies flourished.

In sport, UCBC enjoyed an excellent season with victories and other successes at York Small Boats Head, Rutherford Head, York Spring Regatta, Durham Head, and Durham Regatta for the Fours. More crews of Eights (three men's and three women's) were on the water than ever before, as membership of the club reached record levels. This produced a great strain on the club's tired and limited equipment, and replacements needed to be found – and bought – if all who wanted to row were to be given the opportunity. Thanks to the generosity of the Castle Society, the College, and the measured direction of Bar Reserves, the Boat Club is now one of the best equipped in Durham. This, and the dedication of focussed members, should ensure a bright future for the club.

Away from the river, the men's first XV were undefeated in the league, and had been promoted to the top-flight by Christmas. They also reached the semi-finals of the Trophy and of the 'Town and Gown' Sevens tournaments in a year where some lost respect was rightly regained. Our Netball team, who notched up some impressive victories in the league after a couple of quiet years, also found new form. Men's Football 'A' missed promotion by the narrowest of margins, and Women's Football re-established themselves as a force to be reckoned with. A resurrected Women's Rugby team achieved early successes, and the Men's Hockey team were narrowly beaten by Hild-Bede in a tense final, playing with passion and dedication until the end. Special mention must also go to the Pool 'B' Team who were crowned champions in the trophy competition, and the College Golf team who also won their Trophy competition.

Standards in college sports were raised across the board this year, and it gave me great pride to see players who had been selected by the County, and who were very much in demand from the University teams, choosing instead to play for Castle. The whole college benefits from such loyalty, and also from the strengthening of college spirit that such loyalty engenders.

We were saddened, just before Easter, to hear of the death of Chora Pratchek, who had provided so many years of loyal and dedicated service to the Boat Club as a coach of the men's and women's crews. A plaque in the Boat House commemorating his service will ensure that he will be remembered by the JCR.

Unlike other Colleges, Castle's strength – fortunately – lies not only on the sports field, nor in our students' ability to bury our heads in books. The arts were as strong as ever within Castle this year. The College Chapel Choir – rightly regarded as Durham's best – recorded a CD which is currently on sale; the Orchestra continues to grow; a newly founded Big Band rehearses regularly in the Great Hall; and the prestigious Castle Theatre Company continues to attract auditions from the University's finest thespians. Well-received performances of 'The Tempest' and Stoppard's 'Arcadia' – to name but two – were followed by a successful summer tour where 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was performed at outdoor venues across the south of England.

Arts week continues to be a Castle institution and a fantastic showcase for the creative talents of our students. This year was no exception; submissions for the Norman Gallery exhibition of sculpture, photography and painting were more numerous than ever, while other established Arts Week events, such as the poetry evening, were well-attended.

This year has also seen many Castle students directing and producing plays and musicals on the University stage. Castle also supplied the University with the Editor of Palatinate and the Producer of The Revue.

The JCR is most grateful to the Society for funding the installation of the Grand Piano in the SCR anteroom. This now allows Castle's proficient pianists to practice on a suitable instrument, rather than a Clavinova, and has further added to our musical facilities.

The breadth of talent within the JCR was a constant source of amazement to me, and it gave me great pleasure to be able to support the various contributions that so many Castlemen make to the College. Assisted by a like-minded Executive Committee, the Bar Reserves Allocation Committee (BRAC) functioned particularly well this year, ploughing much-needed funds into College societies and sports clubs: encouraging the foundation of new clubs, and facilitating the expansion and development of existing ones. This is a great and beneficent system that, this year, returned more profits to the JCR than ever before. Unfortunately, the process has not been fully understood by many of the JCR in recent years, and attempts must be made in future to allow greater transparency if the merits of the system are to be properly appreciated by its undoubted beneficiaries.

With attendance at JCR meetings on the increase after waning in recent years, and with all elections as eagerly contended as ever, I am happy to say that Castle has a healthily democratic JCR, and one that is prepared to make controversial decisions. The first Ordinary JCR Meeting of Epiphany Term saw smoking banned in the Undercroft after a lengthy debate, providing a lesson in the value of a free vote to all those who did not attend the meeting, yet still bemoaned the policy! Contrary to predictions, the Undercroft remains as busy as ever, with positive feedback on the policy coming from all corners of College.

With the strong support of the College Officers, issues arising within College were dealt with swiftly and decisively. A spate of needless and mindless vandalism on Hall Stairs and within the Lowe Library (perpetrated by an outsider) caused headaches in Easter Term, where ridiculous University red tape and beurocracy prevented the College from fitting a combination lock to the area, despite its obvious necessity. Common sense finally prevailed after sustained pressure from the Bursar, Master, and Senior Man persuaded senior University figures to change the policy. Thankfully the problem has now disappeared.

The support of the Master, Bursar, Senior Tutor, and the Chaplain, throughout the year, has been invaluable in more ways than it is possible to list.

University Student politics was dominated by the looming prospect of 'top-up-fees'. Campaigns were organised, and petitions signed, across the University. The President of the National Union of Students also came to Castle to discuss national and regional campaign strategies against increased fees with the Senior Men and Women. Unfortunately, given the chronic under-funding of higher education, it remains likely that Durham will charge higher fees if enabled. The next parliamentary session will be watched with interest.

Away from the political side of life in College, the antics and the social calendar remain as crazy and as hectic as ever. The Lumley Run continues to provide both an unusual evening's entertainment for the people of Chester-Le-Street, and a good opportunity for the gentlemen of Castle to take a light run, with the odd refreshment along the way. The Preventions Officer continues to reprimand the less well-behaved Castleman, and a certain society connected to the number 31 continues to do things on Palace Green involving napkins.

The social scene in the JCR was as busy as ever this year. The 70s night at the end of Freshers' week is rapidly becoming an institution, enjoyed by all. This year it was followed by a Halloween party, then by the Ladies Night ball. In Epiphany Term, the Undercroft was transformed into a trading floor for a FTSE ent where drinks prices at the bar fluctuate according to demand. Unfortunately, the evening's buying and selling was brought to a slightly premature end when, ironically, the computerised till system crashed! The

Informal Ball, this year held at Lumley Castle, was a huge success, as was the classic 'Bierfest'. The crowning moment of the social calendar was, of course, the June Ball, which was daringly changed from the recent norm by the Social Chair. A magical evening was enjoyed by all 400 guests who dined under an open-sided L-shaped marquee in the Courtyard before sampling all of the evening's entertainment, including an ice-rink in the Fellows' Garden, an amazing jazz-guitar duo in the SCR, and the Bluetones playing in the Great Hall.

In Epiphany Term the first ever 'College Feast' provided a fitting climax to Arts Week. All three Common Rooms mixed socially and contributed to a fantastic evening's entertainment; a reception hosted by the SCR was followed by a candlelit formal dinner, and after the toasts had been made and the College song had been sung, a brilliant jazz band played in the Undercroft, while cheese and port were served in the MCR. The opportunity for all three Common Rooms to mix is all too rare, and it is hoped that the College Feast will continue to grow in importance as part of the social calendar for the entire College.

The University's continued plans to escalate student numbers are of concern to Castle, as physical expansion is impossible. Sadly, this policy has already inflicted its first casualty on the composition of the College as we know it: pressure on rooms has caused the College to have to close its doors to living-in postgraduate students and, as of September 2002, Postgraduate students have had to live in accommodation in Durham City. Developments such as this amplify the importance of occasions where JCR, MCR, and SCR all mix, and it is crucial that all three Common Rooms make efforts towards greater interaction: the College Feast should mark the beginning, not the limit, of our interrelation. Thankfully, all three Common Rooms are keen to see this happen. With determined co-operation, our strong College Officers, and the spirited JCR full of committed individuals that we undoubtedly have, I am confident that Castle is well equipped to face any problems which will arise.

With competition for places at Castle now at around the 17 to 1 mark, it may confidently be stated that Castle continues to attract, and recruit, the very best of Durham's applicants. I am confident that this will long continue to be true. Not only is Castle academically strong, it is also truly rich in the range of talents, interests, and perspectives that the select many bring to the College. It has been my immense privilege to oversee, encourage, and safeguard the interests of this truly special group of people in these truly special surroundings.

It remains only for me to extend sincere thanks to all who have helped the JCR this year: The Master, Senior Tutor, Chaplain, Mr Watson, John Atkin, The Housekeeper, the Catering and Servery Staff, the Domestic Staff, Mrs Carrick, the Secretaries and the Porters. We wish Len Foster an enjoyable and healthy retirement and thank him for his many years of hard work as a Porter.

I would also like to thank the JCR Exec of Claire Croxford (JCR Secretary), Anthony Vassalo (JCR Treasurer), Chloe Wells (Welfare & Liaisons Officer), Sarah Howard (Bar Chair), Katherine Sprigge (Bar Vice-Chair), Laura Williams (Bar Treasurer), Paul Atfield (Social Chair), Connie Smith (Services Manager), Aidan Richardson (Senior DSU Rep.), and Kate Levine (Livers' Out Rep.) for their hard work in making the year such a good one for the College. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Senior Man, and have learnt a great deal along the way. I hope that my successor, Dan Robinson, and his Executive enjoy this great privilege as much as I undoubtedly have, and wish them the best of luck.

Floreat Castellum.

*Christopher Storr
Senior Man 2002–2003*



The Keep at Dawn



The Keep in Spring



After matriculation: Master and Senior Tutor lead the way

THE CHAPEL 2002–2003

It is good to be able to report that the activities of the Chapel have continued much as in previous years, and the various opportunities for worship on offer have attracted encouraging numbers of members of College and their guests (not that I am sold on the numbers game, unlike the press!). The Thursday Choral Evensong remains the most well-attended service of the week, a popular prelude to Formal Dinner in the Great Hall. Christopher Totney ARCO was the most outstanding organ scholar of recent years, and Chapel music under his direction was of a very high quality. The academic year culminated in the recording of a CD for Lammass Records, a highly-regarded choral and organ music label. The recording was produced by Stephen Shipley, an old Castleman and former organ scholar now working as a producer of religious and music programmes for the BBC. The disc was released in December and has sold very well so far – but it is not too late to buy a copy, for which see the advertisement accompanying this article! As well as helping to raise the profile of the College generally as a centre of excellence in the arts, it shows off to good effect some of the exceptional talent to be found amongst our students, some of whom, it might be added, managed to slip down to London to sing with the Millennium Youth Choir in the presence of HM The Queen at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. Others were active in HMS Pinafore, Richard III...etc. Visits were also made by the chapel choir to the cathedrals of York and Southwell as well as the now-usual termly one across the Palace Green to Durham Cathedral.

Visitors in 2002–3 have included preachers from far and near, among them the succentor of St Paul's Cathedral in London, a parish priest from Edinburgh, and the Chaplain of Merton College, Oxford. 'Home' preachers included members of the theology and anthropology departments, and members of the staff of St John's and St Chad's Colleges and local parish clergy. The sermon series in the first two terms were 'Journeys of Faith' and 'The Seven Words from the Cross' respectively. Special services included a service of Baptism and Confirmation at which the retiring Bishop of Durham, Dr Turnbull, presided. The carol service was packed out as usual, and was followed by sherry and mince pies in the Senate Room. A chapel retreat was made at Holy Island (Lindisfarne). Chapel Dinners continued to be well-supported culinary delights, and raised several hundred pounds for charity. The most recent, in November 2003, was the best-attended ever (49 people) and raised £350 for the Prisoners' Education Trust, recently featured as the BBC Radio 4 Appeal. Professor David Fuller, choir member and Public Orator of the University, gave a memorable and entertaining speech which reminded us of the riches of the King James Bible, among other things! I sensed the approval of the late and much missed Canon Geoffrey Williams.

The Chapel Officers in the year 2002–3 have once again been most impressive, not least the Chapel Clerk, Sub Lt Kenny Dalglish RN, who proved an excellent assistant and personal support, and who having graduated now continues his Royal Naval engineering training. I recently reflected on the fact that former Chapel Officers in my time alone also include a Parliamentary MP's researcher, a Financial Services Agency officer, a research physicist and two newly-ordained Anglican deacons. A diverse bunch and no mistake. The current team is equally proficient. I repeat my invitation to old members to join us for any service if you are in town – you will be made very welcome.

*The Revd. Ben Gordon-Taylor
Solway Fellow and Chaplain*

NOW AVAILABLE

University College Chapel Choir



directed by Christopher Totney
with David Jackson (organ)



CANTATE DOMINO

Lammas Records LAMMI62D

A new recording music for three Evensongs

Recorded in the Tunstall and Norman
Chapels of Durham Castle in June 2003 by Lance
Andrews and produced by Stephen Shipley of the BBC

This new recording, the first since the early 1980s, features the Chapel Choir in performances of music by Tallis, Gibbons and other Tudor composers, including three settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, and anthems including the stunning Ave Maria by Parsons and Loquebantur Variis Linguis by Tallis.

£12.50 per disc in person from the Porters' Lodge, or £14 by post to the UK from the Chaplain at University College. Cheques payable (GBP only please) to 'University College Chapel'. For Europe and the rest of the world please enquire to: castle.chapel@durham.ac.uk

57th Reunion Dinner
Saturday 29th March 2003
GREAT HALL

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Gravlax (Dill Cured Salmon)
Horseradish and Mustard Sauce
Granary Rolls

★ ★ ★

Fillet of Beef Wellington Duxelle
New Potatoes
Mange Tout
Selection of Root Vegetables

★ ★ ★

Irish Whiskey Syllabub

★ ★ ★

Cheese and Biscuits

★ ★ ★

Coffee and Tea
After Dinner Mints

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TOASTS

THE QUEEN The Master
THE COLLEGE Mr Ian Watson
REPLY The Master
ABSENT FRIENDS The Master

THE MAN BEHIND THE LOWE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Inside the Lowe Library there hangs a rather characterless portrait of a man in military uniform, with labels below it listing his degrees and decorations and the offices which he held in the College, and recording the foundation of the library on Garden Stairs with his books and its subsequent move to Hall Stairs. But who was Lowe, and why does the College commemorate him and name its library after him?

William Douglas Lowe was born on 27th July 1879 at Kearsley Moor, described as 'a cockfighting colliery village', north-west of Manchester in the outskirts of Bolton, the third son of the vicar, the Rev. Charles Lowe. From Mr. Tudor Owen's Preparatory School at Llandudno he won a scholarship to Shrewsbury in 1893, where he took part in many sports but particularly rowing, and ended as head of his house; and in 1898 he won a scholarship from there to Pembroke College, Cambridge. He read Classics, graduating in 1901 with a I. iii in Part I of the Tripos. (In those days Cambridge split each of the three classes into three divisions; most students, like Lowe, took their degree on the basis of Part I and did not go on to take Part II.) He rowed and he ran, turning to coaching when forbidden by his doctor to continue rowing, and his military interests led him to serve for two years in the Volunteers, the body which later was to become the Officers' Training Corps.

After graduating, he spent a year in Germany (at Beckenburg, Jena and Bonn), and then in 1902 was appointed to teach at Radley. In 1903 he was brought to Durham by the Rev. H. Gee, the Master of University College, to be a resident tutor in Classics with the title of Junior Censor – but Macfarlane-Grieve records that the Senate of the Durham Colleges disapproved of this appointment made by Gee on his own authority, and Gee had to pay the salary out of his own pocket. Lowe is first recorded as Junior Censor in the *University Calendar* of 1904–05, and this may indicate that in that year Senate accepted responsibility for his salary. At the beginning of 1905 Lowe took his M.A. at Cambridge, and also incorporated as an M.A. at Durham. (Durham at this time allowed graduates of all other universities to incorporate with an *ad eundem* degree; but it never managed to obtain the same privilege for Durham graduates from Oxford, Cambridge and Trinity College, Dublin, which granted and still grant it to one another's graduates, and it eventually discontinued the practice.) In 1909 he incorporated as an M.A. at Dublin and, having thus become eligible, proceeded to the degree of Litt.D. on the basis of his first book, an edition of *Petronius' Cen a Trimalchionis*.

In the College he played the active part which was expected of a resident tutor, and in 1913, on the death of W. K. Hilton, he succeeded Hilton as

Bursar and Censor. He coached College and University oarsmen; he was a keen Freemason; he was one of the first members of the O.T.C. At first his only formal appointment was in the College; but he was Lecturer in Education from 1907 to 1912, and Lecturer in Classics from 1915 (when he was absent on national service) until his death.

His particular academic interest was in producing elementary editions of Greek and Latin works, simplifying the text of the originals, for students at an early stage in the learning of the languages. Between 1905 and 1917 no fewer than fifteen of these appeared, the last two of them completed by C. E. Freeman (who had taught at Westminster and then had been joint head of a prep school: he also produced elementary editions of classical texts with his Westminster colleague A. Sloman and on his own) while Lowe was serving in the army. *The Wars of Greece and Persia*, extracts from Herodotus' history transposed from Herodotus' Ionic dialect into textbook Attic, remained a prescribed text for Greek beginners at Durham until 1965. He also, in *Inner Life of the Prussian Cadet*, translated from German a couple of short stories; and, after his service in the First World War, he wrote the *War History* of his Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. On another level he wrote songs, which were set to music by other Durham men: a Durham University Song c. 1905: reproduced in Edgar Jones' s book about the College), and a Coronation Song for the Coronation of George V in 1911, which 'bears the hallmark of the more awful qualities of the pompous and materialistic (though really rather jolly) age in which it was written'.

An interesting story lies behind the volume commemorating H. Kynaston, Professor of Greek from 1889 to his death in 1910, who like Lowe was a Cambridge man, a rowing man and a Freemason: E. D. Stone, *Herbert Kynaston: A Short Memoir with Selections from his Occasional Writings*. The preface merely thanks Lowe 'for useful suggestions and careful revising of proofs'. However, Lowe inserted in his own copy of the book (in the Special Collections of the University Library) a letter from Mrs. Kynaston, regretting that she could not entrust the work to Lowe as it had already been entrusted to Stone; he has added his own name to Stone's as co-editor on the title page, and has noted against the preface 'With the exception of most of the Introduction I was responsible for the whole of the text entirely. W. D. Lowe'; and he has also inserted a letter from Stone apologising for not making proper acknowledgment.

In the war he began by training the 18th – dash which perhaps denotes that it was raised by subscription; it was known informally as the 'Pals' battalion – battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, which he joined as Captain and Adjutant, and went with the battalion to Egypt and France; he served also with the the E. Lancashire Regiment, but returned to the D.L.I.; at the end of the war he was a Lt.-Colonel and was Acting Brigade Commander of the St. Omer District. He was mentioned in despatches three times, and was awarded the M.C. and the D.S.O.

After which he returned to Castle, to coaching oarsmen and to teaching classics; Macfarlane-Grieve writes that 'he could easily have moved on to a more responsible post elsewhere but preferred to work in a small College where his influence was to have an incalculable and lasting benefit'. On 24th May 1922 Lowe died suddenly, while attending a service in the Tunstal Chapel. He left to the College all his books, and money to buy bookcases to house them. The Lowe Memorial Library was originally housed in a room on Garden Stairs which he had occupied, was visited by the College Reunion on 15th January 1925 – as the most recent extension to the Library on Hall Stairs was visited by the Reunion in 1997 – and brought into use in the Epiphany Term, and was formally opened by his sister, Miss L. A. Lowe, headmistress of Leeds High School, on 19th February 1926 (later the same day the Bishop, Hensley Henson, dedicated and the Professor of Music, E. C. Bairstow, gave a recital on the new organ in the Tunstal Chapel). The portrait was presented by the Rev. J. H. How, Professor of Latin and later to become also Master of the College. When the Library was moved to its present position on Hall Stairs, some of the original shelving was reused in the gallery.

His classical editions live on. There are still students who need elementary editions of Greek and Latin texts, but such editions are much rarer now than they were a century ago, and academics under the pressure of the Research Assessment Exercises concentrate their efforts on works which will score more highly. Several of Lowe's editions were kept in print by Oxford University Press long after his death; and in the late twentieth century no fewer than three of them were reissued by an American publisher of textbooks, Bolchazy-Carducci of Wauconda, Illinois, and are still in print now.

P. J. Rhodes

Durham Castle Society is 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.

www.durhamcastle.org

Material for the website can be sent to the Master at Castle

As the Society Representative on the Governing Body, now College Council, I was approached regarding current policy on former students having access to the Castle. Here, the Master clarifies the current position and the reasons for it. (A J Nelson)

ACCESS TO THE CASTLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CASTLE SOCIETY

Members of The Castle Society and Graduates of the College are always welcome to come back to the College. Indeed, if we are around at the time, the Master and other College Officers and College staff, are always happy to meet with you and chat about the place, then and now.

In the last few years it has to be said, security has become more of an issue; not just for us but for the University as a whole, and of course the world in general. The Castle has had several serious attempted break-ins in recent years, when things have been stolen or damaged. This is in addition to the occasional 'trophying' that goes on by students from other Colleges, although we are very much aware of this and usually catch the miscreants in the act or at least get the items back quickly.

In view of all this and the fact that there are often events going on around the Castle, such as Wedding Receptions in the Great Hall in the vacations or in term-time, a student on their way to a shower on the Norman Gallery (!), we are obliged now to only let visitors have access to the Castle by guided tour.

Thus, for former students of the College *who are members of The Castle Society*, we are pleased to offer a FREE GUIDED TOUR for themselves and their immediate family.

If this is not likely to be possible, for one reason or another, then please contact the Bursar before your visit.

The Master

Rail tickets for the Reunion

Tickets from and to any British Railway Station on the National Rail network may be obtained from Chester-le-Street Station on

0191 387 1387

www.nationalrail.com

THE MIDDLE COMMON ROOM: A REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2002-3

The University Postgraduate Prospectus quotes this about MCR life at Castle: 'If you are looking to live your Postgraduate days to the fullest measure, in Durham, Castle is the place to be'.

This rather sums up the role of the MCR in College. It is the centre for the postgraduate community of students, set in the formal arena of learning and research. Our membership comes from four distinct sources: researchers, taught postgraduate degree and diploma/certificate (PGCE) students, mature undergraduate students, and undergraduate fourth year students. Our group is by far the widest based common room in College and thus has a duty to bring together the other two common rooms in every aspect of College life.

The President's speech at the Michaelmas Postgraduate Dinner sums up the life of the MCR:

'...The Common Room is not a club or group that occasionally meets to debate or drink, but one that has activities several times a week; everything from debates, visiting speakers, arts forums, research seminars, through to social events such as trips to the theatre, concerts, restaurants and this year trips well away from Durham, such as York and Edinburgh. Sports plays major role also; we have the new quad-biking team, dry-slope skiing and an MCR crew in the college boat club ... there is something for everyone in the MCR'

All of these things have gone into making the UCMCR the most vibrant and active MCR amongst all of the Durham and Queen's Campus Colleges' MCRs and it is one that we are proud of and look to maintain in the future. Postgraduate life in the Castle has never been so good.

Matriculation

The MCR's academic year started on a glorious sunny October day with matriculation at the Cathedral. All the MCR Freshers were gathered in the St. Calais room by 10.15 a.m. for coffee and were very much looking forward to the procession, to the ceremony, to hear the Vice Chancellor's words. After the procession back to College, the traditional College song rehearsal started. This annual event is the best time for MCR Freshers to learn some of the necessary songs needed for an evening in the Undie.

Tour of College

For new MCR and not-so-new members a tour of college was given by the MCR secretary. This was to show off the fine buildings, tell of the Castle and

College's long history, but more importantly to introduce members to various College staff, including members of the servery staff, bedders, our infamous College steward: John Atkin MBE, and the JCR and SCR Exec. This event was also the opportunity to introduce members to the whys and wherefores of Klute and the joys of the Undie.

College Events

Members of the MCR have enjoyed many of the College events during the year, such as the Informal Ball, Ladies Night, Ents, and naturally the ever-popular June Ball. This year the College has experienced a wonderful event in the form of the College Feast. This event was an opportunity for MCR members to welcome JCR and SCR members into the St. Calais Room to enjoy post-dinner Cheese and Wine. The room was crammed with Castle-men, and everyone had a really good time. The piano, ably played by Prof. Fuller and organ scholars' past and present, was a good back-drop to scintillating conversation and genteel quaffing.

Research Forums

Members of the Common Room have been given the opportunity to present papers on various topics of interest to them. This year we have seen a great breadth of research papers ranging from 'The advent of logical positivism in the working classes' to 'The patristic age and its relevance to the understanding of unity', with 'The psychosocial dysfunction of the educational experience of SEN children' somewhere in the middle... These papers have not only given members a chance to air new research before presentation at conferences, but have given finalist JCR members the opportunity to present dissertation work in paper form. We have enjoyed papers given by SCR members, on a number of topics including 'How to take over British Rail' given by Alex Nelson, sometime JCR Secretary.

Debates

Our usual cross-common room debates have continued with vigour. The annual Leyland Debate looked at 'The evolution of the University state and access systems to Russell Group institutions'. The Sudron Debate concerned itself with 'The change in the organisation of the Church of England as the "established" church'. The Jordan Club Debate was, this year, focused on 'The war and how New Labour could align itself with the media's portrayal of the battle'. All of these debates were extremely well attended by all Castle Common Rooms and a good glass of wine, or two, was enjoyed by all.

MCR Sport

This year has seen a great increase in sport amongst members. The UCBC MCR boat crew has enjoyed a year quite unlike any other. After a keen, yet latent, MCR crew of last year, a new and dynamic crew was formed to give a

real challenge to the other college MCRs, most notably the MCR crew at Hatfield. The IVs crew was made up of Captain: Ryan Martin, Konstantine Von-Freytag, Matthew Gregg and Richard Scothon. After many months of early morning rowing the crew looked forward to the Castle-Hatfield challenge and the Durham Regatta.

The MCR Croquet team has been their usual active selves. College croquet only takes place during the Easter term, and is played on the College croquet lawn: Palace Green. This often causes tourists to look on, in wonder, and only dream of such skill and dexterity. The JCR Croquet team has been greatly encouraged by the MCR team, and it has to be said that the SCR team have not been in as great evidence as they might have. This aside, the St. Chad's College, and the Hatfield College MCR Croquet teams are quaking in their gown-hidden boots as the Castle team challenge them to a list of summer games on the Green. Surely there are not enough bottles of Pimm's and cucumber sandwiches in the world to cope with such a sight; we will have to see.

So all in all, a busy year!

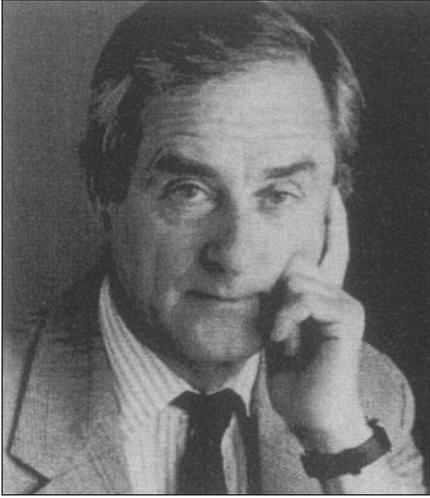
Richard Scothon
MCR: Coll: Univ: Dunelm



The flags out for Castle Day

Castellum

NEWS ROUND-UP



Harold Evans, the former Palatinate Editor, who is now a Knight of the Realm.

Harold Evans, the veteran newspaper editor and publisher who has lived in the US for the past 20 years, has been awarded a knighthood for services to journalism. As editor of the *Sunday Times* between 1967 and 1981, he led its groundbreaking investigation into the Thalidomide drug scandal which caused deformities in thousands of babies. In 1981, Rupert Murdoch acquired Times Newspapers and Harold Evans was appointed editor of the daily. He resigned a year later, accusing Mr Murdoch of breaching guarantees of editorial independence. Evans, 75, the son of a train driver, lives in New York with his partner, the magazine editor Tina Brown. He was formerly Editor of the Northern Echo for four years, and in 2000 he was voted 'greatest editor of all time' by his peers in the profession. He continues to write independently.

ST. MARY'S GOES MIXED

Following several years as the only single sex college in the University, and with application rates substantially below the rate of the other

mixed Colleges, the College Council of St. Mary's College, in conjunction with the University, has decided to end St. Mary's unique status as an all-female College. St. Mary's expects to admit its first male students in October 2005.

LAST SUMMER'S GRADUATION SUCCESS

Graduation ceremonies are now held in the Cathedral rather than the Great Hall of the Castle, which allows fewer ceremonies to be held with more students at each. The University of Durham conferred degrees on nearly 3,000 graduates at Durham Cathedral, for the second year running after outgrowing the previous venues of Durham Castle and Stockton Parish Church. Stockton students now receive their degrees in Durham. The city's most prominent building is staged 12 ceremonies over three days, involving a record number of graduates.

There were four ceremonies each day from Wednesday 2nd July to Friday 4th July, timetabled around Cathedral services and with time in between so that visitors can still look round.

At some ceremonies, the University also confers honorary degrees. Among last year's recipients were the recently retired Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev Michael Turnbull, a top British cancer specialist, the Chief Executive of the Eden Project, the leader of one of the world's biggest companies and a top charity lawyer.

Sir Kenneth Calman, Vice-Chancellor said, 'We are delighted to celebrate the hard work and success of all our students and to welcome our distinguished honorary graduates into the University'

DURHAM UNIVERSITY PICKS THE DESIGN TEAM FOR ITS 16th COLLEGE

The long-planned 16th College of the University of Durham has taken a step closer with the appointment of the Northampton based architects Gotch, Saunders & Surridge.

The partnership has won a hard-fought

architectural competition for a new 600-bed college and additions to two other colleges that in total will add 1000 student rooms in the city. The overall £35.5 million project is due for completion in 2006.

The University has expanded student numbers over the past 15 years in line with the policies of successive governments, and although it has already built about 1000 extra rooms during the same period, the number of students who live out of college in rented housing has increased. The new building programme will reverse that trend.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Kenneth Calman said: 'We are delighted to award this prestigious project to a firm that has demonstrated a special touch for the design of quality accommodation for universities. We are a collegiate university and it is our aim to house the majority of students in college rooms.'

Durham's 16th college, which does not yet have a name, will be for undergraduates. It will be part of the Howlands site off South Road, Durham, alongside student housing for Ustinov College, the exclusively postgraduate college. It will be a self-catering community, like the university's two most recent colleges, George Stephenson and John Snow at its Queen's Campus in Stockton. The traditional Durham colleges have large shared dining facilities serving three meals a day, but an increasing number of applicants are attracted to the self-catering option, and the new college will increase choice.

Other buildings in the total package are more rooms for Ustinov College at Howlands, and a new accommodation complex to replace a 1960s structure at Parson's Field, off Old Elvet, which will be used by St Cuthbert's Society.

GSS Principal Architect Mr David Allsop said: 'We knew we were up against stiff competition from other leading architectural practices. And we therefore decided to recommend a bold and unusual concept, with a sensitive and creative approach.'

Features will include special bricks and sloping green roofs for parts of the college complex, covered with carefully selected slow-growing plants, enabling the buildings to blend in with the surrounding landscape.

GSS are working on the detailed designs for the project which is going forward for planning permission in the next few weeks. Building is due to start this summer and will take two years to complete.

LAW AND THE COMMUNITY: Cherie Booth delivers 2004 Borderlands' Lecture in Durham

The law must be more open to 'consumers' and 'practitioners' – Ms. Cherie Booth QC told a packed audience at the 2004 St John's Borderlands' Lecture delivered at Durham University on 5th February.

In a wide-ranging lecture (entitled Justice: A Personal and Communal Challenge) Ms. Booth looked in turn and in depth at legal justice, community justice and justice in the wider world. Speaking in the Appleby Lecture Theatre, Ms. Booth said that she wanted to see people 'doing' law from as diverse a range of backgrounds as those who are subject to it. Law should not just be the preserve of 'middle class white men.'

Ms. Booth said it was alarming that whilst almost 50% of law students are female – only one sixth of the judiciary are women. The number of ethnic minorities practising law was 'minute.' Borderlands is a project initiated by St.John's College, within the University of Durham, and embraces a series of contacts between theological thinking and a wide range of academic subjects.

COLLEGES STRENGTHEN TRADING OPERATIONS

The Colleges Division of the University has announced new arrangements among the team of Bursars to pool their strengths and take other steps to share good practice in order to offer the best possible service both to student residents, vacation visitors and the full range of trading and catering operations.

The Division has some challenging tasks ahead as the Higher Education environment continues to change apace. Durham University remains committed to its collegiate structure and sees the colleges as being a unique selling point for the University as a whole. It is our role within the Division to ensure that the Durham 'brand', led by the colleges, continues to attract the highest quality students from home and abroad, who can then share in the unique Durham experience.

Alan Gibson's role as bursar of University College will not change; his primary task is to significantly improve the commercial trading performance of the College.

All bursars will remain responsible to their College Principal in terms of line management, but will now have a 'dotted line' of responsibility to the Dean via the Operations Director.

I take it for granted that these changes will help lift the operational performance of the Division to the highest possible standards, delivering the student experience in a cost-effective manner, meeting our strategic aims (as identified in the Colleges' Purpose, Values and Aims document), and achieving divisional targets', commented **Professor Tim Burt**, Dean of Colleges & Student Support Services

ACADEMIC AWARD FOR RESEARCH ON PUB AND CLUB BOUNCERS

A research team led by a University of Durham criminologist, Professor Dick Hobbs, has won a national award for a report on studies of pub and club bouncers.

A joint paper, published in the British Journal of Criminology, argued that the state devolves many of its policing duties to the bouncers.

Professor Hobbs, a leading researcher in this field, wrote the report with Philip Hadfield – a postgraduate research student at Durham, Stuart Lister – a former Durham student now doing research at the University of Leeds, and Simon Winlow – another former Durham student, now a lecturer at Teesside University.

Their paper, 'Door Lore, The Art and Economics of Intimidation', has won the prestigious Radzinowicz Memorial Prize, awarded by the national Centre for Crime and Justice Studies.

Professor Hobbs, of the Department of Law, said the research explored the working practices, occupational culture, regulation and training of bouncers.

The project involved one member of the research team working as a bouncer in one city, and also included interviews with male and female bouncers throughout the country, as well as information from police, local authority personnel, town centre management, pub and club owners, licensees and training professionals. The research team accompanied the police on nightshifts in different towns and trained as registered bouncers to investigate the night-time economy, and in particular, violence, policing and door security.

As the night-time economy has evolved, so too have indigenous forms of regulation and policing. In the absence of public police officers, bouncers take responsibility for localised law and order at or near individual

premises. They incorporate 'night-time visitors into the disciplines and protocols of the late-night leisure market'.

According to Professor Hobbs and his co-authors, the environment within which bouncers work is often chaotic and saturated with aggression, egoism and intoxication, establishing a context within which violence becomes both a constant threat to door staff and a tool of their trade.

CELEBRATIONS AS SCIENCE LEARNING CENTRE COMES TO THE NORTH EAST

The University of Durham is delighted that a North East consortium from education, business and industry has been chosen to create the region's first Science Learning Centre.

The Science Learning Centre North East, based at Framwellgate School Durham, will deliver high quality continuing professional development to science teachers from across the region who in turn will pass their knowledge onto their students.

In partnership, the Universities of Durham, Newcastle, Sunderland and Teesside, Framwellgate School, Durham County Council, Life Knowledge Park, Northumbrian Water plc and Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd have been selected by the Department for Skills and Education and the Wellcome Trust to be part of the £51m initiative to support a national network of Science Learning Centres.

Professor Richard Gott from Durham University said: 'The North East has a great need for scientifically skilled and literate pupils who are growing up in a rapidly changing community following the cutbacks in the region's manufacturing base'.

'Through the Centre we hope to give teachers the support and resources to enthuse and educate the next generation of scientists. To do this the Centre will bring together internationally famous scientists from world class University departments, industry leaders and innovative educators. We look forward to working with science teachers and our partners from across the region.'

The £2m purpose built centre, which is underwritten by Durham County Council, will be constructed on land next to Framwellgate School Durham. The centre will house newly refurbished labs and advanced ICT facilities.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE WOMEN'S RUGBY – AT LAST!

2003 is the year that Castle Women could proudly say that, despite the ancient exterior, University was a College of the new millennium. The launch of University College Women's Rugby Club got off to a slow start as Castle Women realised that perhaps there was an easier way to get fit and get tough, namely one that didn't involve muddy pitches, pointless confused running around and incomprehensible northern coaches – and so the lure of Meridian (local gym) had its way. However, what was left was a super-fit, aggressive, enthusiastic (and not in any way butch) team of women that would make University College history.

However, due to managerial glitches, technical difficulties and the enduringly cold and wet Durham weather, it would not be until May that they could prove, despite their lack of international coaches, a squad of 50 or an infinite budget for stash, that Castle Women were tough enough to play with the big girls (and my God were they big!). Their debuting match against Grey College, at the 'Town and Gown' Sevens was slightly disorganised and panicked yet, thanks to 'quick hands' and even quicker feet, an easy 15–10 win resulted.

The next match against Collingwood was lost due to a lack of mental commitment but against university and national team players, who could blame them? The final match of the day – heavily awaited by the increasingly excited 'Supporters' Soc.' – was to be tough against our rivals and college league winners, Hatfield College. With the loss behind them and the potential to go into the semi-finals fifteen minutes away, the girls pulled out all the stops and did Castle, and girly coaches Vince and Lofty proud, with both excellent defensive and attacking work. Unfortunately, Hatfield were too strong and very very lucky, with the score at the final

whistle 15–0 to Hatfield.

Nevertheless, it was an awesome day and proved to the sceptics that, when required, Castle Women can 'Crank It Up!'.

*Jude Hart,
Women's Rugby
Captain*

*University College Women's
Rugby Team, all 12 of them!*



LUMLEY RUN 2003–04

It gives me great pleasure to report that the first chace of the University year has been completed with every success and that the traditions and spirit of the Club are alive and kicking.

The fervour and regard with which this event is held was demonstrated by the half-hour period it took for the sixteen places to be filled on the sign-up sheet. Last year's captain Jules Barrow had briefed me thoroughly, and as I did a round of the public houses on the afternoon of the race day, I was warmly received by the landlords who seemed to view the event with a mixture of delight and apprehension. Indeed one landlord informed me he had watched runners for twenty years and he would be delighted to see them for another twenty!

Sixteen club veterans generously volunteered to accompany the new crop of runners and it is their job to ensure the runner not only physically survives the eight-mile marathon but more importantly abides by the rules. These include:

- no supping, sipping, swilling or spitting of the beverage,
- every last drop must be drunk in an aggressive fashion,
- no self-induced relief.

It is also the minders' prerogative to pick up and return the vessel to the landlord with perhaps a friendly word or two.

The race started at 7.00 pm sharp in Baron's Bar at Lumley Castle. Fittingly a piper was on hand to get the juices flowing and after the compulsory roaring rendition of the Castle Song (with the lines '*now the race is over we're heading for the bar*' carrying extra weight of the chosen few), the first pint was dispatched. The 16 runners set off in superb garb ranging from Indian head dress to thermal jock straps – a tradition inherited last year from A.J.P. Thomas Esq, who set a record time of one hour nine minutes in black tie – down the alleys to Chester-le-Street or as it is known in Club terms 'Chunder-le-Street'. For amongst its many delightful features this town contains approximately ten pubs on its high street.

The general order of the day is a pint at Lumley, a pint at the finish in Castle and two pints placed adroitly in the centre of the course; the rest are halves. Given that there are rumoured to be over 25 public houses along the course and the Captain occasionally gets his maths wrong, around 17 pints of bitter were sunk per head over the eight miles.

Having abandoned Chester-le-Street in a state akin to Passchendale in 1917, the runners face the gruelling slog up the A167 to Durham with only occasional refreshment. Given that temperatures were below freezing this is manly venture and makes the Run a true test of courage and fortitude.

The final lap of pubs includes the Colpitts, Old Elm Tree and Market Tavern, before the old favourites of the Shakespeare and Hogshead are seen off. The first runners emerged out of the freezing mist to record enviable times, if not record ones, and were soon followed by the inevitable second and third placed whingers, whose map reading failed them where their legs had not.

The rear was brought up by a proud and noble third-year who personified the true glory of the event. Content to savour every mouthful, both in and out, he relished the grim and brutal nature of the Run, wrestling as he was against every step of beer and ice, feeling no desire to hasten to the finish. For it is truly a great event and requires all that is best in the male youth of Castle; fortitude and temperance, honesty and stamina, and, most importantly of all, comradeship to enter that most elite of brotherhoods.

*Quentin Hicks
Lumley Run Captain*

LADIES BAILEY RUN CLUB

Why should all the men have all the fun?

This year Castle welcomed Durham's premier running-drinking club for women only! In an event (which is in no way a female version of the Lumley Run), ten women raced through the cobbled streets of Durham filled with ten shots of various alcoholic concoctions. Keen female participants from the College set out on a two-mile journey starting in the Undie and dropping by some of Durham's finest free-houses.

The race was on to attain the prize Number One Shirt. Some runners even sacrificed their coveted flip-flops in favour of more-suited running gear. After warm-up drinks in Varsity and three cans of Silvikrin hairspray, the ladies set off. Male runners were recruited to aid these fragile ladies on their mission. However, the route proved too demanding for some of the sober males. Even a certain Mr. Lowe had to make an emergency run to the nearest toilet!

Our congratulations go to Cat who beat us all to the Number One slot under the supervision of a certain Mr. Thomas. Our thanks go to our eager runners and Jeremy Smith who dealt with the technicalities. Hopefully this will be the first of many L.B.R.C races and next term we will be looking to initiate another ten!

Angela McAteer, L.B.R.C Captain



JUNE BALL 2002

The pinnacle of the Durham social calendar this year once again graced Durham's most historic college, with the post-exam, pleasure-seeking Castlemen treated to the splendour of Hollywood. A red carpet was leading the way through the quaintly decorated Barbican and towards the entrance to the Castle gates and Castlem's own Hollywood Boulevard, a circular and sophisticated reproduction of the famous American walk of fame. Guests were led to an Oscars meal, where much College banter was enjoyed and the speech of young Withers Esq. was applauded by all. The night was, as June Ball nights tend to be, filled with a plethora of entertainment, from afternoon tea and coffee on the Norman Gallery to a Senate Room Casino, which would prove the envy of any James Bond film. The Western Saloon proved to be a treat for all, with cocktails served that would unnerve even the likes of Eastwood and McQueen. The Survivors' Photo again proved to be one of the most attended and delightful of college events, with spirits high and jesting exchanged with all. A Hatfield invasion was prevented by the able celebrity body-guards and security forces, there to protect the distinguished guest – who would no doubt continue drinking and partying well into the next few days, in the habit of the rock-and-roll lifestyle to which he had now become accustomed.

Once again a night of legends, forever a night for legends...

Paul Atfield, 2002 Social Chair



Survivors Photo – June Ball, 5.00 a.m., one June morning!

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DURHAM TRUST

You will probably be familiar with the work of the Trust; a short walk round the Castle taking in the Lowe Library and the West Courtyard will show you what we have recently done if you are not.

We are constantly looking for ways of getting more of you involved with our work, hence the regular appeals and mailshots. By far the most convenient way of contributing to our work is by standing order. We have about 70 regular donors giving annual amounts ranging from £5 to £340. Many others have contributed lump sums to particular appeals. Giving through Gift Aid allows us to collect a tax refund which makes a £1 gift worth £1.28 to us if you are a UK taxpayer and you can claim a further rebate if you pay higher rate tax.

If you run a Company, remember that Corporate gifts are fully deductible by the donor.

We are happy to accept odd lots of shares that may be uneconomic to sell. A donor recently gave us a single share in Marks and Spencer Group. Maybe you could give us another?

We also solicit foreign currency notes which may be unwanted to you but which we can convert to cash. Our bankers will exchange current money (though we recently had some African notes returned as being too dirty to negotiate) and withdrawn notes are sold to banknote collectors through the International Banknote Society.

More esoteric objects, a Castle blazer being a recent example, can be auctioned at the reunion dinner. The Gift Aid rules still apply.

Finally, before you pass on to that great Common Room in the sky, think about leaving us some of what you can't take with you. A bequest form can be found on the College website, as can the Gift Aid declaration and a standing order form.

Send your donations to the Treasurer, University College Durham Trust, care of The College Office and if you have any queries you can contact him at alistair@dunelm.org.uk

Thank you for helping us.

Alistair Gibb
Treasurer, UCD Trust

TRUST TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

WASHINGTON 2003

On Sunday June 22nd I left the UK for a two month period as an intern in the Washington Office of Marcy Kaptur, a Democratic Congresswoman from Ohio. The period was primarily a learning experience for me and the five other British students on the English-Speaking Union Congressional Intern Programme affording a unique perspective on, and understanding of, the day-to-day workings of the world's most powerful government although I had not anticipated the level and speed of the learning curve on Capital Hill. Interns are an accepted and welcomed part of life on the Hill, particularly during the summer months and my office was determined to give me 'the best two months of my life'. To this end they answered all my questions very fully, sent me to endless briefings, press conferences and committee meetings (from which I had to write my own briefings for my Congresswoman) and authorised me to write replies to constituent letters. These experiences allowed me astonishingly open access to government documents and constituent information, from which I learnt a great deal about the style of American government.

The nature of government, and politics, in the United States is very different to the way I had initially envisaged it. Party ties are much more lax than I had imagined, for example, whilst party identification is much stronger. The opportunity to spend an extended period of time in a Congressional office allowed not only an educational experience, but also a personal perspective, to develop. I was very fortunate in the office I was seconded to as they not only encouraged my political interests, but also made efforts to spark a personal relationship with me. They actively supported my particular interests in international relations and internal appropriations, including allowing me to sit in on a full meeting of Appropriations Committee (a rare honour for an intern). I travelled to the United States to learn about its politics, but I found that the educational experiences were far wider than I had imagined.

A programme of educational lectures is arranged every year for interns and this year we were lucky enough to hear a range of fascinating (and sometimes entertaining) speakers. Among the many this summer which deserve particular mention for their educational value were Barney Frank, Jesse Jackson Junior, Dick Cheney and Colin Powell. Barney Frank is not only the House of Representatives' only openly homosexual member, but is also, more importantly, heavily involved in college politics. He spoke clearly about the effectiveness of student political groups and the importance of

young people in the political dialogue. Also providing a fascinating insight into a different aspect of US politics was Jesse Jackson Junior who, apparently very conscious of his African-American, evangelical religious roots, spoke on the value of partisanship in modern United States politics.

Vice-President Dick Cheney provided a fascinating insight into the very highest level of the Bush administration. His lecture, followed by a brief question and answer session, was neither dynamic nor particularly informative as Cheney clearly followed the 'party line'. However, I was very surprised to discover how violently felt certain issues were within the Republican party and how deeply certain prejudices ran. Secretary of State Colin Powell was equally fascinating as a study in political rhetoric and speechmaking as he entranced his audience with a mix of witty banter and deplorable sentiment. I am a deeply political person with strongly held political opinions and I was very surprised to find myself favourably impressed with the unexpected determination and belief I discovered running deep within the Bush administration.

There are a lot of opportunities open to Congressional interns, should they choose to exploit them. My additional educational experiences included an official briefing from the Israeli Ambassador (at the Israeli Embassy) and an introduction to the French Ambassador. As Washington is the centre of federal life in America simply walking the corridors of Congress can surprise, as chance meetings with Senators Edward Kennedy and Hillary Clinton demonstrate. All interns are taught how to use the library of Congress and are allowed to order products for themselves (and their university dissertations). Most importantly, the opportunity to meet, and spend time with, young Americans, whose outlooks on life differed as much as any group of young, politically aware British students.

The social and cultural aspects of life in Washington are sometimes overwhelming. We (the six British interns) were well looked after and cared for by the Washington Branch of the English-Speaking Union who busied themselves introducing us to some of the most interesting people in Washington. A social event at the British Embassy encouraged us to begin our time in Washington on a very high note and we continued to enjoy a vibrant social life including a party at the New Zealand Embassy, Fourth of July on the Mall and the opportunity to visit the Watergate complex. Living in Washington for two months allowed me time to explore the city and all the cultural experiences it had to offer. Visits to cultural centres, several Smithsonian museums and a brief visit to New York widened more than just my political consciousness. I particularly valued the opportunity to visit the world-renowned Folger Shakespeare Library and the stunning National Gallery of Art, as well as the opportunity to fulfil a long-held desire to explore the headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

My overall feelings from my time in America reflect my very positive experiences. As a result of my time in Washington my interest in politics has

been consolidated and my political opinions and beliefs have evolved and clarified. More generally, I discovered a love of America and a growing interest in exploring unfamiliar societies. The English-Speaking Union Capitol Hill Programme was a marvellous experience and I feel that I fully exploited the opportunities presented to me.

Lydia Strachan

MEXICO REPORT

I am writing this report from Florence where I am studying on the Erasmus program as part of my year abroad. I was hoping to gain some inspiration and kick start my memory by reading the journal of my travels in Mexico. However, only a few days after arriving in Italy my handbag was stolen and inside it was my precious journal. I mention this only because it effectively illustrated to me that things are not always as we expect; in that, I returned relatively unscathed after seven weeks in Mexico and yet after only a couple of days in Florence I had lost virtually everything. Hopefully this may dispel the somewhat stereotypical image, which I have to admit, I also had of Mexico before I went, as a crime ridden and basically pretty backward place.

Certainly, on arrival in Mexico City I was quite overwhelmed by it all: the hustle and bustle of the city centre is a real bombardment of the senses, as I



suppose should be expected in a metropolis of twenty two million people. There are street sellers all over the place trying to tempt you into buying anything from kitsch plastic alarm clocks to traditional Aztec masks. Music is also omnipresent in Mexico, whether it is the strumming of a guitar or an accordionist on the street, or Latin American pop blaring from a window (Shakira being the particular favourite while I was there!) Another initial impression was the food that seemed to be sold just about everywhere, cooked on makeshift stalls, tempting each passer-by. One is often advised not to sample food cooked like this on the street, for fear of adverse effects on fragile digestive systems. However, this is easier said than done and really, how can you resist?

After a couple of whirlwind days in the capital, spent visiting the ancient pyramids of Teotihuacan, the house of Frieda Kahlo, the Museo di Antropologia and generally acclimatising to Mexico; feeling somewhat stunned I moved on, with some regret at leaving one of the most exciting cities I have ever visited and some anticipation, to the project, which was the main motivation for my trip to Mexico. The project was organised through the United Nations Association 'North South Program' (which is not, as a certain friend thought, an integration program for Geordies in the south of England, but an exchange between volunteer organisations in the northern and southern hemispheres.)

We were based in a small town called Quecholac in the mountains about three hours from Mexico City. Our group was made of up thirteen volunteers from quite a range of countries: Mexico, Japan, Spain, France, Italy and Denmark and myself, the only British representative. Our work involved the restoration of two old churches, one of which had been partially destroyed in an earthquake. We spent three weeks working on the churches, sometimes



just some basic cleaning; much of the time was spent thirty feet off the ground up our DIY scaffolding, which certainly would not have complied with any European health and safety standards! Volunteering in Mexico is not a simple thing to do, as our work was forever being hampered by bureaucracy and lack of resources. For example, one of our main tasks was to clean and restore the eighteenth century paintings in the church. However, we could not begin until we had been advised by a professional and had been provided with correct materials. This did not happen until the final week of the project. You soon get used to the Mexican 'mañana' mentality, so much so that after waiting for something to happen for long enough, one forgets what it was in the first place! A frame of mind that I am still trying to shake off.

We soon adjusted to the Mexican attitude and came to realise that the problems that we encountered were in fact merely passing inconveniences. Furthermore, we came to see that although our work on the churches was



very important and truly appreciated by the community, what was perhaps more significant, that we would really take from our time in Quecholac, was the interaction with the people of the town. The children, in particular were quite intrigued by us 'exotic' creatures. It really was rewarding to play with them; basketball Quecholac v. The World, or just trying to have a conversation in my pretty basic Spanish. Through these exchanges it was really possible to gain some insight into the people, their country and culture in a way that, in my opinion, is just not possible as a tourist or backpacker.

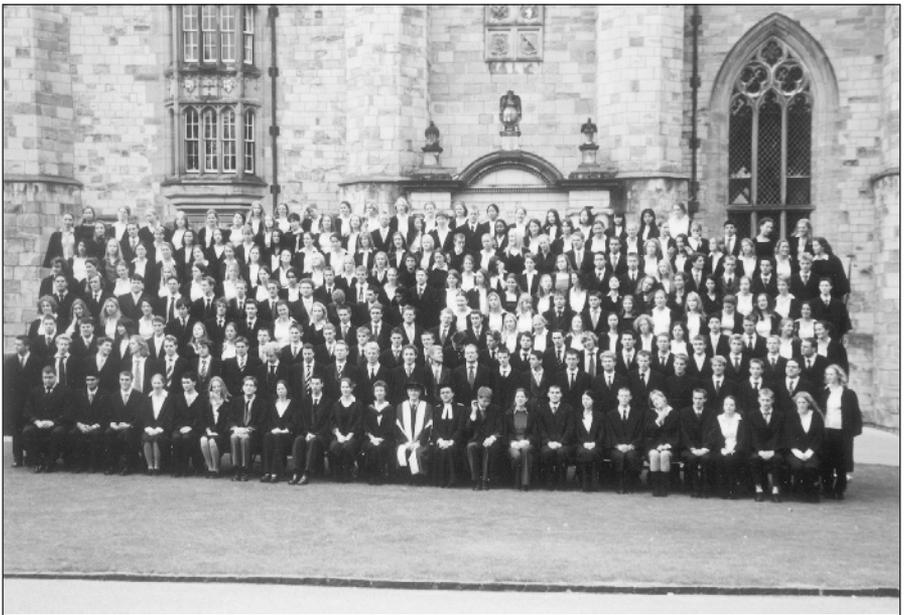
One aspect of the Mexican people in general that I was particularly struck by was their overwhelming generosity and kindness. One example of their hospitality was that every day one family of the village invited us to eat with them,

treating us as if we were highly important guests, plying us with huge amounts of very precious meat, alongside the ubiquitous chillies and tortillas! Bearing in mind the general standard of living in the town and the poverty that we saw all around us, this truly brought home to me how generously-spirited these people were.

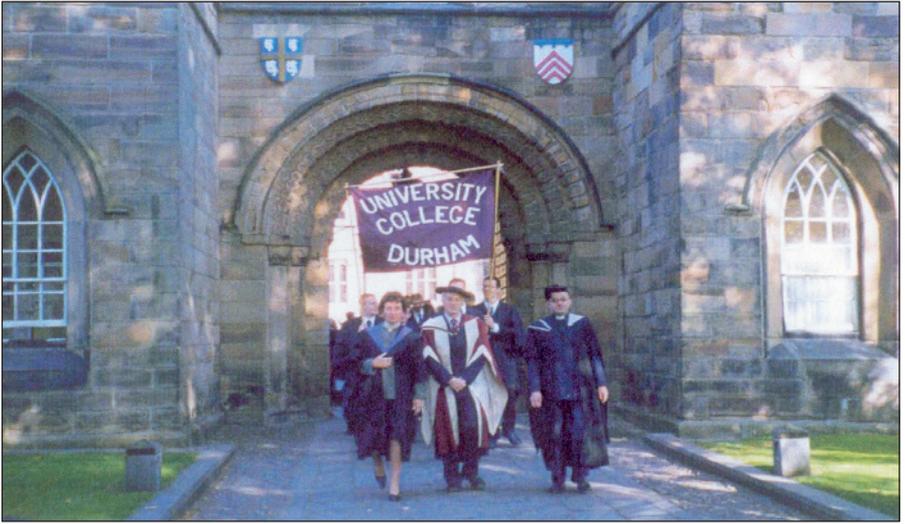
After the three weeks of the project I was lucky enough to have some time to travel. Mexico is such an immense country that in order to visit most of the interesting places in a relatively short time one can only spend a couple of days in each place. Therefore I chose to limit my explorations to the states of Oaxaca and Puebla. It is a hugely varied country in terms of climate and landscape; on the project we were up in the mountains, where the weather was changeable and quite cold, I then moved on to the west coast which is quite tropical, wet and humid. Here I found isolated beaches and a generally even more relaxed way of life (which I did not actually believe possible)! Mexico is truly a beautiful country and some of the places I visited will certainly stay with me forever. However, my motivation for wanting to visit the country and the reason that I now hope to return is the vibrant culture: the music, the food, the dancing that really draws the visitor in.

I would like to thank College for awarding me a travel scholarship which facilitated my project and enabled me to get an insight into such a wonderful country, as well as to contribute something to a small community in Mexico.

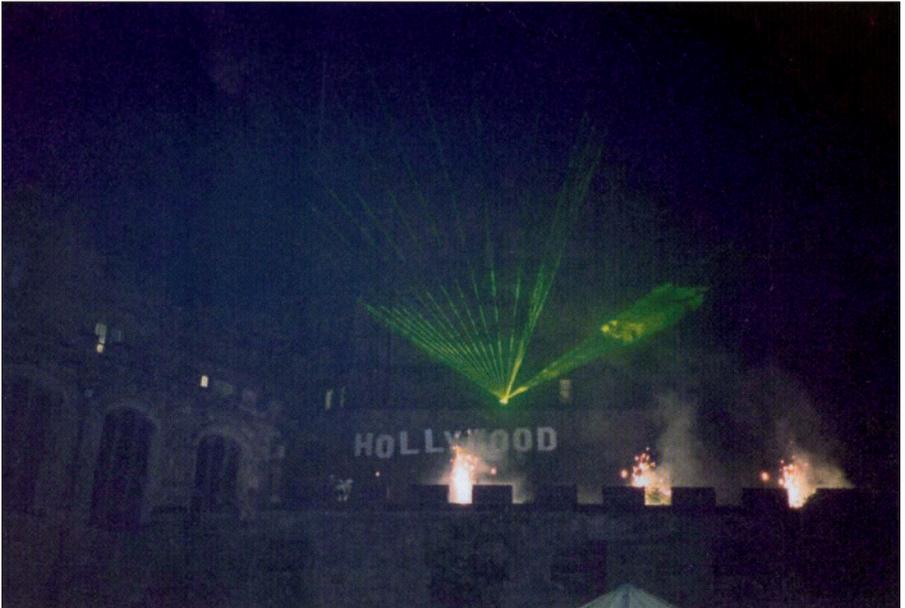
Sarah Farndale



The Freshers, October 2003, all 229 of them!



The Master, the Senior Tutor and the Chaplain lead the Freshers to matriculate in the Cathedral



Fireworks at the June Ball



John Atkin MBE



A NOTE FROM JOHN ATKIN

Castle students old and new,

It has been almost 2 years since I received my MBE, of which I am very proud, and now I would like to thank all involved in putting me in for it. Thank you so very much – and to put the top hat on it, I was put up for the portrait. To every one that contributed to it, thank you. As I am now in my 60th year and have 45 years at Durham Castle, the next five years will go so fast. I made the Castle my life, and I have been very pleased that lots of the students who have passed through the College have done so very well. It has been a great privilege to have known them all. As for telling tales about them, that will never happen – what happens here stops here! They have a new life, so onwards and upwards.

So, to everyone out there, I hope you have a good life, as I have had in the service of Durham Castle and the College.

John Atkin MBE



Guess Who?

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BOAT CLUB

After almost qualifying for Henley in the summer, and in the process beating the University Freshmen by only one second, last year's 1st IV left a hard act to follow.

The main effort for the first term is always the Hatfield Cup and this year was no exception. The record number of new members battled with their long-suffering coaches through the floods, snow and light shortages at hours of the morning that gap-year students had long since forgotten existed. The race day itself saw the first sun of the year and a near-miss for the Express IV losing to the eventual winners in the semi-finals and the Huxter IV urged on to victory in the Men's Plate competition by a barrage of four-letter words from our newest and loudest cox. With the hangover from the Hatfield Cup party still strong in their memories the Liptrot IV and the Bramhall IV proved that these results were no fluke by both coming second in the Men and Women's novice categories of the Senate Cup and embarrassing both the University Freshmen and some of the senior crews in the process!

The 1st IV reigned supreme outside Durham with victory in both Rutherford Head and York Small Boats Head for the first time in living memory. Though this memory may have a few gaps in it after the hugely successful UCBC Cocktails evening, where Jen and her fine helpers plied us all with exotic drinks. If you made Klute you were doing well!

After an eventful first term both on and off the water the club settled into the second term with two new Exec members who have performed exceptionally well despite having to hit the ground running. Similarly the crews were required to perform at a high level whilst the Christmas turkey was still in their stomachs and New Year's Eve still an all too recent (and painful) memory. The 1st IV continued their exemplary record being the yardstick against which all others were measured through all three rounds of the Pennants Series. Unfortunately on the day of the final, Collingwood College pulled out all the stops to win by less than a canvas in one of the most exiting battles the long-course has seen in recent memory. Durham Head saw the Heron IV come an impressive third and the Silvester/Shaw pair snake their way to victory. This left lots to be celebrated at the UCBC Ball bringing the club together, this time at Newcastle Assembly rooms. The wine flowed and people danced; particular thanks must go to our Social Secretary Jen Gray who's imagination and flair shone throughout the whole event.

The main focus of the second term, as always, was Tideway. With three VIIIs training in both the Men's and Women's squad, the addition of Spirit of Canada, a lightweight VIII for the women's squad, couldn't come soon

enough. Training was hard with many a long-outing on the Tyne. The pay-off for all this hard work, though, was an impressive 20 place improvement for the Women's 2nd VIII, with the 1st VIII maintaining their position. The Men's 2nd VIII had a similarly impressive showing improving 80 places on last years result! The Men's 1st VIII put in a rather disappointing performance after a training week hampered by a mystery illness for four members of the crew, what has become known as the Tideway Turd Trauma.

The first couple of weeks of the summer term have been very successful with a burgeoning pot count. At York Spring Regatta the Men's 1st IV dispatched all-comers as did the 3rd IV, a huge achievement for a Fresher crew to de-novice so early in the season! The Ladies 1st IV was again pipped at the post in the semi-final by their archrivals from St. Chad's.

This week has seen the arrival of our replacement plastic VIII, called the Lt. Col A. M. St Ledger Ramsey-Murrey, just in time for its first outing at Durham City Regatta where, after a disappointing Saturday, pots were gained by the Men's 1st and 2nd IV's and the Silvester/Shaw pair on the Sunday.

This has been a fantastic year for UCBC with three men's VIIIs and two women's VIIIs regularly on the water.

Nick Sylvester, UCBC President



The Castle Women's Four in Cardinal Sin and The Castle Eight winning at Henley



SUMMARY OF RESULTS

As at June 2003, the final examinations candidates achieved the following results:

Total graduates 173 (Men 83, Women 90)

	<i>No. of First</i>	<i>2.1's</i>	<i>2.2's</i>	<i>Thirds</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>
All	28	104	34	5	1	1
Men	9	50	18	4	1	1
Women	19	54	16	1		
Arts	9	35	9			
Science	12	33	14	2		1
Social Sciences	7	36	11	3	1	



CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEWS

Please send 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. Email is preferred – please mark subject CASTELLUM.

Name: _____ Years in Residence: _____

Address: _____

News: _____

Please send to arrive by 31st January 2005 for publication in 2005 Castellum.

DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2003

	2003	2002
	£	£
INCOME:		
Subscriptions	17,098.60	15,810.50
Interest Received	399.56	390.61
Donation (re. Grand Piano)	3,000.00	-
	<u>20,498.16</u>	<u>16,201.11</u>
EXPENDITURE:		
Castellum	3,525.00	3,525.00
Reunion Expenses	393.88	373.88
Postage	877.63	1,068.26
Other Printing & Stationery	140.03	116.32
Miscellaneous	35.00	35.00
Secretarial Costs	300.00	250.00
Membership List (Booklet)	-	1,342.78
	<u>5,271.54</u>	<u>6,711.24</u>
	<u>5,271.54</u>	<u>6,711.24</u>
Hospitality	58.96	64.98
Boat Club	5,238.81	-
U.C.D. Trust	5,000.00	-
Grand Piano	4,500.00	-
Portrait	500.00	-
Sports Store	-	679.00
Trophies	-	165.00
	<u>15,297.77</u>	<u>908.98</u>
	<u>(71.15)</u>	<u>£8,580.89</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		

DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2003

	2003	2002
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Sundry Debtors	3,238.82	-
Business Reserve Account	29,086.24	29,729.92
Business Premium Account	671.11	3,377.40
Community Account	100.00	110.00
	<u>33,096.17</u>	<u>33,217.32</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Subscriptions in Advance	14,350.00	14,250.00
Sundry Creditors	35.00	185.00
	<u>14,385.00</u>	<u>14,435.00</u>
	<u>£18,711.17</u>	<u>£18,782.32</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Accumulated Fund:		
Opening Balance	18,782.32	10,201.43
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(71.15)	8,580.89
	<u>£18,711.17</u>	<u>£18,782.32</u>
Martin E. Gunson, F.C.A., F.R.S.A., F.F.A., F.I.A.B., M.C.M.I.		
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>		

COLLEGE OFFICERS, 2003–2004

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, B.A., M.A.

LOWE LIBRARIAN

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*T. Fowler, B.A.

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 *Ruth Stubblehill, B.A.
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 B. R. Turner, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S.
 Lucia Vittorini, Ph.D.
 Gillian Wallace, B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.
 *G. Welsh, M.B.S.S., M.R.C., P.G. *joint tutors.

Dates of 2004 Reunion

Friday 16th April to Sunday 18th April 2004.
 The Reunion Dinner is on Saturday, 17th April 2004.

Dates of 2005 Reunion

Friday 15th April to Sunday 17th April 2005.
 The Reunion Dinner is on Saturday, 16th April 2005.

Whalley Abbey 2004 Reunion

Friday 3rd September, 2004.

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