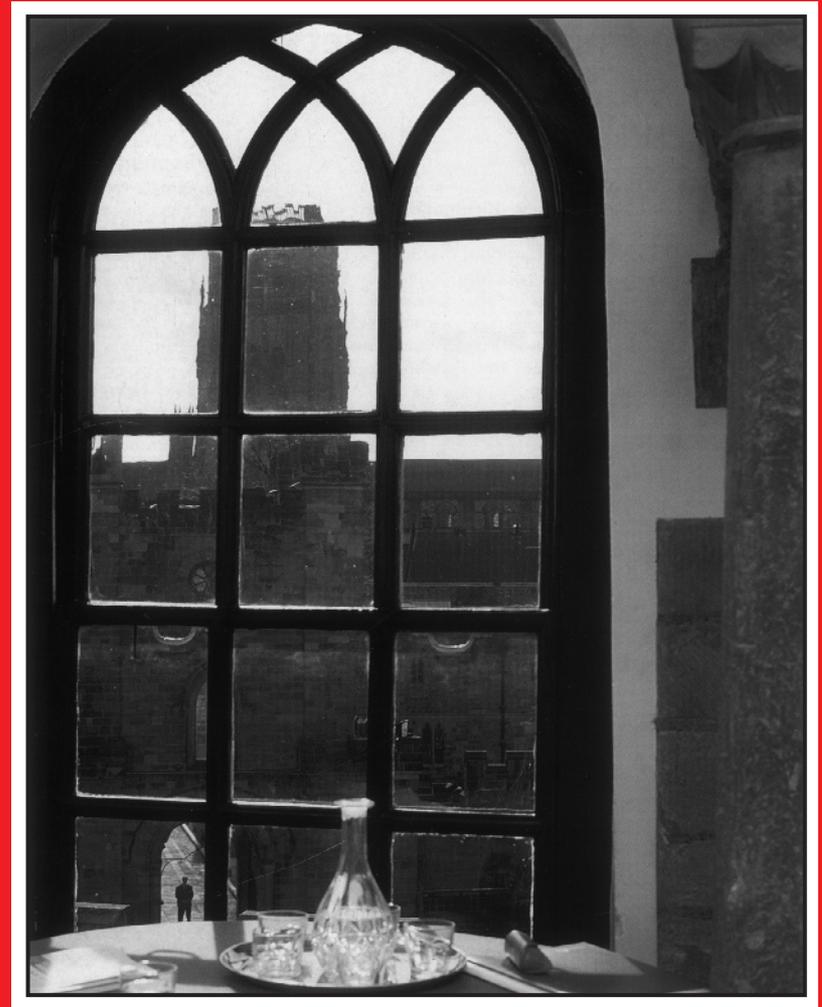


Castellum



THE MAGAZINE OF THE DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

www.durhamcastle.org

Floreat
Castellum!



No. 57
2004

DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

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The Vice-Master and Senior Tutor – Mrs. Paula Stirling

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2007 Michael Cliffe

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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:

Front Cover: Cathedral from the Norman Gallery (University Conference & Tourism Ltd.)

Back Cover: Castle from under the railway viaduct (Paul Jefferson)

THE EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

It may not seem like it, but your *Castellum* is late this year. After we had to split the mailings in the spring, to send out details of the reunion in advance of the first partly 'in colour' *Castellum*, the Master suggested publishing the magazine towards the end of the Michaelmas term, and giving members of the Durham Castle Society two mailings a year.

After all, Maurice reasoned, all of the reports in *Castellum* relate to the previous academic year ending in the summer, and even the listings of new freshers can be assembled by late October. Only the accounts are completed to the end of the calendar year, and the Honorary Treasurer arranged at the last reunion to change the year end so that all the material needed could be gathered by mid-November. It is even convenient for me since I am planning to be in Lesotho in Southern Africa for much of February which is the usual time for putting the magazine together.

Unfortunately other projects have intervened and whilst typesetting was mostly completed in December it did not prove possible to finish the magazine for Christmas. So here we are, back to February!

Future editions will be in November/December. There is lots of news including the death of Sir Peter Ustinov, and the perils of being a fresher when the University timetabling system virtually collapsed. Full reports follow.

I have moved house and am now in Chester-le-Street but my email address remains burnopfield@yahoo.co.uk. Please mark any correspondence with '*Castellum*' in the subject line so I can rapidly put your message into the Castle folder. I get around 700 emails a day (and that's after the spam filter has taken out much of the rubbish) so you see the problem. You still get *Castellum* by post as hard copy even if you might rather get it as a big .pdf file to download. Enjoy the magazine!

Alex J. Nelson
Chester-le-Street, February 2005

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

LETTER FROM THE MASTER – OCTOBER 2004

Greetings from the Northeast – on a windy day with driving rain – for a change! The term has been going for three weeks now; the freshers have settled in and at last are quietening down as they start to do some work!

The restoration of the Castle continues to be an issue and a priority but we have had some success in raising the estimated £7 million needed to complete the job. We were delighted to be awarded a small grant in September 2004 from Heritage Lottery and the Learning and Training Institute to take on some young people to become stonemasons. They are to be apprenticed by the Cathedral stonemasons for two years and then will work their way round the walls of the North Terrace and Keep which are in need of extensive repair. The Norman Gallery roof is being replaced as I write, thanks to a significant grant of £450,000 from the Northern Rock Foundation and matching funds from the University. The Norman Gallery roof is full of holes – broken and slipped slates, such that numerous buckets and bowls have been catching the rain. A month was spent removing the asbestos lagging around pipes up there in the Norman Gallery roof space before the real work could start. The workmen discovered up to three feet of rat droppings under the floor boards – that is above the Norman Gallery ceiling. Once this was removed – in August, then the rain really did start coming through. One discovery of great excitement by the workmen was a *cresset* made of lead; this is a medieval lamp holder which would have been high up on the wall and provided light through burning a bitumen soaked rag. It probably dates from the 16th Century when there was no ceiling in the Norman Gallery and the area there was a high vaulted hall.

We have had the builders and decorators in all summer working on P, Q and R blocks in Moatside. S Block will be renovated next summer. The rooms have been completely gutted, new wash-basins, carpets etc, and the bathrooms too – so no more flimsy plastic curtains in the showers. The whole of the College was supposed to have been cabled this summer as well – but unfortunately someone did not realise that the Owengate houses are listed, so that planning consents were not applied for! Nevertheless, before long all student rooms will have a network point so life will become easier for the undergraduates – able to lie in bed and send essays to tutors or surf the net looking for that last minute flight or whatever.

The last academic year was exceedingly busy for everyone – and then life became even more busy as the Bursar left in early April. The final-year students worked extra hard last year it seems and the highest number ever received first-class degrees – 46 people, that is 23% of those graduating. But well done to everybody.

It has been a great year for the arts in College. The Castle Theatre Company did *Richard III* in the Michaelmas term 2003, although the Bursar thought the fighting scenes were too realistic as he nearly lost his head and an old Master just missed being slashed by a sword. During Arts Week in February, the Castle Theatre Company performed *Sweetness Follows*, a play written by their president, Bailey Lock, which was performed at the Edinburgh Fringe in August to substantial audiences. *Much Ado* between showers was done in the Fellows Garden in June. The College Chapel Choir also performed at Edinburgh in August (and won a prize of £1,000 for their efforts – well done) and their CD made last year is selling well. The other college drama group – Quikfix Productions did the pantomime *Aladdin* in December 2003. The College Feast, a black-tie formal banquet bringing together the JCR, MCR and SCR, was again a highly successful evening during Arts Week. The boudoir piano kindly purchased by castleman Peter Crowley and the Castle Society, is used regularly by the JCR and for occasional recitals.

One of the real success stories of the year has been the establishment of the Castle Big Band under the direction and enthusiastic conducting of Chris Walker (affectionately known as Scouse) – a second year engineer. The band has done three gigs, all really wonderful events, in the Great Hall with plenty of dancing and foot-tapping too. The Castle Orchestra also performed; both they and the Big Band are appreciating the new music stands purchased with donations from Castle graduates that have come in via the telephone appeal.

Castle spirit is still very much alive in sport, especially pool it seems, with our team winning the intercollegiate trophy and also one of our members cue-ing for England. Yes, really. There were many successes, but it is mainly the taking part that counts of course. Castle sports teams went to Doxbridge in March, an annual competition held in Dublin with teams from Durham, Oxford and Cambridge Colleges, and our rugby team won an enormous cup – it only just fits into the silver cabinet in the Great Hall.

The Informal Ball in March was held at Hardwick Hall near Sedgfield and was a salsa night. Great music to dance to of course, so a most enjoyable was had with over two-thirds of the College attending. The June Reunion for recent graduates was again a successful event with over 100 returning; the highlight for me was being allowed to have a set as a DJ in the Undercroft so I could play my favourite tunes. The June Ball this year had the theme *Around the World in 80 Days* (not for the first time?). It was really impressive, thanks to the efforts of Social Sec Annie Bloor and helpers. The decorations were spectacular, the chocolate fountain in the Senate Room amazing, but unfortunately the hot-air balloon from 11.30 p.m. to 3.00 a.m. had to be cancelled when the skies opened around 11.15 p.m. and it rained all night, but fortunately just after we had the spectacular fireworks in the Courtyard.

The freshers of October 2004 have now settled in to Castle routine, but unfortunately the trophying got out of hand in the first week of term – too

many benches and microwaves arrived on the Norman Gallery from you know where across the Bailey. As you will have read, the 'A'-level results were good again – meaning that more students got their grades than we expected so that we are over-full in Castle. We did not have enough beds for them all and 15 freshers are living out in rented accommodation. This was not a good start to a person's University career at Durham, which prides itself on the college system.

The Chaplain is leaving in January. Ben Gordon-Taylor has a lectureship at Mirfield College, part of Leeds University; congratulations to him, but we shall miss him very much. Hopefully a new chaplain will be in post in January. We have appointed a new Bursar, someone with hotel-catering experience, and she should take up the appointment in January. We welcomed Leslie Ballantyne as the new housekeeper in January 2004, and we are very grateful to Audrey Morris for looking after the Castle after the departure of the previous housekeeper Tracey in June 2003.

2004 was also a sad year with the Chancellor, Peter Ustinov passing away in March. He seemed to really enjoy coming to Durham and taking part in the tradition of Congregation. He will be missed. We all have fond memories of him, and his stories at the ceremonies will live on, providing good material for after-dinner speeches. He was disappointed when the University decided to move congregations from the Castle to the Cathedral three years ago; he did love the intimate and cosy atmosphere of the Great Hall and often really got carried away in his speeches there, entertaining the parents and graduates in memorable fashion. But the Cathedral of course is also a very special place to receive one's degree, and a natural place in a sense since Matriculation at the beginning of one's time at Durham also takes place there. So far 518 nominations have been received for a new Chancellor and an announcement can be expected in the new year.

We had John Prescott here in November 2003 and September 2004 to launch the campaign for a Northeast Assembly; the referendum will be in November this year. And we nearly had Blair and Bush here for lunch in that month too – but then they realised that in an emergency the President's limousine would not have been able to drive over Prebends Bridge without bringing it down, and a Chinook helicopter landing on Palace Green would have taken all the windows out of the surrounding buildings – most notably the Cathedral of course. So they went to Sedgfield for fish and chips, and a pint instead. And Tim Lawrence (now Rear Admiral) came in March 2004 to give a presentation to the Union Society; he gave an interesting talk on procurement in the Navy.

The College Council (was called Governing Body once) decided to invite several people to be Honorary Fellows of the College – persons who have contributed significantly to the College or have been associated with the College and then gone on to greater things. In May Dr. Ian Doyle was made

an Honorary Fellow for his over 50 years of involvement with the College on numerous committees, in the SCR, etc, and his important contributions to the study of medieval manuscripts. He was presented to the College at formal dinner and he gave a lecture the next week on his research into the development of the printed book from the handwritten manuscript. In October we welcomed Professor John Lawton FRS to be our second honorary fellow. John was here in the 1960s doing a BSc and then PhD in Zoology; and he was Senior Man 1965–66. John is the Chief Executive of the Natural Environment Research Council and an internationally renowned ecologist. He is also Vice-President of the RSPB and BTO. He gave an after-dinner talk on Biodiversity, Life and the Pending Extinction. We have also conferred an honorary fellowship on Sir Harold Evans, Castle student from the 1950s. We have also made Sir Harold Evans an honorary fellow of the College for his contributions to journalism.

For me I still get excited about my research into limestones and have been



Fireworks at the June Ball 2003.

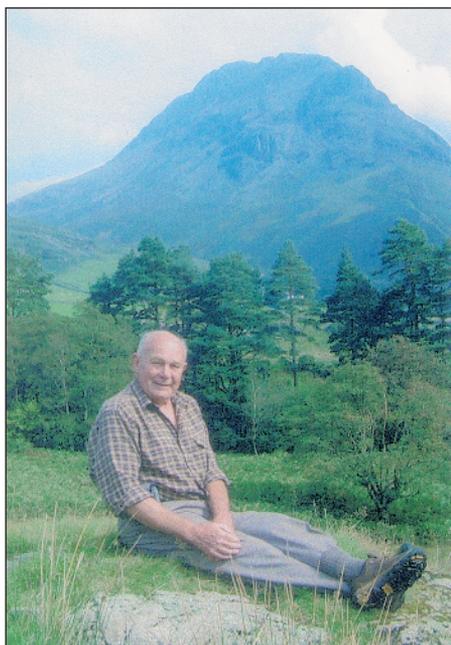
busy writing up my work on Devonian rocks in China, attending conferences and meetings in Oman, Coimbra Portugal, Rio de Janeiro, Pau and Paris. Next term, Epiphany 2005, I shall be taking research leave, spending nearly four months at the University of Western Australia, Perth. I will be studying Devonian limestones in the Kimberleys, and very young limestones (125,000 years old) on the West Coast. Keeps me out of mischief ...

All the best to everybody and thanks for all your support of the College.

Floreat Castellum

*Maurice Tucker
Master, October 2004*

Obituary: John Robson (1930–2003)



John was defeated by cancer following an operation to remove a brain tumour in July 2003. Our sympathies go particularly to Jane and Anne, his daughters and Sonia, his companion for the last twenty five years. All three were devoted to John and in the last few weeks of his life gave tremendous support and devoted care to him. Sonia said it was a privilege to have been part of this effort to make his last few weeks tolerable.

I first met John in 1949, both of us fresh from military service. He has a great affection for Durham but more particularly Castle. It is not only in the years as an undergraduate that he supported the Castleman's Society (latterly Durham Castle Society) and the College Trust in all

its endeavours. Since 1950 he missed only three Reunions, an indisputable and unique record. He also managed to avoid having to propose the Toast of the College, in spite of the efforts of five Masters. He had several periods on the Castleman's Committee. He played a major role in the efforts to support the College and maintain the ethos which makes Castle such a special place.

He was an active member as an undergraduate playing a major role in the first Castle Day, the Lumley Run and all the other activities of a non-academic nature. He was a leading light in creating innovative ways of enjoying life, many of which have since been banned or made impossible by the College Authorities. He also read Physics and came down with a reasonable degree, working under Dr. Prowse for whom he had great respect. He enjoyed rugby with the College and Durham Colleges and did not hang up his boots until his late forties. He became President of his Club in West Cumberland and was involved with county rugby.

John has a successful career in industry starting at Rolls Royce in Derby and switching to the atomic energy industry in the late fifties, firstly at Palmatrada who were concerned with atomic powered marine engines. During his time there he was seconded to Harwell. He joined the Atomic Energy Authority at Windscale and stayed there until he retired some ten years ago, having held the senior position in engineering development.

He always said that he had the perfect combination of a fascinating job and the Lake District on his doorstep, in which he could indulge his love of serious walking. He joined the Eskdale Mountain Rescue Team until it became institutionalised and he had to train to bring down from the Fells lost souls or ‘stupid women in tight shorts and high heels, who should never have been there in the first place’. At that point he resigned but still toiled up to the top of an Eskdale or Wastdale fell to act as steward during the annual fell races. My wife and I saw him on our frequent visits to the Lakes and we had many enjoyable days walking the Fells.

He always had a view and was quick to explode humbug. These views were forthright, clinically argued but succinct. He was a man of integrity and we enjoyed his company either singularly or at the 1949–52 Dinner prior to the Reunion Dinner every year. It is difficult to identify what was the attraction of his character but whatever it was, he generated genuine affection. By his death a deep void has been created for all those who came in contact with him, Sonia, Jane, Anne, his Castle contemporaries and his many friends in West Cumberland.

John Hollier

The Editor apologises for being unable to publish this Obituary last year.

Obituary: Peter Goggin (1937–2003)

Peter Goggin died in Bristol on 28th May 2003 at the age of 66. He was a Castleman who gained a First in Chemistry, followed by a D.Phil. from Oxford and spent the greater part of his academic career at the University of Bristol.

At Bristol he had a distinguished academic career as a Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer in Organic Chemistry, European Academic Liaison Officer and then in 1992 the University's first Director of International Affairs. He was deeply involved in University policy, Senate, Council and Court and as a member of the University's Finance and Planning Group. In addition he set up and developed an extensive international network with particular emphasis on the Coimbra and Santander Groups of European Universities.

At Castle I remember him as a popular and respected man who successfully mixed work, sport and leisure. He had a tremendous sense of fun and loved a party. He was a very good athlete, gaining College Colours for both Athletics and Cross Country and also representing Durham Colleges in both sports. He and I trained together on a regular basis for three years covering many miles on both track and country and talking most of the way!

Peter was a most likeable and amusing companion, and a great College man. Indeed he was a University man of a sort no longer fashionable or perhaps possible but always modern in his views. His family, his partner Robin, and a multitude of friends will sadly miss him.

Ian Forster

THE WHALLEY REUNION

The numbers at this year's Whalley Reunion were the same as last year. More were confidently expected but, such was the will of the Inscrutable Ones, three at least were felled by accidents just weeks before.

Such however is the human spirit that a pleasant time was had by all those who travelled there. Helpmeets, both Whalley veterans and newcomers, seemed to enjoy themselves, and the weather, which always holds good at this time of the year, smiled on us yet again.

Nostalgia is always the keynote of any Reunion, and Whalley lends itself to nostalgia. Cock a sympathetic ear and you can, if you are lucky, hear the monks in their cowed corners whispering about the golden days before Henry the Wretched came along and ruined it all.

A personal lament. Your correspondent was in such a hurry to get there this year that in North Wales he went through a 30-limit at a scorching 41 – and was hammered with a swingeing fine and three penalties from the North Wales Police (Crime Detection Success Rate 5%; 'Speeding' Fines Collection Rate 95%). He now has a sticker on his rear window: 'Join the Over Thirty Club and get Three Points Off!')

The next Whalley Reunion is on Friday 26th August 2005. Do try to book early. If you have a lady, bring her as well: she is sure to enjoy it.

Whalley Reunion isn't like Castle Reunion. It's altogether more informal, more a family affair, which is how Geoffrey envisaged it. As I said last time, there's a softly glowing euphoria that comes from meeting old friends, dining with old friends, and raising a glass with old friends, that makes it unique.

Make a point then of coming on the 26th!

See you there!

Edgar Jones

STILL GOING STRONG

The Reverend Edward Underhill (1948–50) writes from St. George's Vicarage, 327 Durham Road, Gateshead NE4 5AJ to advise that he is still working at 80 and is the oldest serving incumbent in the Northern Province of the Church of England.

Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 17th April 2004 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 60 members were in attendance.

Apologies for Absence

Norman Butterworth, Nick Mercer, Paula Stirling, Albert Cartmell, Edgar Jones, Peter Dixon, John Davies, John Bridges, David Moore, Ian Watson, Mike Waters, David Mallett.

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

John Robson

Venerable W D Robinson

Don Wilson

Peter Jefferies

David Shepherd

Peter Goggin

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 29th March 2003, having been published in Castellum, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the correction of Roy Heady's name to Roy McKenzie, after Mike Pulling advised us that Roy Heady died three years ago, and the date of John Hollier's service as a Trustee was corrected to 2006. The Secretary humbly apologised for the errors.

Matters Arising

None.

Report of Chairman of University College Durham Trust

The value of the Trust now stands at around £300,000. Our current objective is to reach £500,000, to provide sufficient income from our

investments to fund our regular expenditure (such as travel scholarships) while preparing ourselves to meet the demands of future capital projects.

Christmas cards were produced by the Trust for 2003 – half have been sold so far so we have covered our production costs and every one sold now generates profit for the Trust. The Master was also pleased to report donations of approximately £3,000 from parents of current undergraduates.

Report from the Editor of Castellum

2,750 is the largest print run we have ever done, and involved colour this year.

In 2004, the publishing date for Castellum will be brought forward to December. Contributions from members are encouraged early to meet the new publishing schedule. The meeting expressed its appreciation to Alex.

Report from Representative on College Council

At the last meeting it was agreed that the Senior Tutor was appointed as Vice Master. The Bursar left the College at the end of last term, and the Master expressed his appreciation to Alan Gibson.

John Hollier raised a question about the change of name from Governing Body to College Council. The Master explained that the name change reflected a move of commercial responsibilities away from the College to the University. He reassured members that the academic and social life of the College remained as strong as ever.

Whalley Abbey Reunion

Following the death of Canon Williams, Edgar Jones organised the 2003 reunion at Whalley Abbey. In the absence of Edgar Jones, Bernard Mather reported on the 2003 reunion and strongly recommended Castlemen to attend this year. The 2004 reunion takes place on 3rd September 2004.

Report from the JCR

Dan Robinson – Senior Man. Last year was an energetic and active year – with Duck week one of the most entertaining in memory – slave auction, football team strip, Grease themed event etc. A successful

Arts Week was held and the College Feast as part of that, organised by the Chaplain. The President of the Castle Theatre Company, Bailey Locke, wrote a play which was premiered in the Lowe Library and will be performed at the Edinburgh Fringe. The College Choir have produced their own CD which has been very successful.

Prowess on the sporting field continues, including the Boat Club sending male and female crews to all the major events.

The thriving social side continues – e.g. a 1920's–30's America themed event with lots of alcohol consumed despite Prohibition – apparently much by the Master. A Castle Big Band was formed. Rivalry with Hatfield continues – last term, Dan woke up to find a selection of flowers (with roots) dug up by unnamed Castlemen calling themselves the Cardinal Sinners. Although the Master blamed Hild Bede, his defence was weakened by the incriminating evidence of the words "*Floreat Castellum*" written in the soil.

In the spirit of 'Calendar Girls' Dan explained that the JCR would be producing their own calendar for sale.

Presentation of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2003

Martin Gunson talked through the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2003, as published in *Castellum*. This shows a deficit of £71 after allocation of the various grants agreed at the last AGM, and a healthy balance at year end of £18,711.17. The adoption of the accounts was carried on a general aye.

Business from Durham Castle Society Committee

Martin Gunson introduced a proposal to change the financial year to end on 31st July, with effect from this year. This was agreed on a general aye.

Martin also expressed his appreciation to Alan Gibson for his contribution to the Society during his period as Bursar. The meeting approved the purchase of a gift from the Society, and a print of Durham was shown to the meeting.

To encourage the artistic endeavours of JCR members, and provide more photographs for *Castellum*, the Society approved the award of three prizes of £50 for the best photographs from JCR members published in *Castellum*.

A contribution of £1,000 was approved for the purchase of a PA system for JCR meetings and small concerts.

A grant of up to £6,000 was approved to enable the JCR to purchase lighting rigs and a control desk for theatre productions and concerts in the Great Hall. It was confirmed that this would not affect the conversion of the gallery into an extension to the Lowe Library.

A donation of £5,000 was approved to the University College Durham Trust.

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 2007)	David Mallett

Nominations for the remaining posts were as follows:

Two members of the committee to serve until 2007 – Dr. Michael Cliffe (MJCliffe@eidosnet.co.uk), proposed by Richard Ellery, and seconded by Andrew Duckworth. Claire Croxford, proposed by Vicki Rubin, seconded by Ryan Chambers. There being no other nominations Michael and Claire were duly elected.

Any Other Business

In response to a question, the Master confirmed that the College Curator would be very happy to receive any photographs or other memorabilia from members of the society – including in digital form.

It was reported that the 'Class of 1962' are keen to attract as many of their year to attend the 2005 reunion to mark 40 years since they graduated.

From 7th to 9th September 2007 the University will organise a weekend of celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the University. The Society reunion will continue to be held at Easter.

2005 Reunion

The 59th reunion of the Durham Castle Society will take place from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th April 2005. A reunion for recent graduates will be held in June 2004.



**58th Reunion Dinner
Saturday 17th April 2004
GREAT HALL**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Lobster, Prawn and Paw Paw Cocktail
Raspberry Vinegar**

★ ★ ★

**Fillet of Beef Wellington
Madeira Sauce
New Potatoes – skins on
French Beans
Cauliflower Polonaise**

★ ★ ★

Irish Whisky Syllabub

★ ★ ★

Brie and Stilton Cheeses and Biscuits

★ ★ ★

**Coffee and Tea
After Dinner Mints**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TOASTS

THE QUEEN The Master

THE COLLEGE Air Commodore Ian Forster

**REPLY and ABSENT FRIENDS The Chaplain
(Revd. B. Gordon-Taylor)**

THE CHAPEL

The Chapel has had another good year. Sales of the CD *Cantate Domino* were most gratifying, with nearly all sold via the Lodge, mail order and to old students at the reunion! There are still a few left! The costs of the venture have been more than covered. There have been some good reviews in the musical press, and a track was played recently on BBC Radio 3's 'Late Junction' programme. In all the project has provided some good publicity for the choir and the chapel generally, some valuable recording experience for choir members ('can we just do that again...') and we hope to build on the goodwill generated. In the summer of 2004 the choir sang a memorable concert at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and we have just learned that they won the £1,000 prize for the best youth choir offered by Schott's music, to be put towards a recording (been there...), a concert or a tour. Thoughts of the latter are emerging.

The regular round of services continued in 2003–04 with David Jackson in charge of the choir, a role in which he prospered to the extent that he has been re-appointed Organ Scholar for 2004–05. Jennifer Yates was a superb Chapel Clerk, ably assisted by Zoë Collins in the sacristy department. Jemima Jackson was a loyal and enthusiastic Assistant Organist. In the event the person appointed Treasurer was unable to take up the post, and so the Chaplain and Chapel Clerk looked after the (healthy) finances jointly. For 2004–05 Zoë Collins takes over as Chapel Clerk, Siân Divers as Sacristan, and Alexander Thwaite as Treasurer. An additional appointment has been made to support the senior officers in 2004–05, namely Ben Dubock as Assistant Clerk. Ollie Bond becomes Assistant Organist and Alexander Miller-Bakewell the webmaster (see www.dur.ac.uk/castle.chapel for evidence of his work!).

The pattern of services now established for several years (11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist and 9.00 p.m. Compline on Sunday, 6.00 p.m. Choral Evensong with Address on Thursday) continues to serve the needs of the Chapel Community well, and numbers have remained at an encouraging level. Five members of College were confirmed by the new Bishop of Durham, Dr. Wright, in a moving service in the Cathedral mid-way through the year. Special services, for example Remembrance Sunday and the Carol Service, attracted the usual extra congregation: indeed the Carol Service was the best attended for the past five years (170 plus), although the Tunstall Chapel is rather small for such large numbers (perhaps a modern-day Bishop Cosin is needed to extend it!) Chapel Dinners have been successful occasions both in terms of conviviality, popularity (the record of 52 attenders was set during the year) and raising money for nominated charities. Visiting preachers have enjoyed their time in College and we have appreciated their input. So all manner of thing has been well, as the saying goes.

Pastorally the team model of Senior Tutor, Chaplain and student welfare officers is now well-established in terms of communication and effectiveness. There has been the usual crop of marriages and baptisms involving members of the wider College family (staff and former students). These are always enjoyable occasions which remind us of the extent to which this place is appreciated and loved by those who have come into contact with it.

This is my final piece as Solway Fellow and Chaplain of University College, as with effect from January 1st 2005 I have been appointed to a Lectureship at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, a Theological College of the Church of England affiliated to the University of Leeds, where I will also be doing some undergraduate teaching. I myself trained at Mirfield some years ago, so it is perhaps a case of 'poacher turned gamekeeper'!

I would like to thank the many old members who have extended to me their friendship and support over the past five years, and to express the hope that my successor will find as much pleasure and fulfilment in living and working in the College.

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

NEW CHAPLAIN AND NEW BURSAR

The new Chaplain is the Reverend Dr. Anthony Bash who was licensed at a Special Service of Evensong in the Tunstal Chapel on Thursday, 3rd February by John Pritchard, Bishop of Jarrow. An enrolled Solicitor, though no longer practising, he was previously Vicar of North Ferriby on Humberside.

The new Bursar, replacing Alan Gibson who resigned in Spring 2004, is Shona Millar who joins us from the hospitality sector. She was previously manager of the Marriott Hotel in Sunderland and before that was a member of the management team at the Royal County Hotel in Durham.



SCHOOL REUNION SEES ZOE PIP OLD PAL

The last time Zoe Tucker and Judith Nutt came into contact with each other was when they were pupils at Newcastle Central High.

During those days, Tucker's sporting interests were limited to hockey and tennis while Nutt was leading the way in athletics.

However, last weekend the tables were turned when 26-year-old Tucker returned to the region to compete in the Saltwell Road Race and finished up leading the women home, with Nutt in second place.

Now a PE teacher in Bath, Tucker admitted to being a novice at running have only taken up the sport 18 months ago but is eager to make up for lost time.

"I remember Judith being a star runner during my time at Central High while I did relatively no running at all," said Tucker, who was back in the region to visit her parents in Durham.

"At the time i was interested in other sports but since taking up running I've really grown to like it.

"I've already run one marathon as well as two Great North Runs and I'm really enjoying it.

"In the Copenhagen Marathon I ran three hours and one minute and that time has gained me a place on the elite start for London next year."

Tucker's performance at Saltwell was a real surprise, as she knocked over a minute-and-a-half off her previous best 10km time and, considering the difficulty of the course, is worth more than that.

"I think that was my best run ever," added the Bitton Road Runner.

"I had heard all about the huge hill on the course but in the end I thought it was a brilliant race. Hopefully I can come back again next year."

Tucker's visit and resultant victory could well find its way to the county selectors' ears for, having been born in the North East and not have competed in any other county championship, she has the qualifications to be included in the team for future competition.



CUP OF CHEER: Zoe Tucker had reason to smile after racing to triumph in the Saltwell Road Races.

Zoe Tucker (1996-1999) is the daughter of The Master, Maurice Tucker, currently on sabbatical in Australia. (Reproduced by kind permission of the Evening Chronicle, Newcastle.)

CURATOR'S JOTTINGS.

About a month back I suddenly realised, with a mixture of surprise and alarm, that I had just clocked up 25 years in Castle. I first came up as a fresher in October 1979, Ted Salthouse's first year as Master, and it was Ted who, a few years later, asked me if I would like to help out by producing computer inventories of the antique contents of the Castle (referring, I think, to the paintings, silver and furniture rather than the dons ...!).

My post as 'Honorary Recorder', effectively an evening job to be slotted in after I got home from Archaeology, just seemed to grow and grow until, in 1998, Bursar Alan Gibson offered me a salaried (but still part-time) job as Curator of the Durham Castle Museum (the collections having been, for some years, formally registered as a Museum).

That job has also grown very considerably over the past six years and, although I have recently been made up from two to three days a week, there is still never enough time to do all that one might wish ... not surprising, I suppose, when you consider that there is half a World Heritage Site under our care. The Curator is not just, as I suppose you might reasonably assume, merely in charge of the Museum collections but is also, inevitably, heavily involved in the care of the Castle itself, for the collections won't last long if the walls and roofs that house them fail to keep out the weather ...! I find myself spending more and more time patrolling the roofs, which is not an unpleasant task, to tell the truth – but what is less pleasant is playing amateur roofer, pushing slates back after every breath of wind – and what is faintly embarrassing is being the region's most prolific purchaser of plastic buckets (leaks for the plugging of) from the local hardware stores.

Many aspects of the building now give cause for concern, large sums being increasingly urgently required for both restoration and maintenance. We have this year made a good start (only) on both: a generous grant from the Northern Rock Foundation has allowed us to bring forward and expand the programme of work on the Castle's roofs, beginning, as I write, with the Norman Gallery roof, before moving on to the Junction and Keep. We had hoped to start work in July this year, as soon as Congregation was over, with the Gallery roof taking 6–8 weeks to complete, but delays in gaining the necessary Listed Building Consents meant that July became October – and a very wet October it has been, with slow progress as a result – but, with luck, the buckets will soon no longer be necessary and I might even be able to leave the photocopier on when it rains.

Incidentally, gaining Listed Building Consent for roofing work on a Grade One Listed Building has its entertaining aspects: not only the local planning authorities and English Heritage get involved but also English Nature – and that means, for instance, a Bat Survey, with more crawling about (this time inside) the roofs for the Curator, following a very enthusiastic Gerry White (Castle 1949–53, and now Batman extraordinaire). Bats can frequently be

seen flying round the courtyard, but it seems that none of them actually roost here but instead retire elsewhere (perhaps to the Cathedral or to the bat boxes gracing the trees along the riverbanks). A good job really, since that means we are allowed to get on with the repairs.

Smaller, but still significant, grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Learning and Skills Council have enabled the University, with the welcome co-operation of the Cathedral authorities, to set up an apprenticeship scheme for stone masons, since, perhaps surprisingly, the University has no stonemasons amongst its workforce of (I'm told) 2,286 full-time and 922 part-time staff. The first two apprentices have already been chosen, and it is intended that a further two will be taken on next year: it is hoped that they will form the basis of a future team of masons who will provide the constant care so necessary to a building built from soft sandstone. This is something I have been boring on about for years, so it's wonderful to see it actually happening at last.

We are, of course, actively seeking further sources of funding for other restoration projects – and I have today just completed another application to the HLF for help in mounting an exhibition specifically about Castle restoration projects past and present: if you are in Durham in the summer of 2005, do please pop in to the Palace Green Library and see it.

It is satisfying to be able to report a number of improvements around the Castle, including a few little things that those of you that attend reunions might notice and, I hope, appreciate:

- the replacing of the dreadful strip lighting in the MCR (the old TV room at the base of the keep) by four chandeliers – and the Norman Gallery should soon be fitted with something even grander;
- the restoration of the missing pieces of panelling in the Great Hall and on the Minstrels' Gallery (gaps which bugged me for years!);
- cleaning and tidying of the Great Hall, with the removal of many yards of unwanted wiring and the replacement of the (extremely ugly and obtrusive) PA system with a discreet, modern equivalent;
- restoration of woodwork in the Bishop's Suite, and the painting of the mirror fixings to blend in with the tapestries, the latter courtesy of Annabel Bloor (2001–04), a talented artist and one of last year's Norman Gallery residents;
- the addition of a new lantern light in the NW corner of the courtyard (soon to be followed by another over the Keep entrance), as well as restoration of the lantern lights on the Barbican gateposts;
- the addition of another display case on the Norman Gallery (with a fourth and final one about to be delivered).

In addition, programmes in the pipeline include:

- continuing with the conservation and restoration of oil paintings and coats of arms, many of them, I hope, within a year or so, to be

hung in the Great Hall (restoring a pre-war layout that one or two might still remember);

- also for the Great Hall, the commissioning (if I get my way) of a set of College banners similar to those made by the ladies of the Sunderland Embroiderers Guild for the Exhibition Hall of the Palace Green Library;
- the manufacture of new bookcases and cupboards for the Minstrels' Gallery, to complete its transformation into an annex of the College Library;
- the conservation (courtesy in part of a generous donation from the Vice-Chancellor) of a second 'Bishop's Barge' painting, much the most important 'addition' to the Castle's collection for several decades, and now at last ready to be hung: it was rediscovered several years ago, in dreadful condition, in the Bowes Museum, where it had been in 'storage' since 1949. High time we had it back, I thought!

... and finally, a new book on University College and Durham Castle is in preparation, in theory to be available sometime next year – but only if I get back to writing it.

Richard Brickstock



Bishop's Barge, courtesy of Elizabeth Wigfield, the conservator.



Restoration work is now proceeding on the Castle roof.

FORTY YEARS (AND MORE) AGO

I arrived in Durham in 1965 to be the Classics Department's Greek Historian, as the successor to E. Badian, who went on to be professor at Leeds, Buffalo and finally Harvard. Classics had, of course, been taught here since the foundation of the University, and before writing about 1965 I should like to set straight the record of 1938–39.

The chair of 'Greek and Classical Literature' was attached to a Canonry at the Cathedral, and had been held since 1934 by W C Mayne. The Chair of Latin was not attached to a Canonry, but was in fact held by a Clergyman, J H How, who had come to Durham as Lecturer in Classics in 1898, had become Professor of Latin in 1910 and, additionally, Master of University College in 1932, and had been made an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral in 1933. How died in October 1938, and presumably finances and/or student numbers were thought not to justify a new appointment to the Chair (it was not filled until 1948).

The original plan in 1939 was that Mayne should move sideways to a new Chair of Divinity, and to the Chair of Greek, detached from its Canonry, the University appointed with effect from 1st January 1940 the precocious J Enoch Powell, aged 27, who from 1937 had been Professor of Greek at Sydney. But the Second World War broke out, and, as is well known, Powell in fact went from Sydney (resigning slightly early) into the British Army. He was regarded by Durham as Professor of Greek elect; but for the time being Mayne continued as Professor of Greek, and it was only in 1943, when Mayne departed to be Dean of Carlisle, that the University Calendar began to show Powell as Professor, absent on National Service. The headship of the Department was taken over by Miss R E D Donaldson, who had retired as Principal of St. Mary's in 1940 but stayed on to keep Classics going. Powell decided on a change of career before the end of the War, and with effect from 1st October 1944 resigned from the Chair which he had never occupied – citing 'an instinct, not of recent origin but grown stronger in the past years, which commands me after the War to seek a field for my energies and aspirations elsewhere than in university teaching. It is an instinct which I dare not disobey'.

The first layman to occupy the chair of Greek was therefore J S Morrison, Lecturer at Manchester but at the end of the War on National Service in charge of the British Council Office in Jerusalem – best known as the man behind the reconstruction of a Greek trireme (and involved with him in the early stages of his research on the trireme was R T Williams, appointed as the Department's Greek Archaeologist in 1946).

The Chair of Latin was revived in 1948, and E C Woodcock was appointed (again from Manchester, where many academics of that generation began their careers). Morrison departed to Cambridge in 1950, and was succeeded in the Chair of Greek by J B Skemp (who yet again had been a Lecturer at Manchester, but for the year before he came to Durham had been Reader in Greek at Newcastle; he soon dropped 'Classical Literature' from his title). The Classics Department at Newcastle was ruled over by G B A Fletcher, Professor at First of Classics and later of Latin from 1937 to 1969 (and left to run the Department rather than being called up for National Service during the War). The two departments had their separate honours syllabuses, but with minor differences they taught to the same syllabus for what was called at first the Pass Degree and later the General Degree; so there were a joint Board of Studies and Board of Examiners, in which the mild Woodcock and Skemp were unable to stand up to the strong personality of Fletcher. Originally Greek and Roman archaeology were contained within the Classics Department both in Durham and in Newcastle: in Durham E Birley seceded to found a Department of Archaeology in 1950, in Newcastle R M Harrison did likewise in 1972, and other kinds of Archaeology were added to the Roman core; but in both places the Greek Archaeologist remained in Classics.

In 1963 a new era began, both for the University and for Classics. King's College became a separate University of Newcastle upon Tyne (the Durham Colleges, with about 1,800 students, were at last large enough to stand on their own feet; King's had over 4,000 students). The opening of a new County Hall enabled the Durham administration to move into what became Old Shire Hall, and Classics, which had two rooms and a corridor in 8 South Bailey (having previously occupied a hut on the Science site and, before that, a room in Cosin's Hall) took over 38 (+ 39) North Bailey, which had been the Durham Colleges Office, and was for the first time able to provide a separate room for each of its Dons.

Adaptation was just beginning to a world in which it was becoming less true that Classics dominated school education and language work dominated Classics. The requirement to engage in prose composition all the way to graduation was first diluted in 1960, when it was made compulsory to do prose only in one language in the final year, and final-year prose in both languages became optional in 1965; prose composition has continued in Latin in recent years but is being dropped now; Greek has been content with sentences for some years. Verse composition remained an option until 1978 (and, when I was interviewed for my primarily historical post in 1965 and had to confess that I could teach prose in both languages but verses in neither, I thought – mistakenly – that that reply had lost me the job).

Until 1966 the Department offered only one honours degree, in 'Classical and General Literature' (presumably intended as an anglicised version of Oxford's *Literae Humaniores*): General Literature had meant Religious Knowledge (in 1939 renamed Biblical Knowledge) and modern philosophy; Biblical Knowledge was dropped in 1947, but a final-year paper on Outlines of Ancient and Modern Philosophy was retained until 1976, frequently causing – while the title Classical and General Literature became simply Classics in 1969. Newcastle had had since 1922–23 a degree in Latin, with Greek at a lower level, and with the option of a one-year second B.A. afterwards to bring the Greek up to the standard of the Latin: similar arrangements for Durham were finalised in the autumn of 1965 (later the one-year second B.A. became an M.A., and that disappeared when we introduced a new kind of taught M.A.). Negotiations for joint honours degrees with English (successful) and with French (unsuccessful) were begun in 1965–66; but Woodcock slapped down suggestions of a Classical degree which would place a particular emphasis on ancient history. The requirement that all students for the General B.A. should take one Classical subject in the first year was dropped when Durham remodelled that degree after the separation from Newcastle; and in 1985 Durham's General B.A. was replaced by a B.A. in Combined Studies, based not on a separate syllabus but on components of single and joint honours syllabuses.

Durham still had an active overseas dependency, Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone (it also had Codrington College in Barbados, but that did not impinge on us). Fourah Bay retained as Durham did not the requirement that B.A. General students should take at least one Classical subject, and we had to mark the exam papers: I remember large (by the standards of those days) numbers of African students writing with gusto about Athenian imperialism.

A proper account of events and people since then would take up far more space than I could induce the editor to allow me. The position of Classics in schools has continued to weaken, and in all British universities Classics Departments have had to broaden their appeal, catering not only for traditional Classicists (and Durham has been surpassed only by Oxford and Cambridge in doing that) but also for students who arrive without knowledge of the languages, who want to concentrate on Classical civilisation (Durham had introduced Greek and Roman Culture as a first-year subject in the Pass Degree as early as 1946) or (despite Woodcock) Ancient History, or who want to combine classical subjects with other subjects. The Durham Department, after obtaining a joint honours degree with English but not with French, first made arrangements for Latin with a variety of subsidiary subjects, and more recently created a variety of joint

honours degrees; in 1977 an honours degree in Classical Studies was introduced, and joint honours in Ancient History and Archaeology – followed later by single honours in Ancient History and joint honours in Ancient, Medieval and Modern History. By catering for new constituencies the Department has thrived: in my first year in Durham, 1965–66, we had a first year of 18 (a record high), reading for the one degree; in 2003–04 we had a first year of 112 bodies or, counting joint honours students as halves, 90 ‘full time equivalents’ (again a record high), reading for four single and six joint honours degrees out of a possible seven and seven.

But, like many departments in many Universities, until recently we have not had additional staff to teach the ever-growing number of students. Indeed, in the 1980’s in Durham as in other British Universities people were persuaded to take early retirement and were not replaced (and as a result of that Universities now have a demographic gap in the middle age-range). Since under old contracts academics could not be made redundant, when departments were closed their members were found posts elsewhere, and between 1986 and 1989 Durham Classics made up its losses by taking three people from Bangor and one from Belfast; but on a new basis for calculation these did not bring enough funding with them, and for many years our Department was in the red. Our position was transformed when in 2000–01 ours was one of two Classics departments (Exeter’s was the other) to obtain funding for additional posts from the Leverhulme Trust. With our new personnel we have embarked on a major revision of our syllabus: current fashion frowns on separate degrees taken by small numbers of students, and we are now to offer just three single honours degrees – Classics (for all students who study at least one of the languages to the final year), Classical Past (an imaginative replacement for the Classical Studies degree which in Durham had tended to be a poor relation), and Ancient History; each of them either as a normal three-year degree or with an intercalated year of European Study – and from our joint honours degrees we are retaining only Ancient History and Archaeology and Ancient, Medieval and Modern History, though the other combinations will still be available under the umbrella of Combined Studies.

The University in which I arrived in 1965 was unambitious; there were some very good scholars among the dons, but the general attitude was that typical Durham graduates would become schoolteachers and our syllabuses ought to equip them for that; despite the collegiate lifestyle aping (1930’s rather than current) Oxford and Cambridge, most of the students came from schools which did not regularly send many pupils to Oxford and Cambridge. (At least Classics was not one of the departments which hardly ever awarded a first-class degree, in the belief that first-class students did not

come to Durham.) It was about 1970 that Durham raised its sights, and set out to sell itself to the major public schools as an acceptable next best after Oxford and Cambridge. In 1965 the Palace Green Library (the newest part of it not yet built) was the main library; the Science Library moved in that autumn from the West Building on the science site (the building which houses Geography) to a new building which is the oldest part of the present main library; in vacations the libraries closed for lunch.

I lived in University College from 1965 until 1963: in 1965–66 in Owengate (newly rebuilt but furnished in a spartan style), from 1966 to 1971 on Hall Stairs, from 1971 to 1973 in the ground-floor flat of the rebuilt Cosin's Hall. I was Lowe Librarian from 1966 to 1973, Secretary of the 'College Meeting' (i.e. S.C.R. meeting) from 1966 to 1976, and have been a member of the Chapel Choir (below) throughout my time here. In 1965 we had Len Slater as Master, Stan Ramsay as Senior Tutor, Hugh Price as Bursar, Geoffrey Griffith as Chaplain (shared with Hatfield – an arrangement which persisted until 1978). Maddison was Caterer and his wife was Housekeeper (and was responsible for the more ambitious meals, which were still unadventurous by more recent standards); they must have had christian names, but we never discovered them. Mrs. Shaw and her daughter Cicely were Porters; Bill Gray was Handyman; the lugubrious Arthur Robinson was High Table Butler. Resident members of the S.C.R. were numerous and tended to stay: it was when inflation took off in the 1970's that even the unmarried thought they should invest in a mortgage as soon as they could. As for students, most lived in College through out their time, and permission to live out was hard to obtain since the Colleges were afraid of being left with empty rooms; it is only in the last dozen years or so that Governments have forced Universities to expand without providing the money for new buildings, and more and more students have had to live out of College. But some things do not change: Ian Doyle in the S.C.R. and John Atkin among the domestic staff were already well ensconced (and at that time both of them lived in College).

The College and its fittings were shabby and unmodernised (for instance, the tapestries in the Senate Room and the Bishop's Room had not yet been cleaned; in the hall the tables were an unmatching lot and had not yet been treated with polyurethane, and it had not yet been decided that the conference trade required chairs rather than benches). In addition to the Castle, the College had the Owengate buildings and slums in Abbey House, Bailey House and Cosin's Hall (the Chaplain had a flat on the ground floor of Cosin's Hall) – and, of course, Lumley Castle as an annexe. (Where Bailey Court now stands there was a run-down area known as Museum Square.) In the hall there was no self-service but all meals were served, and there was no dais at the high table end (Slater hankered after a carpet). Not only were we

a single-sex College but (as was normal in those days) the hours during which members of the opposite sex might visit were limited – and Slater was adamant that women should not be admitted before lunch on Sundays, since men might want to go to the bathroom. The Chapel Choir was for men only and was unambitious: it was in 1968 that Chris Mahon obtained permission to import women from other Colleges and start a mixed choir of high quality – and the high quality has been maintained almost continuously ever since. Until 1972 we had to house the Assize judges for about two weeks each term: they took over the Senate Room and the Bishop’s Room; their clerks slept in rooms off the Junction and part of the S.C.R. ante-room was partitioned off to make an office for them; their meals were cooked in the kitchen beside the S.C.R. When the Assize system was abolished and we learned that in future judicial visits to Durham would be unpredictable, we took advantage of that to give up our obligation, and the County Council bought a minor stately home to house visiting judges.

In the Cathedral, the Dean was J H S Wild, who had become Master of University College, Oxford, during the Second World War, and was said to have been promoted to Durham (in 1951, as successor to C A Alington, the last Dean of Durham to live in *gran deur*) to get him out of the way by Attlee. The organist was Conrad Eden (related to Sir Anthony Eden), whose biography on a record sleeve printed in 1966 included, ‘A short period as organist of St. Philip and St. James and Director of Music at the Dragon School, Oxford, ended with a fractured skull’, and ended, ‘In 1936 he moved to Durham Cathedral’: under him the choir could be very good on occasions, but it was only under his successor, Richard Lloyd (1974–85), that it became consistently good; the first choral scholars were appointed in 1966. The Bishop was M H Harland, a huntin’, shootin’ and fishin’ Bishop, much unlike most Bishops of Durham. The Cathedral had a congregation, but took very little notice of it; the bringing of the Cathedral into the late twentieth century was begun, very sensitively, by Wild’s successor, E W Heaton (1974–79) and by Lloyd as Organist.

The city in 1965 was pretty seedy, only just beginning to drag itself out of the 1930’s – which in retrospect is a good thing, since if Durham had had more money there would as in Newcastle have been far too much demolition of old buildings and erection of unsympathetic new buildings (Durham’s worst new building is Milburngate House, for National Savings etc., which people here objected to but as a Crown building was exempted from planning controls). There were more privately-owned shops and fewer branches of national chains than now; where Boots now is, the Durham branch of a very down-market north-eastern chain of department stores called Doggarts. Apart from the hotels, there were a few places where one

could get tea or coffee (e.g. Greenwells, the grocers in Silver Street where the Post Office now is), but there was no restaurant except the Kwai Lam. There was no scaffolding anywhere on the outside of the Cathedral, and somebody told me to enjoy that, since it would not happen again in my lifetime – which so far has proved true. Work was just beginning on the new road system and bridges (more or less as suggested in T Sharp's *Cathedral City: A Plan for Durham*, of 1945, but he envisaged the expansion of the University in the Bede–St. Hild's area rather than on the south side of the city). The old bridges and the roads from them to the Market Place were one-way-at-a-time, controlled by a policeman (I think always man) who sat in a box in the Market Place looking at television screens: the better ones changed what happened frequently, the lazier ones allowed large tailbacks to build up; to travel between Elvet Bridge and Saddler Street one went to the policeman and did a U-turn around him; for the exit from Saddler Street there was a (surely illegal) traffic light which had no amber or green but showed red or nothing at all. Kingsgate Bridge was completed in 1963, Dunelm House in 1965; in 1965 the foundation of a whole series of new colleges began, housed in Parsons Field House for their first year while their numbers were small and their own buildings were being built (later University College was to have part of Parsons Field between the departure from Lumley Castle and the building of Moatside).

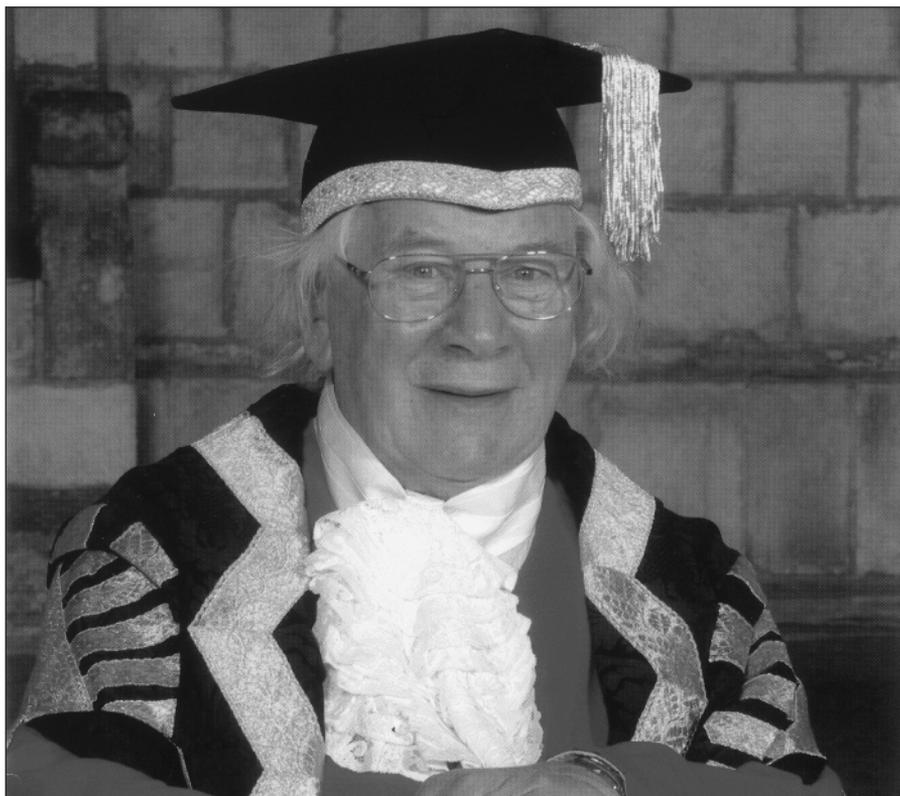
In autumn 2005 I shall retire after forty years as a member of the Durham Classics Department (since 1983 as Professor of Ancient History) and of University College, but I hope to continue frequenting both for some time. As my arrival occurred just after the beginning of a new era, it looks as if my retirement will occur just before the beginning of another new era: I arrived just after the University administration had moved from houses in the Bailey to Old Shire Hall, Classics had moved into a pair of those houses, and the 'temporary' Parsons Field House had been built; it has now been announced that the University plans to sell Old Shire Hall and build a new administrative headquarters near the Science Site, and to replace Parsons Field House with intentionally permanent buildings.

Peter J Rhodes



Castellum

NEWS ROUND-UP



SIR PETER USTINOV

A special memorial service took place on Wednesday November 10th in Durham Cathedral to celebrate the life of Sir Peter Ustinov in his role as tenth Chancellor of the University, from 1992 until his death in March 2004.

Members of the Ustinov family, close friends and associates, University staff, students and the general public, joined civic leaders and representatives of many of the organisations closest to his life and work.

Music was provided by the University of Durham Brass Band in Residence, Reg Vardy (Ever Ready) Brass Band, the Cathedral organ, the Allegri String Quartet, with hymns and

anthem from the Cathedral Choir, songs from the University Consort of Voices. At the end of the service there was especially composed '*Fanfare for Peter*'.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Calman, led the main tribute, with readings from the writings of Sir Peter by Shari Daya, a research student at Ustinov College and a tribute from Professor Sue Scott, Principal of Ustinov College.

A bank of televisions throughout the Cathedral enabled an additional special video tribute screened featuring some of Sir Peter's memorable speeches at recent degree ceremonies and the congregation were clearly delighted to hear his rich tones echoing around the Cathedral again.

The Memorial Service concluded with a reading from Peter Ustinov's first success as a playwright, *The Love of Four Colonels*, by his eldest daughter actress Tamara Ustinov and her actor husband Malcolm Rennie.

The retiring collection was taken for the work of UNICEF, a charity supported by Sir Peter as one of its Goodwill Ambassadors-at-large, and the University's Student Opportunities Fund.

The family was headed by Lady Helene Ustinov from her home in Switzerland. She was joined by Sir Peter's son Igor, a sculptor, who also lives in Switzerland, and his daughter Andrea, an artist and designer now living in Spain.

Bede Film Society also held a special film evening around a screening of *Topkapi* – one of the two films for which Peter Ustinov won an Oscar as Best Supporting Actor.

In his 12 years as Chancellor of the University Sir Peter conferred degrees on more than 30,000 graduates. Since 2002 the ceremonies have been held in Durham Cathedral, instead of the Great Hall at the Castle.

Ustinov College was the new name given last year to the former Graduate Society of the University, a Collegiate body exclusively for postgraduate students.

Vice-Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Calman, said: 'Sir Peter was a great friend and ambassador of the University, and an eloquent champion of tolerance and understanding between people. These are the values we want to celebrate. We remember him not only because he brought laughter, but because he also made us think.'

In particular the Memorial Service was designed to highlight the theme of tackling prejudice. In recent years Sir Peter and his family's Ustinov Foundation have helped a number of Universities around Europe to engage in special studies of the history and nature of prejudice.

Sir Peter often wrote and spoke of his own experience of prejudice in various forms, and how he witnessed it around the world. His Ustinov Foundation projects are designed to promote a greater understanding of prejudice and how it can be broken down. The answer, he would say, was in 'what we are allowed to forget, rather than what we are incited to remember.'

His final book, published in Germany last year, was called *Achtung! Vorurteile (Beware Prejudices)*, a study co-written with Harald Wieser and Jurgen Ritte.

Durham's studies on the prejudice theme are being supervised by Professor Sue Scott, a Professor of Sociology and Principal of Ustinov College.

She said: 'It is an honour for the College to take Sir Peter's name and to take our lead from him in working to understand and combat prejudice. Ustinov College has 1,500 postgraduates from over 100 countries and it is our aim to continue Sir Peter's work against prejudice'.

The Dean of Durham, The Very Reverend Michael Sadgrove, speaking on behalf of the Chapter, said: 'Sir Peter Ustinov loved Durham Cathedral. When he presided at University Degree Congregations, his magnificent voice reverberated round the building in a way I shall never forget. He is much missed in Durham. It will be a privilege to host his Memorial Service here in a place that not only holds many memories of Sir Peter, but has also been so intimately connected with the life of this great University.'

WORK STARTS ON 16TH COLLEGE FOR UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

Work is underway to build a new, and as yet unnamed, College for the University of Durham as part of a major development to expand student accommodation.

The University's £35.5 million building scheme will provide a total of 1,000 new student rooms in Durham by 2006.

Main contractors Laing O'Rourke have moved on to the site of the new self-catering College at Howlands Farm off South Road, Durham.

As yet, Durham's 16th College for undergraduates does not have a name. **But if you have a spare million, it could well be yours!!** The distinctive new buildings will occupy a prominent hillside location and the project also includes new postgraduate student housing for the adjacent Ustinov College.

Professor Tim Burt, Dean of Colleges and Student Support, cut the first sod on 9th August. He said: 'The start of work on the new 400-bed College is an exciting milestone in the development of the University. The new self-catering College will add a new dimension of choice to our student accommodation. The additional postgraduate units will also improve and increase our stock of modern residences.'

Architects Gotch, Saunders and Surridge (GSS) have created bold and sensitive designs to allow the new College buildings to blend in with the surrounding landscape.

Special features will be gently sloping green roofs covered with specially-selected slow-growing plants. The new buildings will be clad in bricks to reflect the rich colouring of the older buildings in the centre of the City of Durham.

In addition to the new College and additional postgraduate housing at the Howlands site, three old 1960s residential blocks at Parson's Field, off Old Elvet, will be demolished in a further phase of the accommodation building plans. This will provide new residential facilities for 200 postgraduate of the St Cuthbert's Society.

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 1,000 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 ensure that the majority of Durham students will reside in University accommodation.

GSS are a Northamptonshire firm, which has been established over 125 years, and are specialists in the higher education sector with considerable design experience at Universities, including projects for the Open University, Cranfield University, Oxford Brookes and University College, Northampton. Other current commissions are for halls of residence at Oxford Brookes, University of West England and the University of Reading.

Historical note: The last College to be founded in Durham City was Collingwood in 1972. Two Colleges (George Stephenson and John Snow) were created at the University's Queen's Campus, Stockton, in 2001.

CAMPUS TOURS ARE AN ONLINE SUCCESS

Durham University's weekly campus tours bookable on the University website are becoming very popular with potential students seeking to find out more about University life.

Demand for places on the walking tours of the University in Durham City and the Queen's Campus in Stockton has increased since an online booking service was introduced.

Each campus tour is directed by student guides who lead each group on a tour taking in all the major sites of the University. The tour starts with an introductory talk by an Admissions Adviser from the Undergraduates Admissions Office.

Tours normally take place on Wednesdays at both sites, though some are conducted on Fridays. Tours at both sites start at 2.00 p.m. and last for approximately two hours in Durham and one hour at the Queen's Campus. The tours run throughout the year; pre-booking is essential.

DURHAM RIDES HIGH WITH RESEARCH INCOME

Durham's position in the upper ranks of UK Universities in terms of research income is confirmed by the latest nationally published information.

The figures, for 2002–03, show income from research grants and contracts plus the research-quality related income from the Higher Education funding councils. They reflect both the volume and relative subject-mix within the Universities, with institutions engaged in leading-edge science, technology and medical research occupying the upper part of the list.

There is a top ten of large Universities, mainly the major civics and others with full-scale medical schools, with research income of more than £100 million each, followed by about 20 more, including Durham, with more than £40 million Durham is listed at 26th with a combined income of £43 million just ahead of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology on £40.7 million. The University of Cambridge tops the list with £230 million.

This list is based on volume, but when compared with tables based on the national quality assessment of research, it shows that for its moderate size Durham delivers a very high level of quality. Although 26th in terms of volume, Durham is ranked 12th in the current Research Assessment Exercise ratings, and placed 8th for overall quality by *The Times University Guide*.

MASTERCLASS PAVES THE WAY TO A-LEVEL SUCCESS

Some of the brightest lower sixth form students from schools across the North East are now on track to achieve the highest grades in their A-level exams in 2005 thanks to the Sutton Trust and the University of Durham.

A total of 191 students have completed the five-day residential part of the highly successful *Masterclass Programme* at the University of Durham.

The students attended the residential course, which was based at Collingwood College 11th–15th July, and will attend two follow-up

revision sessions in December 2004 and March 2005 in final preparation for their A-levels.

The *Masterclass Programme* links Year 12 students to an Undergraduate student who acts as their mentor during their final year at school.

The Programme started as a one-day pilot session two years ago and after a four-day residential in 2003 a fifth day was added this year.

Priority is given to students where neither parent went to University. Students followed one of 11 subjects and experienced three days of academic studies and social activities, including a murder mystery night, a formal College dinner and a night at the Durham Students Union.

The subject strands were Biology, Economics, English, French, Geography, Law, Politics, Physics, Maths, Medicine and Religious Studies.

Liz Hern, Masterclass Director at the University of Durham, said : 'It is always regarded as a measure of overall success of summer school activity if, as on this occasion, we have no homesick students! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the University experience. Masterclass is an excellent way for students to explore the academic and social elements, as well as providing a great boost to an individual's confidence.'

The *Masterclass Programme* is sponsored by the Sutton Trust, the Ogden Trust, Tees Valley Partnership, and One NorthEast. The programme is in line with the Government's Aim Higher initiative, to get 50 per cent more students into higher education by 2010.

Dr. Tessa Stone of the Sutton Trust attended the Masterclass formal dinner and was very impressed with the feedback from students and their progress. She said : 'It was very noticeable just how much the students applied themselves to their studies and how well they responded to the overall experience.'

ANOTHER ACCOLADE RECOGNISES QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING AT DURHAM

The University of Durham has welcomed the announcement that Durham has been short-listed in *The Sunday Times* 'University of Year' Award 2004 as another accolade for the overall quality of the teaching and learning environment at the North East's top University.

Durham is one of five Universities short-listed for this year's Award which is based on their listings in *The Sunday Times University Guide* which is published on Sunday 12th September.

The University has gone up from 17th to 11th in the *University Guide* rankings, and although the award is based partly on the rankings, *The Sunday Times* says that a major consideration is also recognition of the University's work to widen participation and general development.

Durham is also the biggest riser in *The Sunday Times* league table's top 20, jumping from 17th place in 2003 to 11th place this year. Professor Alan Bilsborough, Pro-Vice Chancellor said today : 'We are delighted that the University of Durham has gone up significantly in the rankings of *The Sunday Times University Guide*. This is a most welcome improvement in our position in this prestigious guide and it is recognition of the high quality of our research-informed teaching, high student retention and effective student support.'

'We are pleased that our work to raise aspirations and to widen participation, particularly among local students, is also contributing to our reputation.'

More than two-thirds of Durham's students now come from state schools, a rate that has been rising steadily. Links with 90 state schools in the region and bursaries for local students have helped, as has Durham's Queen's Campus in Stockton, which offers high quality vocational degrees.

The Sunday Times says that teaching at Durham is of a uniformly high quality. More than two-thirds of all subjects were rated excellent in assessments, underpinned by even higher scores for research. Chemistry, Applied Maths, English, Law, History and Geography all gained the highest five-star (5*) research ratings, signifying international eminence.

Durham's latest achievement in *The Sunday Times* league table is the third improvement this year in national newspaper league table rankings, having risen two places to eighth in *The Times* and up three to 12th in *The Guardian*.

Overall, Durham has the best completion rate for undergraduates among all Universities apart from Cambridge. Durham maintains its place as the leading University in the North East. It is also placed among the national leaders in sciences and humanities.

DURHAM SCIENTISTS CREATE WORLD'S FIRST PRACTICAL PLASTIC MAGNET

After almost four years of groundbreaking materials research, a team of scientists at

Durham University has developed the world's first practical plastic to exhibit magnetism at room temperature.

The Organic Electroactive Materials research group, led by Prof. Andy Monkman and colleagues Dr. Naveed Zaidi, Mr. Sean Giblin and Dr. Ian Terry, all of the Department of Physics, have conducted experiments which detected magnetism in PANiCQ, a polymer they synthesised from polyaniline (PANI) and tetracyanoquinodimethane (TCNQ).

The resulting material showed room temperature magnetic order. The polymer powder is magnetically soft and can be picked up by a strong magnet.

Organic magnets have been reported before but they have generally only worked at extremely low temperatures. The polymer material developed in Durham is magnetic at room temperature which represents a major scientific breakthrough.

This could have exciting practical applications in the field of magnetic recording industry and in medicine. For example, the Durham team thinks that organic magnetic materials could have roles in medical implants as the body is much more tolerant of plastic than metal.

However the team believes that, although the discovery is a significant development, the practical applications are still a long way off. They chose PANi because it is a metal-like electrical conductor that is stable in air. TCNQ was chosen because of its propensity to form stabilised free radicals. The researchers hope to use the new polymer to mimic the magnetic properties of conventional metallic magnets.

Initial measurements conducted upon the material did not show any significant magnetic behaviour. However believing strongly that the reaction between PANi and TCNQ would take time to reach completion, the sample was stored in an air-tight container. After a period of few weeks it was tested again and the material had developed magnetic order.

Dr. Zaidi said that although the polymer's magnetism is currently not as strong as that of conventional metal magnets, the research team is confident that they can improve it.

'The reaction is not yet 100 per cent efficient. Once we optimise it, the overall strength will certainly increase. The nature of the polymer synthesis means that magnetic properties could effectively be made to measure,' says Dr Zaidi.

The development of plastic magnetic

materials enhances Durham University's reputation as a centre for research excellence. The project was funded in part by Durham County Council and is another example of regional funding stimulating exciting research work that can be exploited commercially.

TRAFFIC IN DURHAM CITY--- 'FRESHERS' SUNDAY

3rd OCTOBER 2004

Durham's Peninsula Congestion Charging Scheme (£2 to leave) does not operate on a Sunday, when the City's traffic system faces its sternest test on Freshers Sunday which fell this year on 3rd October. Special traffic plans are always in place for the first Sunday of October when about 2,700 new students arrive in Durham for the start of the University term, the vast majority of them brought by their parents in cars.

The arrivals put pressure on the roads in Durham City and, in particular the Market Place and the Peninsula area, where Saddler Street offers the only possible access for up to 700 cars to Colleges on the Peninsula.

Over the last 11 years 'Freshers' Day' has worked successfully, thanks to co-operation between the University of Durham, Durham Constabulary, local residents, new students and their parents.

The special plan involves students of five Colleges: Castle, Hatfield, St Chad's, St John's and St Cuthbert's Society, on Palace Green, North Bailey and South Bailey. The University and Durham Constabulary have liaised over advance planning for access to the Market Place and Peninsula on the day. They have arranged for students arriving by car to hold a permit for access to the Colleges on the Peninsula. The permit is valid for one hour to allow the students to unload and leave.

When they have finished, they are directed to car parks elsewhere in the city, where cars can be left. All students and other residents on the Peninsula, staff, departments on the Peninsula and University Police have been informed about the operation, so that non-essential traffic can avoid the area.

TOP RESEARCH UNITS LEAD THE WAY AS NETPARK OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Two of the University of Durham's high-profile research units have become the first tenants to move into the new NetPark science and technology complex which is currently taking shape near Sedgfield in County Durham.

The Netpark Research Institute is the first building to be completed in phase one of the 250-acre science park which is set to become a major new leading edge technology hub for the UK.

Since Monday 4th October the 24,000 sq. ft. NetPark Research Institute is home to the University's world-class research projects in astronomical instrumentation and digital enterprise technologies.

LOTTERY GRANT IMPROVES ACCESS TO MUSEUM'S 'HIDDEN' COLLECTIONS

Thanks to a major grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund the University of Durham's Oriental Museum has been able to provide increased access to its unique collections of South Asian textiles and Indian miniature paintings.

The entire collection of over 200 items has been photographed and described by an expert curator and an imaged-based catalogue is now available on the Museum web site and from the Museum shop. Local schoolchildren and South Asian women have contributed their own comments and memories for specific textiles to create a 'virtual' exhibition of objects held in storage for many years.

The £30,000 HLF grant has also enabled the Oriental Museum has to install two new state-of-the-art gallery showcases to enable a rotating display of textile and miniature paintings in the Indian Gallery.

STUDENTS SPLASH OUT FOR QUACKING GOOD CAUSES!

Feathers flew when Durham students launched 20,000 yellow plastic ducks into the River Wear on Sunday 7th November raising thousands of pounds for charity.

The ducks splashed into the River Wear off Elvet Bridge, launched by the Mayor, Councillor Mary Hawgood, from four JCB's on loan for the day from the Diggerland theme park at Langley Park.

Each duck was sponsored for £1 by well-wishers and the first duck over the Kingsgate Bridge finishing line won its sponsor £1,000, the second £300 and third £200.

The duck race, sponsored by Northumbrian Water and promoted by the Durham Marketing Initiative, is being run by the aptly-named Durham University Charities Committee (DUCK). The race will raise funds for the international charity WaterAid, the Durham Mayor's Appeal for the St. Cuthbert's Hospice in Durham City and the Durham City Christmas Lights Appeal. The

race is one of many charity events run throughout the year by students from DUCK.

SOUTH AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSIONER GIVES RUTH FIRST LECTURE

Lindiwe Mabuza, the South African High Commissioner in London, will give the *Annual Ruth First Lecture* at the University of Durham on Tuesday (9th November).

Ms. Mabuza, who was a member of the first democratic parliament in South Africa in 1994, will talk on 'South Africa: Ten Years of Democracy' and will pay tribute to the memory of Ruth First, a prominent anti-apartheid campaigner who was a lecturer at the University of Durham and was assassinated by a letter bomb sent by the police in 1982.

MARATHON MAN IS BACK FROM NEW YORK IN GOOD TIME!

University of Durham research worker Neil Defy beat his own projected time in the New York Marathon and expects to be back running this weekend to shake the aches and pains out of his legs.

Neil, who is a project team leader in the University's Curriculum, Evaluation and Management Centre, aimed to finish about 45 minutes behind Paula Radcliffe and managed to clock a very respectable time of 3:35:50.

While Paula won the women's event in a thrilling race which was televised live in the U.K., Neil was a little further down the field and finished a respectable 3,618th place out of the 36,527 finishers.

DEATH OF DR. JANE KEITHLEY, ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE

The University announces with deep regret the death of Dr Jane Keithley, Vice-Principal and Senior Tutor of St Aidan's College, following an illness.

Dr. Keithley joined the University in 1974 as a Lecturer in Social Administration. She has served as Director of the Institute of Health Studies, was appointed Senior Tutor of St Aidan's College in 2001 and became, in addition, Vice-Principal last year.

And finally...

A COMPLETE SHAMBLES – THE UNIVERSITY TIMETABLE

Students and staff have been inconvenienced and harassed by an alleged complete failure in the software used to generate the University timetable.

This complicated operation is usually taken for granted by the University community, but this year students, particularly those studying combined honours, faced overfull lecture rooms, timetable clashes between subjects and more than one lecture scheduled for a particular theatre.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Kenneth Calman, was forced to report to members of Senate on the timetable situation at the beginning of term. He explained the context for the problems, which were not due to specialist software, and also outlined the action now being taken. He confirmed that a full review, involving external expertise, was under way and that additional resources have been allocated to support the development of next year's timetable.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University timetable was clearly a matter of considerable importance and concern for the whole University, both staff and students. There seemed to be a common view around the University that the major problems with the production of this year's timetable were the fault of the computerised software but that this was not the case. Producing the University timetable was a very complex multi-dimensional task, which could no longer be managed without the assistance of specialist software.

The software package that the University has been using (*Syllabus+*) was the market leader, and had the largest number of installations in U.K. higher education institutions of any of the packages available e.g. York, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Nottingham, Hull, Cardiff, Bath, Dublin.

Problems were not with the software but with the way the data had been structured. Once these problems were identified they were resolved and the software had been used to draw up the revised timetable. Without the software it would not have been possible to produce a timetable at all. At Durham the software package had also been used for a number of years to produce successfully the examination timetable and last year to allocate teaching accommodation at Queen's campus.

While the timetable was not one that anyone would have chosen it did, in the main, work and was able to accommodate key degree frameworks and pathways. Action

points The Vice-Chancellor reported that a number of steps were being taken to prevent the difficulties recurring next year.

Given the seriousness of the current situation, time-tabling was now a standing item on the agenda for the University Executive Committee and would continue to be so throughout the year.

As well as resourcing and the technical issues that had arisen, there were a number of important areas which the new timetable had highlighted relating to the nature and the format of the University's teaching. The complexity of the curricula, the level of optionality and the level and timing of student choice, the availability of suitable teaching accommodation, the pattern of the teaching week and the balance between research and teaching time all impact on the timetable.

These were all institutional and strategic issues that needed to be considered by Teaching and Learning Committee and Faculty Boards and Senate. They were not matters that could be resolved by the timetable administrators.

Other institutions who had moved to computerised time-tabling some time ago had sought to address these same issues.

The options for next year regarding the provision of additional teaching accommodation would also need to be considered as the current constraints on teaching accommodation would not be fully resolved until the completion of the planned new Lecture Theatre Block on the Science Site in 2006.

The main priority must be to work together to ensure that such a serious situation did not re-occur next year, and the Vice-Chancellor wished finally to thank all staff for their help and assistance especially over the past four weeks. In particular he wished to thank the departmental timetable coordinators and other staff in departments, both academic and administrative, as well as the staff in Student Planning and Assessment, who had all worked so hard to resolve these issues. He wished also to thank all the teaching staff who had been in the front line managing the resulting difficulties caused to their students, and finally Trevelyan College for making James Knott Hall available as an additional teaching room.

Despite stringent security, a Hatfield student managed to appear on the Castle Fresher's photo this year having sneaked into the Courtyard posing as a Castle fresher.

SHORT COURSE No.4

October 1942–March 1943

On the 10th of October 1942, in the exact middle of the War, 106 eighteen-year-old RAF Cadets arrived in Durham to become the 'Durham Flights' of the Durham University Air Squadron, Short Course No. 4 – in those distant days, Durham University included King's College, Newcastle, though no Short Course was offered at King's. The battle of Alamein, for which victory the bells of the Cathedral notably broke their wartime silence, was fought in that month. The defeat of the Germans at Stalingrad came in February 1943, and their even greater defeat at Kursk, the turning-point of the entire European land-war, in July, 1943. The Battle of the Atlantic was still being lost in the Autumn of 1942: the Germans were building five U-boats for each one they lost, and Allied losses of merchant-ships exceeded our replacement capability.

Rations were, per week: bacon/ham 4 ozs; sugar – 8 ozs; butter – 6 ozs; cooking fats – 2 ozs; meat – 1s.2d worth; cheese 3 oz. Plus (per month): preserves: 1 lb.; together with twenty 'Points' – good for one medium-sized tin of salmon (if you could fine one). This might explain all the beetroot we had in Hall. Our diet seems, however, to have proved adequate, many of us having passed our biblical three-score and ten.

Having undergone an exhaustive medical examination and been accepted by the RAF as aircrew trainees, we were chosen for the University Entrance Scheme on the recommendation of our headmasters and/or the commanding officers of our Air Training Corps squadrons (in some cases the same men) which led to interview by a travelling selection-board. We all realised our good fortune in being registered as undergraduates of the University and, even more importantly to many of us, being launched on the path to a pair of pilot's wings. The beauties of the City of Durham itself were an additional bonus, and a revelation to almost all of us. How we came to be assigned to Durham remains a mystery, but come we did: from Scotland, Wales, south-west and southern England including London and the north of England. One of the functions of the various University Air Squadrons was to keep the universities 'ticking over' during the absence, on military service, of their normal intake.

The cadets at Durham, and presumably at the other participating universities, were divided more or less equally between Science and Arts for first-year B.Sc. or B.A. courses, to be completed in six months. These academic courses were, to some extent, the forerunners of the post-war 'Foundation Years'. Course No. 4 was the first in which an Arts course had been offered (otherwise, I, for one, would not have qualified). Gowns were worn for

academic lectures, uniform for RAF activities. The Squadron was also 'X' Battalion (being, I suppose, an unknown quantity?) of the City of Durham Home Guard, with whom there was at least one, very cold, field-exercise.

In the April, May and June of 1942, the Luftwaffe bombed, in a series of what were known as 'Baedeker' raids, the cities of Exeter, Bath, York and Canterbury, killing some 1,700 people. There was concern that Durham could be a target, and the Squadron helped to provide the firewatchers for the University buildings and the Cathedral. The overriding aim of most of the cadets was the successful completion of the ground-school part of our training as RAF aircrew (pilot, navigator or bomb-aimer), in furtherance of which all of us had had over a year of part-time preparation in the Air Training Corps, founded the previous year, in our schools and/or home towns. It has to be said that this sketchy account would have been three times as long if the material made available, all of it relevant, if, in places rather racy; were to have been used. Suffice to say that the selection is my own, and that I apologise for any errors and/or omissions. I must express my special thanks to Wilf Jones, Jim Corben, Freddie Furze and Tom Kerr for their invaluable help.

Both Colleges ate in the Great Hall of the Castle, the cadets being divided equally between University and Hatfield. The consequent tribal loyalties traditionally found in collegiate universities were embraced by cadets with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Happily, the displeasure of the University Censor, the Revd. HFD Sparks, D.D., M.A., was aroused on only one or two occasions, though one did produce the threat of police involvement. Most of us, not having been to boarding school, had only our boyhood reading of school stories in the Gem, Magnet or Hotspur (this last most appropriate for Dunelmians, Lord Eustace Percy being, at that time, Chancellor), to provide us with guidance as to what one did whilst away from home. Having said that, the local grammar schools that helped to mould us were modelled on the, largely pre-1914, ethos of the public schools – cold baths and muscular Christianity – a regime vigorously pursued in the Squadron by compulsory, pre-breakfast activities such as drill on Palace Green, P.T, cross-country running and swimming on four mornings each week.

Accommodation was allocated by the University, of course, and many cadets must have wondered (I certainly did) just who one's father had to be to entitle one to sole occupancy of, say, a couple of rooms in the Castle overlooking Framwellgate Bridge and half of County Durham, whilst others shared a 'lower depths' type basement room with a view of about fifteen feet to a blank, stone wall – or, least fortunate of all, occupied a Dickensian, single 'unit' in North Bailey. However, the disadvantages attendant upon regaining one's room after the ten-thirty curfew – to say nothing of the restrictions similarly placed upon the entertainment of one's friends – brought a new perspective

The possession of an openable window, or even, praise be, an openable door, giving on to a blacked-out street – a privilege unwittingly bestowed on a lucky few Hatfield and University College members – clearly outweighed the stuffy prestige of mediaeval elevation, with its inescapable inaccessibility, particularly to friendly young ladies. Late returners to rooms in the Castle, I am reliably informed, had to penetrate the defences via a coal-chute and a cellar. Only the more raffish amongst us, it should be said, required the dire, if strictly prophylactic warning of a visiting RAF Medical Officer: ‘And remember: when you’ve had a couple of drinks, any old bag looks like the Queen of Sheba’. But, as we wrinklies all know from our children, sex wasn’t invented until the 1960s.

Notables among our lecturers – I speak of the arts side here – were Mr. Hood (Politics), who read his notes with his nose almost touching the page, and who, perhaps solely on the evidence that he did not, nevertheless, wear spectacles, was confidently assumed to be a Christian Scientist (how sensitive and caring we were!); Mr. Hughes (History), remarkable for his extrovert enthusiasm and for the size of his hats, was later better-known in the greater world for his scholarship; dear Mr. Rutherford, (the phrase ‘Hello, Mr. Chips’ comes to mind) eagerly emerging from retirement to teach us Philosophy, an interest that I for one have kept to this day; and of course, the Dean of Durham, who, I learn, was called Alington and wrote thrillers, with his wide-brimmed black hat, flowing black cloak, equally flowing silver hair, and army ammunition boots, who gave, in my recollection, one lecture only – on the uninvited States of America and its ‘intoxicating’ atmosphere.

The science-side cadets were apparently subjected to brain-washing by certain of their lecturers, being invited on one occasion to smell some blood-spattered muslin, presumably acquired from a local butcher, and to consider it as enemy blood. The efficacy of these very doubtful proceedings may be gauged from the response of one of the cadets to the same lecturer’s question: ‘What is your war-aim, cadet?’ *Videlicet*: ‘To stay alive, sir!’. The only RAF lecture that I can summon up from the mists was given, I think, by the Officer Commanding Durham Flights, Flt. Lt. Kilgour, – a Writer to His Majesty’s Signet (Scots for Solicitor) in civvy-street – and included instructions on ‘Pitching Camp by a River’. The regulation sequence, upstream to downstream, of ‘Men: Drinking Water; Horses: Drinking Water; Men: Washing; Horses: Washing’, I subsequently found invaluable.

Perhaps because of our experience in the Air Training Corps. we were, as a group, quite efficient at drill. With a father who was an ex-regular soldier and an elder brother a regular Sergeant in the Coldstream Guards, I had little option in the matter. As additional encouragement there was the ramrod figure of Mr. Gray, the Senior University Policeman, Honorary Squadron Warrant Officer and Drill Instructor. Mr. Gray was said to be a former

Regimental Sergeant Major of the Durham Light Infantry. On one notable occasion he ordered the Squadron to 'Present Arms' on Palace Green on a biting, February day, and left us there for what felt like half-an-hour. A Canadian 'Ross' rifle, complete with eighteen inches of sword bayonet, weighs about fifteen pounds – say seven kilograms. Perhaps Mr. Gray went for a cup of tea. If he did, I wager he kept a beady eye on us from some hidden vantage point. One dared not assume otherwise. And all this despite our not wearing greatcoats; not did Mr. Gray, it must be said. In our case this was because we did not possess them. Mr. Gray was simply ex-RSM of the D.L.I. We shall not look upon his like again.

Fire-watching calls to mind an evening when I started to have a bath three times, being interrupted twice by the air-raid sirens before joining the squad assigned to guard the nave triforium (south) of the Cathedral. Fortunately, the feared 'Baedeker' raid did not materialise. And I remember being highly impressed by our having President Benes of Czechoslovakia as a dinner-guest in the Great Hall. I don't know what he thought of dining with us. I also remember being seriously put off by the dinner at which we – Castle and Hatfield – pelted each other with bread and cheese specially provided for the purpose. The University servants were hugely amused by it and seemed quite enthusiastic. I assume it was some venerable tradition.

In the context of wartime rationing, it was certainly a bit too feudal for me (retrospective moralising, perhaps). Grace was always said, in Latin, before dinner in Hall. Castle and Hatfield graces alternated, read by a student of the appropriate College. Filtered through the years – and probably garbled – come the words '*Domine omnipotens, eterns Deus, qui tam benigne hoc tempore dignaris, largere nobis ...*' (*Miserere, Domine.*) There is also the peripheral matter of the non-cadets, the students who were our brief contemporaries – generally assumed by us to be either (a) medically unfit or 'boffins' under training, or (b) Theology students.

There was little, if any, social mixing, but the level of work implied by the reputedly Science, students appearing at breakfast still wearing their pyjamas beneath their jackets and trousers, was most impressive. The formal side of the social scene was a matter of Squadron Dances, of which I recall two, together with Lt. Col. Macfarlane-Grieve's curious soirees. He was, of course, Master of University College, and never wore socks – an eccentricity he shared, I believe, with Albert Einstein. Being just about the only fit young men in the area, apart from the 'Pongos' at the local army camp, we had the heavy responsibility of entertaining the ladies of St. Hild's, St. Mary's, Neville's Cross and Whitelands College, in addition to the odd local lass. I recall no shortage of females at these dances.

Bearing this in mind, together with our RAF work (which, in the RAF proper, would have occupied some five months or so) and the academic

programme, it may seem surprising that many of us found as much time as we did for sport. Most cadets were from rugby-playing schools; an alarming number seemed to be Welsh, of the 'Let Your Rage, On History's Page, In Saxon Blood Be Written' type – the smaller number of us from soccer-playing schools made rather less of a mark, though I do remember letting in an embarrassing number of goals – ten, I think – in a match between a Durham Colleges XI and an Army XI which reputedly contained three full internationals. My plea of being unable to afford to have my boots properly studded was ignored and I was not asked to play again. Perhaps our most durable extra-curricular activity – indulged in by the more creatively and culturally endowed of our number (they claim) – was, uniquely among DUAS Short Courses, the production of a Squadron Magazine DUASTRA (from a conflation of our initials and the motto of the RAD: '*Per ardua ad astra*') and of the holding of a Squadron Christmas Ball in Durham City Hall. I have been asked by the former cadets of DUAS, Course 4, to 'emphatically deny' – with, it has to be said, a couple of dissenting voices – that they had anything to do with the decorating, on our Last Night, of the Police kiosk and the equestrian statue of the Lord Londonderry in the square in the city centre. This matter should be laid; it is claimed, at the door of some other DUAS RAF Course. On the other hand, Course 4 admits that on Last Night they started a conga-line in the Three Tuns which, after threading its way through the adjoining streets, finally dispersed on Palace Green.

The cadets of Durham University Air Squadron, Short Course 4, dispersed to their several homes in March, 1943, to be officially called up some three weeks later into the Royal Air Force, each with the elevated rank of Leading Aircraftman, and posted to Air Crew Receiving Centre, London – known semi-acronymically as 'Arsey-Tarsey' – where we were organised into flights with cadets from other Universities, and thus lost touch with most of our friends from these formative years.

About a fifth of us returned to Durham or Newcastle in 1946–47 to enter degree courses. Some found their first year back nigh on impossible. About a third dropped out, whilst the rest managed to obtain creditable degrees, despite great financial hardship. Thirteen of us are known to have been killed on active service, or in action; twenty-three to have since died, and fourteen remain untraced, despite the best efforts of Wilf Jones and others of the fifty-six known survivors of the one hundred and two cadets on the Nominal Roll in 1942, (plus the four not included therein). Fifty-six old men who do not forget.

Prepared by Course No. 4 Member, Kenneth T. Hoyle



EXTRACTS FROM THE 2004 YEARBOOK

CASTLE WOMEN'S NETBALL

With a huge number of girls among the freshers this year, it could only mean good things for the netball club. Indeed, we got a huge intake of often talented and always enthusiastic netballers to add to our otherwise diminishing number. Our inspired flame-haired captain Caroline Bennett led us through a number of exciting matches and even set up some mini non-league games which helped improve the match skills of even those of us who didn't always make the number one cut! Some of our best wins included a very exciting and extremely close game against Aidan's B, with the final score being 24–23 and an impressive win against Mary's B by 17 goals to 13.

Unfortunately the netball squad seems to be composed of a number of super-women who are members of pretty much every other College/University team/club, meaning that organising a social proved initially tricky for newly appointed social sec Samantha Lambart – a date was fixed however and an evening of colourful fun ensued with a very civilised meal at Hollothans followed by some ever so slightly less civilised drinking games at castle ... anyone want to know what 'nudging' is ... yeah, we weren't sure we did either.

To finish our season in style, we jetted off to the Emerald Isle to take part in the very serious sport (read 'talent spotting') tournament that is Doxbridge. Although not quite as consistent as the rugby boys, we nevertheless improved on our 2003 performance, gaining three whole points, not coming last in the league and even beating an Oxford team! Given the often tough competition (well, compare the number of possible netball players in Castle to those in Hild-Bede or Marys?!) and some very unfair heckling from the very hill-biased heckling society (we'd hate to say they were jealous but ... oh who am I kidding – of course they are!) this was pretty good – and our performance on court was often matched – if not outdone by performances off court... with our most faithful netball player and Doxbridge old-timer Tall Kate making it her third year lucky again in Club M! And our cheeky nurses were by far the most impressive ... even after I had shouted at the pizza man!

Unfortunately next year sees a sad depletion in the Netball squad with faithful members finishing their time at University College, half of the exec spending the next year taking the joys of netball to foreign pastures and the other half moving on to bigger and brighter execs ... we wish the rest of the girls loads of luck with next year and hope that the netball squad remains one of the funniest and probably the most lovely teams in the league.

Hannah Harris, UCNC 2003–04

CASTLE MEN'S RUGBY

The story of Castle rugby in the year 2003–04 will become one of those legendary stories that freshers are told during their first few days at Durham. It comprises both despair and ebullience. There is no doubt that the club has built on the legacy set out by Quentin Hicks last year and this season has cemented Castle rugby as a force to be reckoned with. I am writing this article inspired by a piece of silverware that is so big it needs its own display cabinet built in the Great Hall! The story begins ...

As a result of players graduating or choosing to abandon their cardinal pride in favour of University teams my first job was to restore the squad numbers. Dazzled by the unveiling of new stash, funded by three sponsors, and a victory against St Chad's we soon had a regular turnout for training. The banter began to flow fuelled by antics such as the naked calendar shoot, 'Rocky' before training sessions and a range of debaucherous socials. However it has been a season of two halves: starting as a struggle in the premiership and concluding on a sunny summer's evening as semi-finalists in the Town and Gown Sevens. Two of the most epic fixtures this year were against St Aidan's and Hild Bede where faced with an imposing opposition we put in valiant performances.

The season culminated with the Doxbridge tour. We travelled to Ireland in search of victory but we had already won the stash war before we boarded the coach at Dunelm. After a mandatory Guinness before 9.00 a.m., a ripped suit, broken camera and a lost wallet we arrived at the Emerald Isle. The first full day saw us remove two lesser Colleges from the competition and after an unfortunate trip to the hospital we returned to our even more unfortunate hostel. Carnage ensued and once back from Dublin friends and family were shown a horrific collection of pictures including very hairy nurses, abused sex dolls and Ellins' colonic irrigation. On the final day we played with pride and aggression combined with the skills of Willy 'eight tries' Wareham to secure our place in a classic final. Collecting the winner's trophy that evening and then parading it through the streets of Dublin topped an excellent week for Castle rugby. However the glory did not end there as DUAU announced that the club will stay in the premiership; this has not been achieved for the past five years.

And so the story concludes but I doubt that this article can do justice to the efforts of the team. My special thanks go to Quentin Hicks, James Busby, Ben Ellins and Simon Lofthouse for their advice and loyalty this year – we will be at a loss without them in October. It has been an honour to captain this year's side and I pass on responsibility to be shared between Ed Down and Mike Rainey.

Tom Whitcombe, Castle Rugby Club Captain

VAN MILDERT CLUB 2002–2004

It has been an incalculable privilege to hold the position of President of the Van Mildert Club of University College for the last two years. Founded in 1950, the Club enjoys a proud history, closely tied to that of our College itself. Dinners have been held twice every academic year in the magnificent Senate Suite of Durham Castle, as a tribute both to the memory of Bishop William Van Mildert and to an eclectic mix of guests from the SCR, MCR and JCR who give selflessly of their time and contribute so much to the myriad aspects of life in College. Amongst many distinguished Castlemen the Club was privileged to dine with the recently retired Lord Bishop of Durham and his wife at the Epiphany Dinner of 2003.

The Castle that fast becomes a home to so many of us would be little more than a shell without the Castle characters who pass through her gates.

It is my unhappy duty to bid public farewell to a long-standing friend of the Van Mildert Club. The College Bursar is traditionally invited to join the Club as a member, an honour no others but the incumbent President, past Presidents and the Master can now lay claim to. Mr. Alan Gibson epitomises the ethos that the Club endeavours to recognise, and though his membership was assured his devotion to College and her members was every bit as strong as the most deserving guest. I would like to thank him for all he has done for the Club and for me as a President.

The Van Mildert Club will without doubt flourish as long as Castle continues to turn out and attract people of the highest calibre. To my successor, there is no question that you will never be short of a worthy guest.

All the very best. *Floreat Castellum.*

Jonathan Long

THE CASTLE BIG BAND

The idea of a University College Big Band dates back many years to the last millennium.

It was, however, much more recently that the ball was set in motion, on an autumn evening back in the Michaelmas term of 2002. A small group of musicians wished to play together; merely for fun but also to provide entertainment, should there be an audience that required it. At this point in time there was nowhere in all of Durham where Castle men and women of all jazz instruments and standards could gather together and make music that would be heard throughout University College. And from that day onwards the Big Band was founded.

Back to the present day and this year the Castle Big Band has now quadrupled in size to over twenty members with the new intake of Freshers in 2003. And it is because of the many members in first year that the band

looks set to grow stronger year on year while the platform that the band stands upon becomes more of a prominent fixture in and around College.

The first real test for the band was the upcoming Christmas Concert. There was many a worried rehearsal spent in the Great Hall or the Senate Suite contemplating if the Band would be loved or just a one hit wonder. The hard work seemed to payoff with the highlight of the night being the spontaneous dancing by most of the crowd as the final number was played. With that in the bag the next deadline was the Arts Week opening night. With only half a term to practice a completely new set list and organise the Great Hall into an event more suited to a Ball than a one off gig, the night was another success and with much persuasion everyone was on their feet and swinging to the music again.

After two performances, with many happy people and lots of solos, it was time for the bands first social. The memories are few and far between but the night was good with disturbing banter about a suggested Band Camp in the not too distance future.

And with rumours the University College Big Band is soon to poach the top spot from the Durham University Big Band as Durham's premier musical outfit, the music making continues and the entertainment keeps coming.

Chris Walker, University College Big Band Founder

CASTLE ORCHESTRA

Castle Orchestra has had a busy and successful year; with a large intake of Freshers meaning we now have many more members. In the first few weeks of the year we gained two new conductors Thomas Ball and James Darby, and said goodbye to our conductor of three years, Michael Payne.

Other changes included a rewriting of the constitution to reorganise the running of the society, and much stash-buying.

Our first concert was at the end of Arts Week, where we performed a selection of old and new music, including the Overture from Orpheus and the Underworld, Land of Hope and Glory (Pomp and Circumstance March No 1, the Castle Song), and the theme from Thunderbirds, which was especially well received!

We have enjoyed many socials, including two orchestra formal's, numerous Hogshead buffets and Christmas sherry in the MCR. Our next event will be a summer picnic concert in the Fellows Garden, the first time the Orchestra has held an event of this kind.

Hopefully next year's exec will take the Society from strength to strength, following on from this year's achievements. We are very much looking forward to the creation of several new orchestra positions, including Orchestra Pencil, Orchestra Wit and Orchestra Distraction.

AND SOME REFLECTIVE WORDS FROM A LEAVER ...

It's one of those very rare occasions in my university career that I'm truly at a loss for words ... where do I start? It's been great, I've had a wonderful three years and if I'm completely honest I don't really want to leave.

I spent my first week as an innocent fresher (you can choose whether you believe that statement or not) comparing the place to a cross between Harry Potter and Mallory Towers, trunks, arrival by train, matriculation, gowns, formals, College songs, it's all there, only possibly a little more alcohol orientated ... but then again maybe Ron and Hermione would appreciate Smenergy.

So my favourite memories of the place? too many to name them all, but strangely they would probably include

1. Moatside – an odd choice considering my views when I first encountered it. Little did I realise then, that it is one of the friendliest places to live, whatever time of night it is, someone will be up and generally doing something stupid. Particularly favourites include the boys brief foray into gardening, ably aided and abetted by Derek the gnome, water fights in the courtyard and sixth floor corridor parties.
2. House parties – there were a fair few in the second year as you can't really go wrong with a large bucket of punch and a houseful of people, some of whom you only vaguely know. Those that stood out as especially heinous were 'Bush and the axis of evil', the porn party, Ed's 21st, the Bling, Bling Beach Party and our Halloween Bash, which has to some extent passed into legend due to that toast incident.
3. Theatre – Ok, so this one reveals my inner thespian, but I wouldn't have been without it, I'll miss the Assembly Rooms almost as much as the Castle and I've had a lot of fun (and maybe one or two arguments) with Quikfix (the panto people, copyright Miss Meadows, Miss Stephenson, 2002). It was also through this that the Master came to remember my name (also a top moment), although it has taken me some time to convince him that there really is a subtle difference between 'Big Kate' and 'Tall Kate'.
4. Klute Monday – something of a tradition instigated by Miss Wilkinson and myself as the obvious antidote to Monday night madness in Rixies. Unfortunately it has also involved getting to know the Monday night playlist pretty much off by heart, making a number of new 'friends' and caused much lunchtime merriment as the more sober of the pair from the night before mocks the other

mercilessly (other perils include falling asleep at the front of biology lectures and consequently hitting oneself in the head with a fountain pen, while everyone including the lecturer stops and laughs... not that either of us would have done such a thing).

Quite a random selection, which will hopefully be added to and amended over the remaining two weeks (last nights two hours spent playing 'guess the musical, I'm pretending to be' in the courtyard will certainly be up there...). We may all be leaving, but I, for one, will most certainly be back, so when you here my dulcet tones reverberate around the bar once more (you can't fail to miss them), come and say hello, because it's the people that I'll miss most of all.

Kate Stephenson, Third Year Leaver



Snow on Palace Green, February 2004.

DUCK KILIMANJARO CHALLENGE



Dear Master and College, Thank you for awarding me a £100 Travel Grant to participate in the DUCK Kilimanjaro Challenge this year. As you can probably tell from the picture I made it to the top of the Uhuru peak of Kilimanjaro – the highest point in Africa, 19,344 feet. I would just like to say thank you very much for your kind

sponsorship, although I don't have a final total yet it looks like I will have raised over £3,000 and as a group, that we will be presenting Save The Children with a cheque for over £30,000 which is brilliant and indeed comparable to the charities entire budget for some African countries, it has been a great privilege to be part of such an undertaking.

We arrived in Africa in the early morning but our first view of the massive Kilimanjaro was before we even landed. Sticking 15,000 feet out of the clouds with no other mountains around it certainly looked an intimidating challenge – we had to look up out of the plane to see the summit!! After two days of sitting in a hotel acclimatising and going for short walks I was really itching to get on to the mountain. As statistically only one in three people who attempt the mountain make it to the Uhuru peak, not knowing whether I would make it was my biggest worry – so I was glad when Sunday morning came and we set off for the mountain. Day one was easy walking along a fairly substantial path; the expedition consisted of 25 of us all now equipped with walking poles and litres of water. Just as we thought we were starting to rough it we turned a corner to see the amazing sight of a fully laid table complete with table cloth and 25 chairs. For as well as the 25 of us fundraisers we were employing three guides, eight assistant guides, and 60 porters. Luckily the porters carried the food, tents and equipment that we didn't need for that day so all we really had to carry was four litres of water, some snacks, and our cameras. The first day was mainly through cloud-forest and it was near the end that we got our first view of the summit, which looked so far off I could hardly believe we were on the same mountain. Just before we reached the first camp we broke through cloud level and for the first time in my life I could look down on the clouds. When we did arrive at camp one (machme camp) the porters had already pitched our tents and dinner was being cooked.

Day two and the scenery changed, the landscape became much more barren and desolate. It was, as most of the expedition was, just a case of powering onwards and upward to camp two (shira camp). As we were approaching camp two about 3,900 metres (14,000 feet) I started to get a headache and began feeling the first signs of altitude sickness. That night after dinner I was sick and only got a couple of hours sleep all night – it was now that I saw for the first time how it would have been possible for me not to make it. The next morning however I was feeling a bit better but as we continued to climb I got an awful pounding headache and was sick again. I had no lunch and was rushed ahead with a girl who was also feeling bad. Luckily the third camp (barancu camp) is not much higher than the second and during the descent to it I started feeling human again. That night there were incredible views of the summit right above us which my photos failed to capture.

Day four started with the barancu wall, the only bit of hand-and-feet climbing on the whole trek and one of the most fun parts. I was feeling much better but as the day went on I started to feel worse. That night at camp five (barfu camp) I forced my self to eat dinner as I knew the summit push was the next day. Out of the 25 of us I was suffering just about the worst from altitude sickness but that night I was sharing my tent with Mark who was also suffering very badly – so we managed to motivate each other. It was 11.00 p.m. that night, after maybe three hours sleep, that we were roused, a cup of hot water for breakfast and we were off, knowing that it was the next eight hours that most people give up. This part of the walk, lit only by the Milky Way and our head torches, was by far the hardest. The walking was up steep scree. The air was very thin and after heavy walking the previous day, and little sleep, I was physically drained and every foot step was an effort. On that ascent push I was sick a total of seven times but I never felt bad enough to give up, I was just terrified that some one would tell me that I was too bad and had to go down, that was what made me able to keep up with the rest of the group. By seven o'clock the sun had risen and we reached Stella point from where the summit looked barely a hop-skip-and-jump away – at this point I knew I had made it. It took another hour to actually reach the summit having to pause every 20 yards. I can't describe how tired I was. But then I was standing on the roof of Africa and all the training had been worth while. What was more amazing was that I was standing along side 24 other people – we had all made it!!

After a two day walk out we arrived in Arusha where I celebrated my 21st birthday; in hind sight very glad it hadn't been (as previously I had hoped) on the summit. I was then able to do three weeks of travelling around Tanzania including the island paradise of Zanzibar and a short safari. Thank you once again for your kind sponsorship although it may not sound from my description that I had much fun on the expedition it was brilliant and I'm so proud to be able to say I've climbed Kilimanjaro. Thank you.

Stephen Mann

REPORT ON VOLUNTARY WORK WITH SCHOOLS FOR YUNNAN, SUMMER 2004

I have just got back from spending seven weeks working with a charity in Yunnan, a beautiful and backward province in the south-western corner of China. The charity builds schools in remote villages, and raises sponsorship from donors so that poor children can afford to go to these schools. It has recently expanded into more general development projects in these villages, leading it to pursue other projects like laying water pipelines, building libraries, providing hygienic and environmentally friendly toilets, and giving workshops for adults on health and hygiene and on craftworking so that they can find new ways to make money, apart from the unstable subsistence farming they currently rely on.

When I arrived in China, I did not know what to expect, but had a vague image of workers in lampshade hats wading through paddy fields, and a charity operating out of a makeshift office in some dusty settlement passing for a city. What I actually found in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan, was a vibrant and fast developing city, a mix of new and old, communist and capitalist. The small, independent charity Schools for Yunnan, is run largely by one woman, Hilary Wheadon, soon to be appointed an MBE for her work, who is helped by committed local volunteers, and for the first time, a foreign volunteer ... me.

My first job was to completely overhaul the haphazard and seemingly random filing system, a task which required me to seek out documents on all of the some 27 villages she has helped in the last 11 years, and piece together a picture of exactly what had been completed where. This necessarily also required me to begin to learn a few Chinese characters: the very least I needed was to be able to recognise which village we were talking about! It was fascinating to dig into old records and sift through piles of photographs, identifying a school here, and some children who had been sponsored through to middle school there, and to read inspiring accounts of villages that had been rejuvenated and who had begun to have some hope of a better future after being helped to help themselves. After completing this satisfying task I began to long to visit some of the people I read about, and see their mountain villages in paradise-like settings. Luckily, that opportunity was soon presented to me: we needed to make a visit to the Shuangjiang county (within Yunnan province) to deliver some clothes and other provisions for the children; to check on the

building site for the latest project, a bamboo school in BangXie village; and to discuss the villagers' proposals for marketing their delicious honey, produced locally in beehives held sacred by the Bulang minority people.

As soon as the torrential tropical rain began to lessen, Hilary and I set off for Shuangjiang by bus, a 20 hour journey over bumpy roads, with frequent stops to clear mudslides. We had to transfer to the back of a tractor to complete the last few kilometres off road to the first village we visited, where we were warmly welcomed, Hilary as an old friend, and me as that rare and exotic creature, a foreigner. The people struck me as extremely happy, friendly and warm. They gave us provisions as we set out on a six kilometre hike to see the place where their fresh water was being piped from, thanks to Schools for Yunnan. At last I got to see my paddy fields, beautifully built along the contour lines of this lush valley, and filled with the promised workers, alongside cattle and small children who should have been in school, but whose parents could not spare them at this vital harvesting time of year.

In the next village in the valley, Sanjiacun, we visited a school built only two years ago by Schools for Yunnan, and opened in an unprecedented visit by the British Ambassador. We were shocked to find that the villagers had let the school fall into minor disrepair and had not kept it up to Hilary's standards of cleanliness. It was a good thing that we had made it that extra distance to find this out, so that the problem could be addressed, and people taught to respect their school. This is obviously a project that will need long term work with teachers, villagers and the children themselves, but one that has been successful in other villages, where the people are proud of their schools and take care of them. The teachers in these schools are extremely dedicated, often giving up their own meagre salaries in order to pay for more children to attend classes.

After the challenging trek back to civilisation, we spent a few days in the area visiting other villages, and one town where the charity has not previously had any presence. Everywhere we went I was struck by the joy the people emanated, their happiness to see us, and in the children, their extreme desire to learn. Without exception, their dream was to go to university, if we could only help them, and after that they might become teachers, doctors, engineers, or return to help their family and their village progress.

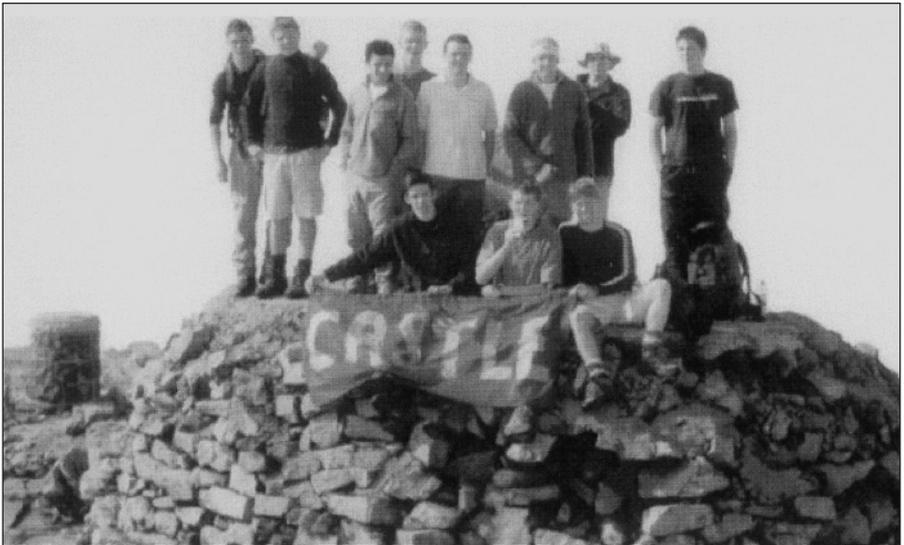
By the time I came back to Kunming, I was well equipped to start work on my second task: creating a scrapbook of information and photographs of everything that has so far been achieved, to show people what the charity does, and what the money they donate will achieve. I spent the rest of my

time doing just that, and travelling to other interest sites in Yunnan.

I left feeling happy about having helped the special people I met in a minor way, and challenged to continue the good work. I have learnt an incredible amount about the ways that development is achieved, and the ways it can sometimes be hindered, or misguided. But mostly I have learnt about what can be achieved by one determined individual, and I was given a chance to see just how much more work is needed in areas like Yunnan. The experience was an invaluable one, which really inspired me about the way I want to live my life, and gave me some direction to aim in. I'm sure this practical knowledge will have benefited my academic studies too, as I approach the final year of my degree in international law and politics, with an emphasis on development.

I am therefore extremely grateful for the generous support I received which allowed me to get to China in the first place. Without the £300 provided by the Travel Scholarship, I would not have been able to afford the £600 plane ticket, or to have budgeted for my other expenses while I was there.

Tasneem Clarke



Castle Mountaineering Club during their Three Peaks (Ben Nevis, Scafell and Snowdon) charity raiser, completed in 23 hours 37 minutes, 51 seconds on the 8th of June 2004.



The Bavarian Cultural Exchange in the Undercroft, 2004.



The JCR Executive 2003–2004.



Castle Ladies on Palace Green anticipating the June Ball.



Water fountain in the Courtyard for the June Ball 2003.

DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st July 2004

	31-7-2004	31-12-2003
	£	£
INCOME:		
Subscriptions	17,988.40	17,098.60
Interest Received	232.87	399.56
Donation (re. Grand Piano)	—	3,000.00
	18,221.27	20,498.16
EXPENDITURE:		
Castellum	4,210.00	3,525.00
Reunion Expenses	405.63	393.88
Postage	2,136.91	877.63
Other Printing & Stationery	176.76	140.03
Miscellaneous	110.00	35.00
Secretarial Costs	300.00	300.00
Membership List (Booklet)	2,007.06	—
	9,346.36	5,271.54
	8,874.91	15,226.62
Hospitality	46.31	58.96
U.C.D. Trust	5,000.00	5,000.00
Stage Lighting	5,723.73	—
Boat Club	5,723.73	—
Grand Piano	—	4,500.00
Portrait	—	500.00
	10,770.04	15,297.77
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	£(1,895.13)	£(71.15)

DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31st July 2004

	31-7-2004	31-12-2003
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Sundry Debtors	1,238.82	3,238.82
Business Base Rate Tracker Account	29,320.96	—
Business Reserve Account	—	29,086.24
Business Premium Account	—	671.11
Community Account	1,286.26	100.00
	30,607.22	29,857.35
	£31,756.04	£33,096.17
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Subscriptions in Advance	14,930.00	14,350.00
Sundry Creditors	—	35.00
	14,930.00	14,385.00
	£16,816.04	£18,711.17
REPRESENTED BY:		
Accumulated Fund:		
Opening Balance	18,782.32	18,782.32
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(1,895.13)	(71.15)
	£16,816.04	£18,711.17

Martin E. Gunson, F.C.A., F.R.S.A., F.F.A., F.I.A.B., M.C.M.I.

Honorary Treasurer

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Paula H. Stirling, LL.B.

BURSAR

Shona Millar, B.A.

SOLWAY FELLOW AND CHAPLAIN

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CURATOR OF DURHAM CASTLE MUSEUM

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LOWE LIBRARIAN

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 Gillian Wallace, B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.
 *G. Welsh, M.B.S.S., M.R.C., P.G. *joint tutors.

Dates of 2005 Reunion

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

Dates of 2006 Reunion

Friday 24th March to Sunday 26th March 2006.
 The Reunion Dinner is on Saturday, 25th March 2006.

Whalley Abbey 2005 Reunion

Friday 26th August, 2005.

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