



UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

Castle Without Borders

ALUMNI MAGAZINE / MICHAELMAS 2018

In this edition you will find updates from: the Acting-Master; highlights from the JCR, MCR and more



Durham
University

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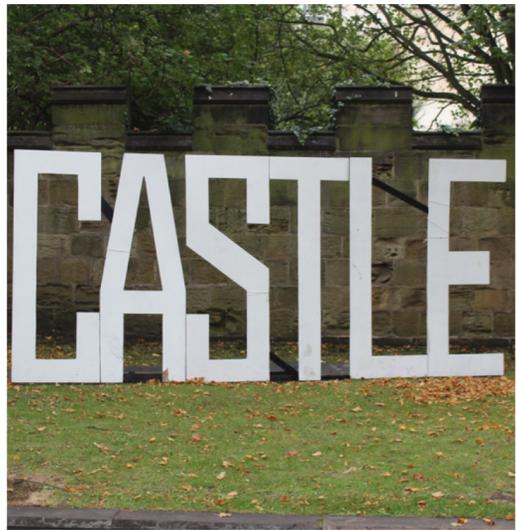
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From the Acting-Master

THE ACTING-MASTER'S REPORT



Dear all,

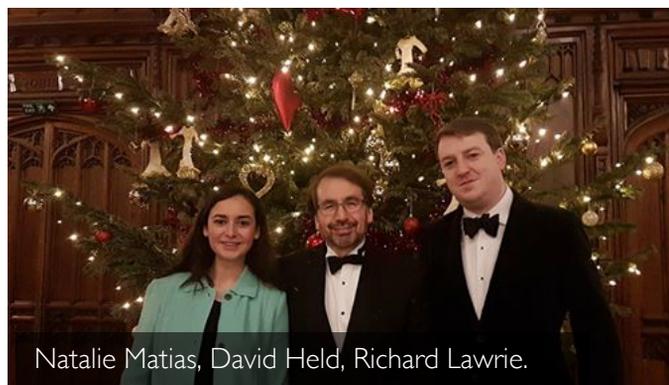
Merry Christmas! It's almost frightening to think that as I write this there are less than two weeks of term left - it doesn't seem like five minutes since we were greeting our new undergraduate and postgraduate students at Matriculation. This year we had our biggest student intake ever, and to cope with increased numbers we have a new self-catered block, Kepier Court, which is situated up Claypath, and has rooms for ninety undergraduates and one hundred and twenty-five postgraduates. I am very happy to report that both the JCR and MCR, alongside College's staff, have risen to the challenges that these changes have involved. We are also without the Master on a regular basis, as he has two terms of well-deserved research leave which he is currently enjoying, leaving the College in my hands while he's away.

Before term started we once again held a very enjoyable Castle Society Reunion, and it was a pleasure to meet a number of you there and welcome you back to Castle. Although times may change in College and the wider University, there is a reassuring continuity to the enthusiasm, understanding, and generosity of spirit which typify the Castle ethos, and seeing these so obviously prevalent at such events is always heart-warming. On this note, I would also like to thank all of you who have supported Alexandra's Awareness Campaign <https://www.dunelm.org.uk/donations/university> Mental health issues are an increasing part of the workload of Colleges as part of wider student support, and we hope this campaign will help to raise awareness among students around mental health.

The year started well when we won the Castle vs Hatfield Rugby match, and as term has progressed we have held a number of successful events. I'm pleased to say it's very rare that I get a night or weekend off! Even as I type Castle Theatre Company are rehearsing 'Harry' – a play about friendship, fandom, and Harry Styles. We have also had a number of Castle Lectures this term, including one with Lionel Shriver, and also hosted the first of our series of Alumni Careers Talks. This was given by Laura Southall, now Senior Manager for Public Programmes at the Pallant House Gallery. A number of traditional events have also taken place this term, not least of which was Ladies Night. This was a great evening, and I know a large number of freshers enjoyed their first Castle Ball. As the term comes to a close, we are now looking forward to Christmas formals, and College's annual Carol Service in the Tunstall Chapel.

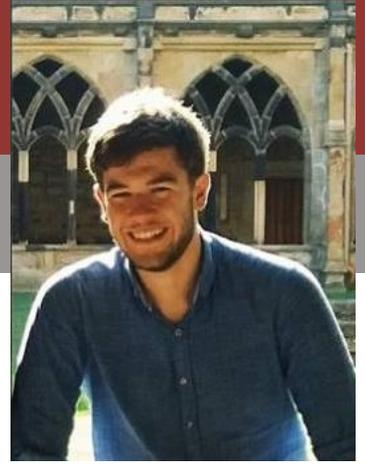
Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and peaceful Christmas and New Year,

Richard



Natalie Matias, David Held, Richard Lawrie.

JCR Michaelmas Report



Hello everybody,

My role this year kicked off with the annual alumni reunion that was held in September. It was lovely meeting so many of you, and having the opportunity to listen to the vast array of experiences and tales was a delight. It truly adds merit to the suggestion that you never really leave Castle.

Since then it has been a hectic start to the year! We have had over 370 undergraduates join our community (representing an increase of 100 students), a new accommodation block called Kepier Court in Claypath, and we are continually managing the knock on effects resulting from the University strategy and the continued desire for standardisation of colleges. However, in true Castle spirit we have remained resilient: Our sports teams and societies are flourishing, Castle Community Action (CCA), has grown exponentially in size and is a huge focus for us, doing brilliant work to support the wider Durham community whilst providing our volunteers with fulfilling memories of their time here, and the JCR Exec are immensely dedicated to maintaining the character of Castle and the Durham difference despite the challenges posed.

Additionally, Elle Morgan-Williams, our JCR Development Officer, has been striving to create tangible links to the Castle alumni community. Alongside the MCR we will be running the "From Castle to a Career" talks, giving past alumni the opportunity to speak to an audience of college members to explain their career path once they left Castle. Additionally, on the 7th December, we held a Careers Fair, designed to present current students with a unique and diverse range of career paths, and will be holding more in the future. If either of these pursuits would be of interest to you the please do let us know!

As the term has gone on I have more and more enjoyed leading the JCR community. It is a time consuming, sometimes testing, often exhausting position. However it is a pleasure to shape the direction of our College and I am looking forward to the coming months. If you would be interested in being involved with our Careers Talks or Fairs, are visiting Durham anytime soon, or if you have any questions about what the JCR is up to then please do not hesitate to get in touch at castle.seniorstudent@durham.ac.uk.

Best wishes,

Henry Beckley
Senior Student



MCR Michaelmas Report



Hello all,

The MCR has continued to go from strength to strength since the last update in the Easter edition of this newsletter. The Castle conference, which delivered talks on the theme of “Order and Chaos”, enjoyed its second successful iteration. Speakers from all over the North East and the country came to present over two days, with many staying to enjoy a few drinks and a formal. Our Academic Officer, James Adlington, is aiming to again provide a world class conference in July 2019, so stay tuned for more info throughout the coming months.

Induction week was a great success, and events ranged from mocktail nights and a silent disco, to Café tours and a boat trip. I attribute much of the success to our social chair Nick Spong, whose dedication and creativeness has continued into the term. With successful events for Halloween and Thanksgiving already completed, I look forward to seeing more events utilising the amazing space we have the privilege of using.

Throughout the summer our Ball committee has been working hard to ensure that the Castle Charity Ball can be the best yet! Under the theme of “Camelot” and with the addition of a dinner, this event has received a lot of attention from throughout the University. The dining tickets are currently sold out and there are now less than 20 ents tickets left. If you are interested please take a look at the website “<https://www.castlecharityball.com>” for more details.

We still maintain our goal of allowing greater communication between our current postgraduate community and the network of alumni. Our previous Steward, Pete Donnelly, has been working closely with Natalie to produce a set of talks under the banner of “From Castle to a Career”. The first of these, based around Careers in the Museum and Heritage sector, proved to be a huge success with our members. If you are interested in presenting in this series, get in contact with [Natalie](#) as we would love to see more of you!

Best regards,

Jack Towers
MCR President



Development Officer



The image is from the first of our Alumni Careers Talks. The speaker is Laura Southall, now Senior Manager for Public Programmes at the Pallant House Gallery.



As this year's Development Officer, my baptism of fire was certainly the planning and bringing to fruition of Freshers' Week. Given the recent expansions of the College, we saw over 350 new students gracing Moatside with their rowdiness, as well as a team of 50 freps, welfare, exec and non-exec members to attempt to keep them (relatively) in check! Despite being a steep learning curve for us all, Freshers' Week was a success... Though we were certainly all in need of a well-deserved rest afterwards (the porters in particular!).

Since the end of Freshers' Week itself, I have turned my eye to the next part of my role: organising careers events and maintaining alumni relations. I have heard from some of you already, which I always enjoy, and even met for coffee with one ex-Development Officer. I love hearing about how (if minimally) Castle has changed over the generations, so if any of you would like to get in touch, please email me at eleanor.morgan-williams@durham.ac.uk. I am always looking for new people to give careers talks, so if you think this is something that you might be interested in then please do email me!

Once again, thank you for your support and involvement thus far. We are always keen to engage with our alumni community, whether this be for support, financial or otherwise, or to foster the connection between the current student body and those who came before. Castle is lucky to have the alumni network that we do!

Floreat Castellum,

Elle

Castle Community Action

As the Founder of CCA (Castle Community Action) put it, CCA aims to “truly narrow the gap between Town and Gown and genuinely once and for all put Durham Castle back in the heart of its community”. In light of this aim, today CCA works with the homeless, the general public, the elderly and students from primary and secondary schools. So far this year CCA is flourishing. We have expanded our elderly division into another care home, our homeless division has set up a new project supporting homeless women, and we are looking forward to hosting students from a local secondary school in the Castle during Easter for our annual Secondary Education residential trip.

To support our incredible expansion, we recently organised a Charity Auction evening event. This evening consisted of a Grand Auction, Date Auction, Silent Auction and Raffle draw with some amazing entertainment provided by Castle Big Band and DIM (Durham Improvised Musical). Fabulous prizes were on offer from a night in the Bishop’s Suite to June Ball priority sign up to a horse racing experience in Newcastle (kindly donated by one of our alumni). The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all and raised an amazing £4,300 for CCA. Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this evening possible.





Dracula

Norman Chapel, Durham Castle
15th-17th November
8PM



DST £5.50 Concessions £6.50 Standard £8.50



On Thursday 15th of November, Castle Theatre Company performed Liz Lochhead's adaptation of Dracula to a full house in the Norman Chapel. The performance has had many positive reviews and was described by Palatinat as "Immersive, moving and funny", "truly a rare treat to see successful and refreshing adaptations..." by The Bubble, and as a "hauntingly unique adaptation" by DST First Night.

Ellie Farrell discusses Castle Theatre Company's refreshing take on Dracula:

Nosferatu, the Prince of Darkness, the Count; everyone knows the novel, everyone knows the fangs, and everyone knows the name 'Dracula'. Solidified as an infamous figure throughout the history of human obsession with the macabre and monstrous since the publishing of Bram Stoker's iconic tale in 1897, Dracula has punctured his way through the flesh of our dreams and into many nightmarish retellings. Some are truly blood-curdling in their manipulation of frights, whilst others are horrifying for entirely different, and arguably more disturbing, reasons (see: the 'Twilight' franchise). Amidst the entangled portrayals of the truly terrifying and the downright laughable, Dracula seemingly lost his bite along the way. Liz Lochhead's adaptation of the original novel, adapted for the Durham stage by Castle Theatre Company, seeks to re-establish Dracula's role as the ruler of the wretched and re-inject some malignancy into his cold veins... Castle Theatre Company's 'Dracula' is a hauntingly unique adaptation of a well-loved and widely known entity within the horror world. The play really finds its strength when it is less overtly malicious and more quietly intimidating. Having bite when it needs to, and driving a stake deep into your heart by packing a punch at the emotional story beats, this retelling demonstrates that there is life in the un-dead dog yet and injects new vigour—and blood—leaving you thirsty for more.

To see the full review, please follow the [link](#).

CTC's next show, 'Harry' (written by Durham alumna Caitlin McEwan), opened on Saturday in the Durham Union Chamber.

"Who is that?"

"Harry"

"He's my favourite."

"I think he's everyone's favourite."



Castle Theatre Company presents Harry – a play about friendship, fandom, and Harry Styles.

Caitlin and Sophie meet at university and quickly become best friends. United by their love of crisp sandwiches and the latest X Factor sensation, One Direction, they plaster the walls of their room with pictures of the band's charismatic heartthrob, Harry Styles. But over time, the obsession that initially brings them together starts to have more damaging effects.

Other upcoming shows next term are 'Northanger Abbey', adapted by Durham alumna and current sabbatical officer Sophie Wright, and 'Jesus Christ Superstar' by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Our summer Shakespeare tour in 2019 will be 'Love's Labour's Lost'.

To find out more, please follow us on [Facebook](#).

Castle Career Contacts

We are looking for Castle alumni who would be willing to offer informal careers advice to students who are beginning to think about their career after Castle.

When you were first looking for a career, did you wish you could talk to someone who was actually doing what you thought you might want to do? Ever wish that you knew someone in a particular company who could tell you what it really is like, and if the training scheme is any good?

Now that you are working, would you be prepared to help the current generation of Castle students with exactly that sort of information? Whether you've retired, or are a recent graduate, your experience and advice could be of great help to Castle students.

[**Volunteer today!**](#)

Castle Chapel News



It has been a calendar year full of contrasts around the chapels of Castle. Our services amidst snow drifts in March and our farewells to graduands in the heat of late June. We have enjoyed welcoming back old members of the college, from near and far. As we turn toward 2019, we are especially glad to have Castleman The Revd Canon Michael Hampel return to Durham Cathedral as Sub-Dean. He will also visit us as preacher at Choral Evensong during Epiphany Term. The term cards for Epiphany will feature the Pearson misericord on the cover. The result of craft, skill and sustained efforts by colleagues here in Castle as well as in the workshop of the designer and carpenter. Our hope is that it will have a long use in the chapel alongside its older neighbours many of whom began life in the old Upper Chapel at the Palace at Bishop Auckland.

I've been gladdened by the impact of our many visiting preachers this year. Chapels must continue to be venues for spiritual teaching and challenging ideas, all the more so as they are a vital space for intergenerational exchange and fellowship. It is encouraging to hear the perspectives and reflection from a diversity of voices. We are fortunate in Castle to be able to offer hospitality to such visitors. Do keep an eye on the term card and music list for those people and pieces that are of special interest to you.

It is our hope to develop an outreach program to secondary schools using chapel music in 2019. Our aim as it stands is to teach plainchant music to small groups of students from Durham Schools and have each group take turns in singing the service of compline as part of our regular pattern of term time worship. If you'd like to know more or are interested in supporting this endeavour in some way, please get in touch with me directly. (richard.p.whaite@dur.ac.uk)

The chaplaincy at Castle depends on the cooperation and talents of junior members of the university, as well as the prayers and support of senior members, including alumni. I'm thankful for this year's Chapel Sacristans, Chapel Secretary and Directors of Music for their commitment to community life centred around Christian worship and Christian service. I look forward to welcoming you in 2019.



Castle Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir has enjoyed another strong year, with a number of successful events alongside its thrice-weekly services of Eucharist, Evensong, and Compline. Highlights included our annual 'mini-tour' to Northumberland, premiering Castle alumnus Ben Rowarth's Night Prayer in the Durham Cathedral Chapter House, releasing our latest CD 'Christus Vincit', and more recently a sublime concert for All Soul's Day featuring Victoria's Requiem Mass.

However, perhaps what will most define this choir, in what has been a difficult and all too often tragic year, is the role it has played within the college. The choir has been a source of comfort to many who have mourned, and have been so with grace, reverence and great empathy. It is this ethos which makes it a privilege to lead this ensemble and be a part of this community.

Will Sims, Director of Music

Castle Chaplaincy and Choir

Below is a list of special services the choir are singing over Christmas and the Epiphany term. All are very welcome to attend.

Christmas

Tuesday 11th December – Service of Advent Carols, Tunstall Chapel, 17:30

Thursday 13th December – 9 Lessons and Carols, Tunstall Chapel, 17:30

Please note that this service is extremely popular: if you would like to guarantee a seat, queuing an hour in advance is advised. The congregation will be seated from 17:10.

Epiphany Term

Thursday 17th January – Service of Epiphany Carols, Tunstall Chapel, 17:30

Sunday 20th January – Eucharist in St James Riding Mill, tbc

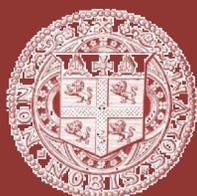
Further details can be found on the Epiphany Term music list, which will be published in early January.

Monday 18th January – Evensong, Durham Cathedral, 17:15

Wednesday 6th March – Ash Wednesday Eucharist, Tunstall Chapel, 17:45

Thursday 21st March – Tenebrae Service, Tunstall Chapel, 17:30

The Epiphany Term finishes with a candlelit service of Tenebrae, which features readings and music for Lent. The service will feature a variety of music from the Renaissance before finishing with one of the masterpieces of the 21st century, Durham alumnus James Macmillan's Miserere.



Durham Castle Lectures

2018-19

Michaelmas Term

24 October 2018 - **Lionel Shriver**

'A Conversation with Lionel Shriver'

21 November 2018 - **Professor Alex de Waal**

'The Reckless Anthropocene'

28 November 2018 - **Professor Paul Collier**

'The Future of Capitalism: Facing the New Anxieties'

5 December 2018 - **Dr Helen Hester**

'Xenofeminism'

Epiphany Term

23 January 2019 - **Professor Linda Martin Alcoff**

'Sexual Subjectivity'

6 February 2019 - **Sir Nicholas Serota***

'A Creative Future: the ambition of the Durham Commission'

13 February 2019 - **Professor Tamara Sonn**

'The Myth of Civilizations? Understanding Islam in Global Perspective'

27 February 2019 - **Professor Jacqueline Bhabha**

'Can We Solve the Migration Crisis?'

6 March 2019 - **Professor Mary Evans**

'Who Done It? Responsibility, Revenge and Retribution in the 21st Century: making a new moral order'

Easter Term

8 May 2019 - **Professor Branko Milanović**

'Recent Trends in Global Income Distribution and their Political Implications'

3 June 2019 - **Professor Peter Singer**

'Animal Liberation'

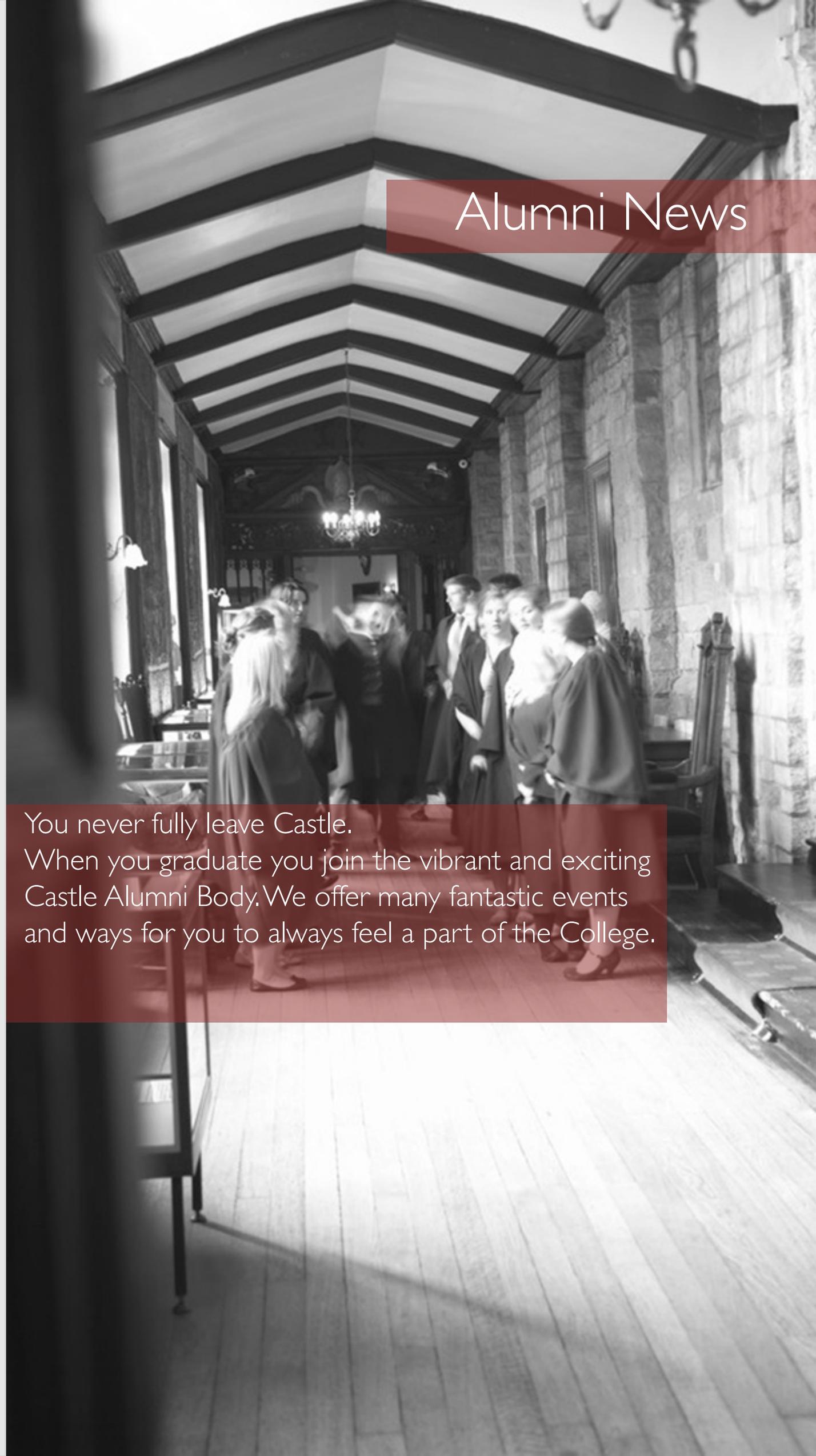


www.durham.ac.uk/castle.lectures

Free and Open to All

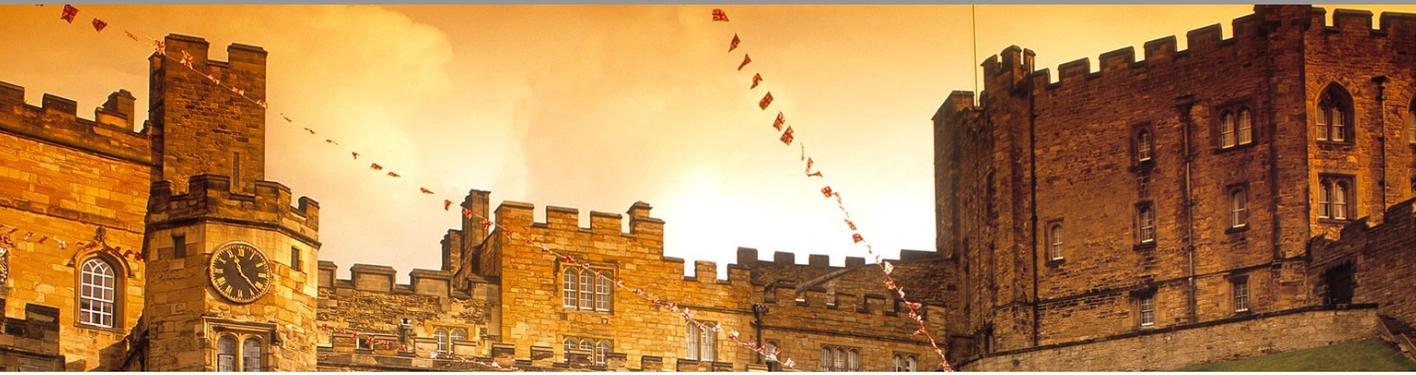
8pm (doors open 7.45pm), Great Hall, Durham Castle

* This lecture has an alternative start time, please check our website for details



Alumni News

You never fully leave Castle.
When you graduate you join the vibrant and exciting
Castle Alumni Body. We offer many fantastic events
and ways for you to always feel a part of the College.

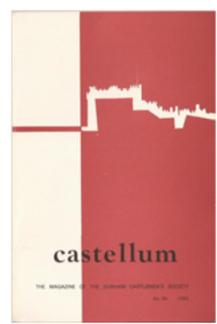
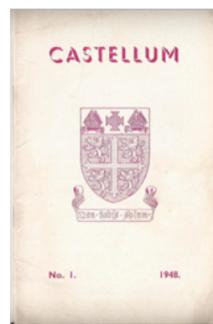


Castle Alumni Cards

Any former student of University College can register to receive an exclusive Castle alumni card.

This allows you to visit Castle, drink in the Undercroft during term time, and receive discounts at local pubs and cafes in Durham listed on the website.

[Click here to order your card.](#)



[Castellum](#), the Durham Castle Society's official magazine, has been produced by the Society since 1948. The current Editor is Alex Nelson, who would be pleased to receive submissions for the next edition at alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk.

Supporting Castle

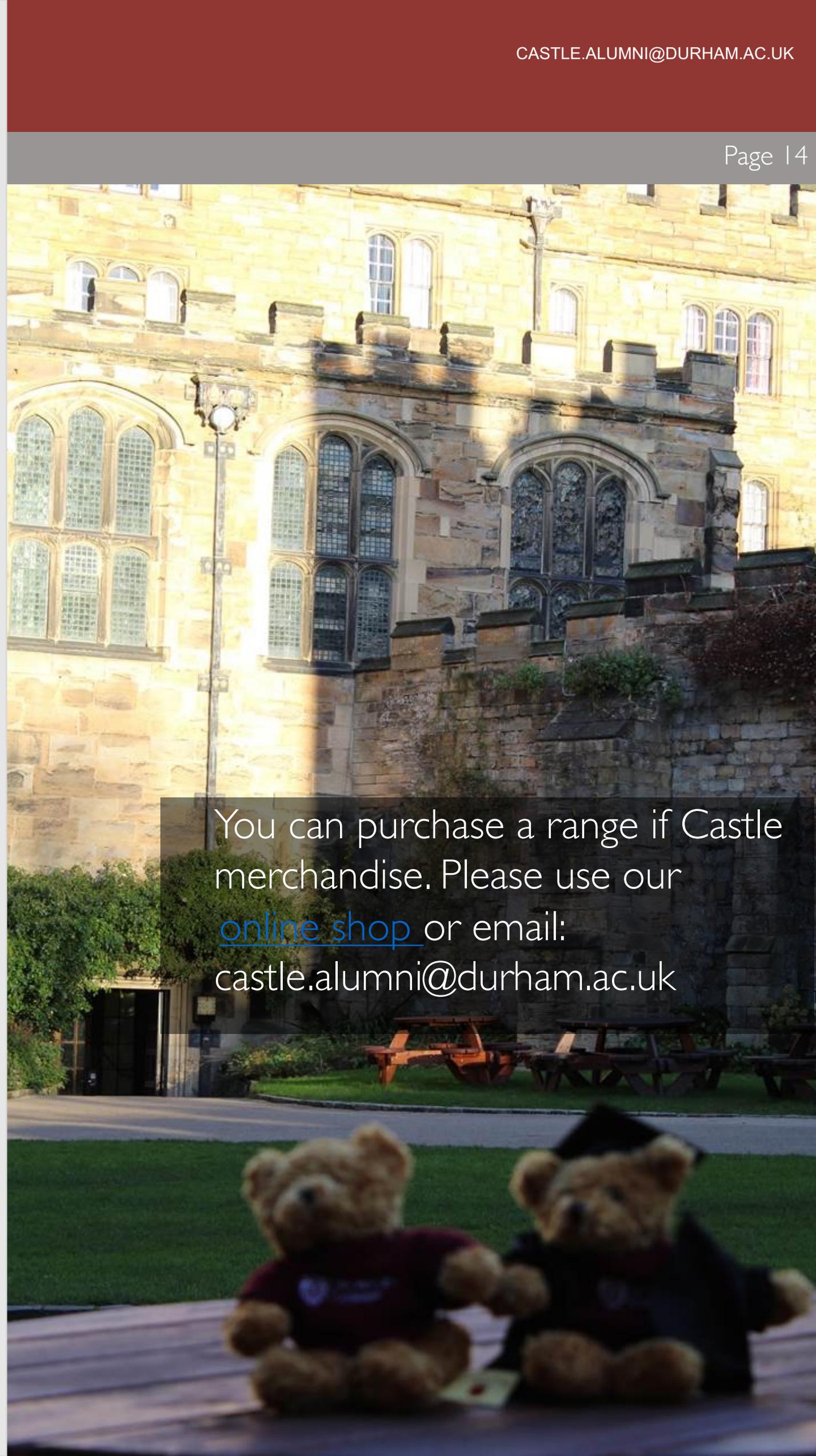
We also have a wide range of ways that you can support Castle. [The 1072 Club](#) is proving ever more popular and have now expanded to include a [1072 USA extension](#). We also have a [Sports Fund](#) and an [Academic Fund](#). For more information please click on the links.



Castle
Sports
Fund

The
1072
Club





You can purchase a range of Castle merchandise. Please use our [online shop](#) or email: castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk

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