



### Professor David Held, Master



Last term we were pleased to host an alumni event in London, kindly sponsored by Smith & Williamson, to which we invited 100 of our London-based alumni. Just this weekend, we hosted another group of alumni at a drinks reception in the Senior Common Room. Each time I meet with Castle graduates, their passion and support for the College is evident. I would like to thank the many Castlemen who have supported this year's College Appeal and helped to fund the new gym equipment in Moatside. The support of alumni and friends of the College is now more vital than ever.

No doubt many of you will be aware of the many significant announcements coming from Durham University in recent months. There has been a great deal of press coverage about the college system, proposals to alter it, and a host of other items. There is no question that this is a period of change in Durham, but the direction is far from yet settled. The newspapers might present a clear view of the end of the collegiate system, but there is still everything to play for in internal discussions. The Heads of Colleges – of all colleges – are united in being both sceptical and critical of a range of proposed changes that would effectively pass the management of commercial services out of the colleges' hands and under the line management of the Estates and Buildings. We have pressed very hard to oppose these changes and hope to have opened up space for further discussion. I will report on these conversations at a later date.

In the meantime, the Castle community is in excellent health and is as vibrant and dynamic as ever. Our lecture series are flourishing, the JCR has just elected its new Exec and the MCR has organised its first ever postgraduate ball. We even beat Hatfield for the eighth consecutive year in the annual Erg Challenge! I look forward to meeting many more of you at our next alumni event, which is kindly sponsored by City & Guilds.

### JCR Senior Man 2013-14

The JCR has had another exciting and challenging term that has seen more sports matches, music performances and theatrical productions than ever. This has been matched by great investments in the new gym, laundry room and website. These investments will only make the community stronger and a greater place to be! Castle Community Action (CCA) has also experienced fantastic growth, with over 100 active members working with children, the elderly and the homeless in the local Durham Community.



Thank you for your continued support.  
Best Wishes, Simon

### MCR President 2013-14

The postgraduate community in Castle continues to thrive: The new MCR Academic Lecture Series is off to a great start with great speakers and participants in the poster sessions – more info about our budding young academics can be found [here](#). The first ever annual Castle Charity Ball is taking place on Sunday 23rd March! All proceeds to go to Professor Yamato Kawakami Foundation and CCA. And the new MCR Website has been launched: [www.castlemcr.com](http://www.castlemcr.com). A special thanks to the Durham Castle Society for funding this development project.





## Castle Community Action

The Senior Man has worked with dedicated members of the JCR to establish Castle Community Action, a project designed to fulfil the Castle motto Non Nobis Solum. At their launch event last term, over £4000 was raised through a Charity Auction, including the auctioning of the Master’s seat at High Table formal, and a night in the Bishop’s Suite for two



lucky guests.

## Retirement Colin Buxton

Colin has announced his retirement as our receptionist from the end of March. He will be greatly missed by all at Castle. 'For his gentle demeanour, biting humour and watchfulness for each and all has contributed to the lives of everyone here. There can be very few people I've met throughout my working life as warm, conscientious and delightful as Castle's Colin.' – Master. Messages for an leaving card for Colin can be sent to [castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk)



## Gym Renovation



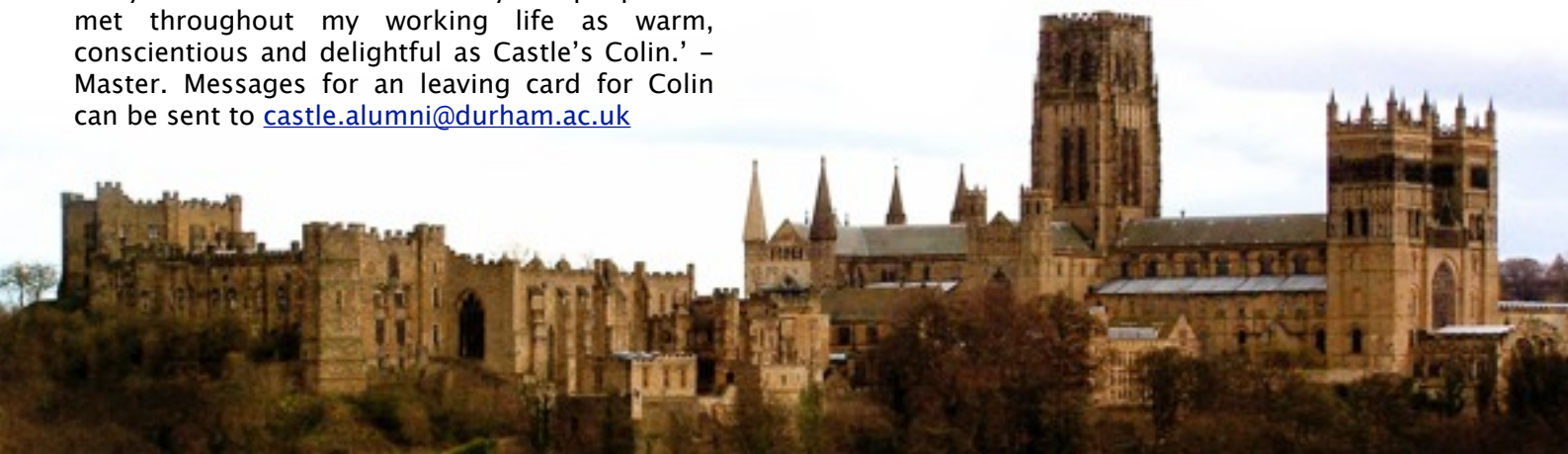
Thanks to support from the Castle Society, University College Durham Trust, and the Telephone Appeal, we have been able to provide the JCR and MCR with much-needed new gym equipment this term. Castle students are very grateful for the equipment that has been provided. Without the generosity of our alumni, College would be unable to fund such initiatives.



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## Low Library Improvements

With Richard Lawrie, SCR Secretary, taking up the post of Senior Low Librarian, we are now looking to improve study facilities in College to meet the evolving needs of our students. Should you wish to support this project, gifts can be made [online](#).





## Owengate Refurbishment

After the announcement in the last newsletter of the acquisition of the Three Tuns Hotel and three houses on Church Street for University College, we are delighted to announce that the University has confirmed a further £1.4 million investment into University College for the refurbishment of the houses along Owengate. The accommodation in this area is in great need of investment to bring it up to the standards of the newly refurbished rooms in the Three Tuns, Keep, Junction and Hall Stairs.

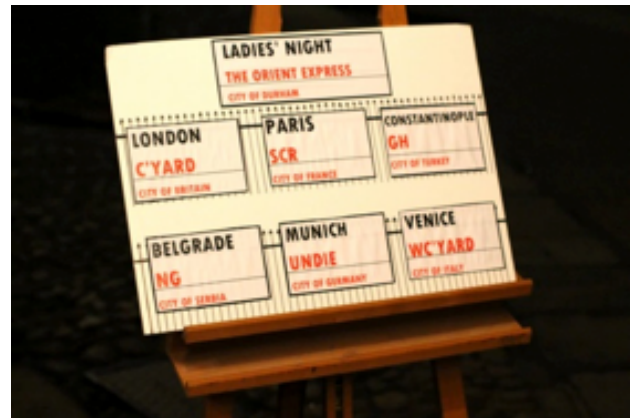


## Ladies Night 2013

This year's Ladies Night had the theme of The Orient Express, with scenes from London, Paris, Copenhagen, Belgrave, Munich and Venice played out in locations around the College. Congratulations to Social Secretary Henrietta Niekirk for another successful evening.



The College is now beginning anticipation of



## Durham Castle Lecture Series

Speakers confirmed for next term include former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and the esteemed public intellectual, Noam Chomsky, who will be speaking at Castle on Thursday 22nd May 2014 (title to be confirmed).

Information on our lecture series is available on the [College website](#), where you can also watch videos taken at the events, thanks to support of alumni and friends in funding the required technology. Castlemen are more than welcome to join us at these events. Do get in touch if you are planning to attend one of our events.

June Ball 2014. A new June Ball website, created by the June Ball Committee, can be visited online at [www.juneball.wix.com/juneball](http://www.juneball.wix.com/juneball)

The June Ball committee are looking for sponsorship – if you have connections with any company that might be interested, please email JCR Sponsorship & Liaison Officer, Daisy, at [d.a.cummins@durham.ac.uk](mailto:d.a.cummins@durham.ac.uk)





## London Networking Event

City & Guilds is delighted to invite you to join the Master and alumni of Castle at a drinks reception at Brewers' Hall on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014 from 6.30pm.



It seemed fitting that as an educational establishment almost as old as University College Durham, City & Guilds should seek to offer hospitality in a livery company connected with an interest supported by so many Castlemen both during and after their time at Durham! Floreat Castellum!

Michael Osbaldeston (Castle 1971–74)  
Chapel Clerk and JCR Secretary  
[www.cityandguilds.com](http://www.cityandguilds.com)  
[michael.osbaldeston@cityandguilds.com](mailto:michael.osbaldeston@cityandguilds.com)

As with the last Castle event, sign-up is required due to the nature of the venue. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please click [here](#) to sign up.

## Could you host an event?

We are always looking for alumni volunteers to host events for Castlemen throughout the country – whether this is through company sponsorship such as City & Guilds, or simply organising a meet-up at a pub or bar. Please get in touch by emailing [castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk) if you'd like to get involved.

## Keep in Touch!

We want to keep you updated with selected College and alumni news, and invites to special alumni events. Here's how you can connect with College:

[castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk)



Like University College Alumni on [Facebook](#)

Find the University College group on [LinkedIn](#).

We'd love to see any photos from your time at Castle, which you can send in via email or post. We recently received an old Castle blazer, from John Rogers (Castleman 1945–48) which will be added to the College archives after being displayed on the Norman Gallery.



## *Floreat Castellum!*

Some interesting research from Prof. Rhodes, SCR member:

“I have come across what I think must be the origin of our College's motto – not religious, as I had supposed, but classical:

Non nobis solum nati sumus; ortusque nostri partem patria vindicat, partem amici – we were not born for ourselves alone; and our country claims a share in our origin, and our friends claim a share.

Cicero, De Officiis, I. 22, translating a passage in [Plato] Epistle ix. 358 A.”

