



UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE

In this edition:

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The Castle alumnus starring on  
the BBC

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The Castle is turned into  
Hogwarts for Halfway Hall

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The latest from Castle  
Community Action

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A photograph of Durham Castle, a large stone building with many windows, situated on a hill. In the foreground, there are several stone arches, likely part of a bridge or walkway. The sky is blue with some clouds. There are some buildings and trees in the middle ground.

# Alumni Magazine

Epiphany Edition 2016

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## Professor David Held, Master

The Epiphany term has seen a tremendous amount of activity at the College. While many of our students have been hard at study preparing their dissertations, we have been working to reach out to as many of our alumni as possible.

On March 4th we hosted an evening event at the Counting House in London. We had over seventy people attend across the evening which was a great result. It is always rewarding to hear memories of previous times at Castle and I look forward to hearing more when we return to London again this Summer.

In February we also hosted an alumni evening in Leeds for the first time, which proved to be extremely popular. The strength of attendance at these events shows the passion that our alumni continue to have for the College and we would like to thank you for your engagement

and taking your time to come and speak to us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the growing number of you who are now signed up to the 1072 Club. The membership numbers have more than doubled since September and our next target will be to reach our 100th member. The kind donations we receive are vital to the stability and success of the College.

The JCR and MCR continue to be very busy. In terms of Sport we are succeeding on all fronts. Drama and music are also both flourishing at the moment with almost weekly performances at the Castle in one way or another. Many times I have walked through the courtyard to sound of singing or music practice. This constantly reminds me what a truly talented student body we have here at University College.




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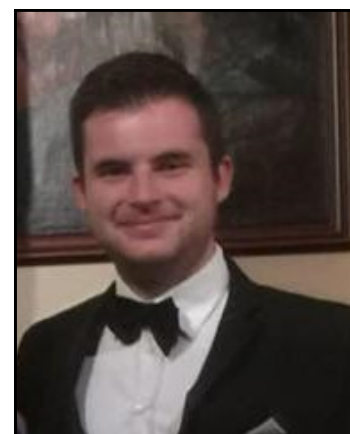
## David Holliday, Alumni Relations and Development Officer

Welcome to the new termly Alumni Magazine. We have decided to expand on our popular newsletter to give you even more information about the College and what our alumni are getting up to. We hope that you like the new format if you have any feedback I would be happy to hear it.

The importance of alumni relations at Castle continues to grow. We are increasingly trying to reach out to more and more alumni by expanding our events throughout the UK and also improving the

reach and professionalism of our correspondence.

The ways in which it is now possible to give back to Castle have also hugely evolved. As well as the 1072 Club we now have a [Sports Fund](#) and an [Academic Fund](#). While serving different purposes both are already proving popular with a number of donors and we will be looking to build on this early interest and to ensure we can continue to offer our current students the best support and experience.





## Will Throp, JCR Senior Student

Hello everyone! I hope all is well, and 2016 is living up to expectations. College life has continued apace since the last newsletter, with much to report.

We have had ambitious theatre productions - Castle Theatre Company's recent production of *Hamlet* in the Town Hall being of particular note. We have also had much sporting prowess across the board with particular success in hockey and rowing. The JCR was also delighted to receive a brand new Table Tennis table at the end of last term and our newly formed team has already beaten several other colleges, including arch-rival

Hatfield. The Castle you know and love is a hive of activity.

Exciting ideas such as the renovation of the West Courtyard to include 'barista' style coffee making facilities are in the pipeline, and we're hoping to see progress on this before the end of the year. We will also be looking to upgrade the TV room with new sofas before the Summer arrives.

As ever, it's a pleasure to hear from former students, so if you ever have any enquiries then don't hesitate to get in touch.



## Gianna Huhn, MCR President

The Middle Common Room has had its ups and downs this term. However the community continues to thrive and we have increased the amount of academic events we are hosting each term. This has led to an increase of JCR participation and the number of Junior Mentors has increased significantly. Our research students are now also offering dissertation support for Master students and JCR members which has been very well received by younger students.

In this context, the MCR is also planning on hosting a new event this fall: The Postgraduate Castle Conference. This conference will be held over the course of 2 days

within Castle and will be an interdisciplinary conference with a range of speakers on the central topic of "Evolution". This event had been organised by members of the MCR and will hopefully continue as an academic exercise for many years to come.

With sadness, I also have to tell you that our academic officer Daniel Moore has chosen to resign from his position due to personal commitments. We are very grateful for everything that Daniel has done for us and we will be appointing an interim officer during our next election period in May, in which also new members of the executive committee will be elected.

## The ongoing work to maintain the Castle's Heritage

By Gemma Lewis, Castle Curator



Providing and improving access to the incredible history of the Castle, College and collections is at the heart of the heritage activities at Durham Castle and there is always work to be carried out on our historic items and buildings.

This year has seen an increase in access and the use of the collections and the buildings. The saddles in the Tunstall Gallery were the basis of a post-graduate research paper, the visitors on the castle tours were assessed by student placements and the Cromwellian armour featured in the recent *Magna Carta* exhibition at Palace Green Library. The student experience is also important and volunteers, interns and placements are contributing to the care of heritage in Durham Castle. The College and University actively supports the work we are carrying out. The University College's Research & Scholarly Activities Grant enabled us to purchase a camera for documenting the collections. College provided 4 months of



accommodation over the summer for Verena Manfroi from University of Udine, who was studying for a Master's degree in Art History. Over the 4 months Verena was involved with collections work, conservation of military leather objects and developing the visitor experience for those on Castle Tours.

Another recent change took place in October last year, when Sophie Ridley joined University College. Sophie was awarded a new scholarship in memory of Lt-Col Angus Alexander Macfarlane-Grieve. The aim of the scholarship is to allow a student to study on the MA in Museum and Artefacts Studies course part-time over the next two years while having the opportunity to work with the collections and get involved with life at University College. Since starting in October, Sophie has been involved with documenting recent donations, cleaning the brass and the wooden panelling in the Tunstall Chapel, dusting the paintings in the Great Hall, transcribing and developing a children's trail and foreign language guide. Her next project will be involved with repacking, researching and cataloguing the silver store.



## Halfway Hall: Hogwarts comes to Durham

By Summer Burton-Morgan, Social Chair

Halfway Hall; an event to commemorate the midpoint of your undergrad degree, to look back at all the follies of being a fresher and enjoy Castle before exams start.

This year, it was themed around Hogwarts, which given we live in a Castle was rather apt. The evening started with a lovely meal in the Great Hall complete with a string quartet. The creative geniuses behind this event were Alicia Green and Scarlett Down and their eye for detail was evident throughout, even down to the bottles of Liquid Luck (hot chocolate sauce) served with the pudding.

After the meal, first and third years arrived and the whole of castle was soon buzzing. The West Courtyard was transformed into Honeydukes sweetshop, where all livers out proceeded to fill their bags and pockets with as many sweets as physically possible. Then came the cake, and the cheese, to the point where every surface in the room was soon covered in some form of foodstuff. Later the Great Hall opened, to be filled with both Castle and University student acts, and some rather dubious dance moves. The butterbeer bar in screens was also a highlight; I'm not sure anyone knew exactly what the butterbeer was made of but it certainly proved popular.

The evening was a great success, and just goes to show how much Castle love a good event. So now thoughts turn towards planning



our next major event, the pinnacle of Castle's social calendar: June Ball.

If you or your company would be interested in getting involved with June Ball either through volunteering or financial contribution, then please email [b.t.evans@durham.ac.uk](mailto:b.t.evans@durham.ac.uk).



## Owengate Refurbishment

Last term the Owengate refurbishment was completed and Castle students were able to move into their new accommodation.

The work which lasted much of the summer including structural improvements to the old buildings to make sure they were stable and well maintained. Work then continued on the bedrooms, common room and connecting corridors and staircases to ensure the block is now one of the most up-to-date parts of the Castle accommodation.

The common room has undergone a major refit with new appliances, worktops and furniture. New doors have been fitted to all rooms and the outsides of the buildings, which not only has improved the appearance but also the security of the block. New windows were also fitted which are in keeping with the university guidelines on “green living” and should make the heating of the building much more efficient. Finally, improvements were made to the shower rooms and bathrooms to make these as modern as possible.

The refurbishment has left 35 new rooms (of which 20 are shared) greatly improved compared to their original condition. The block, which has always been a popular location, will continue to be one of the most sought after accommodation blocks outside of the Castle walls.



## Castle Community Action

By Megan Hill, CCA Division Leader

Founded in 2012, CCA is a student-led outreach programme based in University College. CCA aims to integrate University College students into the local community by providing additional support and education to vulnerable sectors of the local area, and by increasing community access to Durham Castle



We see our community engagement not just as volunteering, but as a daily process through which students and other members of the Durham community establish lasting and reciprocal relationships. As a small organisation, we maintain flexibility and are able to tailor our projects to the specific needs of individual beneficiaries. We believe it is vitally important for students to not forget that they are guests of the local community when they attend university. That is why we seek to give back to the local community and connect the Castle to Durham residents.

We have five divisions which run 10 projects within Durham. These cover: Primary Education, Secondary Education, Elderly Care and Connections, Adult Offenders, and Homelessness.

Our current weekly projects currently include:

- Primary Education Bright Sparks Club
- Primary Education Latin Club
- Sixth Form Tutoring
- St. Margaret's Church Coffee Mornings for the elderly.
- Durham History Project
- Durham Prison Visitor Centre Assistance
- Durham Prison Homework Club
- Sanctuary 21 Café for the homeless
- Community Meal also for the homeless.

Hopefully we will be adding to this in the future.





As well as going out into the community we hold a range of events based within the Castle walls during the year. These have included:

- Durham Guides visits: In November, two groups of Durham Guides visited the Castle to work towards their King Arthur badge
- Christmas Tea and Crafts with Durham Trinity students: Last December, families from Durham Trinity joined us for a day of cookie decorating and craft-making, accompanied by live carols, a brass band and rounded off by afternoon tea in the Great Hall.
- A Castle Easter Egg Hunt aimed at Primary school pupils in the local area which happened on the 25th March.

We also have a large range of upcoming events. These include:

- A Performing Arts Workshop covering a wide range of music and drama activities.
- A Spring Residential: Identity and Community in the Information Age
- A Summer Fete which is our major summer event and will this year happen on 26 June.

CCA is deeply committed to access to the Castle, to education and to providing social welfare. All of our projects and events are free of charge for participants which is something we are extremely proud of. We are a fully charitable organisation and our financing comes from fundraising and College support. This year, to further raise funds we ran an extremely successful Charity Black Tie Auction which was made possible by a huge amount of prize donations from local businesses, current students and alumni. The night raised in excess of £2000 for CCA and has put the scheme in a stable financial position for the foreseeable future.

If you would like more information about what we do or would like to offer support or advice please use the contact information at the bottom of the page. Any help or expertise to support us in our work would be very much appreciated.



[cca.info@durham.ac.uk](mailto:cca.info@durham.ac.uk)



@Castle\_CCA



[www.facebook.com/castlecommunityaction](http://www.facebook.com/castlecommunityaction)



@castle\_cca



# 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.

## Dickensian star

Those of you have been watching the BBC's production of *Dickensian* may have spotted former Castleman Ben Starr. Graduating in 2010, Ben has been involved in several BBC productions including *Father Brown*, *Doctors* and *The Musketeers* before being cast in the role of Captain James Hawdon. *Dickensian* has seen viewing figures as high as 6 million people and marks a major success for Ben.

We wish him all the best for the future and hope to see him in many more productions for the BBC.



## 40 Years in Africa

The College would like to give a mention to John Ashworth who recently got in touch to let us know about his work in Africa over the past decades.

After leaving Castle in 1975 with a BSc in physics and an honourable mention in Castle-climbing and Newcastle Brown, John went to Idi Amin's Uganda as a volunteer science teacher. In 1983 he went to Sudan to work first for the Catholic Church and later for the Ecumenical Church Network. He has continued to work in Sudan and, since its independence in 2011, South Sudan, through two civil wars, in various fields including education, humanitarian aid,

development, peacebuilding and reconciliation.

His current work includes supporting the South Sudan Council of Churches' peace and reconciliation initiative to bring peace and healing after the latest civil war, and supporting Holy Trinity Peace Village, an outstanding example of local peacebuilding in one of the remotest parts of South Sudan. His latest book, *The Voice of the Voiceless* (Paulines Publications Africa, 2014), describes the role that the church played during the 1983-2005 civil war in Sudan.

## Engineering award

A Castle graduate has been recognised internationally for engineering excellence after winning a prestigious award from the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).

Paul Chambers (3rd from the left) who studied MEng Civil Engineering and graduated in 2015, was awarded the Emerging Engineers Award, which also includes a cash prize of £1,500, for his report on London's Paddington Station. Paul's paper, which was titled 'Investigation and Analysis of Temporary Propping at Crossrail Paddington Station',

detailed the link between technical standards and the delivery of major infrastructure projects. Congratulations to Paul.



## Floreat Castellum Boat Club

The alumni club which supports UCBC has had a busy and very enjoyable year. There are now 82 members in the club spanning graduates from 1952 to the most recent year group with representatives from each year group from 1997 onwards.

Since the last report the club has raced UCBC both on the Boat Race course at Christmas in a mixed crew (a small loss) and at Durham Regatta against the Women's 1st VIII's. The Men's crew did not race this year due to limited numbers.

Fortunately the club is luckier at socialising and raising much needed funds for UCBC, both of which go from strength to strength. The annual Blazer Black Tie dinner in London saw 23 of FCBC and UCBC's finest converge for a very enjoyable evening. FCBC learned more about UCBC's trip to Amsterdam, and UCBC got to put faces to names and donations and see there is life after graduation. There was also a healthy turnout at the summer drinks at Henley Royal Regatta which this year also saw a new blazer commissioned by Robert Brownell - a more faithful representation of the original Castle colours blazer and now uses the original Castle crest from the 1940s.



The fund is now at its largest level since creation in 2002, with standing orders also coming in quicker than ever before. This fantastic state of affairs has helped FCBC make significant contributions to putting UCBC's fleet some way back to its former glory. FCBC contributed in 2011 to the new Janousec VIII "Maurice Tucker" and in 2014 to the new Stampfli IV+ "FCBC". The next contribution will be in 2017 - we aim to make a donation during each student's time at UCBC.

This generosity however does need increased members joining each year - would you or someone you know be interested in joining FCBC?

The club is looking for many people donating small amounts, rather than a few individuals giving infrequent large amounts. If you are interested in keeping in contact with current and former oarsmen and would like to give something back, then please get in touch.

David Shaw  
davidgbshaw@hotmail.com

Robert Brownell  
robert.brownell@ucbc.co.uk  
07971 666 971



## Leeds and London Alumni Evenings

The College recently held two alumni events in London and Leeds. Both were great successes.

On the Friday 19 February we went down to Leeds (below left) to host our first alumni event in that city for many years. We had an very good turn out with a wide range of alumni from the 1970s up to 2013. We even managed to find two alumni who had the same Owengate room during their respective times at Castle. We will be planning to

hold another event in Leeds around the same time next year so if you live in the area please come along next time.

On the Friday 4 March we returned to the Counting House in London to meet the many of our alumni who live and work in the capital (below right). We managed to have well over seventy people come and talk to us and we hope for even better numbers at future events.



### Future events

On Saturday 28 May, we will be hosting a reception evening **at the Castle**. The event will be open to all alumni. Dress code is smart casual and we will be based in the SCR and the Undercroft will also be open that night.

All alumni are invited to attend and there will be a number of undergraduates attending providing the perfect opportunity for alumni to learn more about what is happening at the Castle and impart any pearls of wisdom.

It would be excellent to see as many people there as possible. We hope you can join us.

[Please sign up here.](#)

### Bristol

On Friday 24 June we will be hosting an alumni evening in the city of Bristol. We will be using *Toto's Wine Bar* which is just down from Bristol Bridge and within distance of Temple Meads Station. It has an excellent riverside terrace so let's hope for some sunny weather.

We have a huge amount of alumni based in the south West so we are hoping for an excellent turnout.

[Please sign up here.](#)

### London

Due to the popularity of this event we will be returning to London this summer. We are currently exploring the possibility of a new venue and are hopefully going to confirm the date soon. The date will most likely be Friday 8 July but is subject to change.

### Supporting Castle

We now 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 recently launched a Sports Fund and an [Academic Fund](#). For more information please click on the links.



Castle  
Sports  
Fund

The  
**1072**  
Club



### 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 with local pubs and cafes in Durham.

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

### Visiting the Castle

University College alumni are always welcome to return to Castle.


As you will be aware, Durham Castle is a busy working building, with public tours, B&B guests, wedding receptions, corporate events, University events, College events and much more, all taking place throughout the year. Unfortunately, this means it can sometimes be difficult to allow full access to the Castle. However, our porters will do all they can to accommodate you.

We ask that you contact our Alumni Development Officer on [castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk) or +44 (0) 191 334 4102 in advance of your visit. It will then be possible to arrange a private tour of the Castle, allowing you access to areas not usually visited on the public tours.

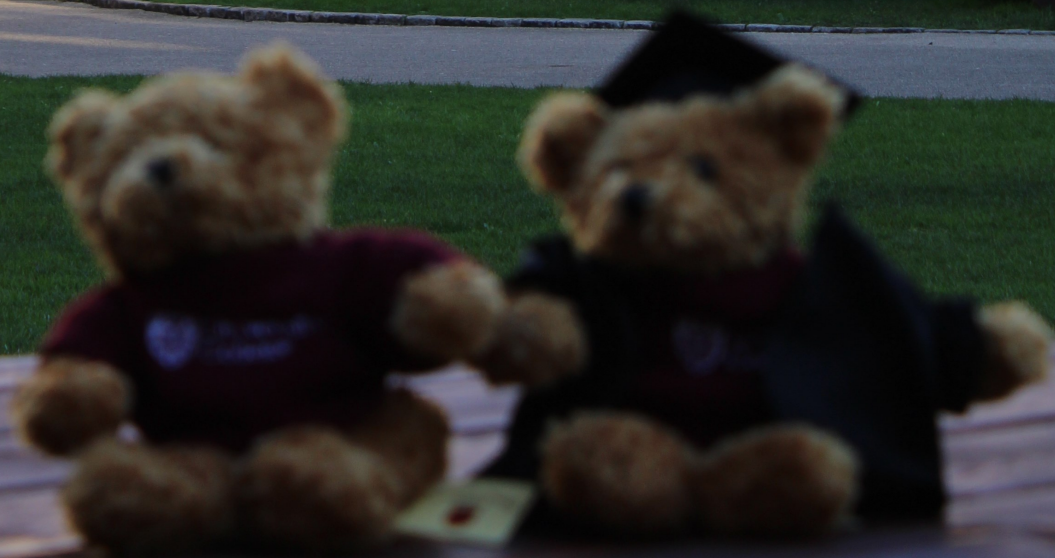
### Leaving a legacy

Legacies are essential to Castle's development and they place dedicated alumni at the forefront of the Trust's project to continually enhance the life of the College and our students.

Deciding to leave a legacy through the University College Durham Trust, which is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1151821) ensures that your gift works to help the College to support its students in whatever way is most appropriate at the time of the gift being received. Legacies enable the Trust to maintain sustainable long-term financial planning, and the College is very grateful for this kind of support. Please contact [castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk) for more information.

A large, multi-story stone building with Gothic-style windows, including several large arched windows with intricate tracery. The building is constructed from light-colored stone blocks. In the foreground, there is a courtyard with several wooden picnic tables and benches. The scene is captured during the golden hour, with warm sunlight illuminating the building's facade. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the middle of the image.

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



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