

# Non Nobis Solum

*Thank you for your support in 2021*

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Professor Wendy Powers

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## Welcome

It is with the deepest gratitude that I thank all of our donors and volunteers who have contributed so generously to the College over the past year and beyond. This publication reflects much of the support we have received over the past twelve months and the various activities your generosity has enabled.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for a year filled with celebrations. 2022 marks the 950th birthday of our College home, Durham Castle, and we hope that you and your families join us for some of the events we have planned - whether in person or online. Throughout the year we will also be unveiling some plans for Castle's future. Not to worry, there will be many ways for you to get involved and demonstrate your support.

I hope you enjoy finding out about the impact your support has had on our students and our Grade I listed home. Please continue to support us in whatever way you can.



Durham Castle  
Society

# Castle Heritage Scholarship

Thanks to generosity of our alumni community, and in collaboration with University College Durham Trust (UCDT), we were able to introduce a two-year heritage scholarship at Castle. The scholarship is open to anyone wishing to study a postgraduate degree in Museum and Artefacts Studies at Durham University and covers the cost of tuition. It also gives students a unique opportunity to gain volunteer experience in Durham Castle Museum, providing valuable practical skills in the competitive heritage sector.



In 2017 we were delighted to welcome Laura Littlefair, who quickly became an integral member of our community and helped raise awareness of the precious fabric of the Castle. With the Trust's support, Laura's scholarship was extended by 2 years during the course of the pandemic and her role became a full-time Curatorial Assistant, helping her to gain valuable work experience, at a time when the graduate labour market was so uncertain.

Given the success of the initiative, the Trust agreed to continue the funding for the next Museum and Artefacts Studies Scholarship at Castle, which will provide a valuable opportunity for yet another postgraduate student and benefit the entire community into 2023 and beyond.

## About my time...

I genuinely loved every moment of my time at Durham Castle, and I learnt so much – both personally and professionally – throughout my time here. In the early days of 2021, I spent a week cleaning dirt that had built up over the years, on the 400 year old stone floor of Screens Passage. Although this was a physically demanding job, it was perhaps the most satisfying I completed this year, and the difference the clean has made is phenomenal. [Without UCDT] I would not have had such a wonderful experience, gained so many professional skills, and made many life-long friends.

- Laura Littlefair



# Browne Gift

We are very grateful for the generosity of Arthur Browne, who was a student at University College in 1950-1953, and whose gift to Castle is helping us make some much needed cosmetic improvements in the Castle's central courtyard.

Thanks to Mr Browne, we are reintroducing beautiful and heritage appropriate plantings, seating areas and additional signage to welcome and guide students, families and guests as they enter the courtyard. We are also researching options for restoring the gorgeous renaissance fountain in the courtyard, which has all but disappeared from view over the years.

As we think about the 950th birthday of Durham Castle in 2022 and our ambitious plans to redesign some of our outdoor spaces take shape, Arthur's gift will help us reinforce the theme of new growth and forward momentum as a learning community. It will also make a huge difference to our students, neighbours and guests who visit Castle every year.



Photograph by Bex Harvey 2021

## University College Scholarships

We continue to be inspired by our alumni's generous support of current students through a range of scholarships and awards. Thanks to the generosity of two of our alumni we have been able to introduce two new scholarships of up to £4,000 per year for a duration of a student's undergraduate degree to study at Castle. These awards will enable young people who come from low income backgrounds to make the most of their time at Durham.

Photograph by Bex Harvey 2021

Scholarships and awards have a transformational impact – not only on the individual recipient, but also on our vibrant community more broadly, enabling students to make the most of the opportunities available and contribute to the College community. Thanks to our alumni's support we will be able to attract more students who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to come to Castle. Here their talents will be nurtured to their full potential.



Coming to university can be a daunting experience for any person, but even more so for students from less privileged backgrounds. (...) [Our donors'] kindness will allow Castle students to thrive academically and grow as individuals without the constraints of working to the bone on top of their degree. Words cannot truly express how much this means."

- Sian Bell, Senior Student 2021-22

# Senior Common Room Hardship Support

University College runs termly hardship funding rounds for registered undergraduate and postgraduate members of the College. Typically capped at £300, or £500 in exceptional cases of

need, these are non-repayable grants drawn primarily from funds established by alumni donations and bequests. The College is extremely fortunate, and grateful, to be able to draw from three principal funds specifically endowed for hardship purposes, in addition to funding that is made available by the College. We have seen a marked increase in the number of applications for hardship awards and grants over the past couple of years, reflecting the rise in general living costs as well as decreased part-time work opportunities during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in Durham city.

We are both thrilled and humbled by the generosity of our Senior Common Room (SCR) members, who stepped in last year with a contribution to our hardship bursary fund. The donation provided funding for 30 additional students who experienced unexpected hardship as a result of the pandemic.

## A Gift of Time

We also want to take a moment to recognise the difference that our volunteers make to the College through the gift of time and expertise. Whether through career advice to students, looking after our community as SCR Mentors or by sharing their wisdom on alumni leadership teams, these individuals truly embody our College motto, *Non nobis solum* (not for ourselves alone).

Jennifer Dell (Castle 2010-13) is a great example of a volunteer who has contributed to the College Community over a number of years. During her time at Castle, she held the integral role of Senior Student (formerly referred to as the Senior Man) and she is still actively involved in providing opportunities for the people of Castle through her role on the University College Durham Trust.



"I've been part of the UCDT since September 2017. Whilst at Castle I had an active role in the JCR which brought me in contact with the alumni organisations on numerous occasions, so it felt like a return to familiar territory and something I knew I would enjoy. I gained so much from my time at the college, so being able to stay connected and contribute even in this small way was important to me. I especially wanted to bring a female voice to the table, and this led to my involvement in the Women of Castle project which was funded by the Trust. I'd love to use that platform as a jumping off point to connect more female alumni and current students in the future."

- Jennifer Dell (Castle 2010-2013)



## Final Thoughts

- Julia Bonner, Alumni & Development Manager

Ever since joining University College last April, I have been amazed by our alumni's generosity and engagement. With such rich traditions and a beautiful Grade I listed building we get to call our home, it's not difficult to see why! It has been a privilege to get to know so many of you, and I hope that if we haven't met yet, we will have an opportunity to speak soon.

Most of all I want to thank all of you for your continued support of our College, whether through a generous donation or by sharing your precious time. Your support helps us to inspire and encourage a new generation of Castle students by showing them that there are opportunities open to them irrespective of their household income or human differences. Your donation, no matter the size, help to preserve and protect our beautiful home. And your alumni engagement truly embodies our College motto '*Non nobis solum*', which inspired the title of this publication.

I am really proud of everything we have been able to achieve, but we still have a long way to go and for that we will need your advice, support and encouragement along the way. This is especially true as we begin our celebrations of the 950th birthday of our College home and our ambitious projects begin to take shape. We want to create new spaces for our students to thrive; we need to provide even more scholarships and bursaries for students who would not otherwise benefit from all the opportunities that our College has to offer; and we must preserve and protect our beloved Castle for generations of students, alumni and visitors to come.

None of what we have achieved thus far would be possible without the support of people like you. I hope that as we turn the page to unveil a new chapter in Castle's history, that we can count on you to continue supporting us in whatever way you can.



**£22K**

Raised through the 1072  
regular giving programme



**80**

Awards made to Castle students  
in the last academic year



**31**

Alumni who reached out to say they  
would be interested in volunteering



**133**

Donors to University College  
Durham Trust



**11**

Different philanthropically  
funded awards and bursaries  
available to Castle students



**£7,700**

Given away to student clubs and  
societies by Durham Castle Society