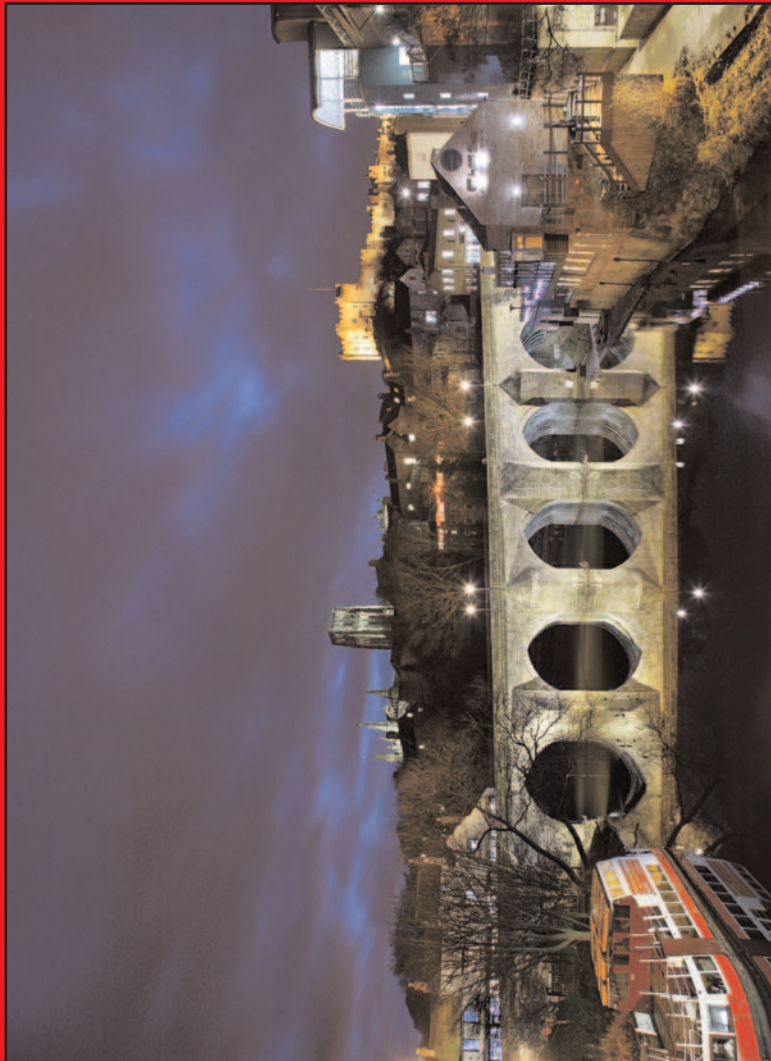


# Castellum



THE MAGAZINE OF THE DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

[www.durhamcastle.org](http://www.durhamcastle.org)

*Floreat  
Castellum!*



No. 62  
2009

# DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

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Cover photographs: *Front*, Owengate. *Rear*, City towards Elvet Bridge.

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# THE EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

I was worried *Castellum* would be a little thin this year, with there being no yearbook produced by the students to harvest a few extra contemporary reports for your edification. But on the other hand, we have a great amount of contributed material, including two obituaries I managed to misws out last year. Kevin Hawes, former Secretary of the Society, had a great find on Ebay: a rag mag from the 1930's sold in aid of the Preservation Fund. Given the quality of the humour, it's amazing that the Great Hall is not presently sitting in the River Wear because I found nothing to raise a smile. There was, however, an interesting article by the then Bishop of Durham, Herbert Hensley Henson, (1920–1939) which has been reproduced as published which puts the preservation project in perspective. I am not sure that our present Bishop, Tom Wright, would want to appear in a DUCK Rag Mag.

Chester-le-Street, where I live, is a town of great cricketing prowess. Not only have the County Cricket Club (based at the Riverside on the eastern edge of the town) won the County Championship for two years running, but the town Cricket Club has won the League Championship as the finest team in Co. Durham. Not that we're supposed to call it Co. Durham these days, as, according to the Durham County Tourism Partnership, people think Co. Durham is in Northern Ireland. That probably accounts for the fact that I am typing this article in an Internet Cafe in Belfast, in Co. Antrim!

Chester-le-Street is also the start of the Lumley Run, which took place last week, and I was in the Undercroft to see the runners arrive. It took the fastest only 1 hour 4 minutes to do the eight mile run, visiting 23 pubs on the way. The list of hosteliaries is published for the first time. As I recall, back in 1983, we were in the Bar in Lumley Castle Hotel for 1900 when it opened, and got to the Undercroft before 2230 when it had to close. And beer was around 45p a pint. I am bringing the Marketing Manager of Lumley Castle into Durham Castle shortly to have a look around and let her know about our joint heritage. We shall not be stopping at any pubs on the way, and shall travel by train from my station at Chester-le-Street.

Enjoy *Castellum*!

*Alex J. Nelson*

*Chester-le-Street, November 2009*

## **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**

or book on-line: **[www.nationalrail.com](http://www.nationalrail.com)**

**Oyster Cards supplied for travel in London**

# LETTER FROM THE MASTER 2009

This has been a memorable year for the College with the retirement of two of our longest-serving (probably ever) staff – **John Atkin**, Chief Steward, after 50 years, and **David Watson**, Catering Manager, after 38 years. John came here when he was only 16. He did spend a few months, he will admit, at the *Lord Crewe Arms* in Blanchland, 30 miles northwest of here, but apart from that, he has been here all the time. One of the amazing things is that John actually lived here in the Castle for 20 years, first in a single room in the basement under the Servedy, and then after 10 years, he was given a second room down there since he had accumulated so much clutter. These are rooms we gave up using for students about 20 years ago – deemed too small and not enough light, but John was happy there. We all have our stories about John, for me, it was having water poured down my back for being cheeky to him (oh! I should say that was when I was a student here, not while I have been Master!) – and on another occasion it was soup in my lap, I must have gone too far. In more recent years John kept me informed about the traditions of the College that I had to maintain: what was expected at the formal dinners, how the SCR was supposed to behave, what was the order of events at Guest Nights, what was the protocol of June Ball, etc.

He enjoyed telling me of my rights – if a student brought a bottle of champagne into Formal Dinner I was to be given the first glass; students were not allowed to upstage me – so if a student came in wearing a bow tie and I was wearing an ordinary tie, he was to be scolded. And of course his remarkable memory for names and faces. Although John reached 65 last November (2008), he stayed working here till June of this year so he could reach the magic 50 years employment. But John has taken on a new role – as a Bedeman in the Cathedral. So you can still see him if you are passing through Durham – he is usually there in the afternoons.

David Watson came as Deputy Catering Manager in 1972 and quickly became Catering Manager. He was always happy – whistling or singing as he went about his business, everything tickety-boo. He was adored at wedding receptions for his MC-ing. Who can forget his “Ladies and Gentleman, kindly take your seats for Dinner”; and I am sure we will all wish them both the best of health and enjoyment in their retirements.

What else has been special this year – for me one highlight was the staging in February 2009 of Bizet’s *Carmen* in the Great Hall by the College’s Durham Opera Ensemble, a mixture of Castle Theatre Company, Chapel Choir and Castle Orchestra. The action took place in the centre of the Hall, with audience on three sides and orchestra on the dais; a truly wonderful performance.

Another first was that on 14th November, 2008, we changed the colour of the Castle to blue for World Diabetes Day, and those at the Reunion Dinner in March may remember, we dined by half light for World Environment Day. As every year, we had a handful of distinguished visitors coming for a private tour or dinner, including the Japanese Consul, the Ambassadors from Kuwait and Romania, several visiting overseas Vice-Chancellors, including at least ones from Sri Lanka and Indian Universities. The Rabbi Lionel Blue gave a talk at Evensong in June this year, a delightful man.

Every year students have to complete numerous questionnaires and apart from the quality of food and accommodation, other questions give an interesting insight into what they get up to. So, for example, compared to other Colleges in Durham, students of this College have some of the highest participation rates: in College sport – 65%, using the Castle gym or aerobics in the undie – 40%, involved in work for the JCR – 25%, participating in College music – 31%, and the performing arts – 25% (that is our two drama companies, Castle Theatre Company, CTC, and Quikfix).

It was also very pleasing to read that 100% of our Freshers would choose Durham University again. The other aspect of the College you might be interested to know is that hardly any students leave before graduating. In the academic year 2008–09, out of around 600 undergraduates, just six departed during the year, mostly for medical reasons (but one to become a rock star!), and two should return. At the end of 2008–09 academic year no students left through exam failure. Our intake for October 2009 was 210 Freshers, i.e. 157 Home Students, 28 European of whom 25 are Erasmus (here on exchange for up to a year), and 25 Overseas. In total for this current year we have 601 Undergraduates and 105 Postgraduates.

The JCR did well in many sports with notable performances by the Women's Basketball Club who won the Inter-College League and the College Festival of Sport, a day of competition between all Colleges, in all sports, held after the exams in June. The Castle Pool Teams continue to dominate the University, winning shields and cups every year, and the Castle Darts Team did exceptionally well too.

UCBC continues to thrive and the College bought two single sculls for the Club from graduates' donations that came in via the telephone appeal.

Castle Theatre Company performed the very modern, even a little shocking (for me anyway) *Pillowman* in the Assembly Rooms (February 2009) and Moliere's *Tartuffe* (March 2009) in the Great Hall. CTC performed its usual Shakespeare in the Fellows Garden, although summer storms interrupted several times; 't was *Twelfth Night* this year. The traditional tour of the mansions in southern England in July was a great success, and, then, a first for CTC, a tour to College venues in the eastern US in August, with sell-out

audiences by all accounts. In addition to *Carmen*, CTC, Chapel Choir and Castle Orchestra also came together for Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* (June 2009) in the Fellows Garden – a wonderful evening event, when fortunately the rain only lasted five minutes.

The Castle Big Band and Castle Orchestra entertained each term, and Quikfix did *Snow White* for their Christmas 2008 Pantomime. I always have a cameo part, but I'm afraid I can't remember which character I played this time.

Arts week (March 2009) was very successful and the Chapel was well-supported throughout the year. A recent innovation is the sponsored formal, where a company like KPMG, makes a contribution to the JCR and has a dozen places at dinner. These occasions are very successful for our students in terms of career advice.

The Castle-Hatfield Sporting Charity Challenge in March, now in its fifth year, was a successful event again, culminating with a Great Hall Dinner. Sadly we lost overall, but it was great to beat Hatfield in the 24-hour ergo (rowing machine), held in the local pub, Varsity. We were miles ahead, well about 1500 metres, when our ergo broke and we had to rush off to get another one. We just managed to keep ahead, and after 24 hours, and some 300+ km, we won by seven metres! So amazingly close.

The Middle Common Room had a successful year, and with over 100 members, there were always many people around. The MCR offered social events of various sorts, dining on high table on Tuesdays, low table on Thursdays, participation in JCR ents, and interaction with other college MCRs.

In the Senior Common Room, we had our usual fun events – guest nights, wine tastings, Christmas carols, mulled wine and mince pies around the fire, and occasional seminars. Of note there was a very interesting and well-illustrated talk from Richard Jeynes, Castle Graduate and Manager of his company, Trailquest, on the Lost Foreign Legion Forts of the Sahara.

The Tunstall Chapel appeal through the Univeristy College Durham Trust has now raised nearly £50,000 – our objective, so I am extremely grateful to all those Castlemen who donated to this. The stained-glass windows, altar and hassocks have already been repaired, the organ has been cleaned, but we need to do some repairs there, and cupboards have been put in the anteroom (nartex). The misericords are currently being repaired one by one. The next big job will be the marble floor: lifting that and hoping we don't find any skeletons down there, to see why it is subsiding and sort that out. The Trust contributes to other projects in the College – especially the Library with tables, chairs, wi-fi, and improved lighting, and also supports the JCR through travel grants; the College and SCR provide funds for members of the

MCR to attend conferences. Castle graduates also donate to the College through the University's telephone appeal. I know that not everybody agrees with this type of fund raising, but the College is exceedingly grateful to those who have made donations this way. This year we have spent money from that account on equipment for the Castle Orchestra and Big Band, music for the Castle Singing Society, and materials for the Castle Fine Art Society. We have also given money for sports teams to rent referees and pay pitch fees, as well as contributions to the costs of travelling to venues such as the Thames for rowing and Edinburgh for the Fringe. The JCR does appreciate the extra support we can give them through these donations, coming from yourselves. From me, many thanks on their behalf.

We are also trying to improve our community links, as through increased and more regular tours of the Castle. The Castle takes part each year in the English Heritage open days, and we provide specialist tours when needed – as for the *Lord Crewe Society* for example, and the *Newbury and Swindon Fine Art Society – Antique Silver Branch*. We are keen to increase the number of visiting school parties. There will before long be a World Heritage Site Visitor Centre located on Owengate, opposite my house. The College participated in the Public Art Foundation Catalogue for County Durham, published in August: a handsome book containing photographs of all the oil paintings in the “public” domain in the County.

The number of commercial activities has increased significantly in the last few years and in the summer of 2009 we had 43 Wedding Receptions, 23 Conference/Private Dinners and hundreds of B&B guests. This summer trading keeps the staff very busy and feedback comments has been extremely positive and complimentary. Many thanks to our loyal dedicated staff.

My other life in the Department of Earth Sciences and my love-affair with limestones continues to keep me out of mischief. This year has seen more fieldwork in the northeast of England than usual, South Shields, Rowlands Gill, Hartlepool, Teesdale and Howardian Hills Yorkshire, and have even published two papers on local rocks. However, did get to lecture in Brussels, Zagreb, Vienna and Sardinia, and do some rock-tapping in Calabria.

So, as I start my 12th year as Master, I should like to express my sincere gratitude to the men and women of Castle for all your support this last year. The College is in great spirit and goes from strength to strength.

*Floreat Castellum*

*Maurice Tucker, October 2009*





# Rev. ARTHUR JAMES FLEET BIRCH (1915–2008)

Arthur Birch went up to “Castle” in 1933–34 to read Theology. He regarded his time in Castle as one of the highlights of his life, recounting such events as entering and leaving after curfew, when all “good” Castlemen were confined to their rooms, using the surrounding scaffolding (the Castle then was in imminent danger of falling into the River Wear below and urgent repairs to the foundations were in progress) and escaping the eagle eyes of the University Police. He was always proud that his room in Castle was “on stairs”. Very recently meeting him he said with great indignation “Do I hear right that the statue in the market square has been moved!”. On the other hand he remembered the extreme poverty that was very evident in the surrounding colliery villages, where barefoot children were commonplace, and contrasted this with his own relatively privileged position.

Following Ordination in 1938 he served as Curate and Parish Priest in many parishes in the Midlands until his retirement 27 years ago when he and his wife moved to Frodsham in Cheshire where he became a hard working and full member of the local community.

They were both highly regarded and loved by the many people who came into contact with them. This can be best illustrated by The Vicar at his funeral service: “If Father Birch were here he would be looking round not to see who was here but to see who was not here and then he would go home and contact all those to find if they were well or had other problems”.

It was this down-to-earth approach which was the foundation of his reputation. He and his wife could not tolerate, and were angered by, human injustice. This was illustrated by his work with “Amnesty International” (they encouraged as many as they could to send Christmas greetings etc. to prisoners of conscience to show them that they had not been forgotten) and The Samaritans. His views on current work problems could be equally robust.

He will be sorely missed.

*Dr. Ian Kemp (1948–54)*

The Editor apologises for omitting this obituary  
from last year's *Castellum*.

# DOUG EATON, B.Sc., Ph.D (1933–2008)

Among the Durham rugby fraternity of the mid 1950's, Robert Douglas "Doug" Eaton was an iconic figure. He was one of the outstanding athletes of his year.

Doug came up to Castle in 1952 from Bede Grammar School, Sunderland having captained the England Schoolboys Rugby XV. He immediately established himself as a member of the College, Durham Colleges and the Durham University Teams (at a time when the University included King's College, Newcastle and the Medical School). He was a regular member of, and toured with, the English Universities XV. Doug was a popular, talented and well mannered young man: a scholar and an athlete. In addition (and this did not go unnoticed in the Ladies' Colleges) he was blessed with a strikingly handsome appearance being tall, good looking, broad shouldered, blue eyed, and with dark wavy hair.

He was an outstanding second row forward. Few could out-jump him in the lineout and he was powerful and aggressive in the loose. Those who played with him talk about his all round rugby skills, his speed and mobility and the constructive neatness of his play. He was extremely fit, never flinched from physical contact and showed that hunger for achievement which is the mark of successful athletes. His future in the game he loved and in life, seemed assured. Doug awarded his BSc in 1955 and then embarked on a PhD. However, in December 1956 he was struck down with life threatening meningitis. Thankfully,



*Douglas Eaton, circled.*

he recovered. But the effects of the lengthy illness were devastating. He could not immediately continue with his studies and he could never again play rugby. But Doug was a tough, almost rugged, character. He rarely complained. He got on with his life and eventually carved out a successful academic career.

Following a Post Graduate Certificate of Education at King's College Newcastle in 1959–60, he took a teaching post at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn and resumed his PhD studies at Durham in his free time. On being awarded his Doctorate he took up a post at the then Portsmouth Polytechnic in 1970, lecturing on Population Genetics. He continued at what became the University of Portsmouth until, as a Senior Lecturer, he took early retirement in 1994. Doug was a good teacher., he was well regarded by, and popular with, his students and colleagues; but he expected high standards from both. Kind and considerate, he was always willing to give guidance and encouragement to those who wanted to learn.

He was passionate about his subject, contributed to its literature, and gave off the cuff lectures on statistics to anyone who had the time to listen. Retirement did not, at first, lessen the pace of his life. Doug loved walking. He was an active member of the Alpine Club of Europe and explored the European ranges, as well as Scotland and the Lake District. And, although this was cut short by illness, he was particularly proud of an ambitious expedition to the Himalayas to trek in the shadow of Mount Everest. Each year he visited the Cotswolds for a week of gentler walking combined with visits to the Shakespeare season at Stratford.

Not surprisingly, Doug continued to follow rugby with interest but viewed the effects of professionalism on the game he loved, with a mixture of curiosity and dismay. Doug lived in Southsea and was proud of his flat on the sea front; though as visitors will attest, tidiness was not his strong suit. His other passion was Durham. He was a great supporter of the University, University College and the Durham Castle Society. He rarely missed a Reunion and attended the celebration of the University's 175th Anniversary in September 2007. Castle was one of the places where Doug truly felt at home.

Although force of circumstance made Doug a private man, he was proud of what he had achieved. He loved talking with colleagues and close acquaintances, but rarely spoke about his misfortune or what might have been. He could be amusing and engaging company; particularly if one could appreciate his clever, often self deprecating, and frequently acerbic sense of humour. He had a fund of amusing anecdotes, all told with a twinkle in the eye and kindly meant, about those he had played rugby with or against, those he walked the Alps with, and about his many University friends and acquaintances in Portsmouth and Durham.

Doug had been diagnosed as having cancer but died on 27th January 2008 of a pulmonary embolism aged seventy four. The cremation took place in Portsmouth on 7th February. A wreath in the shape of a rugby ball in University College colours was a poignant, final but fitting tribute from Castlemen and their wives who knew him well. Doug never married.

*Albert Cartmell*

The Editor apologises for omitting this obituary  
from last year's *Castellum*.

# JIM LAWS (1926–2008)



*Jim Laws.*

James Sidney Lawes was born in December, 1926, in Fordingbridge, Hampshire. He gained a scholarship to Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury, in 1937. His affection for Castle was kindled in September, 1944, when he was posted to Durham University Air Squadron to join No. 8 R.A.F. Short Course, B Flight, a six-month course combining academic study and preparation for flying training with the Royal Air Force and had the good fortune of being allotted to University College.

After going down he was posted to No. 30 Elementary Flying Training School at Burnaston, near Derby, where he learned to fly, initially on Tiger Moths, two-seater biplanes made of wood and canvas and held together with wire. His flying career was cut short by the end of the War, and Jim returned to Castle to read for a degree in Botany and Zoology, followed by a Diploma in Education ("Dip Ed"). While in Castle he met and fell for Betty Bennison (St Aidan's) on a blind date at a Castle Ball. They were subsequently married after he went down in 1952.

In the same year, he joined the staff of King Edward VI Grammar School at Stratford-upon-Avon, where he established a new department of Biology. Three years later he moved to Gateshead Grammar School to teach Biology and began to research learning difficulties. These studies led to his award of a Master of Education, Durham, and to a further move, in 1959, to join Westminster College at its new site in Oxford. He was awarded a Ph.D. by the Faculty of Educational Studies in the University of Southampton. Jim was appointed Lecturer in Psychology at Westminster College, a post he held for 28 years. As Principal Lecturer he was seconded to the University Department of Education to teach Psychology to the graduate course.

Apart from his day job, he played the flute in his College Orchestra, took an active part in amateur dramatics, and enjoyed painting and travelling, especially to a cottage in the Lot department of France, which he and Betty had for 19 years. He was a Parish Councillor for eight years, Chairman and Governor of a National Children's home, and, above all an active member of the Methodist Church.

Throughout all this time, he remained a faithful member of our society, attending many reunion weekends with his wife Betty until about three years ago, when he was struck down with Parkinson's disease. He died in September 2008 at the age of 81.

*Roy (Mac) McKenzie (1945–6, 1948–51)*

# MICHAEL RICHARDSON

## (1933–2008)

Mike was born in Sunderland, but spent his early years overseas. His father was a Sea Captain with the Straits Steamship Company, so he went with his mother and brother, Peter, to live in Singapore. In 1940, with invasion by the Japanese imminent, they escaped (on the last boat out) to Australia. Returning to Sunderland after the War, Mike attended the Bede Grammar School, and came up to Castle in 1952 to read Geography. With his easy conviviality he made many friends, taking a full part in College life. He won colours for tennis, squash and badminton, and was much involved in running the Film Society. He proved to be an outstanding student, gaining a first-class honours degree at a time when this was a relatively rare commodity. He went on to complete a Ph.D., and his Thesis on the Demography of Malta was a significant contribution to the literature of the island.

Mike was all set to take up a Rhodes–Livingstone research fellowship in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), but this fell through when a medical examination revealed that he had diabetes. After a spell in hospital he joined Essex County Council and went to evening classes to qualify as a Town Planner, winning the RTPI's prestigious Gold Medal. He subsequently joined a research unit in the Ministry of Housing, embarking upon a distinguished career in the Civil Service, and rising to become Under-Secretary in the Department of the Environment. Among other things, he was closely involved with policy for the New Towns, and with the redevelopment of London's Docklands and Covent Garden.

Mike married Anne Brown (formerly of St Mary's College) in 1961. They had two children, Judith (1962) and David (1964), settling first in Wanstead and then in Beckenham, Kent. Disenchanted with the nature of his work at the top he took early retirement in 1985 and involved himself in voluntary work with a housing charity. He also provided stalwart support for Anne in her work managing a CAB in Penge. Anne became ill with cancer in 1988, and Mike was a caring husband until she died later that year.

In 1992 Mike married Ellen. They moved to Lincolnshire and to a new kind of life. He was able to indulge a long-held passion for house restoration and, with Ellen, threw himself into local activities, especially those relating to conservation. They set up the Lincolnshire branch of the Betjeman Society, and Mike developed a real talent for desk-top publishing in the field of local history. They created a delightful home in a house attached to a former brick-yard, and always gave a warm welcome to visiting friends. During all this time, Mike had lived with the problems of diabetes. In later years it got the better of him and his general health deteriorated, but he faced his situation to the end with good humour, stoicism and dignity. Mike Richardson made a huge positive contribution throughout his life. He will be well, and fondly, remembered.

*Bill Charlton*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## *Dear Editor*

It was a great pleasure to read Morris Scott's piece, "Castle – An Age Ago" in *Castellum* No. 61. It aroused many memories for me, especially the memory of gyps bringing coal for our fires; this memory was tempered by the fact that my gyp, Harry, always brought me not coal but coal dust which was practically non-inflammable. He added insult to injury to pinching my rugby socks and later selling them back to me.

Like Morris Scott I arrived in Durham for the Christmas term of 1939. The moment that I walked through the Castle Gate an air-raid warning sounded and we were all ushered into the Undercroft, in those days a tip littered with bits of masonry and timber. A notice about the Pilgrim Trust told of its help in saving the Castle from sliding into the river; Durham promised death by bombing or drowning! As regards bombing, I remember sitting in a heavily blacked-out JCR, probably during the winter of 1941–42 listening to a broadcast by the notorious "Lord Haw-Haw" (later hanged for treason) announcing that the railway viaduct was in flames; a brief opening of the curtains confirmed that it was not!

The really important people in Castle were the Shaw family, who kept the gate and in my experience were endlessly patient and helpful. Mr. Bicknell ("Bick") who tottered about on unsteady legs and appeared to sort the post, and Joe Bryce who managed money from grants and scholarships in an officious way. On the first floor, somewhere over Garden Stairs and with a window looking into the quadrangle, lived Willy Wright; he was a classicist who produced a major corpus of Latin inscriptions. That sort of work needs great care and he was excruciatingly conscientious. Sorting out some very trifling matter of College business always took several hours. A Canadian, whose name I cannot recall (Charlie Colls?), resorted to the idea of seeing Wright late on in the evening and hinting that he wanted to get off to bed by slowly undressing. It did not work and Colls was left uncomfortably unclothed long after his bedtime.

Harry's failure to deliver burnable coal, coupled with freezing cold winters, made rooms in the Keep desperately cold in winter. I do not know if it was unusual but the river froze over during those war time winters. To get to the Science Labs we walked across the ice above Prebend's Bridge; a fall and a long slide across the ice left me watching my Physics notebook disappear through a hole in the ice.

One of the most memorable people in Durham was the Rev. H.F.D. Sparks, certainly one of the most intelligent men I ever met. He later became Oriel Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at Oxford. He had rooms in the "cowshed", ran around the banks every afternoon, and had a wicked sense of humour. He particularly enjoyed deflating the pompous and

this made Professor Claude Collier Abott a prime target. One night as we stood by the fire in the Great Hall, waiting for dinner, Sparks remarked to Abbot that he was reading D.H. Lawrence; "Which book" asked Abbott; "*The Rose of Sharon*" replied Sparks. This put Abbott in a difficulty; he could not admit that he had not read the book, nor did he seem to realise that there was no such book!

Abbott was not an easy man to know but increased acquaintance revealed a sort of shy kindness. I once expressed to him an interest in Wyndham Lewis's "*Blast*"; on his next trip to London he arranged for a bookshop to find and send me the two instalments. His two "slim" volumes of poetry seemed poor stuff to a generation brought up on Eliot and the War Poets. In retrospect they appear as minor Georgian works.

In those days the Durham Colleges and Armstrong College Newcastle, were parts of Durham University and various important meetings were held alternately in each place. In 1942 the Examiners met in Newcastle and one of my last undergraduate memories was of news coming at intervals reporting the progress of Grey, the University Policeman, riding in the bus from Newcastle with the examination results. Finally he was sighted coming up Saddler Street and crossing Palace Green to pin the results on the notice board outside the Library. My legs seemed not to be working and my girlfriend (now my wife) ran across the Green to learn for me what turned out to be good news.

During my post-graduate time I dined at High Table and shall always remember sitting comfortably before the S.C.R. fire, after Christmas Dinner 1944, and hearing the Master, Lt. Col. A.A. MacFarlane-Grieve saying to the Butler, "Charles, bring up the last bottle of Madeira". Michael Ramsey, later the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury, and Sir James F. Duff, Warden of the Durham Colleges, were often present at Dinner. Ramsey impressed me with a sort of saintly quality and astonished me years later, when he was delivering some endowed lectures in Exeter, by remembering and asking to see me. During the War years a fire-watch was maintained every night from dusk to dawn in the science labs. I often shared these watches with Sir James Duff, an urbane and kind partner on these occasions. My only other War work was as a member of the Royal Observer Corps, plotting aircraft movements over the North East. One night we plotted an enemy aircraft flying in from the North Sea and finally landing in Northumberland. The pilot proved to be Hitler's Deputy, Rudolf Hess!

Waiting rather gloomily to take the train from Durham just before Christmas 1944, I was approached by Sir James Duff; he thrust a note into my hand wishing me success in the future.

There were many unpleasant moments in those dreadful years, 1939-1944, but none of them arose from my life as a student of University College. Yours sincerely,

*Ken Schofield*

*Dear Editor*

*Re: Strange Happenings*

In 1948–49, one of the small group of Undergraduates admitted straight from school told us that he'd been to see the Master to enquire whether he could move into a room on his own, as he couldn't bear sharing accommodation with one of the many, much older ex-servicemen entrants. The Master had told him that only one room was available: the one at the top of the Black Staircase. He'd decided to move there. As we sat over dinner, at the end of the table near the doors, the other six of us teased him unmercifully and ignorantly.

In the middle of that night, those students in rooms overlooking the Inner Courtyard were awakened by terrible screams and to see our young friend flinging himself in despair in the middle. Eventually his tale emerged. He had been wakened by an intruder shouting "*How dare you sleep in my bed?*". The intruder had then picked up the his bed and had thrown it through the floor.

When the few brave ones went to examine the room they did find the bed through the floor. Later enquiries revealed that the room had been occupied, during the War, by an Air Force Officer who had committed suicide, by throwing himself down the Black Staircase.

*Don Venvell 1947–50*

*Dear Editor*

*Re: Travel Scholarship Report*

I would like to thank the College again for your financial assistance via the Postgraduate Travel Bursary awarded 23rd February which greatly assisted me in being able to participate in the society of Biblical Literature International Meeting held in Rome, Italy on 30th June to 4th July.

In my view, the meeting was highly successful. there were an abnormally large number of attendees (over 700), which was later noted to be one of the highest turnouts in the history of the Conference, and this fact, along with the accompanying national diversity, made for enjoyable and lively discussions which incorporated many interesting minority perspectives. This diversity also resulted in my ability to connect with several scholars whose geographical situations normally preclude their attendance at the larger annual meetings, most notably a group of researchers from the University of Helsinki.

I delivered my own paper, entitled "*The Eschatological Battle in 1QM: Secarianization in Practice*", in the initial section of the Apocalyptic Literature group, and this also met with success (despite the oppressive 40 degree heat which threatened to compel the collapse of presenters and the members of the audience alike!), seemingly gratifying to receive subsequently the comment from one noteworthy scholar in Qumran studies that my paper had been perhaps the best that day, and among the finest in the conference as a whole.

The conference organizers have posted a brief official report of the proceedings on the Society's website at:

[www.sbl-site.org/publications/article.asp?articleId=836](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/article.asp?articleId=836)

*Ted M. Erho*



# THE MASTER'S HOUSE

I thought you might be interested in this picture of my house since the University will shortly be killing off and removing the Virginia creeper completely. Well that is the plan, it's what I've been told, but when it will happen I don't know. But the creeper has now grown all over the roof as you can see, and it is lifting the tiles. The creeper has also got into the chimney stack so that leaves fall down the chimney and appear in the lounge. Also, the roots of the creeper recently completely blocked the sewage pipe from the house, meaning that for a week, while plumbers and workmen struggled to clear the drains of this triffid like plant, we could not use the bath or two of the toilets.

Nevertheless, the creeper, now with its beautiful colour, is a great attraction to the tourists and the house is constantly being photographed. In fact two years ago this house was featured on the home page of Durham City Council with the wonderful red colour of the creeper to catch one's eye. Enjoy the picture; when the creeper is gone the house will just be a concrete block. It is actually an interesting house inside – with its early 18th century panelling, main staircase featured in the book *“Staircases of Durham Houses”* and its seven historic cellars, including a Wine Cellar with old wax seals still on the door and space for 1,500 wine bottles.

*Maurice Tucker, Master*



*The Master's House*



# Floreat Castellum

Summer Edition June 2009



Floreat Castellum Cover, June 2009 Edition

# Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 28th March 2009 in the Undercroft, Durham Castle at 5:30 p.m.

## *In the Chair*

Chairman of the Society, Prof. M.E.Tucker, Master of University College.

## *In Attendance*

58 Castlemen present.

## *Apologies for absence, introductions, farewells*

Apologies received from Mark Lawton, Jamie Harrison, Oliver Colling, Stanley Robinson. John Crowther, M. Baring, David Moore, Eric Foreman, James Lewis, John Mortimer, James Lewis.

With sadness, it was reported that the following had died: Martin Oakes (1965–68) in February 2009; Brian Harrison (1942–43) in October 2008; Michael Richardson (1952–56) in January 2009; Steve Whittle (1972–75, Senior Man 1975) in February 2009; and Jim Laws (1944–45 and 1948–52) in September 2008.

## *Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising*

These were approved as a true record to be signed accordingly.

## *University College Durham Trust*

(Note, Castlemen are asked to make a particular note of the name of the Trust, as “Durham Castle Trust” is a totally separate entity!) The value of the Trust is around £430,000. The College is grateful to all who contribute.

Tunstal Appeal – £40,000 raised out of £50,000 target. Misericords will cost £11,000 to £12,000, of which Alison Pearson has donated £10,000.

The Chapel floor has subsided, and stained marble needs replacing and cleaning.

Alistair Gibb is standing down as Treasurer of the Trust but continuing as a Trustee, and John Hollier is standing down as a Trustee. A vote of thanks was carried with acclaim.

## *Castellum*

Bumper edition, *Castellum* costs were £6,155, working out at under £2.00 each for a 78 page edition. Steve Highfield (professional photographer) produced the best photo. A mailing house was used, to good effect. Alex wants more articles and memoirs from members.

Alex had a Lumley Castle room option which could be purchased by a Castleman – for tomorrow! Round of applause for Alex.

## *Senior Man*

Jenny (*aka* Wren) Charlton reported on the state of the JCR. She noted the Undercroft refurbishment, retirement of John Atkin, the Master doing the Lumley Run in 1 hour 22 mins. College rugby team got to trophy semi-final; UCBC was

second fastest boat on the river, eventually losing to John's. UCBC jumped 80 places in the Thames HORR (207th overall). In the 24 hour ergo trial with Hatfield, Castle were 1,500 metres ahead after 20 hours; the rowing machine broke, but we won by seven metres.

### *Accounts for year end 31st December 2008*

Martin Gunson reported – Supported Tunstal Appeal – passed some funds to Trust (noted poor interest returns of 0.5%). Noted that last similar financial crisis was in 1294 (the Government took over the bank – also invaded France!). The new furniture has arrived – new bookcase for West Courtyard. Freshers' and parents' contributions have been generous. Signage – signs (end of Barbican) did appear, but Estates and Buildings forgot to get planning permission (so signs now disappeared).

### *Projects proposed by the Committee*

- (a) Sound System – Martin Gunson explained value (suggested contribution £4,000 out of £12,000 cost). Confirmed that storage would be secure. Approved.
- (b) Chair purchase and table renovation for the Norman Gallery (£3,000 out of £6,000). Lighting/table lamps to be included. Approved.
- (c) £500 towards setting up old boys football team to play on Clapham Common on Sunday mornings. Approved.
- (d) Staff tips £600. Approved.
- (e) Usual Lowe Library donation of approximately £1,000.

The accounts were proposed and seconded, and a vote of thanks given to our Treasurer – approved with popular acclaim.

### *Re-election of Officers*

All Officers were re-elected unanimously. James Lewis and Maurice Pallister stood down from the Committee, and were thanked by the meeting for their efforts.

Chuck Metcalfe and James Rowley were elected to the Castle Society Committee. Sven Kottwitz and Matt Maneely were elected as Trustees of UCD Trust. John Aitkin and David Watson were elected Honorary Members of the Society.

### *Any Other Business*

Edgar Jones book on University College was commended – covers period up to 2000 (Margot Fonteyn), only costs £14. Xmas Cards at £5 for ten and Castle book at £15 are obtainable from Porters Lodge. Douglas Pinnock asked for Marilyn to be identified. Comment *re* no beer at lunchtime. MET will speak to Mandy for next year. Comment *re* no sandwiches at tea. MET to arrange for next year. Sven proposed a *Floreat Castellum* Boat Club – to be based round the country. MET noted a Dinner on May 5th to celebrate the 175th UCBC Anniversary.

### *Date of Next Meeting/Reunion*

Saturday 10th April 2010

*Peter Crowley, Secretary, October 2009*

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**63rd Reunion Dinner  
Saturday 28th March 2009  
GREAT HALL**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Tomato and Mozzarella Tart  
with a Pesto Dressed Rocket Salad**

★ ★ ★

**Roast Rack of Pork with a Mustard and Sage Crust  
Fondant Potatoes  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Thyme Jus**

**Vegetable Wellington (V)**

★ ★ ★

**Trio of Desserts**

★ ★ ★

**Coffee, Tea, Mints**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

***TOASTS***

**THE QUEEN    The Master**

**THE COLLEGE    Peter Crowley**

**ABSENT FRIENDS    Douglas Pinnock**

**REPLY    The Master**

# JCR REPORT

It is funny how within several months of extricating yourself from the Durham and Castle bubble, life suddenly turns into a rat race of job hunting, life planning, relationship sorting and a scrabbling attempt to regenerate your liver and your bank balance. The easy breezy days of getting up late, meandering through the cobbled streets to the occasional lecture, perhaps dallying on the river, playing a spot of croquet, enjoying dinner with friends in the Great Hall at formal and finishing off the evening with drinks in the Undie and a boogie in Klute have been and gone for us all now we are "old" Castlemen. However, now I'm past the desperate pain of saying goodbye to the place I called home and truly madly deeply fell in love with, I don't think leaving Castle is such a bad thing. It's wonderfully satisfying that we can look back so fondly on the memories we have of the old place with the brilliant friends we made during our time there. It's refreshing to see people moving on and out in to the real world and dare I say starting to "grow up"... horrible phrase I know ... but its reassuring to know when we do feel old and weary we can head back to Castle, put on a Peter Pan-esque guise, and regress back to the student lifestyle and revel in reminiscing at reunions with one another, getting back into the Undie for a drink and a heart warming rendition of "Gentlemen of Castle". After a fantastic and very insightful evening earlier this year I am already looking forward to next March and another reunion – however, next time I'll be more prepared for the hangover – I now know not to underestimate the drinking stamina of the "older" old boys, or to take up any Smenergy downing challenges!

As for the past year as a whole it went by in a paradoxical time-warp-esque fashion – a flurry of activity at times and excruciatingly drawn out at others (the latter refers mainly to the dissertation season). Fresher's Week saw an intake of 199 new Castlemen, who I encouraged in their first week to grasp their time in Castle with both hands and make the very most of it. Crikey did they listen and see in their first year in style. I think much of the credit for our outstanding sporting success this year must go to the Fresher's of the last year who injected the College with a huge amount of enthusiasm and gusto-results are too numerous to list but a brief gloss over tells us that in boats on the river, on the rugby and football pitches, basketball, badminton and netball courts, on the pool table, at the darts board and in the newly formed rounder's team 'success' was the word of the year.

UCRAC continued to hand out money to our ever expanding assortment of sports clubs, societies and committees. Arts Week flourished, the Pantomime as ever brought the house down and Castle Theatre Company alongside the Opera Ensemble put on some of the best student productions I have had the pleasure to see "*Carmen*" in the Great Hall being a particular favourite alongside the somewhat strange and rather chilling Valentine's

Day production of "*The Pillowman*" – not particularly romantic, I suppose it was lucky I wasn't on a date!

Alongside UCRAC the College also raised a staggering and highly commendable amount of money for charity this year donating both to DUCK and individual charities – a sum close to £10,000! My favourite meeting of the year was the one where we decided which animals to buy for third world farmers – I believe there are several Castle goats, pigs, sheep, chicks (whom I assume have now flourished into egg-making chickens ... or sandwiches?) a few turkeys, a donkey, a buffalo and a bucket of worms out in the world helping third world families re-establish a new way of life right at this very moment! I also had the pleasure being on the judging panel for our annual Mr and Miss Castle Competition which raised a lot eyebrows as well as a lot of money in DUCK week – "naughty" was the word of the night! I also had the great pleasures of waxing a strip off my Vice-Senior Man's chest to raise money. I'm not sure he's yet forgiven me!

Despite successes in many various areas and lots of socialising, money making and extra curricular activities, the year has seen its ups and its downs and we as a JCR have had to slowly work our way through several teething problems with the changing of the JCR's governance structure, something which I loathed to hand on to my successor. Hopefully, this year shall see the stabilisation of our legal and charitable status. In the Bar, the College as a whole I feel has struggled to come to terms with much of the new "red tape" that it is increasingly becoming wrapped up in. Standard Operating Procedures have and are being implemented, this is nothing we can change, and in many respects are a positive move, however, over the year it was the primary concern of our Executive Committee and the students to try and limit the negative effects we felt this was having on our student experiences and to protect the interests of the JCR and its members.

This area along with the ever growing shadow of corporatisation of the College into what some might refer to as a "part time hotel", has been a concern of mine all year. I hope through the lessons we all learnt over the year the College and the University as a whole has made some headway into trying to find a balance between the search for business and an increasing tendency to pander to bureaucracy, and an effort to retain and protect the traditions which make Castle and Durham the special place we have had the privilege to enjoy and love.

The social calendar has as ever been jam packed, our balls taking us from the Moulin Rouge and Cordon Bleu Cuisine in Paris on Ladies Night, to the Scottish Highlands and reeling (with dodgems) at the Informal Ball to a final fling where we ended the year in style with a spectacular spectacular Musical themed June Ball where we "*Sang in the Rain*" visited the "*Phantom of the Opera*", gambled with "*Guys and Dolls*" and were given massages by "*Miss Saigon*" – the night could not have been more incredible and was the most wonderful way to finish off a brilliant year. Throughout the year, much of

our time was spent in the Undercroft – this however was only thanks to the donation from Castle Society to buy the new bar furniture – I fear without seats for bums for more than a few weeks, legs may have got tired before the end of the year and the Shakespeare would have accumulated a few more regular patrons purely because they had more cushions – so thank you for keeping us in business and our bums and weary legs happy! Over the course of the year the donations from Castle Society to further extend our sound systems and lighting equipment has undoubtedly improved the range and quality of productions and events the College has been able to put on; our bass now reverberates all the way down the Bailey on Friday nights “*Hound in the Undie*” so thank you for keeping us dancing.

I referred in my June Ball speech to how time in Castle went by so fast it was like the popping of a cork at Formal; and it really was – a fantastic but all too short pleasure. Over before you knew it, but intensely satisfying and rewarding, despite the memory loss caused by the wine! I remember my first day, walking through the Gatehouse, looking up at the “Welcome Home” banner draped from the Norman Gallery windows, billowing in the breeze in the glorious sunshine and thinking ... “I really am home!” Equally I remember a few last moments in Durham, all poignant, all fleeting glimpses of glorious summer days with Pimms and friends, and both my own, many friends and John’s final formal, leaving the hall in floods of tears to a chorus of “*Gentlemen of Castle*”. Without doubt one of the proudest and most memorable moments of my life.

As I said at the reunion in March, one of the main features I can identify in all Castlemen, past, present, and future is their love of tradition, and the way that Castle and Durham, somehow manage to survive, relatively unchanged within a little rosy bubble. It is the history, the fact we date back to 1832 and are indeed the oldest and the best of Durham Colleges that that draws us in as 18 year olds, it’s the history of the place and the traditions that we become accustomed to that we fall in love with whilst we are here, and it’s the history that we make whilst we are here with friends, that no doubt will draw us back with fond memories to Castle Days and Reunions year after year. We make our most precious friends and relationships in our University days and undeniably some of our happiest memories, and whilst I’m pretty much convinced I haven’t met my future husband in Castle (although statistics suggest I should have – I think its 2/3 now), I know I have met the godparents to my children, which is pretty cool! This endless list of friends is a priceless gift bestowed upon Castlemen the world over – I look forward to walking down the street and recognising Castle hoodies or Lumley Run ties and meeting Castlemen young and old in the future and having plenty to talk about over a pint, be it in the Undie or a bar in Timbuktu.

Being only 22 years old, it is difficult for me to imagine or to attempt to comment on many of the facets of life that Castlemen from years gone by have come to experience since they left our wonderful home, University



College. However, I think I am probably correct in saying that during the three or four years we spent in Castle, one common factor for us all is that the person who we became whilst in Durham; that graduate who with nervous excitement gallantly strode, with the confidence only a Castleman can possess, into the “real world”, was a person shaped by a unique experience. I am immeasurably proud to call myself a Castleman, it was a great pleasure and honour to be the head of our JCR and I am eternally grateful to the Castlemen, both past and present, who have and continue to teach me so much.

My final words of this rather rambling report are of thanks. Thanks to those whom over the year have served the JCR with such admirable passion and dedication. The Master and other College Officers put their all into Castle and offered myself and my team much invaluable advice over the year and keep things running. Without them and the other unsung heroes of the place, the Porters, the Kitchen staff and the Bedders the Castle would grind to a halt so to them I am mightily grateful. Also the greatest thanks to those students who day in and day out put bits of themselves into Castle-running committees and teams, providing training, working on the Bar, putting on productions, coxing, coaching etc etc the list is endless! Finally to those ten who worked with me on the Executive of 2008–09, the best of friends who put up with a year of unending and tremendous ups and downs, never mind my fiery red-headed temper. They didn’t ever give up on the College, were brilliant ambassadors and servants to the JCR and their dedication and loyalty to Castle, the JCR, each other and to me is something for which I can never thank them enough.

I conclude on October 4th 2009 (Freshers Sunday) the day Castlemen return to their home for the year 2009–10. When I left in July, Castle was happy and thriving, and it now looks set to continue, much as it always has done and no doubt as it always will, as the best College in Durham!

*Floreat Castellum*

*Jenny-Wren Charlton  
Senior Man 2008–09*

The University College JCR Executive Committee 2008-09

*Kyle McNeil – Vice Senior Man  
Rich Cothay – Treasurer  
Frankie Huskisson – Services Manager  
Jane Bradley – Sponsorship and Liason  
Jen Holmes – Social Chairman  
Fran Brown – Welfare Rep  
Octavia Neuberger – Livers Out Rep  
Lucy Jackson – DSU Rep  
James Agnew – Bar Chairman  
Steve Oldroyd – Bar Vice-Chairman*

# BIERFEST 2009

This year's Bierfest went with a clang – of Steins that is! We were treated to delicious Bratwurst and the Oompah Band, whilst we drank merrily and wasted most of the precious alcohol drowning each other in the traditional Bier-fight.

This year Castlemen out-did themselves in the array of spectacular costumes, including the traditional Lederhosen. It was the Ent. that we had all been waiting for and the perfect way to end exam misery. Only next year, I may actually get to finish my pint!



*Beerfest 2009.*

# THE LUMLEY RUN REPORT

Celebrating its fiftieth year, it was with a great sense of pride that I took on the role of Lumley Run Captain. Determined that John Franklin's record (59 minutes) would not be broken during my watch, the run was extended to accommodate the *Fighting Cocks* along the route after a few years absence, bringing the number of watering holes back up to the traditional twenty-three. This did little to deter competitors, both young and old, who eagerly signed up to the challenge.

The first race took place on the 19th November on a perfectly clear night. Apart from Sean Evans who decided to take part in the old manner of walking the majority of the route, the field was fast, with Alex Ritchie breezing into first place with 1 hour and 11 minutes narrowly ahead of Ollie Critchfield. A particularly proud personal moment was welcoming my brother into the club, and he took great delight in beating my time. The second race, taking place on the 9th March, was again blessed with perfect conditions and a swelled number of 16 undertook the challenge. James Benson powered to first place with an impressive time of 1 hour and 6 minutes amongst a strong field. Charlie Wilson achieved the impossible of completing the race without disgracing himself at all, whilst Matt Fisher decided to return his Guinness over the bucket and onto the Captain's suit. Finally, after 44 years in the making, the Master completed the run, finishing his Guinness in an admirable 1 hour 22 minutes.

Once again the Lumley Veterans were the life-blood of the club, bravely leading the new members from Lumley Castle back to the Undercroft, or offering words of encouragement along the way. Thanks also go to Miss Heritage, Miss Kersey and Miss Brown for their welfare and logistical support during the two races. Finally, I must thank Alex Yellowley, in whose capable hands I leave the Club. His support throughout the year has been invaluable and I pass on the Captaincy safe in the knowledge that next year the pavements of Chester-le-Street will continue to be well trod.

*Michael Bunch*  
*Lumley Run Captain 2008-2009*

**Lumley Run Competitors 2008-2009:** Peter Knight, Jack Pile, Tom Lowton, Sean Sarafilovic, Ralph Bunch, Tom Clarke, James Gyselynck, Sean Evans, Ben Lee, Will Morgan, Jonny Coates, Michael Folsom, Tom Agnew, Alex Ritchie, Ollie Critchfield, Matthew Dyson, Greg Carter, Andrew Moore, Jonathan Harding, Charlie Wilson, Alex Taylor, Sam Ridgeway, Dominic Daly, Fergus Kirby, Ian Stewart, Rob Bolton, Philip Craven, James Benson, James Holdsworth, Matthew Fisher, The Master.

# HOSTELRIES OF THE LUMLEY RUN – 2009

## LUMLEY CASTLE

A bar set up in the park because Victoria Bridge has closed down.

## CHESTER-LE-STREET

Market Tavern  
G.W. Horners  
Red Lion (formerly Barracudas)  
Queens Head  
Butchers Arms  
Lambton Arms  
Black Horse  
Chesters  
Chester Moor

## PITY ME / FRAMWELLGATE MOOR

Lambton Hounds  
Marquis of Granby  
Tap & Spile  
Victoria Bridge (traditionally)  
Salutation

## DURHAM

Garden House  
Bridge Hotel  
Colpitts  
Ye Old Elm Tree  
Fighting Cocks  
Market Tavern  
Shakespeare

## UNDERCROFT

**Fastest time 1 hour 4 minutes!**



*The Lumley Run with The Mster competing for the first time.*

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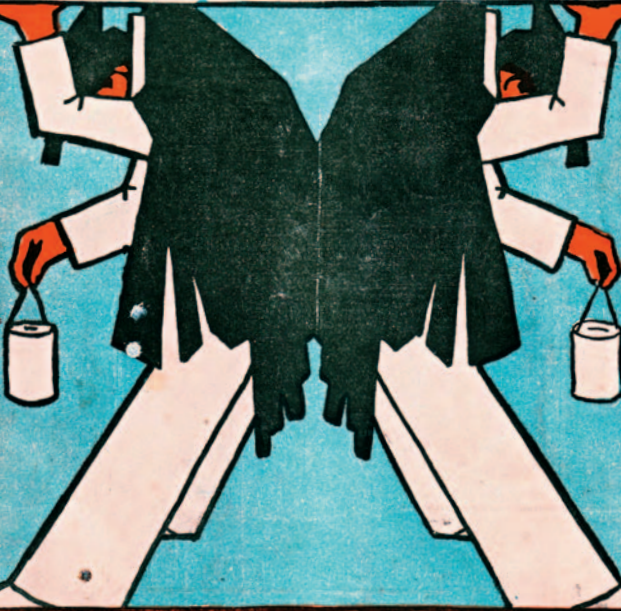
*Lumley Castle in quieter times!*

This print was found in the Hotel Mijas in Andalucia by Len Hamer.

*K. Johnson. The Castle Winkham.*

# RAGS & RUINS

PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF DURHAM CASTLE RESTORATION FUND.



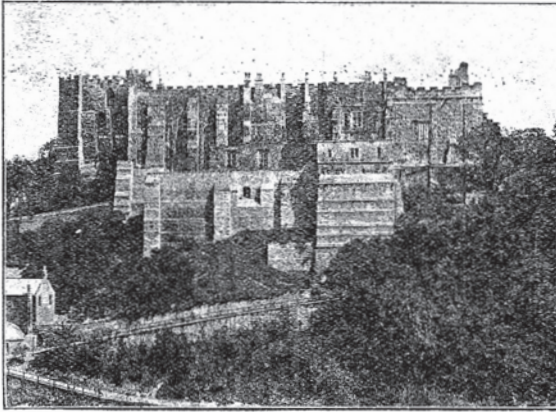
Produced by the University Students of Durham.  
Price Sixpence (minimum). Two for 1/3.

"Advertiser," Typo, Durham.

*Rags & Ruins.*

# Extract taken from "Rags & Ruins" June 1928

An Appeal by The Lord Bishop of Durham.



DURHAM CASTLE is in imminent danger of collapse, and if DURHAM CASTLE collapses, one of the most magnificent Historical and Architectural Monuments of the English Nation will have disappeared. The root of the mischief lies below the line of the visitors' vision, for the foundations of DURHAM CASTLE are giving way.

I suppose hardly any building presents an aspect of greater solidity and permanence. Standing boldly on the edge of its hill above the Wear, the Castle seems indeed to be built for eternity. The Mediæval builders possessed a genius for choosing sites, but unhappily that genius was not accompanied by an adequate understanding of the nature of sub-soils. They did not realise the importance of making sure that the ground on which they reared their vast buildings could carry the weight which those buildings imposed. DURHAM CASTLE is not built on the ROCK, but on a bed—to use the Architect's description—of *made ground, sandy clay, broken free-stone, and underlying shale.*" For some reason or other this unsatisfactory foundation is shifting; and as it shifts, it threatens to carry the building with it. Partly perhaps, the haste with which the great Fortress was built for military purposes may explain the carelessness about the foundations which its original builders displayed,

and, as in process of time the building was enlarged and improved, the pressure on the foundations was increased. Dr. Faber, the Consulting Engineer, uses language of the utmost gravity in describing the state of the CASTLE when he examined it last August. These are his words: "*It is, I think, impossible to exaggerate the urgency or the necessity of underpinning and strengthening the battlement wall on the west front, and no guarantee could be given by a competent engineer that the whole of this part may not collapse at any moment; in which case the Great Hall would undoubtedly follow it.*"

He tells us that any further delay in dealing with the CASTLE may result in its total or partial collapse, and he estimates that at least £150,000 is required immediately in order to do the indispensable work. So grave was this report that the Council of the Durham Colleges, who are directly responsible, asked Dr. Faber whether the CASTLE could be saved, and to this he replied thus: "*In my opinion, it is almost certain that if funds were available on something like the scale indicated in my report it would be possible to put it into a state of permanent safety. It would, of course, be impossible to guarantee that an accident might not occur whilst the work was in progress, but under suitable engineering control, I should look for a satisfactory completion of the work without accident as in the highest degree probable.*"

It needs not to add anything to the engineer's words. They describe with the utmost clearness and decision a situation which is in the highest degree alarming. DURHAM CASTLE is in imminent danger of falling down, and unless some efforts are made without delay, one of the most glorious Historical Monuments of this country will have been blotted out.

Does anyone question the importance of preserving such a building as DURHAM CASTLE? Let him cast back his mind for a few years and recall the sentiments with which he learned that the splendid Cloth Hall at Ypres had been irrevocably damaged by German shells; that the magnificent Cathedral of Rheims was in like danger of destruction, that the mighty Castle of Coucy had been actually destroyed. In those dreadful years every day brought its record of death. Our hearts were pierced by the tidings that the Youth of England were perishing by thousands, and a great fear was growing in our minds that even this cruel sacrifice might be too small to avert the loss of our freedom. And yet, we were specially moved by the knowledge that the notable buildings in which the National History was gathered up, and the national genius uttered, were actually being attacked. We felt instinctively that the soul of France and Belgium were being outraged, and a worse injury than the carnage of the battlefield was being inflicted on the people. With less circumstance, and without observation, the same injury may be inflicted, not by the violence of a foreign enemy, but by the indifference, or ignorance, or self-absorption of the people themselves. We may do to ourselves the wrong which the open enemy failed to do. Had the Germans succeeded in dropping bombs on DURHAM CASTLE and destroyed it, how fierce would have been our indignation, how intense our distress!

Can it be the case then that we English people will suffer the same disaster to befall us by sheer lack of attention, and unwillingness to contribute to preserve this great building from destruction through natural causes? The raising of so large a sum as £150,000, which is the lowest estimate of what is necessary, is, of course, far beyond the power of the City which the CASTLE adorns, of the University which is legally responsible

for its maintenance. It is noteworthy that many of our greatest Mediæval buildings are placed in relatively unimportant places. Thus the superb Cathedrals of Canterbury, Salisbury, Wells, Chichester, Ely, and above them all, Durham, are situated in places of small size, which, in comparison with the vast Urban communities of the modern world, appear even petty. Our most glorious Churches like Thaxted and Blyborough, are in villages. Thus, the local resources are altogether insufficient to provide for the due maintenance of these priceless national possessions. In the case of DURHAM, there is even more to be said. Probably no part of the Kingdom has suffered so grievously as these two Counties of Durham and Northumberland by the economic dislocation which the Great War occasioned. Shipbuilding and Coalmining are the two main industries on which the great population of North-eastern England depends, and both have been stricken by the loss for the time being, or partial loss, of their foreign markets. The shadow of unemployment lies heavily on the district, and it is almost a mockery to propose to people so situated, the patriotic duty of contributing great sums to maintain historical buildings. The popular needs grow ever greater as the popular resources grow ever less. If there be such a thing as national fellowship, then the more prosperous parts of the population ought surely to acknowledge a fraternal obligation to come to the assistance of their distressed brethren in Durham and Northumberland, upon whom, in the first instance, this heavy burden of preserving DURHAM CASTLE has come. But indeed, is it not a mis-use of language to talk in this connection about local obligations? Within the last few years, the population of England has become mobile in an altogether unprecedented degree. The new facilities for distributing ideas and information have unified the community in a most wonderful way. Every week-end throughout the summer, indeed every long summer evening, witnesses the exodus of thousands of city dwellers pouring out in motors and on motor-cycles, from the scenes of their daily labour to take their pleasure in the country. Half the enjoyment of such excursions lies in their ability to choose adequate objectives. They visit the scenes of historical interest—battlefields which they have read about in their history books, the birthplaces



of the famous men of whose lives they have knowledge, or whose writings have delighted their leisure; above all, the glorious buildings in which Art and Architecture find their most magnificent expression and which are distributed all over England in a profusion which, owing to our insular position, has no parallel on the Continent. Thanks to the Schools and Colleges, the cheap books and newspapers, the Free Libraries and Lectures, historical knowledge is becoming the possession of the multitudes of industrial workers, and they are able, as never before, to appreciate, to understand, and to enjoy, what their eyes behold. The greatly extended leisure of the working population tends in the same

direction. Is this then a time to suffer one of the most glorious of all our Historical Monuments to fall into ruin? I am persuaded that if the ordinary Englishman and Englishwoman would give thought to the appeal which is being made for the preservation of DURHAM CASTLE, they would see their own duty to contribute, so far as they can, to what is not a local, but a great patriotic object. And certainly, all who burn coal, or use ships, ought to feel an obligation to do something to assist the coalworkers and shipbuilders of the North to sustain a burden which has come upon them at a time of unexampled distress.



Every year in the holiday season, especially in the month of August, thousands of English folk pass through Durham on their way to Scotland, and probably none of them fails

to observe with wonder and admiration the magnificent spectacle which Durham presents from the railway. The two great buildings, the Cathedral and the Castle form, it has

been justly said "one of the noblest groups of buildings in the world." The two buildings are indeed inseparable, historically and aesthetically. The Castle enhances the architectural majesty of the Cathedral as the Cathedral enhances that of the Castle. The loss of either would maim the other. Surely no one who has once filled his vision with the beauty of that spectacle, can hesitate to send something to the Fund for preserving it to future generations of travellers. There are still rich men among us—men so rich that the whole cost of saving DURHAM CASTLE would not affect appreciably the magnitude of their wealth. Is there none of them who will be moved to rescue this great National Heirloom from the destruction which threatens it? Here is an object on which private bounty can be outpoured, which will bring to the benefactor the exquisite satisfaction of knowing that he has conferred a great service on the Nation without incidentally doing unintended harm. I sometimes think that the maintenance of

our great buildings, which the influence of time is bringing into danger of ruin, forms perhaps one of the most entirely satisfactory methods of serving the community which now presents itself to a wealthy citizen. There must be many persons now living who, in former years, when the industries of North-Eastern England were flourishing, have garnered great wealth from the toil of the people, and that wealth, judiciously invested, secures them, even in these evil times, from poverty and distress. Is there none of them who will be moved to come to the help of these counties in their present distress, and save from destruction one of the few great Historical Monuments which mitigate the drabness of industrial society, and add dignity to the life of the working population?

*Herbert Dunelm:*

D'ye ken those walls with their stones so  
grey,  
Of the Fortress built in a bygone day.  
Do you think of the tower that is slipping  
away,  
And ye just lie abed in the morning.

Chorus.

Yet to Durham men on the Castle keen,  
Shall victory come as has ever been  
And we'll give you a show  
Such as ne'er was seen  
When the day of the Rag shall be dawning.

D'ye ken that arch with a gateway through  
The way to the court that is good to view  
When you know that the saving rests with  
you  
And ye just lie abed in the morning.

Yet to Durham men, etc.

D'ye ken that Hall so far renowned  
That fate has declared will surely be drowned  
Do you think of the way you'll best raise  
a pound

Or just rest your head in the morning?  
Yet to Durham men, etc.

The Castle needs fastening up, Buttons  
won't do!

Save the Castle; think of the splash!

Newcastle calling! Heavy depression  
moving over Durham Castle.

Women need stays, so does the Castle.

Justice! send the Castle to the scaffold.

Give—and it shall be restored.

Bobs for Buttresses!

A Barbarian is a man who expectorates in  
the collection plate.

A prude is a young lady who goes out  
without her garters.

This week's Spoonerism.—I never like  
travelling with my wife, she carries so many  
Rags and bugs with her.

Can a cat dog a man's footsteps?

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CHAPEL 2008–2009

Two main features dominated this year for me, the first being the University's Faith Review, on which I sat, and the second being my maternity leave for the second half of the academic year.

The Faith Review undertook a systematic review both of current provision for members of faith communities across the University, and of gaps in that provision and how they might be filled in the future. The final report has now gone to Senate. In relation to my post and the provision for a Chaplain in this College, it will have little impact, since it was recommended that we maintain our historic provision and concentrate new initiatives in the gaps left between that provision, especially for members of non-Christian faiths, which have been historically less well served in this University for obvious cultural and demographic reasons. It was also decided that whilst faith facilities should remain as present, embedded within Colleges, those facilities should be available to students across the University to ensure parity of provision. In reaching this decision University College provided an example of best practice, since our College Choir has for many years been open to all students by audition. Furthermore, faith spaces should be available to students of all faiths to use subject to the University's equality and diversity policy (so it would be appropriate to ban groups preaching hate or intolerance, for example, should this be necessary). Again, University College already makes space available in this way, with the Norman Chapel in particular providing a useful non-denominational sacred space for use by all students, and it is well used.

Chaplaincy activities were again well attended and well received over the year, with the Carol Service being attended by over 150 students. The Chapel Committee (Chapel Clerk: Andrew Thurman; Sacrist: Kyle McNeil; Treasurer: Sophia Gerth; Director of Music: Chris Jacklin; Organ Scholars: Megan Sharp and Richard Allum) worked superbly together, and in particular I should like to pay tribute to them for their work in running services and all other Chapel activities efficiently and extremely well during my absence from February to July on maternity leave.

As Solway Fellow I continued my research for the first half of this year, and have completed a full outline for a new book.

*Rev Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Chaplain and Solway Fellow*

# MCR PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Academic Year 2008-2009

This year the MCR has grown to a record 105 full time and 23 part time members, meaning that it now accounts for about one sixth of the students in Castle. Seen as a healthy size, both for the workload of College Office and as a proportion of the students in Castle, it is intended that this will be the size of the MCR in years to come.

I have focused most of my Presidency on integrating the MCR and its needs into Castle; strengthening our relationship with the JCR, and reforming the MCR's governance in order to increase participation. We now have 20 places reserved at low table formal every Thursday, which has made formal a lot more accessible to MCR members and attendance has been very good. The Super Formals and College Feast also proved very popular, with 30 MCR members attending the latter. Demand for Ball tickets has been higher than in previous years, culminating with the MCR easily filling two tables at the June Ball this year. Our members' social interactions are not just limited to Castle: we have consistently had a strong presence at inter-MCR social events all year, including 28 of our members attending a postgraduate only formal dinner at Hatfield last February.

Another key difference this year was Brackenbury: our block of 24 self-catered postgraduate flats near the University Hospital. It is my opinion that having such a group of MCR members who live together has greatly increased the vibrancy of the common room, even for livers out.

Finally, this year our croquet performance has been poor to mediocre, partly due to our set going "missing" in April and the unevenness of the Fellows Garden. I'm hoping that my successor, Richard Harness, will correct our shortcomings and field a stronger team in the inter-MCR competition this year.

*James Gate*  
*Castle MCR President 2008-09*

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## Women's Basketball Club

The team have had a tremendous year, having secured a double victory by topping the Women's Premiership Basketball League and winning the College Festival of Sport. In addition, the team remained unbeaten, winning all of its matches this year, making it the most successful of all the College sports teams.

# University College Women's Football

Another term has passed us by, with many matches being played, and many memorable times spent attempting to play football. Success has been somewhat limited as we failed to get very far in the College Trophy, but the usual banter accompanied all our games and lessons were learnt with regard to slide tackling the referee (Jane) and respecting our elders, i.e. Ustinov.

We managed to get out during the exam period and had some practices with Hild-Bede, on a pitch that can only be described as a junkies' backyard. Despite the obvious drawbacks it was good to stretch our legs and I think everyone valued the time without the books. This year has seen many eventful times. We began with a complete whitewash of Hatfield, stormed to victory in the Astro-League, and along the way have had many a happy social.

Sumo wrestling, practice with Pimms, and the credit crunch have all been featured. We have seen our Captain's disregard for the rules of the game, the concept of potato corking has expanded, Tina has found a new calling in life towards the bigger issues, and Talin has got a new friend called Babs. All in all, I think it's safe to say that this year has been eventful and everyone on the team has shown panache to the highest degree.

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## Castle Men's Football

The three men's football teams carried on the Castle AFC tradition of under-achieving, but having a lot of fun along the way. It was always going to be a struggle for the newly-promoted C Team, who suffered some heavy defeats early on in the season, dooming them to a relegation battle that sadly they could not overcome, despite a valiant effort against Hatfield B on the last day of the season.

The A Team, fitted out with a lot of new faces, took a few games to gel, but found form towards the end of the season to maintain their position in Division One and with a lot of promise for next year, given the quality of some of the Freshers. The B Team had high hopes of promotion from the Conference and had an undefeated first term, but "2nd term syndrome" sunk in and they ultimately finished 5th. Some memorable moments include the A's game against Stephenson A in the Cup, in which the A's battled hard to force extra time, but unfortunately lost to a fitter side. The B's also enjoyed a 15-0 thrashing of Grey E in the Cup before being knocked out by Mildert A. Goals were few and far between for the C's, with most being scored in the wrong net!

The post-season North *versus* South match was once again won comfortably by the South, 5-1, with Joey Grigg proudly raising the “Gaffney Cup” (overconfidently named by the North Captain himself). The Jamie’s Mum Invitational 6-a-side Tournament was surprisingly won by the Old Gits, comprised of finalists from the B’s and C’s, who defeated the Freshers’ team, “Fathers’ for Justice” 1-0 in the Final.

*Chris Facey, Football Captain*

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## Castle Day 2009

On Saturday 13th June 2009, I decided that God must be a *Castleman*. After at least a fortnight of nothing but cloudy skies and downpours, we were able to celebrate our College Day bathing in glorious sunshine, whilst enjoying the traditional pitcher of Pimms. The Castle was decorated in keeping with this year’s “Wild Wild West” theme, in which some got more carried away than others!

After stuffing our faces full with a scrummy brunch, we were able to enjoy this year’s attractions. Unfortunately, due to “Health and Safety Restrictions” (etc!) Fellows Garden was looking a bit scarce; however, many did enjoy the inflatable Space-Hopper Horse Race. Others meanwhile preferred the less energetic approach of lounging around in the courtyard, talking amongst friends and listening to the Steel Drum Band and Castle Big Band performances.

One of the highlights of the day was most definitely the Iron Man of Castle Competition which was closely fought through-out. Contestants had to endure the traditional challenges including the beer-keg lift, the tractor-tyre flip, the crucifix (sledgehammer in each out-stretched hand), the car pull (a Fiesta up the Barbican with nine people in the car and one on the bonnet), and the sprint finale which included resisting the temptation of Josh (many a good man has failed!) and taking on a rugby tackle before claiming the Iron Man of Castle title. This year the title was deservedly claimed by Dougie Abram, though all the contestants showed true cardinal spirit.

After many beers and burgers, all were lead in song to the Legendary Beatles and serenaded once again by Bunch and Garvie. As the sun set, many moved inside to enjoy an education in barn dancing, which was far from elegant after a few too many pitchers. A great day was concluded with Fav and Johnny mixing up an amazing DJ set in the Great Hall, to which everyone raved the night away. In spite of some difficulties, the day was a great success in my eyes, as I enjoyed the sun (and several pitchers of Pimms) with my friends, against the backdrop of our Castle, our home.

# THE ROLE OF GM PLANTS IN FOOD SECURITY

The 20th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR) convened this year in Edinburgh, which provided me with an ideal opportunity to attend the most prestigious conference on fundamental research in plant science and perhaps more importantly without the usual exorbitant expense. Last year ICAR was held in Montreal and next year it will stay in Yokohama, Japan.

Edinburgh can rival any city as a venue, with its dominating Castle, Old Town of convoluted medieval streets and 16th and 17th century buildings and the New Town's contrast of broad avenues with elegant Georgian buildings. One almost could have been describing Durham, save for the scale and lack of the most impressive Cathedral in the UK.

The conference ran from 30th June until 4th July, which just missed the beginning of the "monsoon season". Perhaps in anticipation of those great summer rains, the humidity was veritably tropical and meanwhile in my absence, Durham was flooded.

Nearly a thousand delegates travelled to Edinburgh for the conference from all over the world. A small minority contributed to the more than 80 lectures and workshop presentations and many more to the several hundred posters, which one felt compelled to scour for useful information during the short breaks between sessions.

The principal lecture sessions were divided up into eight sections over the five days including Epigenetics and Genomics, Development, Environmental Responses, Plant Defence, Natural Variation, Cell Biology, Signalling in Development and Systems Biology. I am not, you may be pleased to know, about to launch into a detailed summary of lectures in these sections, but instead shall focus on the issue of food security and the role genetically modified (GM) plants could play in delivering sufficient food for a burgeoning global population.

Food security is a prescient challenge for governments, who subsequently are driving plant scientists towards fundamental and applied research, which may bring out developments to solve a problem Thomas Malthus famously identified in his 1798 monograph *The Principle of Population*: population grows geometrically, whereas yield increases arithmetically. Malthus' predictions thankfully were incorrect and the agrarian revolution and latter Green Revolution of the mid-20th century greatly increased food production allowing the global human population to reach the more than six billion we see today.

However, rather alarmingly global food production will need to double by 2050 to meet demands. Meanwhile improvements in wheat yields are levelling off. The lack of continued improvements is caused largely by the techniques used in the Green Revolution. This has bequeathed wheat varieties depauperate in genetic diversity with which to achieve further improvements and has increased their susceptibility to pests and reliance on pesticides.

These challenges make it an exciting time to be a Plant Scientist despite funding difficulties or governmental meddling. I can certainly assure you that there is an earnest desire amongst researchers in our field to address the problems of the age.

What then, you might be asking, does research on *Arabidopsis thaliana*, that humble annual weed seen growing between paving-slabs have to contribute towards feeding the world's population? This is a question which I am often asked by my family and friends outside of my field. *Arabidopsis* is a very useful model organism for plant science, it has a very short life cycle, as little as six weeks; it is self-fertile and has low space and nutrient requirements. Additionally there is a massive corpus of research based on *Arabidopsis* and ever expanding gene and protein databases. In short it is the lab rat of plant science.

Modern genomics permits the identification of genes coding for beneficial traits, either within the current varieties or related cultivars. Some traits, such as nitrogen fixation, simply do not exist within plants and would require the transfer of those genes from bacterial symbionts of leguminous species. Plants which could fix their own nitrogen could become virtually self-sufficient for their nitrogen requirements and reduce the need for nitrogen fertilisers.

Other ambitious objectives would be to engineer so called "C4" photosynthesis into "C3" photosynthetic plants, the latter of which includes the temperate grasses and the cereals which are the staples for the majority of the world's population. C4 photosynthesis is much more efficient at higher temperatures and consumes much less water. With a planet facing a potentially dramatic climate change, increased global average temperatures and significant changes in the patterns of precipitation are challenges which must be overcome especially in terms of agriculture.

Alternative routes, which may be less technologically challenging, although not necessarily of lesser impact, include agronomy. The scientific study of agricultural techniques has been neglected over recent decades, but may have much to contribute in the coming struggle. The re-domestication of cereal staples could provide a solution to the problem of a small gene pool. Strategies like inter-cropping reduce pest impact by growing plants that distract pests away from the primary crop and others which even deter them, around the borders of field and amongst the crop. Inter-cropping is already used with success in developing countries, especially in Africa where it is mitigating the effects of the parasitic plant striga.

Ultimately to bring about these improvements work has to be conducted on the crop plants. However our knowledge in certain areas is so limited that we simply do not understand the mechanisms behind the traits we wish to introduce. That is why fundamental and applied research is required. Without sufficient fundamental research to open up new areas and deepen the understanding of key principles, the applied research can become blind and without direction.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the University College Durham Trust for the scholarship I was awarded, which assisted in my attendance of the conference.

Liam O'Hara



“You really, really, don’t need to  
keep this page!”

# CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEWS

Please send this form (or a copy) to the Editor at Orchard House, Mains Park Road, Chester-le-Street DH3 3PU, fax to 0191 3873386, or e-mail burnopfield@yahoo.co.uk. Email is preferred – please mark subject *CASTELLUM*.

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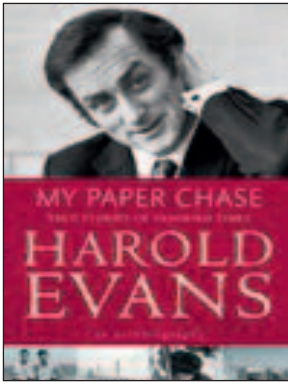
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Please send to arrive by 31st October 2010 for publication in the 2010 *Castellum*.

# REVIEW – ‘MY PAPER CHASE’

by Sir Harold Evans



University College can claim great distinction in that within three years two high quality and very favourably reviewed memoirs have been published by “Old” – if they don’t mind the adjective – Castlemen.

Hunter Davies published his “*The Beatles, Football and Me*” reviewed in the 2006 *Castellum* and in 2009 we have Harold Evans’ “*My Paper Chase*”. Both books cover highly successful careers in journalism. Castle and Durham can be very proud to have helped to father each of them. Both edited *Palatinate* during their time at Durham.

“*My Paper Chase*” is a very substantial autobiography which will find readers everywhere there are journalists. Not only did he reach the summit of UK newspapers as editor of *The Sunday Times* and then *The Times*, but he is renowned as both an exponent and teacher of the craft of journalism and recognised for that world-wide. And for Harry the craft of journalism, devoted as he was to the techniques of story and headline writing and page lay-outs, included even more, as his book demonstrates, a huge passion for the issues, events, politics and human stories that are the life-blood of newspapers.

But the book is not a technical treatise. Neither is it a mandarin-type detached reminiscence of the kind favoured generally by the great and the good. It is instead a highly energetic, warm, humorous, highly committed and brilliantly expressed account of a life that began with no natural advantage except two solid parents and whatever genes supplied the fantastic energy, resilience and brains that took him to the top of British journalism and then to a whole second career astride Manhattan and America.

Durham and Castle were not the only formative elements in this progress. His battle to get to Durham in the first place took huge determination and supplies some of the great comic passages in the book. His initial interview with the then Master, the ever memorable Macfarlane-Grieve, is a treasure beyond price. His description of that interview also shows the powers of observation which were to be so valuable in his subsequent career – he spotted that Mac did not wear socks. (I spent two terms living in the Master’s House before I noticed the absence of his socks, hence no doubt my relatively short career in journalism.)

Once at Durham his generous appreciation of the life and influences he found, both academic and social, is expressed through delightful anecdotes. His Durham spell followed a path already started in newspapers which had

begun in the dusty and hilariously described offices of a weekly paper in Ashton-Under-Lyne, followed by a magazine created by him from nothing during National Service on an air base in Lincolnshire. And after Durham there was the *Manchester Evening News*, the *Northern Echo* in Darlington, and then *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*.

None of this is presented with any pomposity and he is as ready to describe bewilderment and fears as well as successes. As with any journalist his goal was stories and headlines to make the pages gripping, but it is powerfully evident in the book, as it was in the papers he edited, that the supreme objective was to present reality and the truth.

He would always sacrifice sensation for balance and truth, as was evident in the great campaigns he ran such as Timothy Evans and thalidomide, and in the huge resources he would commit to investigate stories that dug beneath the surface for every fact that might lie under the stones, whichever way the facts might take the story.

As a memoir the book is a triumph against odds in that so much recollection and narrative hardly ever interrupts the pace and vigour of its style. It is a really good read, full of personal impressions delightfully described and great stories seen from a perspective. I would recommend it to any Castleman, old or new, not just for the link which I think we can all, especially his Castle contemporaries, feel proud of, but as a testimony to what energy, curiosity, determination, enlightened values and a firm grasp of a craft's essentials, can achieve.

*Review by Derek Holbrook, a former Editor of Castellum*

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## MY PAPER CHASE

*Durham plays a starring role in My Paper Chase the new autobiography of Sir Harold Evans (University College 1949–52), the only journalist ever to edit both The Sunday Times and The Times. He'd just come out of the RAF and, without having learned Latin at school, he was apprehensive when he came to Durham for interview in September 1949. He writes in part ...*

Waiting at the Castle Gatehouse for my interview, I contemplated the College's arms, a shield of four lions rampant and two Bishops' mitres with the scrolled inscription. It was Latin: *Non Nobis Solum*.

What did it mean? What would I say when the Master asked me to discuss the inscription's relevance to College life? He spared me that humiliation. It was humbling enough to be in the presence of the Master of University College, Lt. Colonel Angus Alexander MacFarlane Grieve, M.C., M.A.

I stood in the doorway to his room. He looked at me without saying anything. I calculated that through his heavy bottled glasses I must be much diminished in size. I was not much to start with – five foot, six-and-a-half inches according to

the RAF – but I shrank with every passing second. I was probably about twelve inches high when I advanced, braced to babble about Thucydides if he broached the importance of a classical education. He offered a gentle smile. “Do you row, Evans”.

I'd been in a paddle boat in Rhyl amusement park, but I didn't go into that. The Master had been Captain of Boats when he was in Castle as an Undergraduate and he was the author of a history of rowing in Durham. As he discoursed on how well Castle's oarsmen had been doing in races on the River Wear, I noticed he wore no socks. I found the incongruity of the formal demeanor and this manifestation of individuality strangely relaxing for all of the five minutes before he ended the meeting. He sent me to see the Senior Tutor, a Physicist and Doctor of Philosophy. “You will find him on the Norman Gallery. Good morning, Evans. And close the door on your way out.”

To reach the Norman Gallery I went through a crack in the Castle wall up a very narrow stone staircase. As I climbed, I came upon a tiny panelled doorway in the rock. I knocked. No answer. I waited, and knocked again and waited. So I eased the door open, coughed politely and fell on my knees. It was not a prayerful posture. There were several steps immediately behind the door, catapulting one forward, no doubt some crude Norman's idea of a practical joke. Beyond the steps, there was no Head Tutor. I had stumbled into a toilet. I returned to the ascent, and the staircase finally opened out on a beautiful gallery of fretted Norman arches and pillars, its windows looking out over the Courtyard and Gatehouse to the Cathedral. I found the Head Tutor secreted off the Gallery behind a big black door with black iron bolts. He was running his hands through his hair, a work of supererogation since he had none that I could discern in the dim filtered light. He sat reeking cleverness in a wood paneled room. There was the deliciously musty smell of books and of the dust of centuries of crumbling stone. The Cathedral Bells tolled the hour and the crucial interview began.

*Later he writes ...* I threw myself into College life that second year. I joined the Boat Club as a gesture to the Master, I essayed interventions in Union debates, I ran the half mile for Castle, played squash, and started a Durham University Table Tennis Club. We travelled to play against teams in the mining villages in south Durham where disconcertingly we were regarded as toffs. These were somewhat discomfiting years in terms of class consciousness. In town the shopkeepers were deferential to “Gentlemen of College”, which made me feel fraudulent, and then in the third year living in the Castle itself I had the privilege of a College servant known as “Scout”. Returning from lectures, I was happy to find my scattered books and papers neatly stacked on my desk, my coal fire ready, and a tray laid for tea with jam and crumpets for toasting. I remained uneasy that the Scout was a woman of my mother's age.

I was gloriously accommodated in two rooms on the Norman Gallery where I'd taken the crucial entrance interview. My rooms looked over the town and down on the terrace where I could admire the sockless Master doing calisthenics at the crack of dawn. I had more privacy. The outer door to my quarters opened not on the room but on a second door, this one being an inviolate “oak” that could never be opened by anyone, so that inside the study of human life in all its forms could proceed uninterrupted. Closing the outer of the two doors was called “Sporting

the Oak”: a ritual signalling private study or a woman visitor arriving for tea. They were all clocked in and out by the vigilant dragon lady who had met me at the lodge when I first arrived.

I succumbed to the imperatives of journalism. There was competition among the Colleges for one of their own to have the distinction of editing *Palatinate*, though nobody was rushing to do any of the slog of collecting enough news and putting it the newspaper. From the masthead only three people seemed to be engaged in this activity. I volunteered and was sucked in.

I was rewarded for my industry with the masthead title of Assistant Editor. This was an inflation of my role, sitting in a cold room in the Union proffering the gluepoint to the editor Derek Harrison (St. Cuthbert's), pasting up his columns into pages and reading proofs with the chuckling, blond English honors student, Paul Edwards of Hatfield, who later became a Professor of English. Nobody could hope to edit *Palatinate* for long given all the lectures, tutorials, examinations, so when Derek resigned I let my name go forward to the owners of the paper, the Student Representative Council (SRC), an elected group of the most active Undergraduates and Graduates. I lay in wait in the Union coffee bar to ambush them with my qualifications as a weekly paper reporter in Ashton-under-Lyne.

I was summoned to a meeting to learn that I'd been elected, then promptly sandbagged. I inherited a newspaper practically bankrupted by the cost of paper and zinc used to reproduce photographs. What, asked the President of SRC, did the wizard of Ashton-under-Lyne propose to do about it? Was I going to ask for a bigger subsidy? Hand on heart, I recklessly declared that every journalist worth his salt would never take a penny in any subsidy from anyone because it would compromise his independence. Rhetoric wouldn't pay our bills, so I proposed that we be allowed to increase the price and maybe the advertising rates. Some Councillors jibbed at this, urging that it was preferable to reduce the number of pages to eight from ten. "You'll have a job filling them anyway."

It was a proposition I was to hear many times in my newspaper life. Believing then, as I do now, that the way to kill a newspaper is to ask more for less, I pleaded that we should be allowed to charge 33% more but go up two pages to 12. This was rash. I didn't know a thing about newspaper management, but I boasted of my RAF experience in doubling the price of the magazine I edited there, *Empire Flying School Review*.

The Council was persuaded to give us a trial, which meant that the three of us committed to the paper had to think very fast to justify the extra pages and the higher price. Paul moved up to Assistant Editor and we concerted our plan of attack. More sport, more news, of course, but we'd introduce features, which meant recruiting more help. We wooed widely among second year students, varying the pitch a little according to our judgment of the tastes of the quarry. "Look what a spell on *Palatinate* can do for you," we'd say. "Do you realise who's the Chief Sub Editor of *The Times*?" If that glazed the eye, we'd try, "And do you know who edits Britain's largest selling daily newspaper, the *Daily Mirror*? Both Durham men!" We weren't sure that either Reginald Easthope at *The Times* or Silvester Bolam at the *Mirror* had actually worked on *Palatinate*, but why cloud the issue that Durham men were stars in journalism? There seemed no point, either, in mentioning that Bolam, a fervent defender of the virtue of

tabloid journalism, was currently in prison for documenting the crimes of a vampire murderer before the courts had decided the killer's guilt.

To succeed Paul Edwards as News Editor we recruited Orson Welles. That is an Undergraduate named Trevor Johnson who looked like him and talked like him. He was a gregarious and ebulliently eloquent literary star who could hold forth for hours on any subject. He displayed an encyclopedic knowledge of the books by Evelyn Waugh in a letter to the famous author, and thereby secured an interview with the writer himself on his Gloucestershire estate.

Trevor took trains all the way from Durham to Kings Cross, and then into the West Country from Paddington. After alighting at Stinchcombe Station he paused to ask directions, and by way of thanks explained to the station master the influence of T.S. Eliot on John Betjeman's railway poems. When he arrived at the Georgian mansion, Piers Court, an upstairs sash window opened and Waugh's angry red face appeared. "You are five minutes late. I will not tolerate rudeness! Good day to you, sir!"

Without our literary scoop, we fell back on Ian Rodger. Ian, a loquacious member of Hatfield College, was an irreverent gadfly poet (later a dramatist and radio critic of the BBC's *The Listener*). His proposal was that he should visit all the Durham pubs within staggering distance of Palace Green to report on how far the natives were friendly and whether their beer was drinkable. To support this enterprise he required expenses. In justification, he wrote: "Around the peninsula lies a permanent challenge to wit and conversation and beneath in its black earth, lies the constant reminder of laughter, bright cups and tinkling glass".

We were moved. We gave him a pound of SRC money. Our undercover pub reporter wasn't seen on Palace Green for two whole weeks, but bang on deadline he came into our office bursting with intelligence: Did we know there was a pub over Framwellgate Bridge where you could debate capitalism with Marxist miners? Did we know the one where a leading lecturer suitably primed could be guaranteed to lose all sense of discretion in a vivid dissection of his fellow dons? He confided this intelligence with a flourish: "Amid the smoke-filled air, to the strange sound of one of the most fascinating English dialects and the monotonous clink of the dominoes, the student can indeed say in after years that this is where memory both begins and ends." I was less moved by the prospect of dominoes than Rodger's identification of a hideaway up river ideally placed for cool refreshment with Enid Parker a young woman Efrom St. Aidan's (I was later to marry).

Here's a few extracts from my college diary of these momentous days:

*Monday, January 29, 1951:* Lots of *Palatiniate* copy to edit and an essay to do for tomorrow. Couldn't get out of table tennis match with miners in Willington, took bus so could edit copy. We won, then came back to late night at Lumley and finished the essay such as it is.

*Tuesday, January 30:* Ethics tutorial in Harrison's cat-infested room. He pads about in slippers and flannel bags talking in an Oxford voice about the concept of good. Took notes at evening emergency meeting SRC on ice hockey team. Late back to Lumley. Copied economics notes before bed.

*Wednesday, January 31:* Windy bike ride in from Lumley, very tricky. Dashed to Hood tutorial on Hobbes. Did headlines. Noisy College meeting made me

Captain of Athletics. I'm taking on too much! Girl in Union is Enid, Edgar Jones says she goes with Danny F, so forget it.

*February 1:* Missed lecture in the morning, but it was only by the odious man from Cambridge so I didn't miss anything. A little late, too, for tutorial. Page make up in the afternoon and evening. Hectic. At one point we seemed a page down. Went for a drink. Late at night John Nettleton helped me decide we did have enough for 12 pages. Doors locked, so went down a fire escape with a torch and ran to the printers with page proofs

The final acquisition for the new Palatinate was to find someone to write a gossip column under the pen name Argus. We knew we had found the right man when he sent in a little note about one of the prominent Communists on campus, a tough former shop steward called Michael McVeigh of St Cuthbert's Society who was constantly recruiting comrades.

Mr. McVeigh I understand has changed his lodging due to a disagreement with his landlady about the proportion of water in the milks supplied with his porridge each morning. Obviously no Scotsman could be fooled on a matter connected with porridge, and for her pains the good lady is now no doubt black-listed by the Cominform. However, even a clash on such fundamental an issue hardly explains why he left so quietly as he did, and at midnight.

I think it's safe now to say *Argus* was the pseudonym for Derek Holbrook, a close friend (and so he remains) and for a time Editor of both *Castellum* and *New Durham*. He was a brilliant and angelic-looking English scholar, who after Durham abandoned a promising career in journalism to solve all sorts of intractable problems with the Trade Unions as a Labour Officer with Imperial Chemical Industries on Teesside. (No doubt he did this in his lunch hour for he was epitome of the saying that if you want to get something done, look for the busiest person around.) Even the Soviet *Stakhanovites* would never have guessed that he could find time to social espionage. He was a runner for Union Society Presidency, a leading Speaker in its debates, a member of SRC, Editor of the literary magazine *New Durham*, a National Governor of the United Federation for Animal Welfare, and Treasurer of the Liberal Club. He was also highly visible at all the social functions in an eye patch and beard, escorting some of the most attractive women in Durham – a relationship whose fulfillment required a great deal of cunning since his room was right in the Master's house.

My first issue was published on Friday, February 2nd, 1951 "*Palatinate* came into the Union Coffee Bar earlier than I thought it would. I was in a funk", I learn from my diary. "Had to find somewhere to hide. I bolted to obscure corner of the library, had lunch in Lyons in town instead of Castle and read the paper. Such sensitivity!"

When I summoned up the nerve to venture back on Palace Green I found we were fast selling out.

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By permission. *My Paper Chase: True Stories of Vanished Times*  
is published by Little, Brown, £25.



# CASTLE AUTUMN 'COCKTAILS', 29th September 2009

About 20 Castlemen of broadly three generations gathered at the *Blue Posts* pub in Regent Street on the evening of 29th October, nobly led by the Master, Maurice Tucker, who travelled down from Durham for the day. There had been some initial miss-information about which *Blue Post* we were using and incredibly there are seven in central London! Maybe some can tell us why?

The intention of this event was to test the water reaching out to younger Castlemen with a London based gathering and the attempt was a qualified-success.

To minimise the potential loss we cunningly advertised a buffet, but didn't order any! This was wise as the University *Alumni* email database seemed not to have reached any of the Castlemen I know who live in Greater London! However a couple of swift telephone calls and some personal networking generated a very respectable quorum and a very jolly evening was had meeting each other in a rather more intimate setting than the reunion allows. The 20 bodies were broadly made up of: eight from 1962, three from 1976, six from 2005, and five from individual years.

We will repeat this experiment again and try to generate support by emailing and just networking various circles of contemporary ex- Castlemen. We have identified several venues that can take 50–100 of us but the financial commitment in hiring them means we need to be certain there will be a good takeup for the event!

So if any one would like to help generate support please would they contact me [nickm689@o2.co.uk](mailto:nickm689@o2.co.uk). Telephone 01932 784567 or 07775 625546.

*Nick Mercer*

# OLD BOYS FOOTBALL, LONDON

It is surely a wide-spread sentiment among readers of *Castellum* that their years at University, particularly because they were at Castle, represented some of the best times of their lives. It was this desire to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones, who, like us, spent many an evening in the Undercroft, that motivated a group of alumni to start a Castle Old Boys Football Team in London.

We went to the Society with our proposal, and are deeply grateful and appreciative of the sum that they gave us at Easter to get us started. The money went towards buying a set of kit, league registration, compulsory insurance and FA registration, and bits and bobs like balls, nets and corner flags. Players pay for referee fees on a pay as you play basis.

Prior to applying to the Society for funding, we had already begun putting out feelers to gauge interest among the alumni down in London, and at the start of the season in September we had a group of upwards of 20 people on our email list. We have a wide range of ages in our team, from those who graduated within the last year to those who graduated before the turn of the millennium. To put it bluntly – some of us have kids, and some of us still are!

Nevertheless, we have been able to mould ourselves into a finely tuned outfit, competing weekly in the Central London Sunday Super League against such luminaries as *Jeff's Chippy* and *Barking Mad*. We are registered in the league as *SS Ladzio* (in tribute to the Italian giants, our fetching sky blue apparel and our misplaced belief that we are still young). Sunday afternoons are a great laugh, we get to meet friends old and new, play a game of football (with a decent crowd down to encourage and cajole) and have a quick team pint and debrief. At the time of writing, we have won all but two of our seven league games, sit in second and only looking upwards, are in the hunt for a trophy-laden debut season.

We remain in good contact with our feeder club, the current Castle AFC team, and will be providing the JCR with regular updates – the whole idea behind this is to keep our club self-sustaining, with a yearly influx of new talent. As such, if there is anyone else down in London who fancies a regular game, or just fancies coming down to Clapham Common on a Sunday afternoon to watch us play, please do not hesitate to contact our club captain at [James.Irvine@guycarp.com](mailto:James.Irvine@guycarp.com). To ensure the team remains a long-term project, we are on the search for sponsorship, and to that end can be reached at [damienjgomez@gmail.com](mailto:damienjgomez@gmail.com).

We cannot thank the Society enough for helping to get us off the ground. It has been a great way to build a little community of alumni down in London, and we again encourage anyone who wants to get involved to do so!

*Damien Gomez*





# Castellum

## NEWS ROUND-UP

### Durham University launches scheme to attract talented North East students



Talented North East schoolchildren who demonstrate the ability to progress onto degree courses at Durham University will be offered the

chance to fulfil their potential with the launch of a new scheme.

The Supported Progression Programme aims to identify and assist sixth form students and secondary school pupils with the merit and potential to meet Durham's high academic standards.

The scheme will be piloted among Year 12 sixth-form students across County Durham from January 2010 and could be extended to include Year 10 and 11 pupils from County Durham and Year 10, 11, and 12 pupils from Teesside in 2010–2011.

Candidates will be selected based on criteria that include prior academic achievement, evidence of motivation and socio-economic background. These criteria will identify those students who can most benefit from the exciting opportunities that the programme will bring.

A package of academic and financial support, as well as admissions guidance, will be offered to those who successfully complete the rigorous new programme.

The students will take part in a two-year structured programme of events including an assessed residential summer school in Year 12 to identify their suitability for a place at Durham.

Successful candidates will receive the Supported Progression Qualification, which counts as 40 to 60 UCAS tariff points towards meeting Durham's standard entry requirements, along with a guaranteed offer of a place if the student applies to the department they achieve the qualification with.

Those who ultimately receive a place at Durham via the scheme will have successfully completed the Supported Progression Programme and will also have applied via the traditional UCAS route, meeting the grades required of them by the University.

A bursary of up to £2,000 a year towards University costs will be available to those who progress onto a degree course.

Overall 36 Undergraduate places will be offered under the scheme, which accounts for

one per cent of Durham's Annual Undergraduate intake.

Departments taking part in the programme are: Anthropology; Biological Sciences; Business, Finance and Economics; Criminology; Earth Sciences; Geography; Law; Modern Languages; Physics; Politics; Psychology (Applied); Sociology; Sport; and Theology.

Supported Progression will complement Durham's existing outreach work including that of the Access and Student Recruitment Team and The Foundation Centre, which runs one of the most successful access courses in the country for students who have taken a break from education and want to study at University level.

Market research also shows that many of the region's pupils with academic ability lack the confidence to apply to top Universities like Durham. Durham's Supported Progression Programme is targeted at just such students, offering support to overcome this barrier.

Professor Anthony Forster, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), at Durham University, said: "We know that many young people have the ability to succeed at Durham, but they lack the confidence or aspiration to apply here. This scheme provides an effective means of identifying and assessing their merit and potential from a young age so that these students can benefit from the first-class research-led teaching and distinctive student experience we offer. Durham is committed to recruiting the brightest and best students irrespective of background. The programme will not lower our entry standards and all those who successfully gain a place will have demonstrated a level of ability equivalent to our standard offer through a combination of successfully completing our Supported Progression Programme and our required A Level or equivalent offer. We are delighted with feedback from sixth form heads who have warmly welcomed this scheme and information evenings are now being held for parents and pupils."

Applications and selection for the scheme will take place until next month December 2009 ahead of January 2010's pilot launch.

The first assessed summer school will take place in July and successful students will

apply to Durham in autumn 2010. The first intake of students to degree courses via the programme will be in the autumn of 2011.

For more information on the Durham Supported Progression Programme please visit [www.dur.ac.uk/supported.progression](http://www.dur.ac.uk/supported.progression)

*CASE STUDY – Alan Sanders: Durham “is a great University”.*

Alan Sanders, from Ouston, in County Durham, is the first member of his family to go to University.

A former pupil at The Hermitage School, in Chester-le-Street, he went on to study at nearby Park View Community School Sixth Form where he gained five-and-a-half A-levels at A-grade.

Wanting to study Physics he applied to the top six ranked UK universities for the subject and was offered a place at Durham University.

Alan, 20, is now in the third-year of a four-year Physics degree and is a member of Collingwood College, part of the University's unique Collegiate system offering students a wide-range of activities, facilities and pastoral support.

He said: “One of the best things is the Collegiate system. The support is there if you need it, it's sociable and if you're into sports you get the benefits through the College leagues. I have been involved in the Rowing Club, the Football Club and I've just signed up for badminton. I was also the College's Music Room Officer in the second year of my course.”

A recent Durham University Careers Fair has led Alan to consider a career in either the Ministry of Defence or medical research and he believes his experiences at Durham will help him stand out when it comes to getting a job.

He added: “It's a great University, it's very highly ranked and employers think that Durham graduates are among the best. If you have the chance and the ability to apply here then you should go for it.”

*CASE STUDY – Dr Jay Walker: Durham University “changed my life”.*

Dr. Jay Walker left school at 16 with no qualifications other than a swimming certificate.

“And that doesn't get you very far – about ten metres,” he said. He spent seven years in the Army with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers before deciding he wanted to embark upon a career in medicine.

Now the former Stockton-on-Tees school-boy is a Senior House Officer training to be a Plastic Surgeon in the NHS thanks to the support of Durham University.

Jay, 33, admitted that the prospect of entering higher education was daunting and

he worried that his background might be a barrier to becoming a doctor.

But after enrolling on an access course at Durham University's Foundation Centre, he realised he could achieve his goals.

The Foundation Centre, based at Durham's Queen's Campus, in Stockton, provided him with the support, skills and knowledge needed to embark on an undergraduate medical degree course.

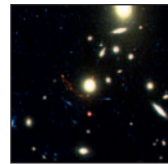
Jay, a married father-of-two, from Bearpark, in County Durham, was also the Mature Students' Officer at Queen's, helping to organise social events for other students.

He completed a two-year diploma in Medical Sciences at Durham before finishing his training at Newcastle University where he graduated as a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS).

He said: “Durham University changed my life unbelievably and it can do that for anyone who is looking for a first-class education and a good time. The University gave me the opportunity to be whoever I wanted to be as long as I was prepared to do the work and meet the standards expected of me. It opens you up to new opportunities and shows you what you can achieve if you put the work in. I got all the support I needed to get me started in medicine and I will always think of Durham as home.”

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**Rapid star formation spotted in “stellar nurseries”**



The Universe's infant galaxies enjoyed rapid growth spurts forming stars like our sun at a rate of up to 50 stars a year, according to scientists at Durham University.

The findings show that “Stellar Nurseries” within the first galaxies gave birth to stars at a much more rapid rate than previously expected, the researchers from Durham's Institute for Computational Cosmology revealed.

The research looked back 12.5 billion years to one of the most distant known Galaxies, about one billion years after the Big Bang.

Using a technique called gravitational lensing – where distant galaxies are magnified using the gravity of a nearby galaxy cluster – the scientists observed the rapid bursts of star formation in the galaxy called “MS1358arc”.

Within the star-forming regions, new stars were being created at a rate of about 50 stars per year – around 100 times faster than had been previously thought.

The researchers, who say their work represents the most detailed study of a Galaxy at such a young age, believe the observed Galaxy is typical of others in the early Universe.

They say the Galaxy, which measures 6,000 light years across, also has all the characteristics that would allow it to eventually evolve into a galaxy such as our Milky Way, giving an insight into how our Sun and Galaxy formed.

The Durham researchers based their findings on observations from the Gemini North telescope, based in Hawaii, and NASA's Hubble and Spitzer Space Telescopes. The research appears in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. The research was funded by the Royal Astronomical Society.

Lead author Dr Mark Swinbank, in the Institute for Computational Cosmology, at Durham University, said: "The runaway effect in this galaxy suggests it is growing much faster than expected. Given the size of the star forming regions, we would expect it to be forming stars at the rate of about one sun per year, but it seems to be much more active than that. We think this galaxy is fairly typical of galaxies at this time and we expect that the Milky Way once looked like this as it formed its first stars. In effect we are seeing the first generation of stars being born in a galaxy like the Milky Way. This gives unique insight into the birth of our own galaxy."

The researchers say most of the observed stars eventually exploded as Supernovae, spewing debris back into space where it formed into new stars.

Dr Swinbank added: "In this respect these stars are the seeds of future star formation in the Universe."

Royal Astronomical Society President Professor Andy Fabian said: "It is exciting to see such a detailed picture of a very distant galaxy. This pioneering work shows what our own galaxy might have looked like when it was a tenth of its present age."

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### **Durham invitation to Pope Benedict**

A Durham consortium of University and faith leaders hopes that Pope Benedict XVI will accept their invitation to make the first ever Papal Visit to the North East of England.

Following a visit of the HM Ambassador to the Holy See, HE Francis Campbell, to Durham University in March of this year, a unique partnership of University, Anglican Church and Catholic Church representatives has invited Pope Benedict XVI to present a major academic address in Durham Cathedral in the course of his September 2010 visit to the UK.

Although Pope John Paul II made a Pastoral Visit to the UK (including York) in May 1982, were Pope Benedict to accept the invitation, it would be the first ever Papal Visit to the North East of England, a region that boasts the richest Christian heritage in the UK, symbolised by the twin shrines in Durham Cathedral of Saint Cuthbert (d.687) the Bishop of

Lindisfarne, and Saint Bede (d.735), the most learned man of his age. Durham Cathedral, which would co-host the event with the University, is commonly regarded as the finest Romanesque building in the world and, together with the University-owned Durham Castle and Palace Green, is a recognised UNESCO World Heritage Site.

At a time of some increased sensitivity in Anglican-Roman Catholic relations, the strong ecumenical character of the invitation is very significant. The invitation is led by Dr. Tom Wright both as Lord Bishop of Durham and as the University's senior representative, and Mrs Maggie Wright, but is counter-signed and fully supported by Bishop Seamus Cunningham of the Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, the Chapter of Durham Cathedral, the Abbot of Ampleforth Abbey and the President of Ushaw College, the Catholic seminary for the North of England.

Bishop Wright said: "Durham has in recent years become a major global centre for ecumenical work and the close interlinking of Cathedral and University means that Durham is well placed to host an event which is simultaneously academic and ecumenically spiritual."

The University's Vice-Chancellor and co-signatory to the letter, Professor Chris Higgins, added: "The strong academic and ecumenical background of this invitation means there is simply no more appropriate place in the country to host such an academic lecture than Durham. Leaders of the major churches of the region are working together alongside scholars in Durham University's Department of Theology and Religion which was recently confirmed as the leading UK research department in its field in the most recent government Research Assessment Exercise."

The original invitation has also received significant support from regional politicians, and a delegation from the consortium, headed by the Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, Prof. Chris Higgins, made personal representation to David Miliband as MP for South Shields in the North East.

Roberta Blackman-Woods, MP for the City of Durham has also added her support: "The possibility of a Papal Visit to Durham and to Durham Cathedral, a site of unparalleled beauty, would be of tremendous benefit to the North East. I'm sure that the people of Durham would feel great pride in welcoming Pope Benedict and the world's media."

Bishop Cunningham of the region's Catholic Diocese said: "In the age of Bede, before there was a single University in the world, never mind this country, this region

was the foremost centre of Christian learning in the western world and it continues to be a world-regarded centre of Christian learning today."

Prof. Paul D. Murray, Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University concluded: "This would be an event of immense academic, ecumenical, cultural and regional significance. Durham University and the Cathedral have a proven track-record in hosting global political and religious leaders to great acclaim and we would be delighted to welcome Pope Benedict to the region".

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### University wins national award for supporting young researchers

Durham University has won a prestigious National Award for its work supporting young researchers.

Representatives of the University's Graduate School were presented with the Outstanding Support for Early Career Researchers award by the *Times Higher Education* magazine at its annual award ceremony in London.

This event is the "Oscars" of the education world and Durham beat off competition from other shortlisted Universities including Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester, Nottingham and Oxford.

The award recognised the achievements of the Graduate School's research-skills training programme which aims to create an integrated community of post-graduate doctoral researchers in all academic disciplines.

The programme received a 94 per cent satisfaction rating from doctoral candidates in an internal survey of 1,500 students. The judges commented that the programme demonstrated "an impressive mix of innovative actions, generated by a real evidence base". They added: "It provides an inclusive approach that benefits all researchers".

Dr Douglas Halliday Dean of Durham University's Graduate School said: "This award is a very significant achievement, which demonstrates the strength of the programme at Durham. Researchers from Durham will be well equipped to enter a wide range of future careers and make a significant contribution through the skills and experiences they have gained at the University."

The Graduate School Training Team consists of eight members of staff who provide generic and transferable skills training and support for all early-career researchers at Durham, including research students and research staff.

The Research Skills Training Programme is designed to support researchers through their research at Durham and also equip them with

a range of relevant skills which will prepare them for a variety of career options in the future.

The programme consists of more than 300 events throughout the year ranging from one hour sessions to four-day residential events.

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### £1.9million for cancer diagnosis research

Durham University cancer researchers will benefit from a £1.94m grant for a research programme aiming to improve cancer diagnosis.

The grant, from the National Institute for Health Research, will fund the DISCOVERY programme (DIagnosis of Symptomatic Cancer), led by the University of Bristol, with four University partners – Durham, Cambridge, Oxford and Cardiff – and NHS Bristol.

The programme aims to improve cancer diagnosis through six interlinked projects. It will consider the issue from the patients' aspect (why they do or do not attend surgery with a symptom) and the GPs' aspect (What is the risk of cancer when a symptom is mentioned?), and will examine what is the optimum method of organizing investigations for suspected cancer.

It will also look at wider systemic questions such as what are current referral patterns; what level of risk needs rapid investigation, and how can the system be improved, both from an economic and a societal perspective?

Professor Greg Rubin of Durham University's School of Medicine and Health said: "This grant reflects the importance attached by the NHS, through its Cancer Reform Strategy, to achieving earlier diagnosis of cancer. Throughout this research programme we will be working closely with those responsible for improving cancer services."

Dr Willie Hamilton of Bristol's Department of Community Based Medicine said: "We are delighted to have received this grant as it builds on the strengths of all the partner Universities. It is very rewarding to work in the field of cancer diagnosis as the patient benefits of such research are so immediately tangible." The project begins in January 2010 and will run for five years.

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### Durham University's Business School in UK top ten



Durham Business School has been ranked in the Top Ten Business Schools in the country, according to *The Economist*

2009 "Which MBA?" ranking.



The ranking for full-time MBA programmes positions Durham Business School in eighth place in the UK, rising from 15th position last year.

The ranking, which lists the top 100 schools across the globe, placed Durham 53rd in the World – up from 65th place in 2008.

The School, founded in 1965, is one of the longest established business schools in the UK and has over 2,800 students, representing more than 90 nationalities. Over 1,000 of these students are studying for an MBA.

The ranking considers criteria including post-MBA career prospects, the quality of opportunities for personal development and educational experience, and graduates' increased salary and networking potential.

As an internationally renowned, research-led business school, Durham boasts triple accreditation – AACSB (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), AMBA (Association of MBAs) and EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System). Less than one per cent of business schools worldwide have achieved triple accreditation.

In the UK Research Assessment Exercise 2008, 95 per cent of research output from the business school was judged to be of international quality and above, putting Durham in 19th place out of a total of 90 schools within the business and management sector.

Professor Robert Dixon, Dean of the Business School, said: "Durham Business School is committed to offering a progressive, dynamic approach to business education and research. This ranking is an acknowledgement of the ongoing improvements we make to ensure our programmes are exceptional, academically excellent, supportive for personal development, and practically relevant through strong links with the business community."

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### Makeover for Durham University sports facilities



Sport at Durham University has been offered a £500,000 investment to enhance its social outreach work and improve facilities for its world-class athletes.

The grant, from Sport England's new Sustainable Facilities Fund, will support a £6.7 million project to refurbish and develop facilities at Maiden Castle, the University's main sports site in Durham City.

Sport England is using the fund to help secure a lasting sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by supporting modern community sports

facilities, delivered through long-term partnerships.

The project, "Sporting Futures", will include an indoor rowing tank, a world-class fencing piste, indoor cricket nets, and a performance analysis suite. There will also be new facilities for use by athletes with disabilities, and a new-look, extended sports hall and changing rooms. The redevelopment is set to be completed by October 2010.

The developments will not only benefit Durham's students, 90.2% of whom take part in sport, but will also mean the expansion of the University's community outreach work, helping thousands of people across the North East.

The community schemes, which last academic year were assisted by over 175 student volunteers, use sport to tackle social problems and raise aspirations. Through football and multi-sport activities, the University's 15 weekly projects reach ex-offenders, women at risk, the homeless and people recovering from substance misuse issues, as well as fostered and looked after children's groups and local school children.

At the moment the sports facilities reach maximum capacity during outreach sessions. A bigger sports hall, extended changing rooms and new facilities will enable the University to offer more opportunities to more people.

Durham University, with its world-class reputation in sport, is consistently ranked as one of the UK's top 6 sporting Universities, with 25 students representing their country at Under 20 Level and beyond in 2009.

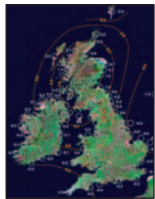
The University's philosophy in sport, "allowing exceptional people to do exceptional things", is seen in the many international athletes who have come out of Durham University, including Andrew Strauss, Will Carling and Jonathan Edwards. Durham *Alumni* are also recognised in a number of other areas of sport, including Gabby Logan, BBC Sports Presenter, and Dr Paul Hawkins, inventor of Hawkeye.

Assistant Director of Community Outreach, Emma Hall-Craggs, said: "The University has invested heavily in its staff to deliver its three strategic strands of high performance, participation and outreach. This long awaited redevelopment will enable us to match this expertise with world class facilities, the combination of the two resulting in a lasting legacy for 2012."

Sporting Futures was up against stiff competition for funding from the £10 million fund after Sport England received 69 applications. Seven projects from across the country have been offered investment following a robust assessment process, with four others invited to further develop their bids.

Sport England's Property Director, Charles Johnston, said: "Sporting Futures will bring high-quality sporting opportunities to thousands of local people, university students and staff and help us deliver a lasting Olympic and Paralympic legacy of increased participation. These facilities will also provide a high-performance environment perfect for nurturing a new generation of sport stars to follow in the footsteps of previous Durham alumni such as Andrew Strauss and Jonathan Edwards."

### Long term rate of relative land- and sea-level change in the British Isles



A new map plots the most accurate predictions yet for land uplift and subsidence in the UK.

The map shows that southern Ireland and Wales, and southern and eastern England are continuing to sink, whilst Scotland is rising, at rates less than previously predicted.

The "Coastland Map" produced by scientists from Durham University and published in the Journal "GSA Today", charts the post Ice-Age tilt of the UK and Ireland and current relative sea-level changes. According to the map, the sinking effect in the south could add between 10 and 33 per cent to the projected sea-level rises caused by global warming over the next century.

The projections are less than previous estimations for subsidence and could help local authorities to save money on sea and flood defences through the targeting of resources to areas where sea level rises will be greatest. The data and model could also be used in planning for the managed retreat of threatened coastal communities.

Since the end of the last Ice Age 20,000 years ago, land and sea-levels around the UK coastline have changed in response to the retreat of the ice sheets. As the ice melted, the release of this enormous weight resulted in the landmass slowly tilting back up in the north or down in the south, a process called isostatic adjustment.

These rises and falls come on top of any changes in sea-level caused by global warming. In Scotland, the rise of much of the coastline will offset some of the predicted rises in sea-level due to climate change.

The Durham team, led by Professor Ian Shennan and funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, looked at the relationship of peat, sand and clay sediments that have been uplifted above sea-level or are now submerged below sea level. The team radio-carbon dated samples to see how sediments formed and to calculate changes in sea-levels over thousands of years.

Eighty sites were studied around the UK and Ireland coasts. By coring and examining sediments in drainage ditches and road excavations, the team found evidence of land rises and falls from the relative elevation of sediments. These results were assessed along with previous studies of sites including the Thames, Humber, Tyne and Tees estuaries, southern England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

The team used the data to test models of the Earth's response to ice load and this modelling technique can now be applied to other ice-affected countries with maritime boundaries, and can help predict the future of coastal areas around the world.

Professor Shennan said: "The rate of uplift north of the River Tyne to Scotland increases because the ice sheets there were thicker and heavier. The action of the Ice Age on our landmass has been like squeezing a sponge which eventually regains its shape. The earth's crust has reacted over thousands of years and is continuing to react. Subsidence and rising sea levels will have implications for people and habitats, and will require action to manage resorts, industrial sites, ports, beaches, salt marshes and wetlands, wildlife and bird migrations."

The new map shows how the UK and Ireland are responding to the ice sheet compression of the Earth's core and the current rate of land tilt across the UK. In Northumberland, researchers found sediments from 7,000 years ago five metres below, and others from 4,000 years ago at 1 metre above the present sea level. This indicates that the sea level rose above present levels from around 7,500 years ago to 4,500 years ago, and then dropped and is continuing to fall. Sea-levels in most of Scotland peaked even higher about 4,500 years ago and have been falling ever since because the land has risen.

Sea levels 7,000 years ago were some 15 metres below the present levels in the Fenland in eastern England, and the levels are still rising. The team predicts that levels will continue to rise as the land falls, at a rate of 0.4 to 0.7 millimetres a year.

Sea-level rise brings in sediment which is soft and consolidates in coastal areas. Sea defences built on soft sediments can suffer additional subsidence due to compaction of the sediments. The Fenland is particularly affected by sediment compaction. The Thames, Bristol Channel and Kent coast are also affected as the sediment in rivers, estuaries and flood plains settles and compresses.

The three main areas of land subsidence in the UK and Ireland (see map) reflect the advance and retreat of the Scandinavian, and the British and Irish Ice Sheets.

Durham's new map and model also takes into account Newton's Law of Gravitational Attraction and "The Geoid Effect". Melting ice has affected the relationship between the ice, sea and land, and the mass inside the earth's mantle. These changes have produced a gravitational effect on the surface of the water in the planet's oceans.

Professor Shennan said: "When a huge mass of ice melts, the land readjusts over time but there's also a response in the Earth's mantle and this affects the shape of the surface of the Earth's oceans. Changes in our oceans and land uplift and subsidence will continue to have a significant effect on our coastlines this century."

#### *Areas of falling land and rising sea levels*

- \* Somerset, Cornwall and Devon
- \* Dorset, Hampshire and Sussex
- \* Kent and Essex
- \* Suffolk and Norfolk
- \* The Wash
- \* Humberside and North Lincolnshire
- \* Shetland Islands.
- \* South Wales
- \* Southern Ireland
- \* Western Ireland

#### *Areas with little land-level change*

- \* North Yorkshire; Cleveland
- \* Mid Wales

#### *Areas of rising land levels include*

- \* Tyne and Wear
- \* Northumbrian coast, Berwickshire, East Lothian
- \* The Firth of Forth and the Moray Firth
- \* Fife, Aberdeenshire, Caithness
- \* Minch and the Western Isles
- \* Argyll, Ayrshire and the Solway Firth
- \* Northern Irish coast
- \* Isle of Man
- \* Cumbria, Lancashire and Merseyside
- \* North Wales

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### **Durham University's admissions policy**

Durham students benefit from research-led teaching by some of the world's leading scholars combined with the distinctive social and pastoral experience of our collegiate system and superb access to extra-curricular activities such as sport and cultural events.

Our admissions policy is fair and transparent and we seek to recruit the most able and most motivated students who can best benefit from a Durham University education. Every application is important to us and we welcome applications from all students irrespective of background.

Multiple factors are taken into account to identify the most able candidates and this is determined by academic staff who are experts in their field and actively involved

in teaching their subject. These factors include a personal statement, the school's reference, study skills, motivation for the degree, independence of thought, achievements in non-academic activities and how applicants perform in relation to other leading students in their school. The latter is based on teachers' comments and data on their school's performance (the GCSE standardisation measurement score).

Introduced in October 2008, the score is based on data about school performance at GCSE. This is one of a number of items of information used when assessing merit and potential. It is likely to be considered by departments where GCSE achievement is required to differentiate between similar applicants. A list of the departments that use this information can be found at:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/faqs/?faqno=1482>.

In no way are we biased towards or against any school type. You can calculate your own score at:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/faqs/?faqno=1697>.

Durham University is a hugely popular choice for prospective students and as a result we receive considerably more high quality applications than the places we have available. In some subjects Durham is now as competitive as Oxbridge for entry and in many subjects three As is the minimum entry qualification. If students do not apply they will not gain entry, so even though it is competitive the most able students from all schools are strongly encouraged to apply and compete for entry.

Information on Durham's admissions policy is available publicly. For more information please visit:

#### *Undergraduate Admissions Policy:*

[http://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/UndergraduateAdmissionsPolicy2008\\_9onwards.pdf](http://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/UndergraduateAdmissionsPolicy2008_9onwards.pdf)

#### *Frequently Asked Questions:*

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/faqs/?faqno=1697> and  
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/faqs/?faqno=1482>

#### *How to apply:*

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/>

Alternatively please contact our Undergraduate Admissions Office on 0191 334 6128 or email [admissions@durham.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@durham.ac.uk).

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## Durham named as top five UK University last April . . .

Durham University has been named as one of the UK's Top Five Universities, according to a new guide.

The *Complete University Guide*, published by *The Independent*, ranked Durham as the fifth best institution in the country – up from sixth place last year.

Durham was named the best University outside of Oxford, Cambridge and London and the best in the North in the league table which looked at a number of categories including research and degree quality, student satisfaction and graduate employment prospects.

Durham also performed well in the Guide's individual subject league tables with the University featuring in the top ten in almost all subject areas across the Sciences, Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities faculties.

Top ten subjects included: Anthropology; Archaeology; Biological Sciences; Chemistry; Classics and Ancient History; Economics; Education; Engineering; English; French; Geography; Geology (Earth Sciences) and; German.

Other top ten subjects were: History; Iberian Languages; Italian; Law; Mathematics; Medicine; Middle Eastern Studies; Philosophy; Physics and Astronomy; Politics; Russian; Sociology; Sports Science and; Theology and Religion.



Professor Chris Higgins, Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, said: "Durham is committed to excellence in learning and education at the highest level, carrying out

research which makes a difference throughout the world. This Guide recognises our tremendous strengths in producing ideas, creativity, first class research and the highest quality education delivered by some of the world's finest minds. Importantly the Guide also recognises the satisfaction of our students who benefit not only from the academic experience we offer, but also from the distinctive social and pastoral experience of our collegiate system and superb access to extra-curricular activities, such as sport. The continual improvements we are making combined with the experiences we provide to our students mean that Durham Graduates remain among the most sought after in the country."

## . . . and in September Durham achieved its highest ever ranking in University Guide

Durham University has achieved its highest ever ranking in a prestigious national league table.

The *Sunday Times University Guide 2010*, which was published on September 13th, 2009, placed Durham seventh nationally out of 122 institutions – moving ahead of the well-respected London School of Economics.

The *Sunday Times* also said that Durham "dominates" the North East's University rankings.

The Guide shows that Durham is one of the most highly regarded Universities in the UK among head teachers and academics and that student satisfaction is among the highest nationally.

The Guide drew attention to Durham's outstanding facilities and the fact that 24 subjects were rated excellent for teaching in the most recent assessment.

The University's Collegiate System at both Durham and Queen's Campus, in Stockton, was praised for providing "bite-size student communities" at "the centre of most students' social networks".

Sporting success was also highlighted. Ninety per cent of students play sport regularly, turning out for 350 teams in the College Sport programme, while the University has a reputation for producing international class sportsmen and women.

Professor Chris Higgins, Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, said: "Durham offers students a truly distinctive experience. Once again this Guide recognises our tremendous strengths in offering high quality teaching, delivered by some of the world's leading researchers, coupled with the unique social and personal development offered by our collegiate system and superb access to extra-curricular activities, such as sport. The Durham experience provides students with the necessary academic and social skills they need to succeed in life and many of our graduates go on to achieve great things in their chosen fields. That is why Durham remains one of the most popular choices for some of the most able and motivated students from around the UK, and indeed the world, and why our graduates are among the most sought after in the country by employers in all walks of life."

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## Plans submitted for City development



Durham University has submitted a Planning Application for a landmark development in the City.

The high-profile Gateway programme has been planned for land on the edge of the Univer-

sity's Science Site, on Stockton Road. The plans have been submitted after 18 months of consultation.

The Gateway symbolises an important development for the University and the City, which would see an under-utilised and disjointed University site redeveloped with an environmentally sustainable scheme of high quality.

Its construction is predicted to stimulate the city economy and create and sustain more than 200 jobs across a regionwide industry supply chain.

The project is not an expansion of the University but aims to bring together activities which are currently spread across the City in a more coherent fashion and into fit-for-purpose buildings.

The ambitious plans follow the University's vision to deliver world-class facilities for research, education, administration and community and cultural engagement which will enhance Durham's standing as a leading international university and in turn attract high-performing staff and students and contribute to the overall City environment and opportunities.

The plans, from award-winning north-east-based architects *Space and PHP*, appointed following a competitive international tender process, have been developed and refined extensively over the last 18 months following lengthy consultation with a range of stakeholders.

This included a series of discussions with local residents' groups and a two-day public event in April where interested parties could see how the project vision was evolving, meet the project team and submit feedback.

The University's project leaders have also maintained dialogue with the County Council, Durham City Vision, the Chamber of Commerce, English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) to inform the final designs.

Should planning permission be granted, the development would see a new library extension, a new law school bringing together staff currently on two different sites, and a student services building which brings into one building many student facing services currently dotted around the City in unsuitable accommodation.

Crucially, a new building on this site – which currently features some vacant residential properties, an electricity sub station and is dominated by the rear of the University's chemistry buildings – would create space for designated public exhibition space in Palace Green Library to accompany the development of a new visitor information centre for the World Heritage Site which has been planned by the University and Durham City Vision at University property at 7 Owengate.

It will also enable the University to vacate Old Shire Hall and properties along Old Elvet, allowing these listed buildings to be refurbished for alternative use to benefit the city economy.

The plans are also linked to complementary developments to enhance the environment of the Science Site which will include extensive landscaping and greening of the area and the implementation of a Green Travel Plan which the University is developing in partnership with the County Council to tackle traffic and parking issues in the city.

Durham University Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Higgins said: "Along with our students, I and many other members of University staff are proud residents of the city and we are committed to ensuring that Durham continues to be a great place to live, to visit and to study. After much consideration we have opted to develop this site and are proposing a high-quality and environmentally-friendly development programme which will continue our tradition of enhancing Durham's built environment with interesting buildings of architectural merit. The plans we have submitted have undergone substantial changes in response to the consultations and if planning permission is granted it will support the University's commitment to enhancing the wider city environment to benefit scholars, residents and visitors alike."

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### Tony Blair launches Faith and Globalisation programme at Durham University



Tony Blair has launched a new initiative at Durham University to develop greater understanding of different faiths, cultures and forces of globalisation.

Durham is the first UK University to establish a Faith and Globalisation Programme following the establishment of similar initiatives at Yale in the

USA and The National University of Singapore.

Several other International Universities around the World will also be working with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, joining the programme over the next two years.

The programme is being funded by a new University Donor Programme and will be run by Durham University.

It will bring together leading academics from across the faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences and Science to carry out global research that will help inform international policies in the future.

The initiative will draw on the University's strengths as a multi-cultural institution and its world class teaching and research in areas such as Theology and Religion and Government and International Affairs.

The programme ultimately aims to increase understanding of different faiths and cultures so people from a variety of backgrounds can work closely to tackle the cultural, economic, ethical and political challenges faced by a globalised world.

Mr. Blair, who made the announcement as part of a lecture he delivered at Durham University, said: "Religious faith has a great part to play in the 21st Century and it can be a force for progress and for good. Durham is one of most exciting and innovative Universities in this country and has particular strengths in areas such as Theology and Islamic Studies. That is why I am absolutely delighted that Durham will be a key University in taking this programme forward as part of an international network of institutions."

Under the programme Durham will also

produce an inter-disciplinary Masters Degree Programme in Faith and Globalisation, to run from September 2010, alongside the full research programme.

Professor Chris Higgins, Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, said: "Durham has a long tradition of leadership in developing new ideas at disciplinary interfaces which are critical to shaping all our futures, including Politics, Law, Social Geography and International Affairs and, of course, we have one of the world's pre-eminent Departments of Theology and Religion. We are therefore proud to be the lead UK University in this global initiative. This Faith and Globalisation programme allows us to create a world-class forum to explore the inter-relationships between the faiths and those from non-faith backgrounds, and provide linked, research-led postgraduate education. Our findings and expertise will then be used to inform the work of politicians, business leaders, opinion formers and others to help tackle some of the pressing issues faced by the world today."

Contributions to *Castellum* on any subject of interest to Castlemen are very welcome at any time. These are best sent by electronic mail to [burnopfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:burnopfield@yahoo.co.uk)\*

Please quote CASTELLUM in the subject line.

*\*The Editor acknowledges that this email address was quite convenient when he lived in Burnopfield, less so now that he lives in Chester-le-Street*



## PENINSULAR DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT



A District Heating System has provided a source of heat to the University's academic and residential premises on the historic peninsula in the heart of Durham for the past sixty years. The system comprises of a central boiler plant located at Hatfield College with heat being distributed by a network of underground heating mains running under roads and footpaths around the peninsula connecting to individual building heating systems with-in internal plant rooms.

The existing system has served the University well, however it has reached the end of its economic life. The underground heating mains are in poor condition which presents a 'high risk' of catastrophic failure having a major impact on building operations. The system is inflexible, expensive to operate and maintain and has low seasonal efficiencies.

A detailed feasibility study has been undertaken and the preferred solution adopted which is to replace the existing old and in-efficient system with a new 'Partial De-centralised' heating system to be implemented over a phased three year period. A partial decentralised system essentially dissects the existing large district heating system into smaller elements and involves the installation of dedicated boiler plant in strategic locations.

This new heating infrastructure provides the University with a number of benefits including, but not limited to:

- Mitigates the 'high risk' of un-planned system failure and subsequent major disruption to building operations and the necessary excavations on a world heritage site to instigate remedial works
- Improved reliability, security of supply and continuity of heating service
- Improved flexibility, management and operation of heating systems for building users with dedicated boiler plant allocated to individual Colleges and most Departments
- Modern intelligent automatic controls to optimise system performance and reduce running costs.

- High energy efficient modular boiler plant reducing energy consumption and the University environmental impact.
- A reduction in maintenance costs and insurance inspections.
- The installation of automatic metering facilities with remote access that will accurately record energy consumption to facilitate effective data management and further investigations into energy saving opportunities.
- Abandoning the existing large district heating system boiler house will release valuable space for possible future development opportunities at Hatfield College.

### PROJECT PHASING PLAN



The work within University buildings on the peninsula will generally be confined to existing plant rooms some of which will be sensitively converted to boiler rooms. However, due to planning restrictions, building layout and spatial constraints three new boiler houses will be constructed to accommodate the new high efficient gas fired boiler plant serving the following areas:

- The Castle
- Palace Green Library
- Bailey House

External works will involve the installation of underground heating mains in specific locations and an upgrade to the gas infrastructure around Palace Green and Bailey areas. The heating installations will be complete with Automatic Meter Reading functionality ( A MR ) and will be connected to the University's Building Management System ( B MS ) to monitor energy consumption and optimise energy efficiency.

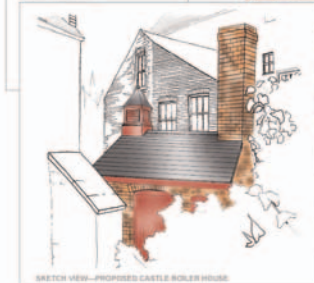
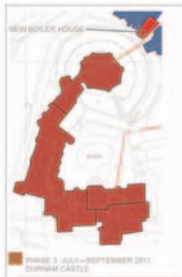
Consultations through the detailed design stage with the Planning Authorities, English Heritage and the University's Archaeological Department has enabled the design intent to be formalised around the projects aims and objectives whilst being sympathetic to the world heritage site.



The work to the Castle will take place during the Third Phase of the project in 2011. This will include the erection of a new boiler house which will accommodate the Castle's new dedicated high efficient gas fired boiler plant and associated equipment. The new boiler house will be located to the rear of properties at the top of Owengate and constructed from materials sympathetic to its historic surroundings.

External works associated with the Castle shall consist of new underground heating distribution mains from the Owengate boiler house to the Castle. The heating mains will be installed within a duct running adjacent to Palace Green, through the Master's garden and across the inner Castle courtyard area. The majority of the new heating pipe work will be installed within existing underground ducts to minimise disturbance on the world heritage site. A new gas supply will be installed to serve the Castle's new boiler plant and shall connect to the upgraded gas distribution network on Palace Green.

The works within the Castle itself are confined to plant room areas and the replacement of the existing heating and domestic hot water calorifiers with new compact high efficiency plate heat exchangers.



CASTLE

CUNDALL

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*Dougie Abram, winner of the Castle Day Car Pull*



# STONE CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS TO PRESERVE DURHAM CASTLE

Durham University and the University of Pennsylvania have embarked upon a multi-year collaborative programme to develop stone conservation techniques for Durham Castle.

Two architectural conservators, Tiffani Simple and Yaritza Hernandez, led by Professor Frank G. Matero, an internationally renowned stone conservation expert, will study the condition of the Castle's stonework this summer to develop appropriate conservation techniques to deal with the soft, weathered stone.

This initiative will complement the expertise already available at hand, comprising conservation architects and stone masons engaged in a continuous building conservation and maintenance programme for the 900 year old Castle, and a curator for its collections.

Frank G. Matero is Professor of Architecture and Chair of the Graduate Programme in Historic Preservation, as well as Director and Founder of the Architectural Conservation Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Design.

Since 1988, he has been on the faculty as Lecturer in Architectural Conservation at the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) in Rome, and Senior Lecturer for Restore, New York City. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Global Heritage Fund.

Avenues for future technical cooperation will also be explored between Durham Cathedral and the University of Pennsylvania, as part of ongoing initiatives to further the preservation and interpretation of the Durham World Heritage Site, inscribed by UNESCO in 1986.

Vice Chancellor Professor Chris Higgins said: "Durham University recognises the pivotal role that culture can play in the regeneration of the North East, and is proud to be taking an active part in the preservation and promotion of Durham's heritage. Other heritage-related projects underway include the creation of a world-class exhibition space in Palace Green Library, showcasing Durham's treasures, and the establishment of a World Heritage Site visitor facility."

Durham Cathedral's Canon Rosalind Brown, Chair of the Durham World Heritage Site Coordinating Committee, said: "This initiative is a very good example of international collaboration to enhance a site that is of international interest. We welcome the specialists to Durham and hope that this will pave the way for future international co-operation on other projects in the World Heritage Site."

The Durham World Heritage Site Coordinating Committee includes representatives from Durham University, Durham County Council, Durham City Vision, One North East, English Heritage, and the City of Durham Trust.

# COLLEGE GRACE

We have had several requests recently for a copy of the College Grace – so here it is below and its English translation in case you wondered what it all meant!!!

**COLL: UNIV: DUNELM:**

GRATIAE ANTE CIBUM AGENDAE

Domine omnipotens, aeterne Deus;  
qui tam benigne nos pascere hoc tempore dignatus es;  
largire nobis, ut tibi simper pro tua in nos bonitate, ex animo gratias  
agamus; vitam honeste et pie transigamus; et studia ea sectemur, quae  
gloriam tuam illustrare et ecclesiae tuae adiumenta esse possint; per  
Christum dominum nostrum.  
Amen.

GRACE BEFORE DINNER

TRANSLATION

Almighty Lord, eternal God; who hast so graciously deigned to feed us at  
this time; grant to us, that we may ever give thee heartfelt thanks for thy  
goodness to us; that we may pass our lives honourably and religiously; and  
that we may follow such pursuits as can shed light on thy glory and afford  
assistance to thy church; through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Maurice Tucker*



# DAVID HOLLINGTON (1967–70)

*The following was received from David as a direct result of him completing the "Contributions of News" section of Castellum.*

"Nothing of great interest to report. I retired in February 2008 after 37 years with the same packaging company. All my time was spent in transport/planning/material scheduling with Metalbox, known latterly as Sonoco.

Celebrated 25 years (in May 2007) as a Licensed Reader, Chester Diocesan Church of England."

*David Hollington*

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## BOAT CLUB GRACE

COLL: UNIV: DUNELM:

GRATIAE ANTE CIBUM  
NAVIGANTIUM SODALITATI AGENDAE

Domine Christe, cui navigantes sunt curae, qui undas quiescere iussisti et confestim quieverunt: agimus tibi gratias pro beneficiis tuis omnibus, necnon pro hoc cibo quem sumus sumpturi; cui cum Patre et Spiritu Sancto sit laus et honor in saecula saeculorum.  
Amen.

GRACE TO BE SAID BEFORE DINNER  
BY THE BOAT CLUB

TRANSLATION

Lord Christ, who carest for those who travel in boats, who didst command the waves to be stilled and forthwith they were stilled: we give thee thanks for all thy acts of goodness, and also for this food which we are about to eat; to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour for ever and ever.  
Amen.

*Peter J. Rhodes*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Another year has flown by and the financial position of the Society remains very strong, after once again supporting the JCR in an array of projects.

College remains very popular, as indeed does the University, and it is a pleasure to support the JCR and provide even better facilities for our students, especially when the centre is cutting back. Members should also be aware that the Master makes full use of the University's *Alumni* telephone appeal monies allocated to College, and we often, as this year worked together on projects.

Items of note that we have purchased this year include furniture for the refurbished Undercroft, which is very well used both by students and visitors. A word of warning though, the bar prices in vacation require a second (Northern Rock?) mortgage!

We have facilitated the purchase of an enhanced sound system, already greatly used, as well as hired out to fund its maintenance, and this was purchased involving an extended circular tour of the North East at a saving of several thousand pounds ahead of a price increase and a further fall in the Euro Sterling exchange (some of the best equipment in this field has to be imported from the Euro-zone).

The Library continues to receive our support, and the extended study facilities into the Minstrel's Gallery are worth inspecting when you are back at College.

We have also provided seed-corn funding for an Old Boy's Football Team, which I am assured is already proving successful, despite the furore the proposal created at the Annual General Meeting. Other approved projects will hopefully come to fruition in the next year.

Once again, I use this report to remind members that the best way they can offer further financial assistance to their College is by a donation to the University College Durham Trust (which has charitable status), and the necessary forms to enable the reclaiming of tax under the Gift Aid provisions can be obtained from the College Office or via the website.

My thanks for the support of Lynne Carrick in the College Office and of the irrepressible Master, who help to make this team effort a pleasure, and together achieve the efficient and successful management of the Society's finances, and the work the Society does to support the College.

I hope through your support, we can continue to look forward to the ongoing success of the best College at the best University – *Floreat Castellum!*

*Martin E. Gunson, F.C.A., F.R.S.A., F.F.A, F.I.A.B., M.C.M.I,  
Honorary Treasurer, July 31st, 2009*

## DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account  
for the year ended 31st July 2009

	31-07-2009	31-07-2008
	£	£
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Subscriptions	18,889.52	18,887.00
Interest Received (Net)	441.04	1,304.31
Prayer Book Sales	500.00	75.00
	<u>19,830.56</u>	<u>20,266.31</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>		
Castellum	6,155.00	5,960.00
Reunion Expenses	869.10	744.40
Postage and Distribution	2,380.29	2,454.54
Other Printing & Stationery	216.82	148.46
Miscellaneous	35.00	35.00
Secretarial Costs	600.00	450.00
	<u>10,156.21</u>	<u>9,792.40</u>
	<u>9,674.35</u>	<u>10,473.91</u>
Hospitality	138.60	96.00
Photographic Prize	-	50.00
Low Library Books	1,000.00	1,000.00
Portable Sound System	4,000.00	-
Undercroft Furniture	3,848.72	-
Castle Old Boys F.C.	500.00	-
Portable Stage	-	5,029.47
Undercroft Sound System	-	1,500.00
Tunstall Chapel (General Appeal)	9,487.32	10,000.00
	<u>17,675.47</u>	<u>17,675.47</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>£187.03</u>	<u>£(7,201.56)</u>

## DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31st July 2009

	31-07-2009	31-07-2008
	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
Sundry Debtors	7,414.25	-
Business Base Rate Tracker Account	31,738.24	39,681.88
Business Community Account	486.37	548.06
	<u>£39,638.86</u>	<u>£40,229.94</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Subscriptions in Advance	13,815.00	14,115.00
Corporation Tax	116.76	594.87
	<u>13,931.76</u>	<u>14,709.87</u>
	<u>£25,707.10</u>	<u>£25,520.07</u>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
Opening Balance	25,520.07	32,721.63
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	187.03	(7,201.56)
	<u>£25,707.10</u>	<u>£25,520.07</u>
<b>Note:</b> Expenditure authorised and unspent at the Balance Sheet date amounted to £4,500.00.		
<b>Martin E. Gunson, F.C.A., F.R.S.A., F.F.A., F.I.A.B., M.C.M.I.</b> <i>Honorary Treasurer</i>		

# COLLEGE OFFICERS 2008–2009

## MASTER

M. E. Tucker, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S., C.Geol.

## VICE-MASTER and SENIOR TUTOR

Eva Schumacher-Reid, B.A., M.A.

## BURSAR

Vivian Fowerday

## SOLWAY FELLOW AND CHAPLAIN

Rev. Dr. Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

## CURATOR OF DURHAM CASTLE MUSEUM

R. J. Brickstock, B.A., M.Phil.

## LOWE LIBRARIAN

R. I. Higgins, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

## ADMISSIONS TUTORS

Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Erica Rackley, B.A., D.Phil.

## TUTORS

A. C. Baker, B.A.

P. Bowcock, B.A., Ph.D.

R. H. F. Carver, B.A., M.A., D.Phil.

\*M. Church, B.Sc., Ph.D.

\*Prof. H. M. Fenwick, B.A., LLB., CNA

Prof. D. S. Fuller, B.A., B.Litt

Eileen Gray, B.Sc., Ph.D., OCR Cert. Dyslexia

Prof. D. Greer and Mrs. H. Marling-Greer (jointly)

Prof. Ruth A. W. Gregory, M.A., Ph.D.

N. Hole, B.Sc., Ph.D.

\*E. Holmes, B.A.

\*Mrs. Jessica Holmes, B.A.

I. Hughes, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Mrs. Helen Jubb

G. Larson, Ph.D.

\*Prof. E. J. Lowe, M.A., B.Phil., D.Phil.  
 \*Susan L. Lowe, M.A.  
 A. McGregor, B.Sc., Ph.D.  
 \*D. O'Mahoney, B.Soc.Sci., M.A., M.Phil.  
 \*Samantha Pearson, B.Sc., Ph.D.  
 \*Prof. D. G. Pearson, B.Sc., Ph.D.  
 F. W. Pritchard, LL.B., Dip.Lib.  
 Prof. S. Przyborski, B.Sc., Ph.D.  
 Prof. A. Purvis, B.Sc., Ph.D., C.Eng., M.I.E.E.  
 Erica Rackley, B.A, D.Phil.  
 M. J. Ratcliffe, B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. and Elizabeth Ross (Jointly)  
 \*Prof. J. D. Rigg, B.A., Ph.D. and Janie Bickersteth (Jointly)  
 J. Sanderson, B.Sc., Ph.D.  
 Prof. Corinne J. Saunders, B.A., M.A., D.Phil.  
 R. Schuetze, B.A., LL.M, Ph.D.  
 Eva Schumacher-Reid, B.A., M.A.  
 Lucina Stuart, B.A.  
 P. Threlfall-Holmes, M.A., Ph.D.  
 \*Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
 M. E. Tucker, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S., C.Geol.  
 Vivienne Tucker, Cert.Ed., Dip.I.T.  
 Salum A. Wagstaffe, B.A., Ph.D. and C. Wagstaffe, Ph.D. (Jointly)

\*joint tutors.

## **Dates of 2010 Reunion**

Friday 9th April to Sunday 11th April 2010.  
 The Reunion Dinner is on Saturday, 10th April 2010.

## **Dates of 2011 Reunion**

Friday 25th March to Sunday 27th March 2010.  
 The Reunion Dinner is on Saturday, 26th March 2010.

### **Telephone Numbers:**

<i>General Enquiries (Porter's Lodge)</i>	<i>0191 334 3800</i>
<i>College Office</i>	<i>0191 334 4104</i>
<i>University College Fax</i>	<i>0191 334 7470</i>
<i>University Main Switchboard</i>	<i>0191 334 2000</i>