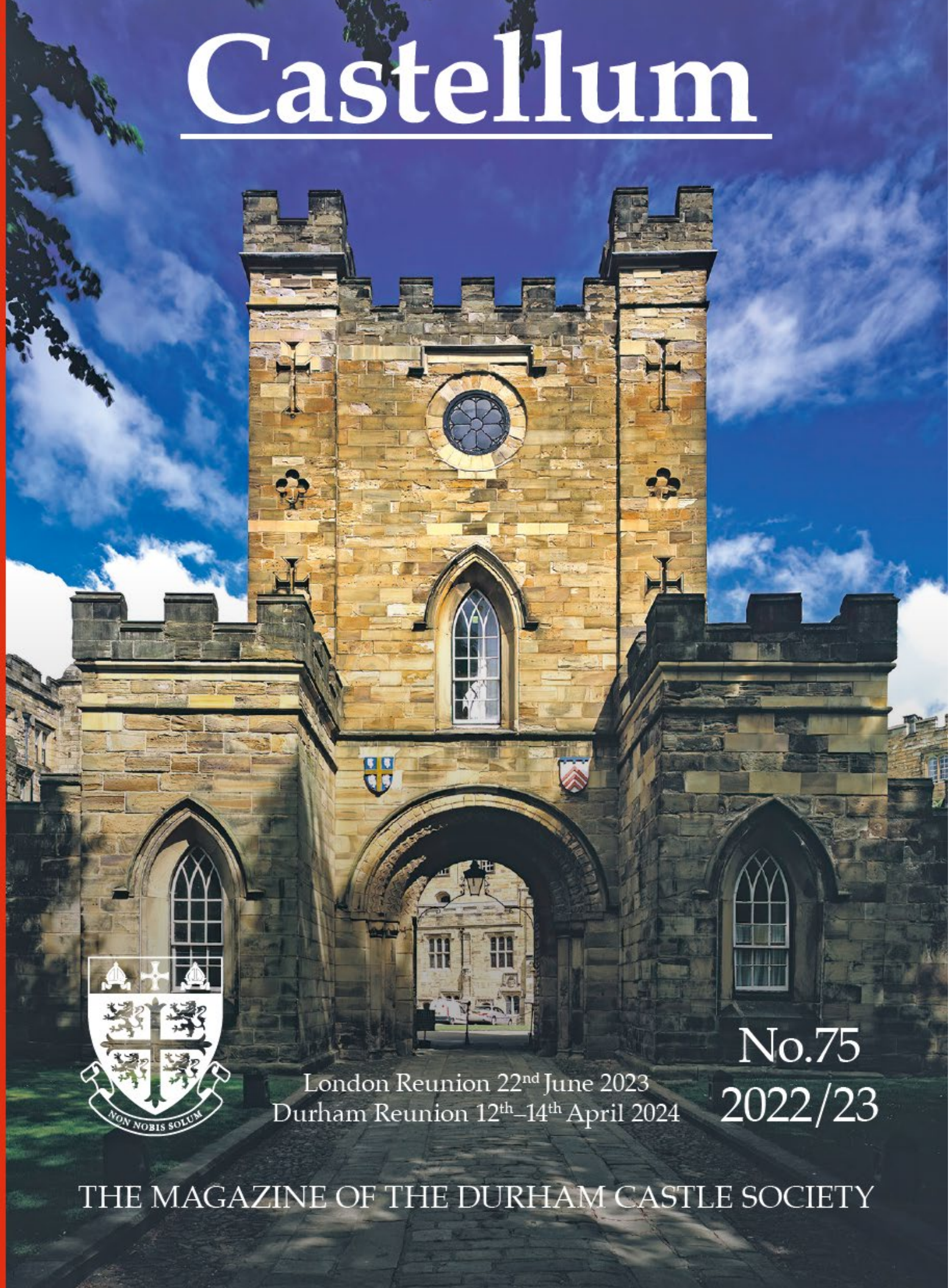




# Castellum

Castellum No.75 Durham Castle Society 2022/23



London Reunion 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023  
Durham Reunion 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

No.75  
2022/23

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

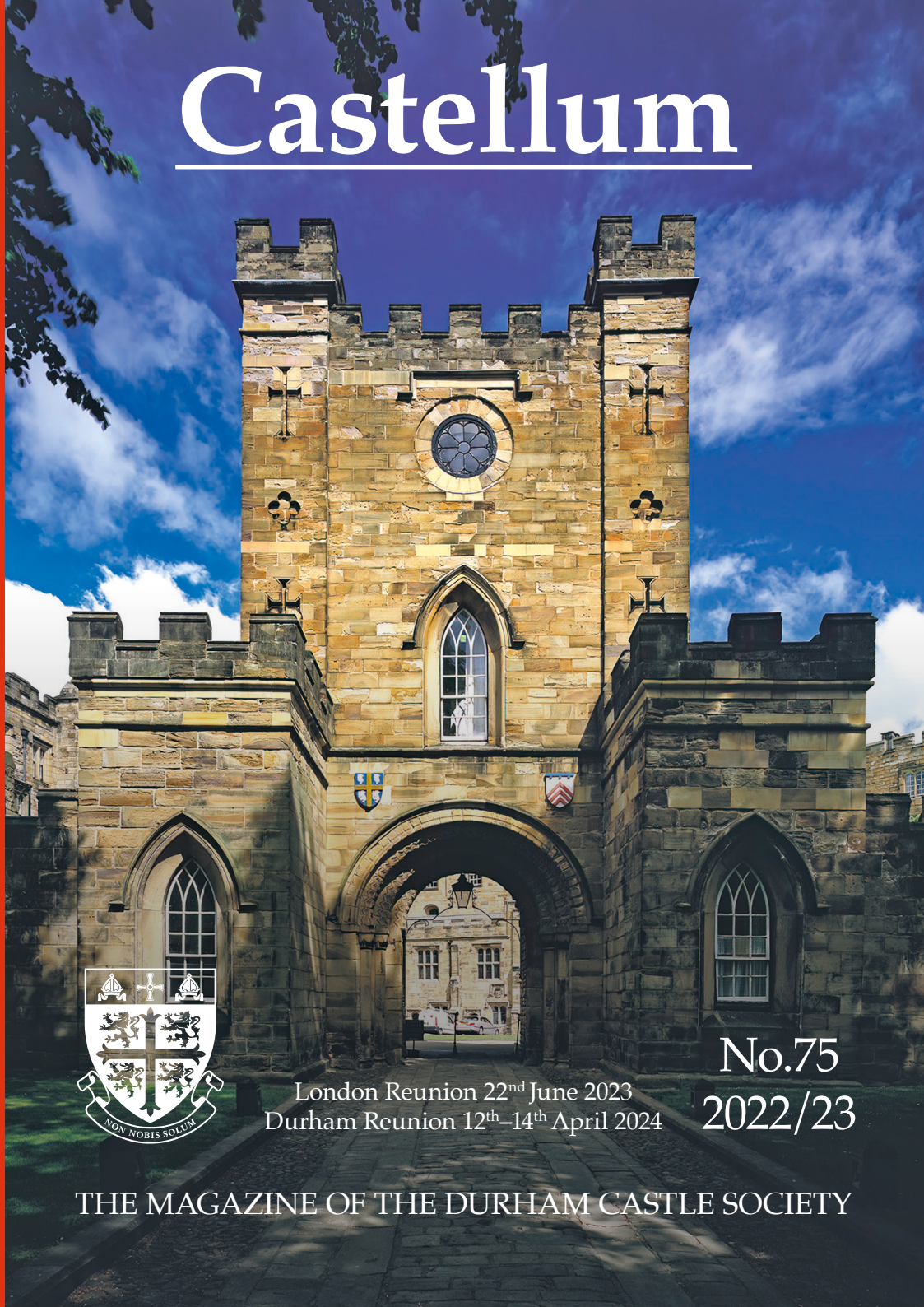




Queen's Visit 1960  
durham.ac.uk  
castlealumni.ac.uk

  
Castellum No.75 Durham Castle Society 2022/23

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# COMMITTEE

## DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY

(as at May 2023)

Chair 2021–2022: Kevin Hawes ([Kevin@Nightingale.Farm.co.uk](mailto:Kevin@Nightingale.Farm.co.uk))

President: Prof. Wendy Powers ([wendy.powers@durham.ac.uk](mailto:wendy.powers@durham.ac.uk))

### Ex-Officio Members

Senior Student in Residence (VM): Matthis W. Mühlenbrock  
([castle.seniorstudent@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.seniorstudent@durham.ac.uk))

President of the Middle Common Room (VM): Dana Allan  
([president.castlemcr@durham.ac.uk](mailto:president.castlemcr@durham.ac.uk))

President of the Senior Common Room (VM):  
Dr Alasdair Anderson ([dralasdairanderson@gmail.com](mailto:dralasdairanderson@gmail.com))

Alumni and Development Manager: Julia Bonner  
([Julia.bonner@durham.ac.uk](mailto:Julia.bonner@durham.ac.uk))

### Elected Members: (VM) Four Officers (elected annually)

Secretary (VM): Mr Tim Bratton  
([tjbratton@gmail.com](mailto:tjbratton@gmail.com))

Treasurer (VM): Mr. Martin E. Gunson, FCA, FRSA  
([accountant@martingunson.co.uk](mailto:accountant@martingunson.co.uk))

Editor of *Castellum* (VM): Mr. Alex J. Nelson, FCILT, FRGS.  
([alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk))

### Six Members elected for three years (VM)

2022 Andrew James Molloy (2019–2022) ([a.j.molloy@gmail.com](mailto:a.j.molloy@gmail.com))

Three vacancies arise at the 2022 AGM

2023 Dr Gregory Carter (2018–2021) ([g.carter1@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:g.carter1@yorks.ac.uk))

2024 Clare Saunders (2021–2024)

2024 Jessica Oglivy-Stewart (2021–2024) ([jessica@verdantfoundation.com](mailto:jessica@verdantfoundation.com))

2025 Richard Ellery (2016–2019) ([rjcellery@hotmail.com](mailto:rjcellery@hotmail.com))

2025 Christopher W. Silberberg (2018–2019)  
([silberscw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:silberscw@hotmail.co.uk))

### Society Representative on College Advisory Board and Society Representative on the University College Durham Trust

Mr. Alex J. Nelson, FCILT, FRGS ([alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk))

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### Change of Address

To ensure the Society has your contact details (postal, phone and email), please notify any changes to the Alumni and Development Manager at University College, The Castle, Palace Green, Durham, DJ1 3RW or [castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk)

## EDITOR'S JOTTINGS



May I start by apologising sincerely for the late publication of *Castellum* this year. We normally try and get it out in March / April, but we are past the Coronation now which is well later than usual. In mitigation, I have to admit to being in London rather a lot as Master of one of the City livery companies. It's a job from July to July, but is busy during the week particularly because we are moving offices and functions to enable the redevelopment of our site at Fenchurch Street. Despite sending copy to our typesetters in Bishop Auckland by email, I have not been able to get over in person during opening hours to read the proofs and put things together. So sorry for the late production of another packed edition.

With massive redevelopment underway involving the North Terrace and Norman Chapel, Norman Gallery and the Great Hall our ability to hold a September reunion this year has been compromised. A London event and April 2024 reunion in Durham is also interrupting the rhythm of Castle Society events, but all in a good cause and we will see the opening up of the North Terrace and the Fellows' Garden in the near future, as detailed inside this magazine.

An omission from last year's magazine is the small table of degree results from Castle, detailing the number and classes of each degree. This has been a small task in previous years, but it seems that it is now a forensic task to determine results by College. However our learned Principal has

managed to find another route to obtain the same information, which for the first time includes postgraduate results too.

At Oxford, the summation of results of each College has given rise to the Norrington tables since the early 1960s, constructing a league table of Colleges. At Cambridge, a similar role is performed by the Tompkins and Baxter tables. Luckily there is plenty of other meat to be enjoyed in this edition, and thank you to all my contributors for their efforts to make the magazine interesting, if rather later than planned.

Alex Nelson

Calling All Castle Freshmen October 1973

### **50th Anniversary Dinner**

**Durham Friday 12th April 2024**

Alongside Castle Society Reunion  
12th to 14th April 2024

Please e-mail Douglas Denham St Pinnock and Nick Mercer if you are interested in attending the Dinner (with/without partners) so that numbers can be estimated.

[ddp@owengate.co.uk](mailto:ddp@owengate.co.uk)  
[nickmercer2@btinternet.com](mailto:nickmercer2@btinternet.com)

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

Please quote **CASTELLUM**  
in the subject line

The Editor acknowledges that his former email address, [buropfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:buropfield@yahoo.co.uk), was quite convenient when he lived in Burnopfield, less so now he lives in Chester-le-Street. He has therefore obtained a new [dunelm.org.uk](mailto:dunelm.org.uk) address from the University Alumni Office, which is available to all members of the Society

**Contributions for 2024 please by January 31st, 2024**



## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



After two years of virtual meetings and little face to face contact, it was great to have the chance to meet up with old friends once again during 2022. Sadly my farming lifestyle meant that my booking for Castle's Spring Gathering in April went to waste when I pulled out at the last minute to cope with the demands of newborn calves, but I understand the event attracted a number of people who haven't come back to Durham before.

After such a long time away it felt all the more special to spend a weekend in college for the September reunion and AGM. A serious leak in a water main almost closed down the Castle kitchens, and the Principal investigated the back up option of our dinner being held in Hatfield. Fortunately Northumbrian Water managed to reconnect a temporary supply, and the catering staff pulled out all the stops to enable us to eat an excellent meal in the Great Hall.

Although the reunion is the main Durham Castle Society event each year, we aim to offer other opportunities for alumni to meet and socialise. We greatly appreciated the hospitality offered by Alex Nelson, Master of the Clothworkers' Company, who hosted a well attended London drinks reception in November. We are always on the lookout for anyone able to offer a venue for a get together. Some of our older members from the North West may recall the events run for many years at Whalley Abbey by Canon Geoffrey Williams and a regional (or overseas) event is always a possibility. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

I'm really pleased that several younger members responded to the

Principal's invitation to get involved in the Society and the Trust, spreading the load and introducing their expertise and different perspectives. My thanks to all those who've come on board, as well as the longer serving officers and committee members.

We want to be able to support Castle's growing population of undergraduates, postgraduates, and those doing Masters degrees or doctorates during their time in Durham and help them to use the Society as a way of keeping in touch. Two major projects will bring spaces into to use that were out of bounds during my time in Durham. The aim is to create a performance space in the Fellows' Garden, and to restore the North Terrace for outdoor recreation and quiet reflection. Details are on our website at [castlealumni.uk/CurrentProjects](http://castlealumni.uk/CurrentProjects). This work is being funded partly through contributions many of you have already made, through the Society and the Trust, and partly through ongoing personal donations, so it's not too late to contribute, if you feel able to.

Sadly, ongoing work to restore the Normal Chapel and the North Terrace means that our September 2023 reunion has been postponed. Suggestions are welcome about any alternative event that could be run away from Castle.

Many of you are still in contact with your Castle friends on email or social media, but do please keep in contact with the Society and perhaps consider getting a group together to come along to one of our events. Julia Bonner, our Alumni and Development Manager, can be contacted at [castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk).

---

*Floreat Castellum!*

**Kevin Hawes**  
**(University College 1977–1980)**



# PRINCIPAL'S LETTER



## Greetings Castle alumni

Seems incredible that I'm already writing my third message for this fabulous alumni publication. It's cliché for a reason, time indeed flies. Believe it or not, we're now fully underway with the Norman Chapel conservation project first mentioned in Castellum #71 (2018-19). Despite Covid and increased university budget challenges, the Castle and Estates teams have persisted and secured a £2.4 million pound investment from Durham University for this cherished and deteriorating space. The current works are designed to mitigate the moisture/damp issues eroding the beautiful stone interior to enable a five-year drying out period, after which a final phase of restoration can occur (e.g. conserving stonework, new lighting). The works are multi-faceted, involve many different specialists, take place indoors and outdoors, and are both messy and noisy. Students are doing their best to be patient with the disruption. As this phase of the Norman Chapel conservation works are completed this spring/summer, we'll follow with the alumni sponsored North Terrace Reading Garden project to ensure a lovely, redeveloped space intended to support student wellbeing needs and provide a small outdoor event space. More on the alumni fundraising appeal on page 60.

## Durham Castle 950

As we began 2023, we bid a fond farewell to our yearlong celebration of Durham Castle's 950th anniversary year. Event highlights since the last Castellum included the London event to celebrate 950 with alumni, the Castle Birthday Party with local community children, the 950 Formal Dinner for college staff, the Castle Birthday Party with Freshers on Matriculation Day, and the Castle 950 Murder Mystery Dinner in December. I am tremendously proud of the Castle team for their creativity, persistence and skill coordinating a robust schedule of events for students, alumni, staff and local neighbours. Championing the festivities were Julia, Kathrine, Jamie, Gemma, Ellen, and Stephanie among others. We had one last event in early March, a Castle 950 Concert which featured various University College music ensembles, and hosted by our Senior Student, Matthis W. Mühlenbrock, and our new JCR Archivist, Patrick Hayes.

## Cost of Living Crisis and Impact on Students

Speaking of students, any discussion of contemporary college life must include the realities of the current cost of living crisis. We have an increasingly diverse community at University College today, with most students struggling to manage competing financial commitments. Among other things, accommodation and transportation prices are soaring, food and textbook costs as well. More students than ever before are applying for college hardship or careering opportunities bursaries as well as seeking part-time employment. In fact, we've seen a 20% increase just this term in hardship and opportunities applications. We also had more than 50 applications for a handful of student librarian posts, which highlights the rising demand for employment opportunities in College and beyond. The impact on student stress levels and general wellbeing, in addition to participation in college community building events is palpable. College and university resources are being distributed to as many students as possible, on both emergency and longer-term scales. However, there is greater need than we can fund. We would be grateful for additional financial support



from our alumni community to increase our Castle Hardship and Opportunities fund: [castlealumni.enthuse.com/opportunities](https://castlealumni.enthuse.com/opportunities). I appreciate this is a big ask given our recent fundraising appeal related to the North Terrace, yet the reality is that our community's needs are great, and our alumni are generous. So, we're hopeful that we'll be able to cultivate enough support to ensure the success of both endeavours.

### **Castle Summer Works - 2023**

You'll note elsewhere in this issue of Castellum that we've adjusted the next Castle Alumni Society Reunion dates from September 2023 to April 2024. The reason for this is a great many structural works taking place here this summer and the reality that construction projects often run a bit longer than anticipated. Rather than facing possibility of a late cancellation, we've shifted the reunion to the following spring. Briefly, the summer 2023 works include:

- replacing the colourful dome high above the Black Stairs
- replacing worn wooden beams on Norman Gallery with new steel beams to prevent collapse into the Bishop's Suite below
- repairing a section of the wall in the Great Hall affected by water ingress
- investigating issues in both the SCR ceiling and the void beneath and
- repairing the Bishop's Suite Rococo ceiling after completing the structural works above.

As you might imagine, any structural works here at Castle involve partnering with our curator and other heritage specialists to ensure museum collections are removed or protected and the fabric of the building is handled appropriately, as well as securing Planning permissions for each project. Additionally, it's not uncommon to discover additional infrastructure

challenges when working on historic facilities. Thus, we have paused all events here at Castle for this summer and will simply be welcoming those who book in as Bed & Breakfast guests. Our beloved Undercroft Bar will serve as a lovely site for breakfast, particularly as we invested some of our accumulated bar profits into new flooring, furniture and technology last year.

### **Well-Deserved Recognition for Julia**

Let me end this year's message by sharing a recent public accolade bestowed upon our own Alumni and Development Manager, Julia Bonner. At the inaugural Durham University Professional Staff Awards Tea, Julia won the "Outstanding Colleague" award for the Colleges Division. As noted in the awards programme, *"in addition to her own excellent work with alumni engagement and fundraising, she volunteers to help other colleagues, students and colleges. She energises everyone she works with by being a positive, humble and friendly colleague. Julia is filled with Durham University pride and commitment, and brings enthusiasm, collegiality and dedication to the workplace and to the students' College home."* For these reasons and so many others, we are quite fortunate to have Julia leading our efforts around alumni engagement and development.

From all of us on the Castle leadership team, please know we think of you all often with hopes that wherever you are on life's journey you are healthy, fulfilled and joyful. If you're near Durham sometime this year or can attend one of our events in London or elsewhere, do please let us know. We'd love to see you.

---

*Floreat Castellum!*

**Professor Wendy Powers, PhD**  
**Principal & Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor**  
[wendy.powers@durham.ac.uk](mailto:wendy.powers@durham.ac.uk)



## INTRODUCING THE NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I'm Sukanya (she/her) and am delighted to be a part of the team at University College as Assistant Principal. I am originally from India and have previously worked in academia, student support & development. I bring experience of a collegiate setting from having worked at St Aidan's College at Durham University and look to bring that to my new role as well as learn from colleagues and students at Castle.

My background is in Irish and Scottish studies but having worked in student support and development for the past 10 years I am deeply committed to improving student wellbeing and the overall student experience at University College.



*During the September 2022 Reunion, water supplies were cut off to the Castle. At one stage it looked as if we were going to have the reunion dinner in Hatfield College but supplies were restored by means of a standpipe on Palace Green and a pipe running into the Castle.*





# NOTES FROM THE VICE-PRINCIPALS

The last year has been an exciting one for University College, with a diverse range of events and activities in person. Whilst Ellen was on parental leave for most of 2022 Jamie led College Office as the interim Vice-Principal. Here we share some of our highlights from the last twelve months in University College.



*Our two Vice-Principals, December 2022*

## **Broadening horizons**

In October we had the pleasure of welcoming the former UK Defence and Foreign Secretary The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP for the second Michael McCarthy Memorial Lecture in the Great Hall. The lecture, titled 'Russia-A Riddle wrapped in a Mystery, inside an Enigma?' was well attended with a very full Great Hall. The lecture was also part of our efforts to raise money for the Michael McCarthy Memorial Travel Bursary, which enables

University College students to visit the US for the purposes of enhancing their studies. We are grateful to the family of Michael McCarthy for making this possible and to Councillor John Slinger for his support of the Michael McCarthy Fund.



*(left-right) Jenny Dell, Emma Hammet, Jess Hunter, Susannah Mansfield*

Castle to Careers, co-ordinated by the JCR Development Officer Jess Hunter, returned with a panel of entrepreneurs in February 2023. Sharing tips and tricks for launching businesses, planning careers and the importance of doing something you love were Castle alumna Jenny Dell, and local business leaders Emma Hammet, Founder of Durham's newest bookshop *Collected Books*, and Susannah Mansfield, co-founder of the award-winning Station House pub in Durham.

## **Representing our communities**

The JCR Ethnic Minorities Officer and International Welfare Officer organised a special themed Formal in February 2023 to celebrate the diverse range of cultures within our college community. The evening featured international snacks, origami, lanterns, dancing from the DU Bollywood Society and two international bands in the Undie afterwards. Elinam and Ananya encouraged diners to wear 'clothes from your culture, ancestors or to remind you of home. This is your chance to be unapologetically you!'





*Elinam Dumor and Ananya Nair, organisers of the Culture Formal*

We look forward to making this an annual event in the College calendar. In December 2022, Castle's JCR Northern Representative, Jessica Harker, planned and delivered a range of activities to celebrate Northern Culture. These events ranged from a day trip for over 40 students to explore the city of York, a canned food drive to support the charity Trussell Trust, and culminated in a 'Northern Lights' Formal followed by an evening of local bands in the Undie.

### **Socialising in style**

It was a pleasure to see signature events return to Castle as for the first time in two years we hosted our annual summer student events, June Ball and the MCR Charity Ball.

The June Ball (JCR) was attended by 450 guests with over 360 of those dining. Organised by the JCR Ball Committee, special thanks go to Tom Clennett, Sian Bell and Joe Roberts. The theme was 'Projections' which included the use of many rooms and areas within Castle that were themed to various media genres.

The MCR Charity Ball was attended by 450 guests, with 180 of those enjoying the gala dinner. The events theme was 'A ball through time' which took guests on a voyage through time throughout the evening. The Ball raised over £10,000 for the MCR's chosen charities Castle Community Action and Wearside Women in Need.



*Murder mystery in the Great Hall*



## **Murder Mystery Evening, December 2022**

To round off our festivities to mark Castle 950 we held a fabulous 1930s themed Murder mystery dinner in the Great Hall with guest appearances from Tall Tales Mysteries, who kept everyone guessing with a fast-paced thriller whodunnit. Open to the wider public as well as members and friends of the College it was a unique way to wrap up our programme of events to say Happy Birthday Durham Castle.

## **Castle Theatre Company's performance of Hamlet in the Norman Chapel**

Castle Theatre Company performed an amazing production of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' The performance was staged in the Castle's 1000-year-old Norman Chapel, and drew sold out audiences for all of its performances. The location of the performance as it would be the last gatherings to take place in the Norman Chapel before work began to save and restore this amazing piece of heritage.



Castle Theatre Company performing in the Fellows' Garden

# **DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY**

## **MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY HELD IN THE UNDERCROFT, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DURHAM AT 11:00am ON SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2022**

### **Committee members in attendance:**

Julia Bonner	<i>Alumni and Development Manager, University College, Durham</i>
Tim Bratton	<i>Secretary, Durham Castle Society</i>
Martin Gunson	<i>Treasurer, Durham Castle Society (attending by telephone)</i>
Kevin Hawes	<i>Chair, Durham Castle Society</i>
Alex Nelson	<i>Editor, Castellum</i>
Wendy Powers	<i>Principal, University College, Durham</i>

### **Society members in attendance:**

Peter Crowley; Douglas Denham St Pinnock; Paul Everson; Alistair Gibb; David Hollington; Huw Jenkins; Nigel King; Roger Lilley; Oliver Ludrum; David Mallett; Matthew Maneely; Chris Melhuish; Andrew Molloy; Patrick Magee; Robin Morgan; Chris Morrison; Nick Patchett; David Pearson; Laura Robertson; James Rowley; Bob Thurlby; Colin Wakeling; John Waterhouse; David Waters; Michael Waters; Ian Watson

### **Apologies for absence:**

Chris Bakalaski; Martin Gunson (in person); Nick Mercer; David Morgan; Nick Williams; David Young (*the Secretary apologises for any errors or omissions in the above names*)



## **I. Committee introductions and apologies for absence**

### ***Wendy Powers & Kevin Hawes***

The Chair introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting, extending a particular welcome to the Class of 1962. The Chair welcomed Wendy Powers and Julia Bonner and thanked them for their continued support of the Durham Castle Society and the College's alumni.

The Chair noted there would be a one minute silence later today to mark the death of Her Majesty The Queen and noted a silence had also been held at last night's Society dinner.

The Chair invited the meeting to reflect on the lives of those alumni who have recently passed away including Stuart Clarke, Pete Godden and John Hollier. The Chair noted that John Hollier had been an active member of the alumni community.

## **2. Minutes of the previous meeting, published in Issue 74 of Castellum**

### ***Tim Bratton***

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved (a copy of which had been made available to the meeting).

## **3. Reports**

### ***3.1 Principal's Report (Wendy Powers)***

Wendy welcomed members of the Society to the College and reported that the College management team are currently dealing with a burst waterpipe which has flooded the Principal's garden and that there is currently no water in the College. [Note to minutes: many thanks are due to the College team for ensuring that the Reunion was able to proceed as planned, in particular the Reunion Dinner, despite the water issue!]

Wendy provided an update on a wide range of College issues, including: Castle events and student activities; outreach initiatives, in particular to prospective students from diverse backgrounds; development and building works in the College; ongoing conservation work in the Norman Chapel;

plans for the next academic year; and continued funding from the University College Durham Trust.

### ***3.2 Alumni and Development Manager (Julia Bonner)***

Julia introduced herself and provided an update on a wide range of alumni-related issues, including: alumni activities; the new Durham Castle Society website; the introduction of a new range of College merchandise; reviewing how alumni data can be used; and gifts from donors, noting that the number of donors now exceeds one hundred. Julia noted in particular that there is over £729,000 of pledged donations for the North Terrace Restoration Project and remodelling of the Fellows' Garden into an Arts, Culture and Heritage space.

### ***3.3 University College Durham Trust (Matt Maneely)***

Matt reminded the meeting that University College Durham Trust (UCDT) is a charitable trust which provides both academic and hardship funds. Matt reported that the fund is now managed by Rathbones who had presented to the Trust's Investment Committee this morning. The fund currently stands at £1.4m, including approximately £300,000 of cash, primarily due to a legacy gift from the late Dai Thompson.

Matt referred to the proposed updated Trust Deed (a copy of which had been made available to the meeting) which will make the process more flexible for appointing future trustees. There is no cap on the number of Trustees who can serve which is in the discretion of the Trustees. Matt said that the ideal number is approximately nine. The Chair noted that a few alumni have recently expressed an interest in serving as Trustees, which will bring a wider range of age and experience.

The proposed changes to the Trust Deed were approved.

In response to a question regarding the fund's return on investment over the past ten years. Matt reported that while he did not have that figure to hand, the return since Rathbones commenced managing the portfolio in 2020 is just over 9 per cent. The Chair noted that one reason the decision

was taken to move to Rathbones is because the previous fund manager was not meeting the relevant benchmarks.

### **3.4 College Advisory Board & Castellum (Alex Nelson)**

Alex introduced himself to the meeting as the Editor of Castellum and the Society's representative on the Castle Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is for the Principal to call on where advice or consultation is required. Alex noted that there have been no recent issues which require discussion. Alex referred to the most recent issue of *Castellum*, which annually publishes the Society's accounts. A member noted it would be helpful to include an update on the Trust in future issues of *Castellum*.

The meeting thanked Alex for the excellent work he undertakes as editor of *Castellum*.

### **4. Presentation of the Accounts and Treasurer's report**

#### ***Martin Gunson***

Since Martin Gunson was attending by telephone, the Chair introduced the Accounts (a copy of which had been made available to the meeting).

The Accounts were approved as presented.

Tim Bratton provided a summary of funding requests and the Treasurer's funding recommendations from various College societies. There was discussion about certain of the funding requests and their merits.

A number of suggestions were made in the course of discussion: that it would be helpful if *Castellum* could include more details about Society activities, to help inform alumni how the funding is put to use; the need for more rigour relating to funding requests, particularly large ones, including requests being made on time and with sufficient information on how funds will be used, to enable the Society to make informed decisions; that there should not be funding for any Society which is political in nature.

A request was made from the MCR if the Society could be flexible at looking at MCR requests outside of the usual funding cycle, because the annual appointment of MCR officers takes place at a different time to the

funding cycle. The Chair said that MCR funding requests like these are welcome and will be considered by the Committee.

Tim Bratton agreed to consider the points made regarding funding requests and make some proposals for the Committee to consider.

The funding requests presented to and (in a small number of cases) amended during the meeting discussions were approved.

### **5. Durham Castle Society Committee business**

#### ***Kevin Hawes***

The following people were standing for election or re-election or as nominated representatives:

- Committee officers: Kevin Hawes (Chair); Martin Gunson (Treasurer); Alex Nelson (Editor, Castellum); Tim Bratton (Secretary)
- Committee members: Richard Ellery and Christopher Silberberg
- Recommendation as Society Representative Nominative Trustee on UCDT: Kevin Hawes
- Recommendation as Society Representative on Castle Advisory Board: Alex Nelson

The Chair noted that Richard Ellery and Christopher Silberberg were due to roll-off as Committee members following the expiry of their 3 year team; although it is customary for there to be a 1 year break before serving again on the Committee, there are currently open positions on the Committee.

Noting points made by Tim and Julia regarding conversations with potential new Committee members, the Chair requested approval for the Society to delegate authority to the Committee to appoint new Committee members prior to the next AGM.

The above appointments and delegation of authority were approved.



## 6. AOB

A request was made regarding the time of day of future AGMs, expressing a wish for the meeting to take place at 5pm on the Saturday of the Reunion. The point was noted. The meeting held a show of hands which indicated that the meeting time should be left to the discretion of the Committee to take into account a range of factors.

## 7. Date of next AGM

Wendy Powers

The date of the next AGM is to be confirmed.

There being no further meeting, the Chair declared the meeting closed.

---

Tim Bratton, Secretary



# SENIOR STUDENT'S REPORT 2022-2023

JCR

Dear Castlemen,

It is my pleasure to be able to present you the annual report of our current undergraduate community for the past months. Given the turmoil of the past couple of years, I regard it as my duty to give all of you a detailed and immersive insight into our recent adventures at Castle.

Easter term of 2022 saw summertime life return to Castle after a few stressful weeks of exams. A special celebration was Her Late Majesty the Queen's Jubilee Event, organised by our Bar Chair Robert Almqvist, which saw both freshers and returners joining together in the courtyard for a day of festivities. My personal highlight of the term must have been the very successful revival of Castle Day, which had not happened since 2019, long before the dark times of the pandemic. Of course, the legendary (and still occasionally present) Charlie McKeever played a pivotal role in bringing back these almost forgotten memories.



Castle Charity Action photos in the BDR.





*June Ball 2022, the morning after.*

The climax of the academic year, however, naturally had to be The June Ball 2022, themed 'Projections'. After being forcibly retired for a couple of years, last summer saw the greatest of all of Durham's balls rise to its former glory once again, and I need to give some special thanks to my predecessor Sian, as well as to the current and former Ball Chairs, Tom Clennett and Patrick Greenman, for ensuring our future June Balls will be continued in the proud tradition of the prior decades. I recommend having a look at The June Balls' YouTube channel to confirm my admittedly ambitious claims yourself.

The academic year 2022-23 was off to an amazing start led by our Development Officer Jess Hunter, whose brilliant planning of Freshers' Week and her ability to adapt to the inevitable last-minute changes ensured that the freshers were warmly welcomed into their new home. We can state with confidence that we have finally left the turbulent past two years behind: With no government restrictions to stop us, we sent this year's freshers head-first into a week full of themed hounds, ice breakers, welfare tea times, turbulent club nights, and much more. The matriculation

ceremony finally moved back into Durham cathedral this year; it was both frightening and a breath-taking experience to be given the honour to follow the procession down the aisle, flanked on either side by hundreds of excited freshers, something the pandemic prevented me from experiencing myself two years ago. Soon after, the courtyard was filled once again with gowned students, singing the tunes of 'Gentlemen of Castle' and some other chants no doubt many of you will remember all too well. The week suitably concluded with Freshtival, hosted in Babylon, that brought old and new Castlemen together. My gratitude is owed to the amazing Frep team, my Exec, and especially to our incredible Welfare Team led by our Welfare and Campaigns Officers Jamie Munday and Cameron Mitchell, who went above and beyond to ensure the wellbeing of both freshers and Freps throughout this demanding week.

Michaelmas term 2022 and Epiphany term so far saw Castle once again bursting with life, and our social calendar crammed with a wide range of events. The Undercroft has received a long-overdue refurbishment in furniture; the old, sticky wooden chairs and tables are gone, making space for a more elegant leather interior which will no doubt soon acquire that same scent and stickiness we all know and love from Durham's best college bar. To sum up the year in our Bar Chair Robert Almqvist's very own words: "Students still like beer...in other news the earth is round, and the Pope is still Catholic..."



*The Senior Student's speech on matriculation day.*





*Wendy, the Freps, and myself on Matriculation Day, September 2022.*

Our Social Chair, Joe Roberts, worked without pause to deliver a steady flow of entertainment in the form of Bierfest, Halloween and Christmas Hounds, Refreshers week, and many more ents to a very receptive Castle Community. Ladies' Night 2022 was a resounding success as well, and Tom made sure to link the ball back to its origins by lending some of the Castle's most active and renowned women the microphone during dinner to celebrate their achievements. The success of this year's many, and often themed formals can be accredited to our Services Manager, Will Heath; a first for me was our recent Burns Night formal, during which I had the honour to give the 'toast to the lassies'- however, many Castlemen described the collective singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' as the actual highlight of the evening. The CCA Auction, headed by Olivia Adkin and our Outreach Officer Roberta Dedgjonaj, was as entertaining as it was successful, and we managed to raise more than £3,500 for charity. With the rehearsals for the Charity Fashion Show in full swing, we can expect another great evening in the name of benevolence and entertainment very soon.

I cannot emphasise enough how delightful it is to see how lively and

spirited our community has been this year. My core campaign point when running for Senior Student last year was to expand Castle's active community, and to encourage Castlemen from all backgrounds to engage in college life. Although we arguably still have a long way to go in some places, I am delighted to say that it seems we are seeing a more engaged, active, and diverse community in Castle than I have personally ever experienced. At the time I am writing this, election season is also in full swing, and my successor, as well as several other Executive Committee roles have already been elected. Participation this year has been amazing so far, and not a single role went uncontested. A big thanks to our Chair, Denis Antor, who organised the elections and made sure that, for Hustings, the Great Hall and Undie were filled with curious Castlemen. Our Unions and Societies Officer Saffron Hancock has also been working especially hard this year to reawaken our 'Team Castle' spirit, and it seems to have paid off, both on, and off the pitch. UCW AFC's A-team managed to finish top of the football league last year and managed to get promoted to the Premiership league and through to the Floodlit Semi-Finals. Women's Badminton A-team is sitting firmly on top of the Premiership Table without having been defeated once so far, while Women's Hockey A-team, also top of the league in Division One, managed to keep a clean sheet in their wins against Van Mildert, Trevelyan, South, and Stevenson. Solid performances also from Men's and Women's Squash in their Premiership league – newly promoted this year, they are currently sitting firmly in the top half. As always, our Mixed Ultimate Frisbee team are undefeated at the top of the Premiership league after beating Trevelyan's and Collingwood's A convincingly. Floodlits are maintaining their importance as the most vibrant of all fixtures, and numerous Castlemen continue supporting their colleagues from the sidelines, despite some recent and often ill-received changes initiated by the University, such as banning the sale of alcohol, as well as the implementation of stricter behavioural rules for spectators, which, when breached, may result in harsh punishment for the whole team.

The Boat Club has continued rebuilding post-COVID, however, as ever,

have struggled with flooding and the river levels being too high to get out on the water. Following a successful race at Rutherford Head, where the men's 1st VIII beat Hatfield, we are excited for the season ahead and for some pot hunting this summer. Sharing our boat house with SACBC is certainly holding us back in our ability to make the club as accessible as possible and in getting as many students on the water as we can - a pivotal part of the castle student experience – however, the Boat Club exec continue fighting for the best interests of the college community. Of course, would be sacrilegious for me to forget to mention a certain club dedicated to Bulgarian royalty that continued to pay homage to their namesake by conducting brave, and sometimes high-altitude activities.

Aside from the pitches, courts, and rivers of Durham, it is long-overdue for me to mention the cultural enrichment Castle's societies have brought to our community this year, particularly due to the efforts of some remarkably engaged individuals. Romy Barratt, Castle's Head of Music, revitalised Castle Choir and Orchestra, organised numerous concerts, and co-founded Castle's newest band, the Fellows, which fills the Undie with tunes at 'Mundie in the Undie' every Monday evening. As usual, Castle Theatre Company impressed with many outstanding performances, such as a rendition of 'Hamlet' in the Norman Chapel, and more recently their very own 'Education Education Education'. For those alumni living across the big pond, I recommend you keep an eye out for their anticipated tour across the United States this summer, it is definitely worth it!

Many of you will be delighted to hear that disruptions of social ventures in recent years were unable to impair the activities of your favourite Clubs, even those which prefer to operate in 'private'. The Shakespeare is still a frequently visited venue, and Lumley Castle has been visited once again by some brave and daring Castlemen last term; rumour has it this will happen once again very soon. An exhilaratingly fierce competition was provided to us by the 1987 Club, whose members were received by a cheering crowd after passing the finish line at Moatside last term. XXXI's has returned in full swing this year with numerous dinners and the occasional 'brief bit

of exercise' to celebrate the sporting achievements of our brave Castle-men who have donned the palatinate at one time or another. Of course, I must mention the esteemed Van Mildert Club; founded in 1950, it is still actively operating today to honour those with exceptional contributions to the college.

As important as the recreational side of our community may be, Castle this year experienced many exciting developments in the field of extracurricular academic development. My special thanks go out to Wendy, Ellen, Julia, and everyone else in College Office who spearheaded and worked with us on so many projects, such as the newly introduced Peer-Mentor Scheme, and the terrific Castle Lectures, which brought many alumni back to college to talk about their impressive careers and life experiences, and even saw the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind MP give a lecture on the war in Ukraine in the Great Hall. It is also thanks to Wendy's personal initiative to foster Castle's academic side that our Development Officer Jess received great support to recently realise the first event of the Castle to Careers panel series, titled 'Women in Business'. The increased effort to capitalise on the unique experiences and connections in our community is something I appreciate greatly, and I am looking forward to seeing more exciting developments in this direction throughout the rest of the year, and further into the future. Needless to say, relations between the Common Rooms are great, as we are collaborating on quite a few of these educational programs, such as the Durham Global Week later this term, and I had the chance to learn a lot from Alastair's and Dana's experiences, especially early-on in my time as Senior Student.

A personal interest of mine has always been the history and identity of our community. I fondly remember when I first arrived in my room up in the Keep, in K42, having not the slightest idea of the odd, sometimes silly, but always welcoming customs that would expect me at Castle, the place which I should soon call home. My high regard for our community stems from our unique ability to transcend the changes of time, while adapting and learning from the lessons of our history. While the Castlemen that



roam these halls changed from year to year, so did values, politics, and demographics, but every ALUMNUS I have had the privilege to welcome back during my time as Senior Student told me the same thing: The spirit of community, familiarity, and curiosity, that still fills this place, has always stayed the same. This symbiosis of a persistently evolving community that proudly and firmly keeps their fundamental principles is, in my humble opinion, what defines Castle's spirit, and what enabled it to stand the test of time for almost two centuries.

However, reading through old JCR reports from years and decades ago, my predecessors' frustration often became very audible when speaking about the very limited collective memory at Castle, which barely lasts longer than the usual three to four years of our degrees. This especially affects our community on recurring topics, such as accommodation, formals, or the University's expansion. In an attempt to counterbalance this, I took the decision to propose the motion of introducing a JCR Archivist to our community, which was passed by the JCR last term. The position could not have been filled better this year by anyone than Patrick Hayes, a History finalist and keen college history enthusiast, who assisted me greatly with establishing a professional, physical JCR archive that will be maintained in collaboration with the Palace Green Library. This way we will hopefully be able to maintain records of old college stories, chants, tradition, memories of students, and other valuable records of our student community throughout the ages, and to ensure future Castlemen will have a foundation of historical records to base their efforts on. On this note, if you are keen to share experiences from your time at Castle with us, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick under [castle.jcrarchivist@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.jcrarchivist@durham.ac.uk).

Another personal project of mine was the recreation of a refurbished, and digitalised version of our college arms, which is based directly on the original in the grant of Arms from 1912. I intend for it to be used instead of the various, and often incorrect versions used by the common rooms, college, and the university in recent decades. It can already be found for example on the new orders of Castle stash, as well as the pin badges we

recently introduced.

Carrying on my predecessors' decades-old tradition also on this matter, Castle's high annual student intake still keeps causing issues regarding inclusivity and accessibility of our community. It has become near impossible for all Castlemen to know each other on a personal level, although we do enjoy a larger active community than most likely ever before in our long history. Capacity issues, such as halving the number of formals from two to just one per week due to central catering shortages last year has not helped the inclusivity issue either, since they were, and still are, the very heart of our weekly social timetable and still always oversubscribed.

A key effort of ours has always been to make all college events more financially accessible for all Castlemen. This year Tom launched the June Ball instalment scheme for the very first time, which enables ticket holders to make their payments more comfortably split over the course of the academic year. The scheme turned out to be very successful, and we received a much higher number of sign-ups than we had anticipated. Needless to say, the Ball Fund has been a tremendous success, and my Vice, Tim Carter, who also revived the 'Floreat' magazine this year, has made it his personal project to ensure the fund's continuation in the future. The Castle Dresses and Castle Tails Schemes have also been developed further this year, providing many more students with free, rentable dresses, bow ties, and other accessories, to further reduce costs and to increase the sustainability of our balls and other formal events. We also started to utilise our pandemic-era funds for a campaign to invest into long-term assets, which has been wisely initiated this year by my Treasurer, James Penston. By investing in more physical property, we aim to ensure the JCR will be able to continuously reduce costs for our members in the long run, while guaranteeing our own financial stability for the future.

On a university-wide scale, this year students suffered a disproportionate impact from the ongoing national cost of living crisis; prices for private accommodation went through the roof across Durham, forcing students to wait outside letting agencies for days in the hopes of being able to afford a

place to live next year. The announced ten percent price increase for university-let accommodation year did not help the despair many students are suffering, and neither did the University's announced intent to 'only' build two more colleges in the near future. Apart from the seemingly never-ending expansion, the university is also experiencing changes regarding our international student population. This first post-Brexit year saw the drastic decline of student intake from European countries, while the student intake from overseas further increased. We worked hard to accommodate our more and more culturally diverse student community accordingly, for example by increasing the duties and possibilities of the JCR's International Committee, which has certainly paid off. Thanks to the relentless work of our International President, Chiara Di Battista, and her committee, this year we have seen the biggest International Freshers' Week, including a silent disco party in the Great Hall with visitors of many other Durham colleges, as well as a glamorous Diwali celebration, and a vibrant Culture Week spearheaded our International- and Ethnic Minorities officers, Ananya Nair and Elinam Dumor. With the university planning to further increase the postgraduate- and international student intake, it is a curious development, which I am certain we will hear of again more frequently in the future.

I hope you enjoyed this lengthy recap of yet another exciting year at Castle. As I am about to conclude this report, I am sitting in the Undie, listening to the familiar ring of the bell and call of 'last orders!' echoing through the ancient vaults as a cacophony of 'boos' erupt, I would like to reiterate what a great honour it is to be part of this great community. No obstacles of the past were able to dampen my love for this place, and for the amazingly curious, open-minded, and talented people I had the privilege to encounter in my far too short time at Castle, and I have no doubt when saying that we are leaving our dear, old college in the best of hands to steer it into the future. Last, but not least, I would like to thank Alex Nelson and the rest of the Durham Castle Society for making it possible to continue this legacy, and for keeping up this connection between Castlemen past



*The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind MP as the college's guest in the Bishops' Dining Room, after giving a talk about the war in Ukraine in the Great Hall.*

and present. On this final note, it is always a pleasure for me to hear from our esteemed alumni, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with me! The address is, of course, '[castle.seniorstudent@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.seniorstudent@durham.ac.uk)'.

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*Floreat Castellum!*  
**Matthis W. Mühlenbrock**  
**Senior Student 2022/23**





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**MCR**

It has been a wonderful year for the MCR, the first in many years without considerable COVID restrictions. We are home to a large and vibrant community of more than 260 members, supported by 12 Executive Committee members and more than 30 members on our various committees. It has been a privilege to support this community through my role as President of the MCR.

In the past year, the Castle Conference stands out as one of the MCR's most substantial achievements. Held on April 29-30 under the direction of Lydia Atkins as Academic Officer, the conference was an incredible display of academic talents from Durham and throughout the UK. We welcomed more than 100 attendees, more than 30 speakers, and several poster presenters. Dr. Anne Kampf, our keynote speaker, delivered a



riveting talk on the role of women and feminism in fighting the climate crisis. The entire conference was greatly supported by a generous grant from the Castle Society.

June brought about our annual Castle Charity Ball, this year entitled A Ball Through Time, in celebration of the 950 years of Durham Castle. The lead up to the ball faced considerable organizational challenges but the remarkable efforts of Fanny Dietschi, ably supported by Lydia Atkins, myself, and the entire ball committee, paid off for an absolutely incredible night. I would also like to particularly thank the efforts of Jamie Short and the whole of college office for their constant support and guidance throughout the ball planning process. A Ball Through Time raised more than £10,000, which was donated to Wearside Women in Need and Castle's own Castle Community Action. Our new Ball Chair, Anran Geng, along with the large ball committee, is already well into planning for this year's ball scheduled for June 3rd.

This October, Castle welcomed nearly 400 new postgraduate students, one of the largest intakes ever. The Frep Team created and delivered an incredible twelve days of events, providing students both new and old the opportunity to meet each other and develop the amazing connections that makes Castle so special. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the JCR Executive Committee for working alongside us to create a strong and vibrant Castle community.

After induction week, we held a very successful election cycle welcoming 8 new members of the Executive Committee. It has been my incredible honour to work with the MCR Executive Committee, and I am sincerely grateful for all their amazing efforts in combining innovative ideas and Castle traditions to make the MCR a vibrant and lively community for all. Friederike Schwelle, Vice-President, along with our Katie Bertram and Hannah Liedl of our Formals Committee, have put considerable work into ensuring our Castle Formals continue to run smoothly and bring together our community. Leonie Stussi, International Officer, Putthisak Panomsarnarin, Social Chair, Adam Gills, Charities & Environment Officer, and





Angie Ding, Communications Officer, along with their committees, have been working tirelessly to create and advertise a diverse and exciting social calendar for our members. Belen Mattos Castaneda, our welfare officer, is working closely with College Office to ensure our members are well supported throughout their academic journey. I am forever grateful for Sarah Tedros, Treasurer, Dominik Mitterer, Internal Affairs Officer, and Callum Bowler, MCR Adviser, for their continuous support and advice in ensuring the Executive Committee and the MCR run smoothly and equitably for all.

I only have a few months left of my term as MCR President before it will be time to pass the role on to a new face. It has been a privilege to work alongside my committee, as well as Matthis Muhlenbrock and the JCR Executive Committee this year to ensure Castle continues to all students. As we look to the future, I am very much looking forward to seeing what the rest of this year and beyond will hold for the MCR.

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*Floreat Castellum!*  
Dana Allan  
MCR President 2022-23







## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

This academic year has offered new opportunities for our chapel, with a whole new team of very talented students, the revival of beloved services, and the introduction of new repertoire, new services, and an expansion of the chaplaincy work in College. Tom Parker (2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD student in Engineering) joined our team as Director of Music last September. Under his leadership, the (almost entirely) new choir has grown from strength to strength, demonstrating remarkable versatility, dedication, refinement which led to exquisite services in Michaelmas Term and this Epiphany Term. To name a few, the Requiem service for All Souls featured most of the *Officium Defunctorum* by the Spanish Renaissance composer Tomás Luis de Victoria, along with 'Versa est in luctum' by his contemporary Alonso Lobo. The service was held in the Norman Chapel. Those of you who have listened to choirs in this exceptional chapel can imagine how profoundly moving and awe-inspiring this was. A few days later, we held

our Remembrance Sunday service in the Norman Chapel again, with the Northumbrian Universities Air Squadron leaders and students – a memorable service for everyone.

Our Lessons and Carols services for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany were a great success, involving numerous members of our College community, and our regular services of Choral Evensong and Choral Eucharist are each time a great delight. Most recently, on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of February, our chapel choir was in residence at Durham Cathedral, singing at both the 11:15 am Eucharist (Ralph Vaughan Williams Mass in G, and 'O most merciful' by Charles Wood as the anthem) and at the 3:30 pm Evensong for the Installation of Non-Residentiary Canons (Preces and Responses by Richard Shephard, Canticles by Francis Jackson in G and 'Behold, O God our defender' by Herbert Howells as the anthem). The choir sounded superb. This Sunday was also part of a series of collaborations with the Cathedral, including a most recent visit of the Cathedral by candlelight led by alumnus and Acting-Dean Michael Hampel.

We also hold regular services of Compline, in the Norman Chapel last term, and in the Tunstall Chapel this term. Along with our wonderful Director of Music, the Chapel team includes the Senior and Junior Organ scholars (respectively Cian Tempest and Lisa Gandlin), a music librarian (Maria Pennington), sixteen Choral Scholars, a sacristan (Patrick Hayes), a readers coordinator (Dominik Mitterer), a Compline conductor (Isabella Reed), and an ordinand on placement from Cranmer Hall (Rosie Evans). From her first day in chapel, Rosie has fully embraced her role within the community and has proved to be very compassionate, joyful, passionate about building new relationships, engaging in meaningful conversations with everyone in chapel.

The chapel has also radiated in various areas in College: from music (organ recital to concerts, including the 950 Concert), to theatre (Hamlet), to a joint service in the BDR with the Durham University Jewish Society for Holocaust Memorial Day, to a variety of talks and conversations (James Alison on LGBTQ+ issues in the Church, to Dr Liam Liburd, also SCR member,

on the work of historians unearthing forgotten stories, to Dr Selina Stone on Liberation Theology). Along with our sermon series (on 'heritage' in Michaelmas and 'excellence' in Epiphany), for which we are delighted to listen to a guest preacher almost every week, we aim at engaging our whole selves: heart, soul, and intellect. This term, we are also introducing a series of 'evenings in chapel' during which we listen to improvised music (played by two or more musicians) and read poetry. This is an example of how the chapel can provide, for a wide range of students, space and time to put things into perspective and connect with each other on a deeper level. As chaplain, it is also an honour to have been able to fully engage this year in a pastoral capacity with our students.

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**Stephanie Burette**  
**Chaplain & Solway Fellow**

**From Tom Parker, Director of Music:**

University College Chapel Choir has seen a healthy period of growth and revival as part of the college community. Led by our director of music, Tom Parker, the choir meets two to three times a week and has provided regular weekly sung worship at Evensong, Eucharist, and Compline. Our calendar has also included special services such as a requiem service for All Souls in the Norman Chapel, featuring Tomas Luis De Victoria's Requiem, services of Lessons and Carols for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, and a special Ash Wednesday Eucharist. The choir have also been privileged to take up a full day in residence at Durham Cathedral on the 19th of February, providing both sung Eucharist and Evensong. The choir will be featuring in the upcoming 950-year anniversary concert on the 1st of March, celebrating the musical history of the castle. The choir shares snippets of its musical achievements via the chapel's Instagram and Facebook pages and warmly invites you to visit the chapel for our services (Tuesday at 6 pm or 8:30 pm Compline; Thursday at 6 pm for Choral Evensong and Sunday at 5 pm for Said or Sung Eucharist).

**From Rosie Evans, Ordinand on Placement:**

As the Ordinand on placement at University College Chapel, I have been able to see some of the wonderful things that go on at Castle, and have thoroughly enjoyed my time here so far. The chapel choir is amazing, and hearing them sing at our services each week is such a privilege. As someone training to be a priest in the Church of England, I have a love for preaching and for leading services, and so I've also really enjoyed being invited to preach and lead services in the chapel. Another great thing about placement is getting to meet a whole range of people. I've loved getting to meet regular members of the chapel community, the guest preachers that have visited over the past two terms, and people who have come to any of the chapel events. One particularly memorable time as Ordinand on placement was attending the service of remembrance on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day. This event was co-organised with University College and Durham University Jewish Society, and was very moving. I'm grateful for the opportunity to attend such an event. The two events I'm looking forward to the most over the next few weeks are the music and poetry event in chapel on the 27th February, and the Pride service that we will be holding on the morning of Durham Pride. We organised something similar last year, and so I am excited to see what this year's service will look like!

**Anti-racism interns**

**From Flora Loh (Postgraduate Taught student in Psychology)**

'During my time, in University College, I have witnessed and been on the receiving end of many micro-aggressions and biases. However, in the past few years I have also noticed an emerging effort from the College and its students in tackling these issues by challenging the "college culture" and promote inclusivity. Starting from re-establishing Castle Pride to becoming a member of the Castle Inclusion advisory board, I have been involved with EDI [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion] work around the college all



throughout my undergraduate degree. I had many ideas and ambitions for the college and the Castle Anti-racism internship gave me an opportunity to carry them out.

As I reflect on my college anti-racism involvements over the last few years, I am struck by how far I have come. I am glad I took part and am proud of what we did manage to accomplish and complete in such a short amount of time. Being an anti-racism intern was both challenging and rewarding and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been one of the interns. I am also thankful for the guidance and support I have received from the college staff and my fellow interns. I am excited to continue the work we have started in the coming term and I am thankful for the opportunities that this internship has provided for me to improve my beloved college.'

**Priscilla Ogungbenro (2nd year undergraduate Law Student)**

'This term, I have achieved so much as an individual and the team has also achieved a lot collectively. I was able to gather data and prepare several workshops to educate students on issues involving welfare and inclusion at Durham University. I improved my communication and advocacy skills by handling difficult conversations with several students who had conflicting opinions. As a team, our successful paint and sip event with over fifty students in attendance was an amazing opportunity for students of colour to gather in an emotionally safe space. This whole experience has been an amazing opportunity to grow as an individual and leave a positive impact on Castle.'

## JCR ARCHIVE

At the JCR meeting on 2nd October 2022, the position of JCR Archivist was approved by members. The JCR Archivist is now responsible for the preservation of the JCR's collective memory, including the collection of objects of historical relevance to it, the recording of its traditions and customs, as well as the maintenance of its archive.

The JCR Archive at present contains an assortment of meeting minutes, newsletters, election manifestos and other documents from over the last 30 years. We also hold the Van Mildert Club books, still being used by the club for its termly dinners, which have now taken place every year since 1950. As the archive expands, we are particularly focused on collecting items from the more informal aspects of student life that might not otherwise be collected by the University Archives.

A core part of my role is to engage fellow students with the history of the JCR and the wider college. We have recently set up an Instagram account to feature some items from our collection and are planning an exhibition display in the Lowe Memorial Library.

The JCR is interested in hearing stories of college life from old Castleman. Donations of JCR-related items are also welcome – including in digital form. Already, we have had the contribution of copies of some interesting college notices from Lumley Castle in the early 1960s. Contributions can be sent by post to the JCR Archivist at the Castle or digital copies can be sent by email to: [castle.jcrarchivist@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.jcrarchivist@durham.ac.uk).

## REPORT FROM CASTLE COMMUNITY ACTION

Thanks so much for the funding! Alongside the sum raised at the annual CCA Auction we have been able to use the funding to run a number of projects! We are starting a year 12 residential as of this year as we would like to give older students in the North East some experience of student and academic life at Durham, as well as relaunching the day visits. We have been able to run the weekly Saturday Night meals at Sanctuary 21 as well as holiday meal days (such as Thanksgiving), and we have bought some takeaway boxes for vulnerable people to take with them when there is an excess of food. We have been looking to find creative ways to raise money for our two JCR charities Olivia Inspires and National Energy Action, as it has been especially hard this year with the cost of living crisis, by running bake sales and charity sports tournaments. We were able to host a Santa's Grotto themed community day last term which was successful and loads of children got small presents from Santa and this term we are looking to get a petting zoo in with goats, sheep and more! The Environment committee have been planting wild flowers on the mound and are planning trips to Seaham beach to clean the shore and also have fun! There is so much more we are planning to do and have done which would not have been possible without the funding provided – thank you from all of Outreach!





## FIRST GENERATION SOCIETY



Castle's newest society is the First-Generation Society, which aims to represent and support students who are the first in their family to go to university. With President Amelia Dawson, and Vice Presidents Jessica and Rachel Caine, the society aims to connect students from a broad range of backgrounds and ensure that they have the same

information and opportunities available to them as non-first-generation students. The society has been formed as a result of the disadvantages felt by students, and is also attempting to bridge the gap between students who are at a significant disadvantage, but feel like they do not fall under the category of 'northern' or 'working-class', which the broader university has supportive societies for. Our plans for Castle's First-Generation Society of course includes lots of social events, but also networking opportunities from alumni, and hopes to work alongside the 93% Club. The Exec are very excited to begin working alongside more first-generation students and can't wait to hear about experiences that other Castle students have had!

## FRISBEE

Our Castle Society grant will be used to enter Jestival, an annual summer tournament in Leicester, featuring 24 teams from all over the country. Our team features both current players and alumni, making the tournament a great chance to build and maintain connections, while giving our newer players invaluable experience matching up against some of

the country's top teams. In the most recent edition, Castle picked up four wins on the way to 13th place, and we are re-entering this year hoping to do even better!

## LAX (MIXED LACROSSE)

On behalf of Castle Mixed Lax I would like to thank all the Alumni for donating to the Castle Society Grant. From this funding we were able to purchase enough balls to improve our training sessions – we are able to carry out multiple drills at a time. In the last year the A team managed to survive in a top division, and beat Stevo in the first round of floodlit before going out to a strong Cuths side. Once again, I would like to stress the difference the Castle Society grant has made to the club and we appreciate your on-going support.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

With the International Committee this year, we really wanted to make sure that we could be a visible group in the JCR and organise a large number of events especially after Covid. We restructured the Committee and created an International Handbook ahead of Freshers' Week to make sure every student would be able to access resources in and out of college, and get in touch with us if needed. We started off with hosting a Silent Disco in the Great Hall with over 200 people which gave a warm welcome to the new International Students to Castle. We are also currently planning events for the Durham Global Week, and we want to make sure that every student feels comfortable joining, no matter their nationality, language and ethnicity. The Castle Society grant has allowed us to grow and be able to dream bigger on what we can achieve

with our committee. We are focused on making sure the International Committee stays active in the future and becomes an integral part of student life at Castle. With the help from you all, it has allowed us to a welcoming and supportive presence – we can't thank you enough!

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NETBALL CLUB

UCNC has had a fantastic season so far, with our A team remaining year on year in the premiersip division. As well as thriving on the courts, our teams continue to thrive socially too, and this year has been no exception with a busy first term of welcoming in our newest members. Another addition has been our new set of club dresses, giving our on-court look a professional revamp. With over 50 members, UCNC is always busy training and representing the college in matches, so these dresses are being put to very good use. We are looking forward to the upcoming trophy matches (a knock-out tournament) and of course, the highly anticipated Castle-Hatfield Day; preparations have begun.

We would also like to announce that UCNC has expanded and are now open to men – Josh Taylor our Men's/Mixed Netball captain has been a great presence in Castle and we hope that the mixed/men's netball scene thrive in the future!



*Vanguard Re-enactment Society at Durham Castle during the April 2022 Reunion.*



## 950 A YEAR IN REVIEW

How do you celebrate a nine hundred and fiftieth birthday? This is the challenge that the Castle community embraced in 2022. Founded at the behest of William the Conqueror in 1072, Durham Castle has since been the seat of power for the great Prince Bishop's of Durham, host to royalty on many occasions, and in 1832 became the home of University Collage. Throughout the year we launched a series of 950 events aimed at both connecting with our history and celebrating the vibrant community that the Castle represents today.

As the world slowly emerged from depths of the Covid Pandemic, the 950 Celebrations' theme "Reawakening" was embodied with the relaunch of the Castle Lecture Series. These talks invite the wider community into the extraordinary historic setting of the Great Hall to engage with both the intellectual and social life of the college. Through out the year we were honoured to host talks on such wide-ranging topics as:

- The Early Life of Durham Castle by Alumnus, Dr John Munns
- The Connections Between Durham's 13th Century Bishop Bek and The Holyland presented by Dr Barbara Boehm the Curator, Emerita of the Met Cloisters
- The Experience of a Person of Colour Growing Up in an Inner-City Area in Northern England by Dr Shaid Mahmood, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Durham University
- 'Russia - A Riddle Wrapped in a Mystery Inside an Enigma' from Sir Malcolm Rifkind, Former UK Defence and Foreign Secretary

During the Summer, the celebration element of the 950 Program was brought to the fore during a series of open days to with the Castle gates flung wide

for the general public. Featuring bouncy castles, face paint, magicians, live music, pizza, cake and even feats of arms by gallant knights in the courtyard it was truly a party fit for nearly a millennium!

Over the centuries, Durham Castle has accumulated its fair share of spooky stories and scary anecdotes. In October, we gathered in a suitably eerily decorated Bishop's Dinning Room to sip spice cider as spine tingling stories from near and far were shared by members of the Castle community. In the flickering light it was easy to imagine yourself in a haunted castle...and maybe we were!

As the year of 950 celebrations drew to a close, we brought the celebrations to London with an Alumni gathering at the beautiful Clothmakers' Hall. This was an opportunity for University College graduates new and old to connect, hear about what has been going on the Castle and a chance to look ahead at the exciting new developments on the horizon including the North Terrace redevelopment.

To conclude the year, we hosted a Murder Mystery evening welcoming students, staff, and members of the wider Durham community to the Great Hall. Over the course of the dinner guests tried to untangle the complex web of clues and red herrings to catch a killer and discover who done it!

Durham Castle's 950th anniversary was a truly remarkable milestone and as we gathered throughout the year, it became clear that the vibrant and dynamic community that call the castle home today continues to celebrate our shared story, build fresh memories, and tackle the challenges of the 21st century.



*Murder Mystery Dinner in the Great Hall*

## CASTLE STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

As a College, are keen to support the career development and skills of Castle undergraduates and postgraduates. Internships offer a valuable experience for our students: working alongside staff to plan and deliver new initiatives, events, and activities and getting a valuable insight into various aspects of Higher Education management from advancement to marketing and communications. They also include stipends to help motivate our students and also help them with the cost of their studies.

Since 2021 we have piloted a small number of student internships to develop student employability in partnership with supporting college initiatives, heritage partners, and alumni networks. These internships support the community and the wider life of the college. Over the past year we employed 14 interns, and with your help we would love to expand our reach even further.

- Our two **Social Media interns** co-ordinate the College's social media accounts on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, sharing news and updates from across the College community.
- Our **Consent** and **Anti-Racism** interns, who develop a programme of workshops for new students to challenge preconceptions and foster positive role models within the college community.
- In 2022, the University College Durham Trust generously funded a **950 intern** who developed our programme of public, alumni and college events as well as contributing towards developing fundraising plans, working in conjunction with Julia.



- In Michaelmas term 2022 we launched our **Alumni Operations intern**, who assists with managing alumni contact details.
- In 2023 we will re-introduce the MA Scholarship for Museum Studies. This scholarship, which is highly-competitive, is an exceptional opportunity to work with the Castle Curator, thanks to funding from UCDT for the two-year studentship.

## Reflections



Gabrielle Harris, Castle undergrad and social media intern 2022-23

*“Being a social media intern has allowed me to have a greater involvement in college life at Castle and it has taught me great transferable skills which I will be able to apply in future roles. It has made me proud to be a part of the castle community and supports me in my studies.”*

*“I’m enjoying my time as a social media intern this year. I’m constantly updated about everything that is happening at the Castle; every talk, every guest visiting, every event. And it is very exciting to share all these activities in our community with everyone. I’m practising designing and preparing posters for lectures and events. We are so busy! And I feel so proud of being able to create this content for all of us!”*



Sonia Guerrini, Castle postgrad and social media intern 2022-23

*“Throughout 2022, I had the incredible opportunity to serve as Castle 950 Intern. In this role, I helped to organize a series of events and celebrations to honour Durham Castle and the people who have called it home over the centuries. From formal large-scale lectures for hundreds in the Great Hall and relaxed Q and A sessions in the Bishops’ Dining room to sunny birthday celebrations in the courtyard and scary stories by candlelight in the Castle’s haunting halls, the year was a whirlwind of events and activities. As 950 Intern, I was given the chance to help bring diverse stakeholders, alumni, staff, students, and the broader community together to connect with one another and the Castle while celebrating our shared stories.*

*This position afforded me invaluable opportunities to work in a heritage setting and gain hands on experience in the outreach and development sectors. University College is a wonderful vibrant community which I love being a part of. It was an honour to play a roll in sharing the Castle and its story, while in a small way helping to lay the foundations for the Castle’s legacy for the next 950 years.”*



Ayasha Nordiawan, Castle undergrad and Alumni Operations intern 2022-23



Kathrine Bertram, Castle postgrad and 950 intern 2022-23

*“I had a lovely time working in the College and was welcomed, treated, and supported very kindly by everyone. It was a very valuable few months of learning about the fascinating behind-the-scene*

*details of operation and working with people who I would otherwise never have known beyond the surface level of emails - which has made me appreciate all the work that goes into running the College, and I know that I will carry everything I've learned and gained for a very long time."*

### **Could you help us shape the future leaders of tomorrow?**

Castle students are dedicated, creative, ambitious and keen to develop their employability before heading out into a challenging job market. They bring with them new perspectives and enthusiasm for learning and a desire to make a difference in the world. If you would be in a position to offer an internship within your company or help support one of the internship opportunities here in College, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch via [castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk) if you would like to find out more.

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**Julia Bonner & Ellen Crabtree**

## **FELLOWS' GARDEN**

Among several other conservation and restoration projects taking place at Castle, we have an ambitious plan for the Fellows Garden. While some projects are about repairing the fabric of our collegiate home and supporting student wellbeing (North Terrace), this particular endeavour is focused on student enrichment – specifically our students engaged in college music and theatre societies. Our plan is to reimagine the Fellows Garden as a purpose-built Performance venue for Castle concerts and plays. As you will know, plays and concerts are certainly facilitated in the space now, yet the addition of a true stage, tech hook ups, flexible seating, and additional lighting will help take the productions to a more professional level.

With no other outdoor performance space, and a general lack of performance spaces, across the University – the Fellows' Garden Outdoor Performance Space will provide an exciting addition to the College's facilities and will become a hugely appealing and inspiring asset for existing and prospective students.

### **Outline of the Project**

The design of the space has been developed in partnership with heritage architects and landscape designers among other specialists. The Fellow's Garden Outdoor Performance Space will be developed as follows:

- We will introduce a new stepped landscaped terrace/ stage area at the North end, with seating on the flat stretch of grass and the South terraced end. The position of the terrace stage has been carefully considered with the backdrop of the Castle, allowing a good view of performances and ensuring the optimal lighting conditions for ceremonies (the sun's glare will be behind the audience).
- A portable canopy will provide for inclement weather.
- Moveable, stackable seating and under terrace storage is a key aspect of the design, providing suitable support for college life.
- Power will be installed for the terrace stage as well as the entire garden to provide lighting and security.
- Festoon, pillar and spot lighting will be used to light the garden, staging and seating areas, providing suitable lighting for performances, and giving the garden a festive atmosphere.
- A lift down to the garden from the existing entrance on the barbican will enable pushchair and wheelchair access, as well as supporting the use of



heavy equipment for some performances.

- Audience members will be able to use a new accessible toilet facility added to the Garden itself and addressing the distinct lack of public toilets near this venue.
- The performance space will allow for around 100 audience members in chairs, benches and grass seats.
- The design will have minimal impact on the garden, not disturbing any existing trees. Included in the design are paved walkways, hardwood bench seats atop modest retaining walls, outdoor sculpture/artwork and interpretation features, and heritage appropriate plantings to ensure a beautiful enjoyable space whether in performance or not.

In summary, the design creates a multifunctional space while maintaining the character of the Garden, enhancing it with hard and soft landscaping and further reflecting the juxtaposition of this historic space and its contemporary residents' needs.

All required planning permission has been sought, and necessary surveys (e.g. archaeological surveys) have been conducted. The College Advisory Board, which includes representatives from all three Common Rooms, a local arts, culture and heritage expert, and DU IMEMS leadership reviewed the draft designs and pre-planning permission was granted last year for further development. We then engaged a consultation process with additional student leaders from College theatre and music groups, both common rooms, SCR representatives and university music/theatre experts. Currently, we are awaiting the final planning permission, which is due in the next few weeks. Our hope is to break ground in 2023 with the aim of opening this performance space within 12 - 18 months.

Funding for the project thus far is made possible through a generous and

substantial donation from one of our alumni, a legacy gift to University College Durham Trust, and from college savings. If you would like to discuss making a gift to the college for this capital project, please contact Julia at [julia.bonner@durham.ac.uk](mailto:julia.bonner@durham.ac.uk).



# NORTH TERRACE RESTORATION PROJECT

While the North Terrace restoration follows the urgent repairs to the Norman Chapel, which is the oldest space in Castle, the terrace itself is also a historic treasure in its own right. Once part of a magnificent promenade of Prince Bishops of Durham, it stretches across the North-Eastern perimeter of Castle walls. On a hot summer's day the walkway has an enchanted feel to it, with trees forming a green canopy overhead.

Having so successfully marked our 950th celebrations in 2022, we are keen to continue delivering life-changing opportunities for current and future University College students. In recent years we have witnessed a marked increase in student support and wellbeing interventions. A key part of addressing this issue is providing calm and quiet outdoor space for reading and personal reflection and we are about to embark on an exciting project which will deliver just that.

As part of this £300,000, project we hope to restore the promenade and open it up to Castle students.

- We will create a “journey of discovery” along the way, allowing students to explore this beautiful area for themselves.
- We will introduce reading benches, for quiet personal reflection.
- Part of the north terrace will be paved to provide space for small receptions and ease the pressure on some of the spaces within the College.
- Castle walls will be restored to provide additional security.
- We will manage the current vegetation and introduce shade-tolerant plant borders to enhance the natural aesthetics of the space.



We are really excited to see the plans for this project come together, but we can only restore this beautiful place with the help of our alumni and friends.

If you would like to find out more, or are in the position to support this much needed redevelopment please get in touch with our Alumni and Development Manager at [castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:castle.alumni@durham.ac.uk) or scan the QR code, which will take you straight to our dedicated donation page.





# DURHAM MATHS DECOLONISATION

## Dear Professor Parker,

To introduce myself, I studied Mathematics at Durham in the years 1973 to 1976, achieving a II(i). I recall fondly lectures from Professor Thomas Wilmore, Dr Lyndon Woodward and Dr Peter Rowe, amongst others, who provided an instructive and enjoyable experience.

I note that Durham's Mathematics Department has embarked on a "Decolonisation" exercise, categorised as "#Racepreach".

#Racepreach is writing where the purpose is to establish a hierarchy of racism between the writer and the reader. Once this is established, the writer claims the right to lecture the reader about racism without limit, in order to establish a degree of control over the victim, and importance for themselves.

I found the following on the University website, which I presume is current: [durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/mathematical-sciences/equality-diversity--inclusion/decolonisation/](http://durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/mathematical-sciences/equality-diversity--inclusion/decolonisation/)

I was surprised to note the following:

### 1) In the second paragraph, we find the following:

*"When two differing conceptions of the same idea, or two different methods aimed at achieving the same result, develop separately, which one will win out? And are we absolutely sure the winner will always be, in some sense, the "best" one? What does "best" even mean in this context?"*

As any GCSE English Language pupil will tell you, the correct word here would be "better", not "best". This is hardly an edifying demonstration for a respected academic institution.

### 2) The third paragraph

Asks why the American definition of "billion" has superseded the archaic UK definition of the same term. The latter is now referred to as a "trillion." However, the former has clearly achieved regular usage in common parlance – the latter virtually none. The size of the Quantitative Easing payouts and bank refinancing in 2007/2008 – the wealth of the world's richest individuals - illustrate just two. How often do you find the word "trillion" in modern parlance? A quick Google search will demonstrate this.

Again, a good question to pose to early teen schoolchildren, but hardly worthy of undergraduate consideration?

### 3) A little later, we are encouraged to study the work of Bhaskaracharya , clearly a talented individual:

[mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Bhaskara\\_II](http://mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Bhaskara_II) However, Bhaskaracharya was a Brahmin, and Brahmins are in need of decolonisation themselves, according to #Racepreach expert Dr Primyavada Gopal of Churchill College Cambridge: [allinbritain.org/the-lives-that-dont-matter-the-brahmin-as-a-hate-figure/](http://allinbritain.org/the-lives-that-dont-matter-the-brahmin-as-a-hate-figure/) It seems that Mr Bhaskaracharya should be put in the same decolonisation class as Mr Churchill...

### 4) Regarding Simpson's Paradox,

the example we are supposed to discard is that of alleged gender bias in UC Berkeley's graduate school in the US: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simpson%27s\\_paradox#UC\\_Berkeley\\_gender\\_bias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simpson%27s_paradox#UC_Berkeley_gender_bias) However, closer examination shows this example demonstrates a lack of the (alleged) bias, which does not suite those who indulge in #Sexpreach (definition as above, replacing racism with sexism). It appears an attempt at indoctrination, which the most superficial of examinations reveals to be, at best, disingenuous.

Finally, the glaring omission of discrimination against the non-binary community. All binary numbers should be immediately deplatformed!

I would maintain that all Mathematics students at Durham are entitled to decent #Racepreach and #Sexpreach, and the above clearly falls short in many areas. A full rewrite is clearly necessary, unless the whole thing was an elaborate spoof, in which case I apologise for not getting the joke.

Lets make all Hilbert Spaces Safe Hilbert Spaces!

**Kind regards,**  
**Peter Crowley, BSc, FIA, MEWI**  
**Albert Buildings**  
**49 Queen Victoria Street**  
**LONDON EC4N 4SA**

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## WHEN ROYALTY DINED IN CASTLE

Early in the Summer Term of 1960, it was announced that the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh would be making a civic visit to Durham City on Friday 27th May. University College have been selected to host the royal party for lunch, so we were informed by the Master, Len Slater. The event was to be the first major public engagement of the Queen since the birth of Prince Andrew.

The lunch was to take the form of a Formal Dinner in the Great Hall, with us students in formal attire, including gowns. The civic party would occupy high table, while the College Tutors were elevated on high: tables set up specially in the minstrel's gallery, stripped of some of its Cromwellian armour. We undergraduates would occupy our normal tables and oak benches on the floor of the hall, under the eagle-eye of the many portraits of past masters and bishops.

Those of us who were first year undergraduates had the privilege of sitting as normal at our tables close to the high table. One second year managed to find a spare place on our table, viewing the proceedings with rapt attention. "I can't quite hear what she is saying" said our new friend in his broad Yorkshire dialect. "I'm pretty sure the Queen can hear what Malcolm is saying", quipped one of his neighbours."

After the meal the Queen in her primrose-coloured dress and the Duke of Edinburgh, with the civic party, posed on the steps by the Hall entrance, as the Royal Ensign fluttered in the breeze on the Keep flagstaff. Castlemen and Tutors lined the drive to bid farewell, as the noble party slowly moved towards the Castle Gate. The Duke of Edinburgh chatted to several students, including one second year whose tatty gown caught his attention, evidently one that had passed through the ownership of several undergraduates! Soon life was back to normality: for me chemistry practicals back in the labs, and others, perhaps sporting activities.

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**David R Morgan MRSC**  
**University College 1954–63**



*Durham Castle, Queen's visit 27 May 1960*





## RE-INTRODUCING, REVIVING, RENEWING, RELAUNCHING THORP SOCIETY

Over the last two years, a handful of Castle MCR alumni and current members have been on a mission to bring life back to the longstanding and enigmatic group on the fringes of Middle Common Room – Thorp Club! You may have never heard of ‘Thorp Club’ and that is exactly why it needed rejuvenation and reinvention!

Thorp Society or “Thorp” is now an alumni association within Castle Society that is tailored to former Castle Postgraduates and members of Castle MCR. One of the core aims is to facilitate a continuing sense of community created by and felt within Castle MCR, including former International students. This will be achieved primarily through a variety of events and networking opportunities at Castle, in London, and beyond!

Given the rapid membership expansion of Castle MCR over the last 10 years, there has been a growing demand for focused alumni engagement related to the common room.

PhD Students and former Castle MCR Executive Committee Members Sophie Draper, Rachael Rhoades, and Dean Slack form the new ‘Thorp Society’ Committee following Dr Vicky Fawcett’s fantastic initial reform work. The Thorp Committee are excited to be working with Julia Bonner and Castle Society on this partnership.

We have already begun support for congregation celebrations and provided some events in Winter congregation 2023. A calendar of events for 2023 and 2024 are being planned so keep an eye out for announcements.

To find out more about Thorp Society and details of its past, purpose, and plans, please check out the webpage using the URL or QR code below:

[www.castlemcr.co.uk/thorp](http://www.castlemcr.co.uk/thorp)



*Sophie and Dean of Thorp Society Committee in the Castle MCR common room.*



*Sophie Draper has designed the Thorp Society logo which takes inspiration from the wooden carvings on the Great Hall side door, where Castle MCR Members will enter weekly formal dinners.*

Sophie, Rachael and Dean would be delighted to answer any questions about Thorp Society and hear your ideas at any time! Thorp is also looking to expand its organising committee and a call for applications will be going live in mid-2023.

The Thorp Society (temporary) email is: [thorp.society@gmail.com](mailto:thorp.society@gmail.com)



*The Maurice Tucker Room is the Castle MCR common room. It is the heart of postgraduate life in Castle and many alumni have fond memories of studying and socialising in this beautiful space.*



## AN ODE TO CASTLE, BY TWO NOSTALGIC GRADUATES

When I left Durham this June, I took my usual LNER back down South. I sat next to my best friend, sobbing into her arm, reminiscing on the years we all spent together in the city many of us love so much.

Durham represents so much for me. It is the place I met some of the friends whom I now consider family, where I found my passion for writing and languages, where I spent some of the best days of my life so far. So it was no surprise I was so apprehensive to leave. Entering the real world and leaving Durham behind felt incomprehensible. It had been, for four years of my life, the place I considered as my home.

Cut to six months later, and I'm sitting at my desk at the office of a job I love, after taking my qualification in Journalism. I'm reflecting not only on my time at Durham, but how Castle and the college community helped build me up, giving me the skills, confidence and sense of belonging I so needed to thrive.

Being a part of UCBC as a Senior Coxswain gave me my voice. I am not afraid to share my thoughts in a meeting, not afraid to be clear and confident when organising a project. Joining committees for June Balls and other events gave me my creativity. I have a vision for my work, a creative and colourful mindset and positive outlook. Getting involved with student media gave me my love for writing. I know now what I want to do with my life, and Castle played a large part in that. I will be forever grateful.

I think there is something so special about a community that fosters kindness, inclusion and togetherness. From those meals shared in the Dining Hall in first year all the way to the final rendition of Angel in the Undie on my last ever night in Durham, Castle never failed to show me that there was a place for me. I remember smiling to myself in our much-loved bar over a pint of Snakebite, thinking about how much I would miss this place.

Transitioning from student to alumnus was certainly a journey I wasn't expecting to enjoy so much. When Laila and I went to the recent alumni event in London, we were nervous, unsure how we would find the event. But we had nothing to worry about. We met some fantastic alumni, many of whom offered us wisdom, career advice, and even contacts and support - which, as budding journalists, certainly did not go amiss.

What really stood out, though, was the instant connection we had with every alumnus in the room. Bonding over Castle and, of course, the traditions that come along with it, has never been so easy. We felt warmly embraced by the adult world of Castle alumni, and greatly appreciated the ease with which we became Castle alumni - a title we didn't realise would mean so much.

But really, it does.

As the end of my university years approached, I felt a growing sense of uncertainty about what my future might behold. My script - GCSEs, A-Levels, and higher education - was suddenly over. The next chapter was empty, and the plot was finally mine. Dread and excitement arrived in equal measure, waging a battle within me - which has since been resolved. You'll be glad to know that excitement won.

There was a resounding issue that stopped me from feeling pure elation when I submitted my final exam: I don't like endings. How could the place where I'd learnt, loved and laughed for the last four years soon no longer be mine to call home? My diagnosis was a premature onset of nostalgia, and I was sick to the bone. There would be no train waiting dutifully at Kings Cross that coming autumn; no more nipping to The Undie for a beautifully mediocre glass of wine; no more post-formal, midnight adventures through Durham's cobbled streets, donning a gown and heels with only moonlight and friends as a guide.

When I arrived back at my parents' house that summer, I had to keep reminding myself (they also made sure I did not forget) that it was not the

summer holidays. It was the beginning of the rest of my life. In September, I would move to London and become an accredited journalist after winning a news fellowship. Castle College, Durham University, was over. Or so I thought.

The great thing about going to Castle is that it's never really over; it does not end when you graduate. Castle's London event in November was a great reminder of this, and a powerful weapon in subsiding that dread within me. I was not physically in Durham anymore, for sure. But that's because I had graduated to something bigger: an alumni network full of interesting, intelligent and generous people.

And so, whilst I dread endings, in that regal room in Clothworkers' Hall, I realised I had nothing to fear - because it was never the end. On the tube back home that night, I thought about how I hoped to give back to Castle - the institution which oversaw my transition from teenager to adult, gave me life-long friendships and continues to endure as a positive influence in my life. This is what is so great about Castle - the community lives on - and will do for years to come, because strong bonds are hard to break. And Durham Castle Society's? They are titanium.

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By Laila Bell and Erin Waks



## TUNSTALL EXHIBITION

As a curator researching a new exhibition, there always comes a point when things click into place, you begin to understand your subject and start to formulate how it can be presented to catch the attention of visitors.

This happened to me while reading the surviving letters to, from and about Cuthbert Tunstall, Prince-Bishop of Durham from 1530 – 1559, and I realised from my notes that I was no longer referring to him as Tunstall. Swayed by the constant references to his kindness, generosity, good taste and intelligence, I started to think of him as a friend and colleague. He became Cuthbert to me.

One of the reasons it was so important to look at these first-hand accounts of Cuthbert's life is that so little has been written about him since he died. The one major biography of Cuthbert was published 85 years ago and only a scattering of scholarly articles have followed in the years since.

Compared to figures like Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Thomas Cromwell, who loom so large in the history books and popular culture, Cuthbert is almost totally erased from the story of Tudor England. This gave us a great opportunity in producing the exhibition. We knew visitors would be coming without any pre-conceptions, which allowed us to put them into Cuthbert's shoes and think closely about the triumphs and challenges he faced.

Cuthbert's life had many ups and downs as he navigated turbulent relationships with the Tudor monarchs. The way he progressed through his education and career, making friends and taking on enemies, reminded us of a video-game, so we played on this in the exhibition design, presenting Tudor England in a contemporary way. We also wanted to focus on some of the debates that circled around Cuthbert during his lifetime. To his friends he was *learned, wise and good – a delightful companion*. To his enemies, he was a *ducking hypocrite*. We wanted visitors to engage in these debates and make their own decisions.

Cuthbert is rarely viewed as a heroic figure. He survived the Tudor



period through shrewd compromise, quietly holding influence and avoiding execution and martyrdom. Although this makes him less glamorous, it also makes him much more relatable. Like us, Cuthbert lived in polarised times of fierce political and social debate. Loud voices on both sides grabbed the attention and secured their places in the history books. Cuthbert was always keen to understand both sides of a debate – the man in the middle who even his opponents came to respect.

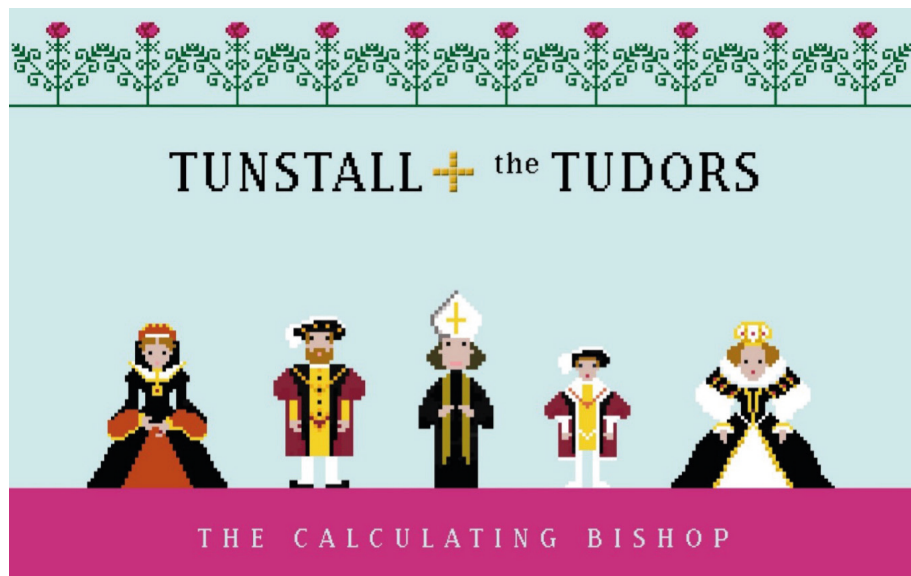
In his lifetime, Cuthbert was a bishop, scholar, mathematician and builder. Today, beyond his legacy of the Tunstall Gallery and Chapel at Durham Castle, he is also a worthy and useful role model.

David Wright is an Assistant Curator in Durham's Museums, Galleries & Exhibitions team, working across all of the University's cultural venues. A full online version of the Tunstall and The Tudors exhibition will be launched later this year.

[David.wright@durham.ac.uk](mailto:David.wright@durham.ac.uk)



*Scan this QR code to watch an animation exploring the correspondence between Cuthbert and his friend Erasmus of Rotterdam*



*Tunstall and The Tudors exhibition titles*



*A portrait of Cuthbert Tunstall during his time as Prince-Bishop of Durham. (Artist unknown)*

## ROGER ADAMS (1944-2022)

(Castle 1963-1966)



Roger Adams, my father, was always proud to be a 'Castleman'. Even at 78, his computer username was 'Castleman' – a testament to a treasured period in his life. It was clear from the way he spoke of his Durham years, that it was a formative and happy time for him.

Born in Sheffield in 1944, he spent his childhood in numerous locations; a familiar story to those with a father in the army. At 2, he and his beloved Mum lived in the glamorous 'Danieli' hotel in Venice. Unfortunately, the fingers of this curious 2 year-old unscrewed a fixture below the sink in their room – resulting in water pouring down the hotel staircase! Soon after (!) they moved out to a villa. They later moved to Exeter, then on to Sennybridge in Wales, before settling in York, where Roger attended Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School. He recounted the intimidating sight of the school masters sweeping down the corridors, their black gowns billowing.

His childhood, to me, seems like something from a storybook – a classic tale of 1950's boyhood. In the days when children could go off and have adventures with friends (Skipwith Common being the go-to place) and design and make things. He and his friend loved tinkering with electronics (with many electric shocks) and made a radio set to speak between their houses. The original mobile phones! I recently found his extremely elaborate and precise plans for a spaceship model, which he built and wired

up with flashing lights and staffed with teddies.

It was at Archbishop Holgate's that his love of rowing began. He was tall, slim, strong and light and took to rowing like...a duck to water! He was always in 'Bow' position, given he was the lightest.

In 1963, he was offered a place at Durham University to study Geography and Geology. He very much wanted to be in 'Castle' and was interviewed and accepted by Len Slater; then 'Master of Castle'.

In his first year, he lived at Lumley Castle; travelling to and fro on his beloved Lambretta scooter. For second year, he was in 'digs' at Neville's Cross, and for his final year, he lived in 'Castle' itself, at 29 Junction. He was always very proud of living there, and I think was somewhat 'misty-eyed' when he spoke of it. He felt privileged to have called it home for a time. I'm sure other Castle members will remember a secret route in and out for post-curfew adventures?

Pre-Durham, his life could have taken a very different course. On leaving school, encouraged by his military father, Roger applied for officer training at Sandhurst. Having passed various stages, it was deemed in his final report that he was 'too academic' – a summary I'm sure was taken as a compliment and with a good dose of relief! For all his creative ideas, dexterity, intelligence and active nature, he was a gentle, quiet, unassuming man; always happier to be busy in the background. Life took the turn it needed to.

His life at Durham, remembering his stories and sifting through his memorabilia, was full of fun, adventure, intellectual stimulation and an active social life. Proudly engaged in rowing for the university, he was also in the Mountaineering Club, and the Geographical and Geological Societies. He travelled abroad in his holidays and attended many dinners, parties, jazz concerts and theatre performances.

I found numerous hand-written notes, presumably slid under his door at university; inviting him to parties, 'outings', meet-ups – all very creatively written and illustrated! One amusingly informs him; 'Roger, you will find on your floor, Angus C of Peterhouse, Dave.' On the reverse; 'Roger, in



case I don't see you this afternoon, thanks very much for the use of your floor. Angus C.'

On leaving Durham in 1966, Roger went on to study for a diploma in Town Planning at Leeds University. At this time his extra-curricular interest in photography developed, as he joined the Photography Club, also the Motor Club and the Climbing Club. He also enjoyed caving, much to his mother's dismay!

He participated in many car rallies with his friend John - Roger being the navigator. As his friend recalls, 'He did look a little pale at some stages.'

He was very active; a great walker - a true lover of the outdoors. He seemed at his happiest when out on a good walk - and in those younger days, with a good bit of adventure thrown in! He went on many camping trips with friends, to Ireland, Scotland, The Lake District and Norway; including a trip around what was Yugoslavia, in a Ford campervan.

The Lake District remained his favourite place for the rest of his life. So much of my childhood and adult life was spent with him in the Lakes. To me, he and The Lake District are eternally entwined.

He was a fantastic walking companion, as he would bring our surroundings to life, in his characteristic knowledgeable, but unassuming way; describing the history, the wildlife, the farming methods, interpreting the landscape and geological features. He taught me that there is so much to read in a landscape, and also to be curious about everything you see: there is always a reason, a story, something to be revealed.

In 1969, he started working in the 'Department of Planning and Development' in Middlesbrough and became a Principal Planning Officer. He continued to have many adventures, including taking his Mini Cooper to the Dales to practise skids in thick snow!

In 1969 Roger also met his wife-to-be, Tina, in Middlesbrough Central Library. (Book-lover meets librarian!) They started meeting for lunch each day and had their first date on Christmas Eve, 1971. The rest is history - and a very happy one.

He and Tina had two children; Richard in 1979 and myself, Helen, in

1982. Our childhood was a happy and active one, full of country walks, 'messing about' in streams, steam-train trips, Halloween parties, Bonfire Nights and wonderful Christmases. He liked to make everything as fun as possible; indoor and outdoor fireworks, crackers, party hats, party poppers. He really was a child at heart - which makes for a very fun dad! He was also later on, a very fun and loving Grandpa, to his three grandsons who adored him.

He took early retirement in 1996, due to local government re-organisation. At this point he was happy to leave, as increasingly the role required public speaking, which he was not keen on, to say the least. Though very knowledgeable, articulate and sure of his opinions, he could always see both sides and was never one to push his ideas on anyone or be the centre of attention.

On retiring, he had more time to enjoy his hobbies of cycling, walking, researching family history, tinkering with computers and electronics and his love of jazz. The day after he retired, he went to 'Appleby Jazz Festival' and said it was 'like being in heaven.'

Several of the planners and engineers who retired at the same time, started meeting up for walks once a month; each taking it in turn to plan and lead. It was Roger's idea to name the group 'The OGITS' - 'The Older Gentleman's Irregular Trekking Society'! This being a good example of what a friend described as his 'droll and offbeat humour.' The group enjoyed walks for 25 years, Roger being the archivist for the walk reports. It continues, but of course sadly without him.

Always one to come up with a good name, on a walking holiday with his brother-in-law, their walkie talkie code names were: 'Eagle Beak' for John, (after his Roman nose) and 'Wounded Knee' for Roger (having suffered a knee injury while retrieving a hat for then baby Richard).

I have never known anyone else who was so interested in so many things. He never lost his thirst for knowledge; his interest in archaeology, history, engineering, ancestry, landscape, computers, electronics, fixing things and finding solutions, jazz, folk music, books. (So many books!) He knew

so much about so many things. When complimented, he often said 'My head is full of rubbish' and that he knew small bits about lots of things. But to me and all who knew him, it really seemed he knew everything about everything!

On 3rd July 2022, aged 78, (a good age, but too young for such a fit, active, otherwise healthy person) he sadly passed away, at home, with his family around him. Having lived with cancer and various treatments since 2015, he remained relatively fit, but sadly in the last year, he became increasingly unwell.

He dealt with cancer with great strength, humility and dignity – never feeling sorry for himself or wanting to be the centre of attention. As I said to him near the end: 'You've done so well.' From the depth of my heart I admire his courage, the way he never lost his gentleness, his kindness, his humour and his overriding care for others.

He will be forever missed and always in our hearts.

**Helen Adams**

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## **EDDY BARDGETT (1923-2020)**

**(Castle 1942 and 1946-49)**

A Cumbrian by birth, born and brought up in Southwaite Green Mill on the edge of the River Eamont, Eddy Bardgett attended the nearby Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Penrith. He enlisted in the RAF in 1942, attending an RAF Short Course at Durham University, after which he was sent for flying training in Canada under the Empire Training Scheme. He then served in the Far East, as a pilot in 230 Squadron, flying mainly Sunderland aircraft. Returning to the UK in 1946, Eddy re-joined



Durham University, studying Politics and Economics.

In 1949 Eddy joined the newly formed National Health Service, working initially at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle. In 1952 he was one of a small group of graduates who undertook a pioneering two-year hospital administration training course at the Kings Fund College London. Each of this group went on to play an influential role in the NHS. It was in 1952 also that Eddy married Brenda

(nee Pilkington), at that time working in publishing and later a teacher. The 1950s-70s were a period of innovative hospital building and Eddy oversaw the development first of Hillingdon Hospital in Middlesex and later the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, both state-of-the-art at the time. In 1980 Eddy and Brenda moved to Bristol where they enjoyed long and active retirements, in particular theatre and travel and running their local U3A walking group.

Eddy had fond memories of his time at Durham, and would sometimes quote the historian Professor Edward Hughes, whose vigorous delivery of Gladstone's speeches had stayed with him. After Brenda's death in 2016 Eddy continued to live independently to the end of his life, enjoying the company of friends, his daughters and grand-daughters, and still travelling abroad in his ninety-fourth year. He was aware of the huge role the NHS was playing in the pandemic shortly before his death in April 2020.

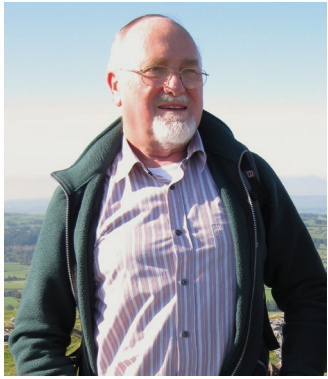
**Suzanne Bardgett**

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# DUNCAN BYTHELL (1940–2022)

(Castle 1965–1996)



Duncan was born in the village of Harle Syke, a few miles from Burnley. His parents, and the three generations before them, had worked in the powered cotton-weaving mills that shaped the growth of the township. This community, its heritage and its values, were significant influences in his life.

He attended the local primary school attached to Harle Syke Baptist Church (where he learnt to play the organ) and then the grammar school in Nelson, before going up to read history at Wadham College, Oxford. He continued his studies there as a postgraduate (1962–65) in research for his doctoral thesis - the basis for his first book, *The Handloom Weavers* (published in 1969).

From Oxford, Duncan moved to Durham in 1965 to take up appointment as lecturer in the Department of Economic History. He became senior lecturer in 1977 and later served in the Department of History, after the two departments were merged. Latterly, he also held the post of Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Arts. He took early retirement in 1996, having served on the academic staff for 30 years.

Duncan had an equally long association with University College. He was a college tutor for many years (exemplary in his conscientious, sympathetic and hospitable approach) and he lived in Castle for much of that time. Many will remember him holding court on the Norman Gallery (he occupied the don's set there for some years). He was fond of telling the (ever-changing) anecdote of having to rescue a drunken Senior Man (intent

on breaking back into college after hours, via the North Terrace) from one of the Norman Chapel's window-embasures.

Duncan later served as Senior Tutor (1983–90) and Vice-Master (1983–86) in succession to Stan Ramsay, at a time before the title of Vice-Master was an automatic adjunct of Senior Tutor. He moved for those years to the grandeur of the Senior Tutor's flat, then the whole of the middle floor of Cosin's Hall. Always keenly interested in college life, Duncan made many practical contributions to the working of the college, including a stint as Lowe Librarian. One enduring contribution was in writing a new guidebook to Durham Castle, published in 1974 and a best-seller at the Gatehouse for more than 30 years before a fine successor publication (retaining most of his text) was produced.

As a historian, Duncan was principally known for his work on the social and economic drivers and impacts of the Industrial Revolution, particularly in the lives of working-class communities. *The Handloom Weavers* has remained an authoritative work in the field, helping to rebalance perceptions about the decline of old working patterns and the spread of manufacture concentrated in mills and factories. His second major work, *The Sweated Trades* (1978) broadened this picture across a range of sectors, analysing the surprising persistence of 'outworking' patterns of industry, as well as eventual decline. Duncan was an active and respected contributor to academic journals and conferences in this field, as an author of articles, papers and book reviews.

His academic work was characterised by a strong focus on sources of evidence and the potential of what they can tell you. And crucially, by a rigorous analysis of the evidence, to address the fundamental questions: the crunchy stuff of "what, when, why and how much". Later in his career he was inspired by spells in Australia (as a visiting fellow at the National University in Canberra) in 1982 and 1987, to explore parallels and differences in industrial and labour history there. From that experience he produced a series of fascinating articles - and successfully set up a course of Australian history in Durham.

Apart from the quality of his own historical work, Duncan excelled as a teacher of the subject. His lectures, on a wide range of British social and economic history, were meticulous and direct: he always kept his audience on its toes. Undoubtedly the most popular series was the one spearheading the course he ran on Population and Labour History - where numbers eventually had to be rationed! And in smaller settings, in tutorials and when supervising research students, he was even better. For those who were keen to learn, Duncan was exceptionally generous in encouraging and motivating his students, passing on the wisdom of how to process the intellectual challenges (and great rewards) that the study of history presents us with. He sometimes reminisced about outstanding teachers in his own youth, who had sparked and nurtured his interest in several fields - music and literature, as well as history: it was clear that this beneficial experience shaped his own strong commitment to teaching and mentoring.

From the mid-1980s Duncan spent an increasing amount of his leisure time in the Yorkshire Dales, particularly Swaledale, where he eventually bought a house. That love of Swaledale went back to hiking expeditions he'd begun to make back in his student days. And it was there, to the village of Gunnerside, that he officially 'retired' in 1996. But by that time he was already busily 'employed' - in the voluntary, social and cultural life of the Dale.

In retirement, Duncan's historical work didn't stop, by any means, but it took on new themes. Some of the studies he published were about people and activities in the Dales; others covered areas of popular culture in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. But his style and approach didn't alter: this was not history of a simple narrative kind, but work that still explored why and how things happened, and what it was that shaped people and their world. Retirement also gave Duncan the opportunity to travel more frequently (his target was half-a-dozen short breaks and holidays a year) with a curiosity to visit new and unusual places, often involving elaborate train journeys. He continued to take great delight in hill walking and generally exploring the countryside; and he found time

for numerous walking holidays (with Waymark, Holiday Fellowship and other such organisations) often in company with friends from Durham. He remained, of course, as tireless as ever at staying in regular touch with friends and colleagues at home and abroad. And he naturally continued to enjoy his passion for hiking and for the appreciation - and sharing - of fine wine.

So far, we have barely touched on the huge part that music played in Duncan's life. It began with the chapel and choir tradition of his birthplace; the learning of piano, and music theory at school; and the experience of performance in school productions, with plenty of exposure to Gilbert and Sullivan! Indeed, by the age of 20, he could play virtually anything by 'G&S' by heart; and this facility remained with him for over 50 years, even after chronic arthritis in a thumb-joint compelled him to re-invent the fingering of pretty much everything he played.

Duncan developed his musical skills further while at Oxford and was an experienced conductor, particularly of choirs, by the time he left. He was active in musical life at Durham, and it's for this that many members of the college SCR will best remember him - always the life and soul of the Common Room, particularly when leading bibulous carol-singing and G&S evenings in the SCR. At the same time, his knowledge of classical music and grand opera was extensive; and as for his recall of operetta, comical music-hall numbers and Protestant hymnology - all equally remarkable.

Duncan had a fine light tenor voice (until diabetes robbed him of it in later years) and he was a very competent organist (though he often denied this) playing the organ for hundreds of performances of Stainer's Crucifixion or the like in and around Swaledale. He also took great delight in the numerous "bit and pieces" concerts and "swarays" that he organised and led in the Dales, often to raise money for local charities such as Swaledale Mountain Rescue.

He was undeniably an excellent pianist - and a truly exceptional accompanist, both of choirs and individuals - ever-present and supportive, but never dominating. When planning his own funeral - with some degree of slightly



perverse pleasure - a sticking point arose over who should accompany his friend Richard Brickstock in rendering (a very Duncan word) the setting of Psalm 23 by Gounod that they had included in the funeral services of both Duncan's mother and his sister: so the only possible resolution being that Richard, in Duncan's absence, had to sing unaccompanied!

As if all these talents weren't enough, Duncan was also an inspirational conductor, enjoying many years as the Musical Director of the St James' Group of Newcastle before his move to Swaledale. Not long after that move, he took on what was in some ways a dream job when he became conductor of the Muker Silver Band - a role in which he delighted for the next 35 years. He was also, in 1989, enlisted as the first Musical Director of the Swale Singers, which had begun life as a handful of singers in a friend's front room but grew into a successful choir of over 50 members. When he relinquished this role in 2006, citing "old age", he nonetheless loyally supported his successor as accompanist and organist for a further six years. Other regular musical commitments were in conducting the Gunnerside Choir, and directing and performing with the Leyburn G&S Society. As an organist too, he played regularly for Sunday services in Gunnerside and Low Row. In these very fulfilling contributions to community life, in music, he was drawing on so many of the influences from his early days in Lancashire.

Duncan Bythell died on 27 October 2022. His funeral took place at the Methodist Chapel in Gunnerside, a stone's throw from where he had lived for many years. Nearly two hundred people attended the service. Friends from his Lancashire and Oxford days; friends from Swaledale and the dales beyond; former students and university colleagues from Durham; and many, many more who knew him in other contexts - musical, historical, social, charitable. It was a fitting reminder of how broad - and how positive - the influence of one person's life can be.

**Bob Ryder and Richard Brickstock**

## MELANIE CHALLIS (1981-2022)



**(Castle 2000–2003)**

Melanie passed away on the 25th August 2022 after a short battle with cancer. She was 41 years old. Our daughter had a thirst for learning and consequently enjoyed school at Latymer in North London and then at Durham University where she read Ecology.

After Durham Melanie joined The Environment Agency based in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Melanie loved the work looking after rivers in the Chilterns and Home Counties. Melanie made many lifelong friends there.

Although our daughter's life was relatively short she packed a lot into it and always enjoyed an adventure. Melanie cycled around Provence and the Inner and Outer Hebrides and trekked all over India and Nepal. She went on proper expeditions to Belize, Honduras and Madagascar all dealing with specific conservation work in the jungle and rivers. During these years Melanie became known as jungle Mel. She liked to compete in triathlons and was a strong young woman until ME came along.

When Melanie contracted ME her whole world changed and some days she struggled to get out of bed. However, she never moaned about her condition and just got on with life as best she could. She is an inspiration to us all. Melanie was heartbroken to have to give up work due to ME some six years ago. She left Walthamstow in London, to relocate to Cornwall. She settled near the family farm in Lostwithiel and loved the town, its community spirit and its people.

Likewise, when she was given her cancer diagnosis she never complained and just wanted to make the most of the time she had left. Everyone who met Melanie remembers her laugh which is a nice way to be remembered. She enjoyed Durham and was very proud of the University.

**Nigel & Sara Challis**

# MINO GREEN (1927-2022)

(Castle 1948-1951)



The development of much more efficient, next-generation lithium-ion batteries, with higher energy densities and longer life cycles, was just one of several significant innovations made by Mino Green, emeritus professor of electrical device science at Imperial College London, who has died aged 95. In the early 2000s, the advent of smartphones, mobile computing, and the distant possibility of ubiquitous electric

cars, led to increased research into higher density energy storage. Two potential candidates for higher energy densities were the lithium-oxygen battery, which promised the highest possible theoretical energy density, and the lithium-silicon battery. Research at the time showed that both suffered from issues relating to cycle life – that is the number of times the battery could be recharged without losing significant capacity.

In the case of lithium-silicon batteries the problem was the volume increase of the silicon anode when lithiated during charging. As the battery discharges, lithium leaves the silicon anode, causing it to shrink. Repeated charge-discharge cycles crack the silicon and lead to rapidly diminishing battery performance.

At this time, Green should have already been well into retirement, but instead had kept up an active programme of research at Imperial. One of his postdoctoral researchers, Feng-Ming Liu, showed him electron microscope images of high aspect-ratio silicon nanostructures produced during one of their experiments. While the results were of no use to their current project, Green realised that the silicon nanostructures had the potential

to solve the issue of cycle-life in lithium-silicon batteries.

The production process was considered scalable and, in 2006, Green founded a research and development company, Nexeon, to commercialise silicon anode nanomaterials for use in batteries.

This was the same year that the Tesla Roadster, one of the earliest modern electric cars, was unveiled and a year before the announcement of the first iPhone.

The timing was perfect, and investors flocked to fund further research and, following production of the world's highest capacity cells for their size in 2011, the construction of production facilities. Today, Nexeon counts some of the world's largest corporations in the battery and automotive market, including Panasonic, Toyota and SKC, as its partners.

Mino was born in New York, the son of Alexander and Elizabeth Greenberg, and his early years were spent between New York and Paris, where his two sisters were born. His father had been serving in the White Russian Army when he and his wife were evacuated from the Crimea in November 1920, leaving them as stateless refugees. In 1939 they settled in London, Mino's father working as a jewellery and antiques dealer and his mother as a seamstress, and the family anglicising their surname to Green.

Mino showed an early interest in and aptitude for science, and went from Dulwich college to study chemistry at Durham University at the age of 17. In 1945, having just turned 18 and still a US citizen, he was called up for duty by the US Navy and set sail on a troop carrier to enlist. On his arrival in the US, the authorities informed him that, with the war over, his service would no longer be required. He instead went to Harvard University to continue studying, before returning to complete his degree at Durham in 1948. He then embarked on a PhD in radiochemistry, graduating in 1951.

Within the same week, he received his PhD, married Diana Allen, and set off by boat to the US to take up a position at the MIT Lincoln Lab, where he worked alongside several of the scientists who had been involved in the Manhattan Project. He was engaged in the then novel



field of semiconductors, publishing groundbreaking work on the surface properties of germanium and silicon.

In 1955 he briefly took up a position at Imperial College London, before returning the following year to the US where he worked as division chief at the Zenith Radio Research Corporation in Chicago, Illinois, developing technology for colour television and the emerging micro-electronics industry.

In 1960 he was made associate director of the University of Pennsylvania electrochemistry lab, where he stayed until Zenith asked him to set up a research laboratory for them in London in 1962. During his time in the US, he published several seminal papers on the electrochemistry of the semiconductor-electrolyte interface, and subsequently contributed to our understanding of electrical transport phenomena, photoconductivity and thermoelectricity.

The 1960s were the heyday for Zenith, when it was the largest maker of black and white television sets in the US. In the 70s, international competition increased, leading to rounds of cost-cutting that saw Green return to Imperial College in 1972. He was appointed professor of electrical device science in 1983, took over the optical and semiconductor devices group and continued his research on semiconductors, as well as the electrochromic properties of various material systems. This ultimately led to several patents on electrochromic glass, allowing the light transmissivity of the glass to be altered electrically. The technology was commercialised by St Gobain, the world's largest manufacturer of glass, for the construction, automotive and industrial sectors.

Green had a knack for devising simple experiments to test a hypothesis when costly research infrastructure was not available and he was keenly interested in scientific and engineering problems outside, as well as within, his own field of expertise, continuing to work for 30 years after his nominal retirement in 1992. He viewed the commercialisation of research as a civic duty rather than a means of personal enrichment and evaluated potential new ventures from his research developments well into his 90s.

Diana died in 2012. Green is survived by his daughter, Penny, and son, David, and four grandchildren.

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## **ANTOINETTE HUDSON (1953–2021)**

**(Castle 1988–1992)**



Antoinette Hudson was born in Lancashire in February 1969, and lived there for the first eighteen years of her life. She went to Lancaster Girls' Grammar, where she excelled academically and on the sports field. She played hockey for the school and enjoyed trampolining, badminton and tennis and is remembered by school friends from that time as a loyal and reliable friend with whom it was easy to be

oneself. After a gap year spent working for the United Reformed Church Antoinette arrived at Castle in 1988 to read French and Spanish.

Antoinette and I lived opposite each other in Moatside and she absolutely loved Durham life. She quickly discovered rowing which became a lifelong passion. She was an active member of the Castle Christian Union and joined in with almost everything going on. She was sociable, kind, confident, helpful, busy, fun-loving and organised. Often on arrival

somewhere she would declare that she couldn't stay long as she had to go and 'do something useful'. She was a larger than life character who loved bright colours, big glasses, cats and people and she committed to everything she did with dedication.

Antoinette spent her year abroad in Fontainebleau and her attachment to France, Paris in particular, began. On graduating in 1992 she headed back to Paris where she lived for the rest of her life, eventually becoming French. She initially worked as a translator, did various other jobs, and rowed. She joined the rowing club at Le Perreux-sur-Marne in 1992, where she remained a member until 2020. She was a very good rower and at one point trained with the French national squad. In 1996 she was 5th in the single sculls at the British Rowing Championships and third in the French championships. She also played tennis, socialised, explored France and integrated totally into Parisian life whilst maintaining contact with old friends.

In 1998 she succeeded in becoming a French teacher: no mean feat! She began teaching in secondary schools in Parisian suburbs and eventually got a job teaching English to medical students at La Sorbonne. Antoinette was a considerable intellect and a valued member of staff until her illness meant she stopped working in September 2021.

Antoinette's personal life was full of friends. She married in 2004, but the marriage was over by 2010 and Antoinette was again on her own, but consumed by the deep desire to become a mother. Ben was born in Paris on 18 October 2013 and he was her pride and joy. She was a leading light in the Single ExPat Parent group in Paris and made firm friends with lots of other families. Antoinette also belonged to the Scots Kirk in Paris. She was always helping other people. A member of the Scots Kirk remembers her assisting an elderly minister visiting Paris on the Sunday at the end of the Tour de France. The Scots Kirk is just off the Champs Elysee and, as the race was going on, the metro stations were impossibly crowded. Unbelievably, as, by then, Antoinette was very ill, she helped the elderly minister end his wife to get back to their hotel.

Visiting her parents and other family in Morcambe in August 2021, Antoinette collapsed and so the journey to find out what was wrong began. On her

return to Paris she was diagnosed with Glioblastoma. She was fantastically brave. Surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy all worked as well as could be expected, but sadly this disease is not beatable. In mid August 2022 she was admitted to hospital and didn't return home. She died in a hospice, Jeanne Garnier, Paris, on 14 October. She was cremated at Père-Lachaise and a memorial service was held for her in the Scots Kirk Paris on 12 November. She is survived by both her parents (both suffering with dementia), a half sister and Ben. Plans are in place for Ben to be adopted by distant British cousins. Antoinette will be remembered by many as an irreplaceable friend and is sorely missed.

**Sian Crisp**

If you would like to pay tribute to a fellow Castle graduate in a future publication of Castellum please email our editor Alex Nelson at **[alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:alexnelson@dunelm.org.uk)**

Obituary writers are sought to remember:  
Arthur Browne, David Rayburn, David Wesson



## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY, 2022

	31-07-2022	31-07-2021
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions - Current Year	18,973.22	18,446.22
Interest Received	4.14	5.87
	18,977.36	18,452.09
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Castellum	6,096.00	7,270.00
Postage and Distribution	3,721.35	2,918.53
Reunion Information Mailing	-	1,766.63
Committee Election Mailing	-	1,173.48
Society Website	628.80	628.80
Spring Gathering	671.30	-
Reunion Expenses	348.00	452.40
Miscellaneous	214.99	214.99
	11,680.44	14,424.83
	7,296.92	4,027.26
JCR Castle Theatre	500.00	-
JCR Hockey	450.00	300.00
JCR UC Boat Club	350.00	-
JCR Castle Pride	300.00	-
JCR Frisbee	300.00	600.00
JCR Music	250.00	260.00
JCR Mixed Lacrosse	250.00	80.00
JCR Rugby FC	225.00	600.00
JCR Cricket (Outdoor)	225.00	150.00
JCR Lawn Tennis	225.00	-
JCR Women's Football	200.00	250.00
JCR Football	150.00	300.00
JCR Castle Bikes	-	1,800.00
JCR Basketball	-	180.00
JCR Cricket (Indoor)	-	100.00
JCR Badminton Club	-	80.00
JCR Tech for Events	-	50.00
MCR Academic Conference	1,000.00	1,500.00
MCR Thorp-Powers Society	500.00	-
MCR Maltricolation Journal	100.00	-
MCR Castle Action fund	-	1,000.00
MCR Fridge/Freezer	-	150.00
MCR Storage Boxes	-	150.00
MCR Tablet	-	100.00
MCR Piano Stool	-	50.00
	5,025.00	7,700.00
	2,271.92	(3,672.74)
Community Action Fund	1,500.00	1,500.00
Alumni Events Fund	500.00	500.00
Military Scholarship Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
	3,000.00	3,000.00
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	£ (728.08)	£ (6,672.74)

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST JULY 2021

	31-07-2021	31-07-2020
	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Business Base Rate Tracker A/c	27,509.57	27,505.43
Business Community Account	15,202.84	19,165.06
	42,712.41	46,670.49
	42,712.41	46,670.49
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Subscriptions in Advance	13,895.00	16,125.00
	13,895.00	16,125.00
	28,817.41	30,545.49
Represented By		
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
Opening Balance	7,045.49	13,718.23
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	(728.08)	(6,672.74)
	6,317.41	7,045.49
<b>COMMUNITY ACTION FUND</b>		
Opening Balance	1,500.00	1,500.00
Transfer	1,500.00	1,500.00
Expenditure	(1,500.00)	(1,500.00)
	1,500.00	1,500.00
<b>LOWE LIBRARY FUND</b>		
Opening Balance	5,000.00	5,000.00
Expenditure	(1,000.00)	(-)
	4,000.00	5,000.00
<b>EVA SCHUMACHER-REID HARDSHIP FUND</b>		
Opening Balance	5,500.00	5,500.00
Expenditure	(1,500.00)	(-)
	4,000.00	5,500.00
<b>ALUMNI EVENTS FUND</b>		
Opening Balance	2,500.00	2,000.00
Transfer	500.00	500.00
	3,000.00	2,500.00
<b>MILITARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND</b>		
Opening Balance	9,000.00	8,000.00
Transfer	1,000.00	1,000.00
	10,000.00	9,000.00
	£ 28,817.41	£ 30,545.49

**Martin E. Gunson, PgDip (Dunelm), BFP, FCA, FRSA, FISM, FCMI, FFA, FIPA, FFTA, FIAB 2nd. August, 2021 Honorary Treasurer**

# DEGREE RESULTS 2022

Study Programme Level	Classification Awarded	Total
Undergraduate	First	134
	2-1	136
	2-2	23
	Ordinary	*
	Certificate of Higher Education	16
	Diploma of Higher Education	7
	Other	18
Postgraduate Taught	Distinction	45
	Merit	189
	Pass	69
	No Award	*
Postgraduate Research	Pass	45
	No Award	*
Total		696

\* Numbers in these fields were too low to report on and were thus removed in order not to reveal the identity of individuals who received these types of awards

# WHO'S WHO AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## PROFESSOR WENDY POWERS

PRINCIPAL & ASSOCIATE PRO-VICE  
CHANCELLOR

## DR ELLEN CRABTREE

VICE-PRINCIPAL

## SUKANYA MILES-WATSON

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## REV'D DR STEPHANIE BURETTE

CHAPLAIN & SOLWAY FELLOW

## JULIA BONNER

ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

## TRACY DONNELLY

**NICOLA DIXON**  
COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION CO-ORDINATOR  
(JOB SHARE)

## JOANNE MOORHOUSE

COLLEGE OPERATIONS MANAGER

## DAN THOMPSON

COLLEGE OPERATIONS TEAM LEADER

## JAMIE SHORT

FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICE MANAGER

## GILLIAN RENNIE

CURATOR OF DURHAM CASTLE  
AND COLLEGES

## JANET KELLY

COLLEGE RECEPTIONIST

## SUSAN NOBLE

COLLEGE ASSISTANT FINANCE MANAGER

## ELAINE BEDFORD

COLLEGE FINANCE ASSISTANT

## DAVID MYERS

ASSISTANT STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER

## RAFFAELLA ALIPRANDI

VISITOR SERVICES SUPERVISOR

## DAN NOWELL

HEAD CHEF

We have a fantastic team of housekeepers, porters and catering staff who do a brilliant job to support the college community and keep everyone safe.