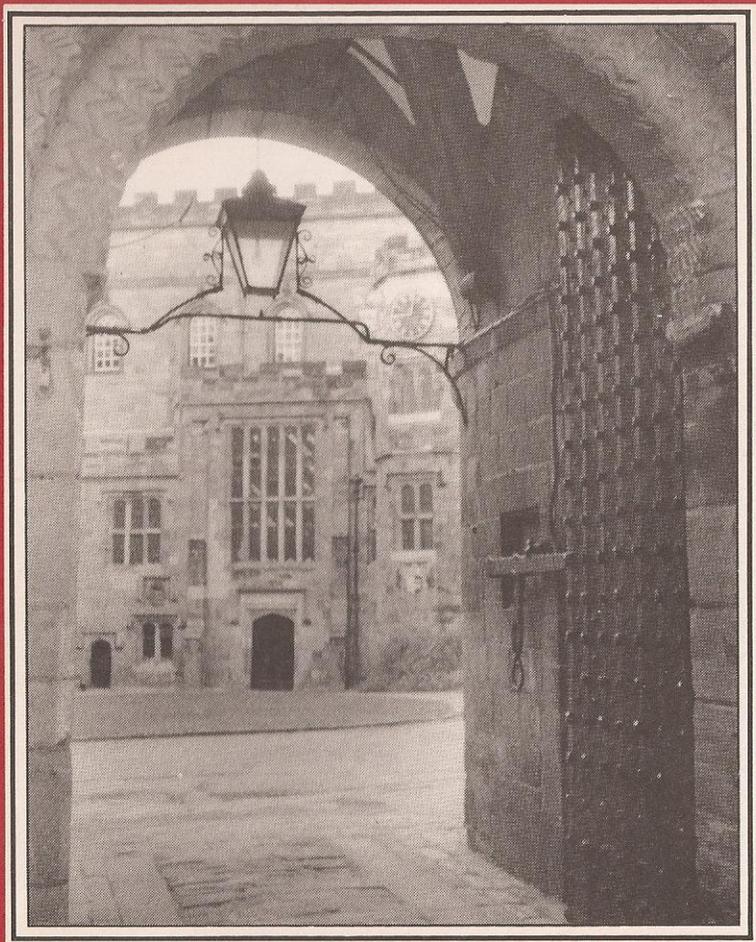
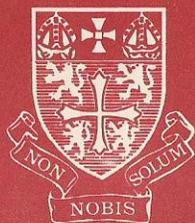


Castellum



THE MAGAZINE OF THE DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY



No. 41 1988/9

DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY
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Communications for the Secretary/Treasurer which are not private should be sent to him c/o the College Office, University College, Durham Castle, where formal matters receive attention.

THE EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

Retrospection can be a dangerous thing. Yet in this year's *Castellum* I am mixing up-to-date news with articles looking back over Castle life in the late 1930s, an interview with Jean Oliver who retires this year after 46 years service, and a short review of the history of the magazine itself. An old-boy magazine is an odd mixture: it's partly to keep past memories alive, and partly to update members on what's happening today. And we try to avoid being morbid about the past and speculation about whether the place has or has not gone to the dogs since you left.

By chance (and when I left Durham I wasn't expecting it) I am now working back in the region which is now thriving as it has not for years. There is a new confidence in the Great North, and great things happening in the University too. But for those who look at the past with rose-tinted spectacles, all the time knowing that it wasn't all good, it may be worth a look in 1989 at Newcastle Quayside, the MetroCentre, the new extended Milburngate Shopping Centre, the 1990 Gateshead Garden Festival site to see how much the North-East has changed. And there's no better time to do that than at the next reunion weekend on 14-16 April.

Whilst on the subject, can I make an apology to those who searched in vain for the date of the 1989 reunion in *Castellum* 40. The information was typeset but never made its way to the printed page, and I'm sorry for the omission. For those of you who wish to plan well ahead I have printed this year on the back inside cover the dates for 1989 and 1990. Forewarned is forearmed.

Many thanks to those who passed on kind comments on my first effort as Editor. Your remarks were encouraging, though I don't think I'll stay on as long as Editor as Derek Holbrook. Flicking through the pages of the earlier issues of *Castellum* is a joy, and they evoke real flavour since they were written (as now) as news not as history. In *Castellum* 40 I presented some extracts from the 1960s, and I intend to repeat the exercise for the 1950s in *Castellum* 42.

Thanks to those who have taken the trouble to write in after my appeal for contributions – they have come in from as far as Australia! I have printed all I have received but would always welcome more. An editor should be able to edit, not scrape around for copy! Members who knew him will know that the late Reg Easthope was a meticulous record keeper, and much of the material for his obituary was collated by the man himself when he was working for The Times, and provided for us by the newspaper. An active Old Castleman since the Society was founded, he will be sadly missed.

Another journalist Castleman, Hunter Davies, attended his first reunion last year since leaving in 1958 and the witty article he wrote for Punch has been reproduced for Castellum by kind permission of the magazine. No doubt his contemporaries will recognise themselves! He did not regret his first return to Durham, so if you've been promising yourself a visit for years but haven't got round to it – now's your chance to book in!

*Burnopfield, Co. Durham
February 1989*

“PRESS COMMENT”

‘There can be no doubt that the University at present harbours a set of slangy, underbred youths, who mistake impudence for wit and vulgarity for humour. These hobbledehoyes are to be seen in our streets in the crudest of trousers and coats, with a ragged gown and a dilapidated cap, reminding us of ‘Arry of Whitechapel trying to imitate a Piccadilly swell.’

From the Durham Advertiser, 1866

THE MASTER'S LETTER

As I started to write this year's letter for Castellum I heard of the death of Reg Easthope. I must say that it came as a shock to hear that he was not well. Somehow he was a part of the Society and I thoroughly enjoyed his company at the Reunion, which he almost invariably attended, and at University Society functions. He was always interested in what was happening in College, particularly in new developments. Those of you who attended last year's reunion will recall how keen he was to meet some of the first women in the college – that wish is now clearer as I understand from his wife Mary that he was far from well at the Reunion and it took a considerable effort on his part to attend. Nevertheless he took a full part in what was going on and I certainly did not realize that he was unwell last April.

All in all it has been a somewhat quiet year. There have been no significant changes in College – although at one stage I thought I would be reporting the loss of a Bursar to Cambridge. In the end Albert decided that the move was not on and I must say that I am delighted that he is still with us in Castle. He is a tower of strength and it would have been difficult to replace him. Otherwise, it has to a large extent been the year of the JCR. For the first time in many years the College Rugby team beat Hatfield in the final of the inter-collegiate trophy. This went down very well in Castle and not very well in Hatfield. The Rowing Club is going from strength to strength and the success of the ladies' crews is something we are having to get used to! We now have our second intake of women in College and as last year they are contributing fully. I am asked from time to time what difference the admission of women has made – it is a very difficult question to answer. There are some obvious changes but in other respects the college continues as before. We have an active community taking full advantage of the opportunities of university life, academic, cultural, social and sporting. There has certainly been an increase in the range of musical activities taking place. The College is clearly seen by applicants as a very attractive place – we are now one of the most popular, if not the most popular choice

of college on UCCA forms. Even more rewarding are the comments of those who come to visit us or for interview. They are almost invariably enthusiastic about what they find and, I am delighted to say, with the welcome given to them by the JCR. Students are also well aware that the range of activities open to them in Durham makes them attractive to employers. Graduate recruitment remains good.

In a sense it has been a year of anticipation. We have just heard that the double funding problem concerning the Castle, which I referred to last year, is probably resolved and the University is now eligible to receive grants from English Heritage, as long as they have the necessary funds. We can now sit down and consider our long term strategy for the conservation and maintenance of the Castle. The University's reorganisation of College finances is being introduced gradually and so far we have been able to manage. The College has, as I know you are all aware, been increasingly dependent on income other than the fee income from its members. As a whole the Durham Colleges have been successful in developing other sources of income - in 1987-88 the total income to the colleges was just over £2,250,000 representing 32% of total income. It is interesting to note that the figure compares well with the University's other main source of outside income, from research grants and contracts, which topped £7,000,000 in 1987-88, some 21% of total University income. This income is now essential to maintain the college system and we will have to do whatever we can to maintain and increase it.

In this connection we were delighted to welcome Dave Thackway to College during November. I must admit that when I meet members at the reunion I have very little idea what many do the rest of the year - and I sometimes wonder if you can possibly do anything serious! At last year's reunion Dave volunteered to use his professional experience to look us over and report on our operations. I must admit that it was not the right time in the evening when he mentioned it and I think he was rather surprised when I phoned him some months later and asked if he would still like to do it. his report is very useful and I have no doubt that we will make extensive use of it as the College moves

into a new era over the next couple of years. It will not be easy to continue to increase other income – there is increasing competition and the standards required by guests increase continually. It is also a fact that the increasing effort needed from staff inevitably mean that the traditional life of the college suffers. Most of the obvious changes affecting members, junior and senior, have been limited to the vacations but the main change which is not always appreciated by members is the greatly increased work load on college staff, in term as well as vacation. This increase has been particularly felt by the College Office and in planning for the next five to ten years, an exercise which is very much with us at present for reasons I shall turn to shortly, we shall have to acknowledge that the administration of the college must recognise the extent and variety of the commercial activity now undertaken. I certainly regret the gradual drift in ‘standards’ for members. No one would like to maintain them more than I, or for that matter the Bursar. There are a couple of direct consequences I must mention. First it is now some 7 years since our last appeal – John Hollier is working on the next one and it is the only way that we can raise a capital sum to be used by the College for the College. In this connection I am very grateful to those members who have made and continue to make generous but unsolicited gifts of money to the College. Second, we will most probably have to ask the Society to shoulder some more of the routine tasks involved in running the Society and we shall discuss this at the coming reunion.

If the year that has passed has to some extent been a year of anticipation, the next two years will be quite different. In many ways the changes which will occur this year and next are more significant than any we have experienced for a very long time. One of the most treasured aspects of college life as far as I have been concerned has been the dedication and loyalty of our staff; Jean Oliver, Cicely, John, Mary Vine, Pat Barber, David Watson are people we have lived and worked with for years, in some cases for very many years. And this is not just true of those I have singled out; all our staff contribute immensely and are in no small way responsible for the success of the College. However, time moves on and this year we will lose Jean after 45 years of

service to the College. Cicely who has been with us since before the War, and Mary Vine, only 19 years! We owe a great debt to them and I know that all sections of the College will wish to mark their departure. This year we must seek their replacements, no easy task and next year we will be building the new team; if it is as successful as the old I will be very pleased. Bearing in mind my comments above about the structure of the College Office and the increasing demands of the conference and other business, we do have the opportunity to look closely at our organisation and what people do. The Bursar and I will be making recommendations to Governing Body before we move.

During the summer I completed three years as Pro-Vice Chancellor. Bearing in mind the changes facing the College I decided, if asked, not to continue. Dr. Graham Rodmell, and old Castleman whom many of you will know has been elected to succeed me. One of the results of stepping down is that I am no longer privy to the 'latest thinking at the highest levels' – a situation I adjusted to with considerable speed. Seriously there are disadvantages, matters affecting the College do not filter down as quickly or as directly as one would like. Being 'in the know' certainly has advantages. However as the Senior Tutor is now Deputy Dean of Social Sciences and Dr. Peter Collins (College Tutor and Member of the Governing Body) is Dean of Science we should not suffer unduly.

After prolonged discussion the University has agreed with the University of Teikyo, Tokyo that they should built a branch of their institution in Durham. The buildings will comprise accommodation for some 130 students and staff, together with a Japanese Cultural and Teaching Centre. The accommodation will be adjacent to St. Mary's College and the Cultural Centre close to the Oriental Museum. As far as the Japanese University is concerned they see it as providing a basis for friendship and cultural exchange between Britain and Japan. Of course Durham has links with other universities abroad, e.g. Tübingen, but this development is different in that the other institution will be functioning alongside us. The University through the Department of Geography has also entered the Erasmus scheme for the interchange of students between universities in Europe.

The University has been subject to several University Grants Committee reviews, notably Earth Sciences, Classics, Music, Palaeography, Chemistry and Physics. These have been a mixed blessing. At the very least they clarify how the UGC sees a department's or school's role on the national scene. However they entail a great deal of work in the preparation of the necessary returns, etc. and where expansion is envisaged there are problems of accommodation and assimilation. Whether or not they continue under the University Funding Council and, if they do, in what form, remains to be seen. (The UFC is the body which is replacing the old UGC as a result of the Education Reform Bill.) Increased scrutiny from outside prompts closer scrutiny within the University. For some time the University has been considering the future of the Life Science Departments, Botany, Psychology and Zoology and attempts were made to establish a school. Last year the decision was to form a new Department of Biological Sciences and this is now functioning. The new Department has taken over the teaching and research activities which were previously carried out in the Departments of Botany and Zoology. Professor Donald Boulter has been appointed Chairman and Professor Peter Evans, Deputy Chairman of the new Board of Studies. From October 1989 the Department will run a new degree course in Biological Sciences, replacing the present single honours courses in Botany and Zoology.

We were also very pleased that thanks to a substantial donation from English Estates North it has been possible to establish the Bunting Poetry archive in the University Library. This contains the letters, notebooks, unpublished manuscripts and other material from the Northumbrian poet Basil Bunting. Thanks are also due to the poet's wife for her efforts to ensure that the material remained in the region. The University has responsibility for some outstanding collections of materials including the papers of Earl Grey and his family, the Malcolm Macdonald papers, the medieval manuscripts of the Cathedral, and the Sudan archive. It is regrettable that in the present financial environment proper arrangements for looking after such material are only reluctantly considered by the UGC and in consequence the contribution from English Estates is all the more welcome.

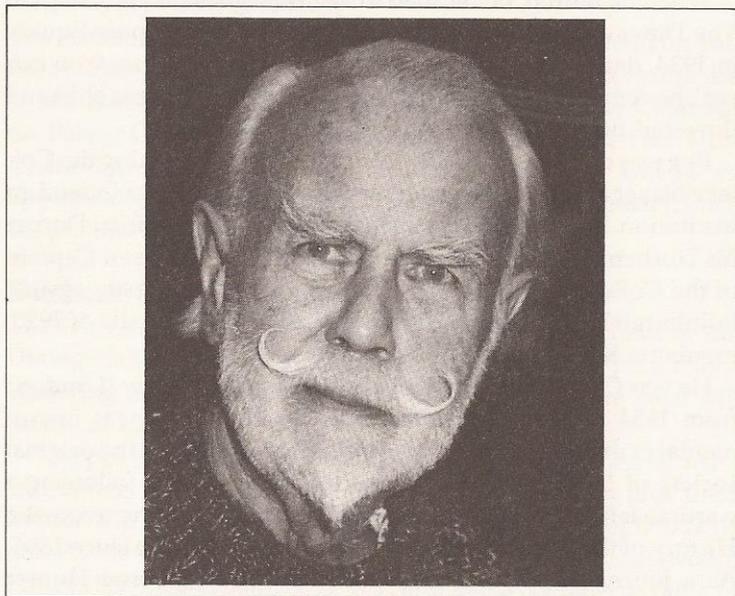
The year has seen quite a few staff changes in the University. Over 30 retiring members of the academic and administrative staff attended the dinner in October. I will not list them, they include many well known names in the University and many who are members of the SCR in Castle, but I will mention some of the new appointments. Paulina Lubacz has been appointed Treasurer to replace Alic McWilliam, Paulina joined the University in 1985 as Deputy Treasurer. Jack Boyd replaces Brian Cooke as University Personnel Officer and John Diplock will take over from Phil Boobyer as Director of Estates and Buildings. Finally, our Vice Chancellor Fred Holliday has announced his intention to leave the University in September 1990. By that time he will have completed ten years as Vice Chancellor. So for the 1990's we will have a new administration and a new VC. It remains to be seen what that implies for us.

As usual I seem to have found more to write about than I expected. I have not said anything about the City – there is yet another scheme to limit traffic on the peninsula but those responsible seem to have no conception whatever of the needs of the Cathedral or University and no feeling for their spiritual and academic heritage. We are clearly regarded as a site to be exploited for tourism. But who wants to visit a dead site? The other deplorable event has been the closure of Peacock's the fishmonger, but I guess that was inevitable some time.

Perhaps I should remind you that if you have any queries about the College or University please write or phone. You are very welcome to call and say hello. I ought to mention again that if any of you have sons or daughters who are likely to apply in the College, please let me know. We now receive the majority of our applications before the end of the Michaelmas Term and ideally we should know at the very beginning of the year. With Jean retiring the chance of a form being spotted without prior notice will be very slim.

Best wishes for 1989.

REGINALD EASTHOPE - An Obituary



W. R. A. Easthope, who died on 17 November 1988 at the age of 83, was the eldest son of W. G. Easthope, who was Editor for many years of the Sunderland Echo and then of the Evening News, Portsmouth. After graduation from University College in 1925 it was natural for Reg to follow in his father's footsteps into journalism. After a spell on provincial papers, including six years on the Yorkshire Post, he joined The Times as a Sub-Editor on May 14th 1934, and became Chief Home Sub-Editor in 1950.

Reg was a Churchwarden of St. Bride's - the parish church of Fleet Street - for 16 years until the Easter of 1970, and was closely involved in the restoration of the Church with Canon Armitage, formerly of St. Chad's. Reg was also an active member of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors. From 1952 until 1963 he

was Editor of the Times Weekly Review, with the task of revitalising it whilst preserving its essential character. Reg was Archivist for the The Times from 1964 until his retirement in 1970.

When he retired, he recalled to his colleagues his early days in The Times old building. when he came to Printing House Square in 1934, dark suits and even darker ties were *de rigeur*. 'You can see', he remarked, showing the full glory of his magenta shirt and flowered tie, 'that we have made some progress'.

Reg was colourful too at the reunions, always sporting the College blazer and the same magenta nylon shirt, and was indeed an institution. He attended the 1988 reunion in good spirits. During his Durham career, which started in 1922, he had been Captain of the College Boat Club, and rowed for the University against Edinburgh in 1923 and 1925, and in the Durham Regatta of 1925, earning a half-Palatinate.

He was Chairman of the Durham University Society (London) from 1954 to 1969, thereafter Vice-President. Reg was instrumental in dropping the (London) from the title, since the original society of 1866 had been resurrected there in 1921 following a wartime fall into abeyance. Shortly before his death he wrote the History of the Society, summarising its achievements since 1866. As a journalist, Reg advised both Harold Evans and Hunter Davies about entry into the profession in their Durham years. He was a keen motorist and a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists from 1957 onwards. He produced some very likeable and drinkable wine (he brought bottles of his own make to reunions) and had a passion for boats, building his own for sailing around Hayling Island where he lived. A genuine College character, he will be sadly missed.

Reg's widow, Dr. Mary Easthope, writes:

'In April I thought he really was not fit to go to Castle Reunion, but determination got him there, and he had a wonderful time. He told me later that after the Reunion Dinner he had stood on the steps outside the hall and looked around at the floodlit courtyard and mentally said goodbye to it. He had a strong suspicion that he wouldn't be back.'

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE DURING THE REUNION

University Convocation

The Annual Meeting of Convocation in 1989 will be held on Saturday 15th April at 11.30 am. At the time of going to press the venue had not been confirmed, but the Union Society Chamber on Palace Green has been used in previous years. The Vice-Chancellor will give his Annual Report and there will be an opportunity for questions. Academic dress is not necessary, but a simple black gown is appropriate if desired.

Durham University Society Luncheon

The Durham University Society Luncheon will be held in the Dining Hall of St. Mary's College on Saturday, April 15th. Those attending will be served sherry at 12.45 pm., and the meal will follow at 1.15 pm.

The price of £9.00 per head includes sherry, a glass of wine and coffee, and is inclusive of VAT. All Castlemen and their friends will be welcome whether they are members of D.U.S. or not. Please book directly with Lt-Col D. A. Brown at Eastwood, Princes Street, Durham, DH1 4RP, and make cheques payable to the 'Durham University Society'. (Telephone 091 386 4884.)

Department of Geography

The Department, which by custom opens its doors on the afternoon of Convocation, is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 1989.

A Dinner to mark this Anniversary at St. John's College will be held on the evening of Friday 14th April and bookings may be made through the Department. A Graduate Association has been formed recently which Geography Graduates may like to join.

Tea and Coffee will be provided in the Rockefeller Room on the second floor between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm. on Saturday 15th April. Graduates and others are invited to make and renew acquaintances with each other and some current members of staff.

REUNION 1988

42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In the Chair

The President, Dr. E. C. Salthouse, Master of University College.

Present at the Meeting

50 Members of the Society.

Chairman's Business

The President drew attention to the untimely death of the Secretary/Treasurer Ralph Appleton in June. Members stood as a mark of respect. The ceremony that afternoon at the boathouse when Mrs. Margaret Appleton, Ralph's widow, named the new Castle Four 'Raffy' in his memory had been an appropriate and dignified occasion attended by members of Ralph's immediate family and by members of both the College and the Society. The President and Society were grateful to Mr. M. K. Pulling for his work as The Acting Secretary/Treasurer.

The President outlined the financial problems faced by the University and the College and explained that in future the College would have to accept responsibility for expenditure on administration and landlord's repairs currently funded by the University.

Apologies

Dr. D. Bythell, Mr. R. Coats, Mr. D. J. Crompton, Mr. E. Forman, Mr. D. Holbrook, Mr. J. Oakley, Mr. L. Slater and Mr. C. S. Westhorp.

Minutes

The Acting Secretary was called on to read the minutes of the 1987 A.G.M. Half was through the minutes it was proposed, seconded and agreed that they be taken as read.

Matters Arising

1. *Application Forms.* The President referred to the non-arrival

of a number of applications for the 1987 Reunion. The matter had been taken up with the Post Office and a reply had been received which expressed regret but which was not otherwise helpful. Unfortunately at least 20 applications had failed to arrive for the 1988 Reunion and the matter would again be referred to the Post Office.

2. *Future Appeals Sub-Committee.* The President said that owing to his own duties as Pro Vice Chancellor and the financial constraints referred to his introductory remarks, he had decided to delay convening the Committee. He would report back next year.
3. *Presentation to Derek Holbrook.* Ralph Appleton had written to Derek Holbrook, the retiring Editor of Castellum, thanking him for his services and inviting him to attend the 1988 Reunion. Despite this 'pressing' invitation Mr. Holbrook had been unable to be present because of commitments at work. It was agreed that up to £50 should be spent on a presentation and that a print of a 'Durham' subject would be appropriate. The matter would be dealt with as soon as possible.
4. *Gift to Mark the Admission of Women.* The Senior Man stated that the first year women had asked that a sewing machine should be provided for the College and it was agreed that a contribution of £50 should be made. It was also agreed that a more permanent reminder of the first women students would be appropriate. A photograph of the 1987 'Freshers' would be framed and placed in an appropriate position in College.

Accounts

The Bursar presented the accounts for 1987-89. The printing costs of Castellum had more than doubled because of the changed format, the greater number of pages and the initial costs of the new cover. Owing to Ralph Appleton's death, monies had not been transferred as agreed last year. It was noted that the 1987 accounts had been audited. The following recommendations were made:

1. The Annual Accounts be accepted - Agreed.
2. That the printing costs of future volumes of Castellum should not exceed £1000 in any one year - Agreed.
3. Surplus money in the current account should be transferred to an account that would attract greater interest until such times as it was required - Agreed.
4. Subscriptions to the Society would be £1.00 for the first year for Undergraduates. Thereafter all members of the Society would be charged £2.00 per annum. Members currently paying subscriptions of 50p or £1.00 would be asked to pay subscriptions of £2.00. All members would be invited to complete a Standing Order Form for £2.00. Annual payment by cheque would cease. Only paying Members of the Society would receive Castellum. The changes would be introduced during the coming year - Agreed.

Election of Officers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Secretary/Treasurer: | Mr. M. K. Pulling |
| 2. Editor of Castellum: | Mr. A. J. Nelson (re-elected) |
| 3. Representative on
Governing Body: | Mr. J. Hollier |
| 4. 2 Members of Committee
on retirement of Mr. Perry
and Mr. Siffleet | Mr. I. R. Watson
Mr. T. Davies Hibbard |

Any Other Business

1. In response to a general request the President agreed to arrange for the revised Address List to be circulated to all Members, possibly with the next copy of Castellum.
2. Professor P. L. Kirby brought 'Password' to the notice of the Members and offered to have copies mailed to those who supplied name and address.
3. It was agreed that in addition to the usual toasts at the Annual Dinner, the toast of 'Absent Friends' be given.
4. The amount and variety of news in the 1988 edition of

Castellum about Members, the College and the University had been much appreciated. Members were encouraged to provide as much material as possible for the 1989 edition.

5. A seating plan for the Annual Dinner was discussed. It was generally agreed that the disadvantages would outweigh any advantages.
6. Mr. W. R. A. Easthope was gratified that despite his absence from last year's A.G.M. he had been remembered by those attending. Having met some of the first women Undergraduates he felt confident that the College would continue to flourish.
7. Mr. W. Dey thanked the College for permitting the Durham University Society to hold its Annual Luncheon in the Great Hall at Castle on the same day as the Reunion.
8. The College would compile a list of members of the Society who live locally to help with the work of the running of the Society.
9. The Master thanked Canon Williams and Mrs. Appleton for their generosity to the College.
10. Dates of 1989 Reunion:
Friday, 14th April to Sunday 17th April
(Reunion Dinner - Saturday, 16th April)

42nd REUNION DINNER
Saturday 16th April 1988

MENU

Poached Salmon - Hollandaise Sauce

★ ★ ★

Cream of Tomato Soup with Pernod

★ ★ ★

Roast Veal - Chablis Sauce

Marquis Potatoes

Asparagus

Baby Carrots

★ ★ ★

Mandarin Malakoff

★ ★ ★

Coffee & Mints

TOASTS

Following the Loyal Toast, the toast to The College was proposed by Canon G A Williams, and replied to by Prof P. J. Rhodes. The Master, Dr. E. C. Salthouse, proposed the toast to Absent Friends.

FORTY YEARS ON - Or Nearly

At the Reunion 1988 Ralph Appleton's contribution to the College was commemorated with the naming of the new IV 'Raffy'. I am sure Raffy would have given enthusiastic support to another event at the Boathouse the same day.

It so happened that the 1950 Senate IV plus coach were, as



always, at the Reunion. They were persuaded, much against their better judgement, to row the following day. This momentous decision was fortified by excellent claret and encouraged by the rest of the group (1950 vintage) at a pre-reunion dinner. Bill was dispatched to obtain the permission of the Captain of Boats. This was granted after agonised thought and a close check on the credentials of the hopeful crew, particularly Len, the Cox. In the cold light of morning there was great relief when it was discovered there was a shortage of gear of the larger variety. Alas, offers proliferated.

The hesitant quintet were helped over the more uneven parts of the path to the Boathouse, but, herded by the Captain of Boats, we finally arrived. Changing took longer than formerly, as Jonny had to put his pipe out before peeling off. We live in a more serious world in 1988 than in 1950, and probably a fitter one as well. We were given invaluable assistance in lifting the boat into the water and a very civil young man carried my oar to the boat. The oars seemed heavier and we certainly had doubts about the width of the new blades. Would it be possible for us to draw them through the water?

Len called us to order and we were off. There was a brisk paddle to Prebends Bridge – a more active row towards Chad's boat-



house. At the insistence of stroke we turned and reached the boathouse safely. Cox had lost none of his flair. Modesty prevents me from saying how good we were, in spite of a running commentary from Chuck (at 2) and mutterings from Bill at bow. People do not change.

Bow: Bill Burdus, age 59, weight 12 st 5 lbs
(Coach 1948 to 1964)

Two: Chuck Metcalfe, age 58, weight 12 st 12 lbs
(Senate 1951-53)

Three: Jonny Bridges, age 62, weight 14 st 0 lbs
(Senate 1949-50)

Stroke: John Hollier, age 58, weight 14 st 6 lbs
(Senate 1950-51)

Cox: Lerr Hamer, age 61, weight 12 stone
(Senate 1949-50)

For the statistically minded our total weight was 80 lbs up on 1950 - a conservative 25% of this was accounted for by one man.

We are now waiting for the call to repeat the performance when a new boat arrives. If it is an VIII four volunteers will be needed - the core four have been selected. No cox need bother to apply.

A COLLEGE LIFE: JEAN OLIVER

A much loved member of the College administrative staff, Miss Jean Oliver, retires this year after 45 years of service to University College. 'Castellum' went to see Jean to chat about her work and life.

When I first came to the College on 29th December 1943 I was employed to do the battels. I was the only one in the office at the time, working for Mr. Bryce and Lt. Col. MacFarlane-Grieve who was the Master and Bursar. So I did virtually everything on the clerical side. University College and Hatfield were together at that time, as Hatfield was housing Whitelands, a Ladies College. This was the time of the R.A.F. Short Courses. Battels were calculated in a 'day-book'. Cicely worked in the Buttery and anything which was purchased there or elsewhere was entered up in the 'day-book', and each week a sheet was put up to show how much had been spent by each person. There was no caterer, but a Housekeeper and Assistant Housekeeper plus a cook, so all the ordering for the kitchen was done from the office. Most of the food was supplied by traders in the City and their accounts were in little books which I had to take round each week or month to be entered up.

Post-War Durham

Mr. Slater was Vice-Master when students moved out to Lumley in 1946 and Mr. Mitchell was the Steward. Mr Mitchell came to the College once a week to collect the wages for the staff who were working at Lumley. There were also some students in 'Durham Rooms' at that time, which were lodgings, but it was the College - the students - who paid the rent to the landladies and the students paid the usual fee to the College, where they had their meals. Rationing continued after the War, and when the ration books changed I remember having to go down to the Food Office in Elvet and signing all the ration books on behalf of the students.

Each week I went down to the Bank in the Market Place to collect the money for staff wages. We used a bag which just

shouted money, but I wasn't nervous about carrying it through the streets and no-one ever attempted to grab it. I fear it would not be considered safe to do that today.

Despite many changes in office accommodation, I've always been in this same office, although my desk has been in several different places, and there used to be a fireplace in the room. The bedmakers lit the fire each morning and we had to keep it going during the day. Above the fireplace was burned the College motto, 'Non Nobis Solum'. I didn't know what the motto meant when I first came here and once a salesman asked what it said. When I shook my head he said it probably meant 'Don't spit in the fireplace'. Afterwards I asked Mr. Billy Robinson who was actually a Hatfield gyp - a real character who remembered when the students used to put out their shoes to be cleaned - and he told me that it meant 'Not for ourselves alone'. Mr. Robinson was the elder brother of Arthur Robinson who was High Table gyp in Castle for many years and still lives in Durham.

Many years ago there was no bar in the College and students went into the town. But I haven't noticed too many changes in the behaviour of the students. Obviously, I've got older and so they look younger but I don't think it has changed too much. One significant change is that students participate more in the running of the College, three members of J.C.R. being on Governing Body. I remember, on one occasion, Mr. Bryce being horrified when a student walked into the office and calmly asked to see the College Accounts. Many years later, the accounts were posted on the College notice board!

Students seldom wear gowns these days, only for formal meals. I think Cicely and myself are the most long-serving members of staff, followed by John Atkin. When we first came there were only male gyps, but now there are mostly female waitresses. I remember best the students from longer ago, because in recent years I haven't come into contact with the students so much as they mainly use the general office. I still see most of the interview candidates, of course. Some Old Castlemen who return after a number of years are quite surprised to be recognised.

The Admissions System

Working for College was my first and only job. Yet it hasn't seemed the same because there have been so many changes. Over the years I have worked for four Masters and two Senior Tutors as well as with many other members of the academic, administrative and domestic staff of the College. The Master now has a Secretary who comes in during the morning since my work is virtually full time on admissions.

I've wondered recently how many students have passed through here on the way to interview. The admissions job has expanded greatly and since going mixed there has been a big increase in the number of applications, as indeed there has been for the University as a whole. I think the admission of girls has been a good step. At first I was a little apprehensive about it, but as far as I am concerned it hasn't created any problems: they seem to fit in really well.

Applications go from the admissions office at Old Shire Hall first to the Departments and then to the Colleges. I liaise to arrange mutually convenient times for interviews between the departments and the college. Nearly all our forms show a preference for University College. This year we have as many forms now, to the beginning of December, than we had for the whole of last year. We have had 1428 so far this year, compared, for example, with 952 in 1981-2.

The College makes the offer with the agreement of the department, and there is very rarely a lack of agreement between the two. The offer is sent from the College. The system is still changing: this year on the U.C.C.A. form the students don't express a preference for universities in order. They can star their first choice if they want to, but apart from that they have to place the choices in alphabetical order. This will make life very much more difficult, because universities do not know whether they are first or last choices, etc.

We'll have to interview more people, and more people will be able to turn us down and because of the chaos there are bound to be more disappointed students, parents, teachers etc. until we learn to work with the new system.

The Universities Central Council on Admissions was originally set up in 1961 by the universities to solve some of the problems arising from the increased pressure of applicants for admission. It became a company in 1981 and has the status of an educational charity. The new system is rather like the pre-U.C.C.A. one when you didn't even know whether someone was applying to, say, Oxford or Cambridge unless they told you on the form.

The start of the U.C.C.A. scheme went quite well and was a great improvement, because you knew something about candidates' preferences, but we appear to have taken a step backward this year.

The Numbers Game

It's a bit of a tightrope getting the numbers right. On one occasion Mr. Ramsay jokingly said we might have to have tents on Palace Green and subsequently, when there was a scare in the September that some Colleges would not be able to accommodate all the Freshers, an article appeared in the Press with that suggestion. Our difficult year was 1980 when we had about a dozen more than the quota. However we used the rooms below the Servery and doubled up a number of the larger single rooms.

There is a degree of flexibility. We know roughly where we are by the beginning of September, so there's a month to put emergency plans into operation. If when A-Level results come out, we find not enough people have met the conditions and we may have a shortfall, we can easily avoid it by relaxing the conditions for people who have just missed. The problem comes if it is the other way: you make too many offers, too many get the grades and not enough withdraw. A good college will never undershoot, but it's much easier to have too many. Individual subject balances may not be as per quota, but in terms of filling the beds there is never a problem.

Over the years, the number of candidates withdrawing can vary, from maybe as few as six, to as much as twenty-five. You never can tell. Some do better than expected and try for Oxbridge the following year. More people put in deferred

applications for a year ahead and consciously decide to have a year out.

There are more students from the south of England than there used to be, and there's a much wider variety of schools nowadays. There are also many more courses now, and the balance has changed too. When we were an all-male College we had large quotas for the science subjects. Classics is still popular, but that is perhaps because so few universities offer it now, and the supply of places has declined.

I must say I like the computer. At first I was rather frightened by it, and I thought I would do something wrong and everything would disappear. The admissions are now on computer, indexed by UCCA number. Producing room lists, and lists of students in residence are done by computer which takes the drudgery out of the work. There's so much in the way of notices which are broadly the same every year and all you need do now is call the notice up on the screen and change the date, without having to retype the whole thing.

Outside the College

I live out at Gilesgate Moor and walk into the College every day, irrespective of the weather. I often walk home at night as well – it takes about 25-30 minutes – it's a bit more strenuous going back since it's mostly uphill. I live on my own and have done since my mother died. Everybody assures me I'll find plenty to do when I retire and I'm sure I will. I am very fond of gardening and I intend to go to the swimming baths more often. I like cooking, home decorating, embroidery and knitting, and I hope to travel. I have my holidays booked: I'm looking forward to taking my two nieces to Florida for three weeks in August, and going on a Mediterranean cruise in October. I think I'll miss the people most of all, also the company, and the work itself.

I recall telling one of the old Castlemen who came in to the office when his son was up for interview, (and of course there have been quite a lot of sons of old Castlemen here) that I just hoped I was not still here to know their grandsons.

Well I'm sure we all hope you are still here then – albeit not in post!

Castellum

NEWS ROUND-UP

BOAT CLUB SUCCESS

Durham University Boat Club enjoyed one of its best ever seasons in 1987-88. Its coxless four won major events at Durham, Nottingham and Marlow Regattas before winning the coveted Visitors Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. Princess Anne presented the crew with their medals, remarking on Durham's splendid achievement in view of the small size of the University. Another major triumph was the surprise defeat of Oxford and Cambridge eights in a televised three mile race on the Tyne in July.

UGC TEAM ARRIVES IN DURHAM

Members of the University Grants Committee were given Durham's recipe for the future for discussion with groups of staff and students during their full-scale visit to the University on 1st February. More than seventy staff and students and Members of Council were brought together in groups for various sessions with the UGC team.

GRADUATES CHOOSE TUNNEL DIRECTOR

Mr. Tom Cain, a member of the senior management team of the Channel Tunnel Company, is the new Chairman of Durham University Society, the nationwide association of Durham graduates. He takes over from Mr. Howard Phelps who is the new DUS President. Mr. Cain (58) became Director of Human Resources for Eurotunnel last summer. He has spent more than 35 years with the Royal Dutch Shell Group both in the

UK and overseas. He graduated with a BSc in Chemistry in 1952 (Hatfield College). He also helped to run the Student Union and captained the Hatfield Durham College and University soccer teams. Mr. Phelps, Chairman for the past fifteen years, has been elected President in succession to Lord Peart who died last year.

US SEED GIANTS TAKE A LEAF FROM DURHAM

The 'secret weapons' of the plants that fight back, developed by the Plant Molecular Biology Group at Durham, are to be used against pests by American corn and cotton producers. The research team in the Department of Biological Sciences is funded by Agricultural Genetics Company Limited (AGC) which has now signed licensing agreements with two of the United States' top seed companies. The deals highlight the potential worldwide benefits of the Durham research which is producing crops that resist attack by insects without the need for chemicals on the fields.

DURHAM IN THE 1990's

- Plans for the 1990's will take account of national policies and priorities - particularly broader access and the demand for highly-trained people - but the situation may reach crisis point in some areas and require emergency measures to satisfy Government's ambitions and employers' needs.
- Durham aims to increase from 5,200 to 6,000 students in the 1990's; to maintain a

spread and a balance of subjects in the Arts, Sciences and Social Sciences; to maintain a selective programme of high quality fundamental research and engage in applied research both as an intellectual challenge and as an aid to regional and national development.

- The unique community of Colleges will be maintained, recognising that they are effective centres for personal interaction, encourage a variety of personal interests and development and provide opportunities for leadership, enterprise and cultural and sporting achievements.
- A College on Teesside will be developed to provide, alongside the Polytechnic, increased access to higher education.
- The use of property will be reviewed to increase accommodation for staff and students and open up some of the leisure and other amenities to residents and visitors to Durham.
- Stronger overseas links will be developed through an increase in students, teachers and researchers coming to Durham and more Durham staff and students going abroad to study.

DURHAM TAKES A LEAD WITH THE 'NORTHUMBRIA EXPERIENCE'

The University has set up a new Tourism Unit to look at opportunities to develop University-based tourism activities. Plans are in hand to offer holidays which can be booked through High Street Travel Agents, and to develop links with tour operators. The University has recently appointed Andrew Duff to the new post of Marketing Officer assigned to the Unit, and one of his first tasks is to prepare for the launch of 'The Northumbria Experience', an eight day heritage tour centred in University accommodation. This will, it is believed, be the first time University-based holidays have been made available for booking through Travel Agents.

TEIKYO CEREMONY BREAKS NEW GROUND

The building of a branch of the University of Teikyo in Durham is now under way, following a ceremony attended by civic leaders and university representatives to mark the lifting of the first turf from the site of the new student accommodation. Professor Hiroshi Hojo, who has been Senior Adviser to the Teikyo team through the negotiations with Durham University, performed the earth breaking ceremony and then joined the Mayor of Durham in planting a Japanese cherry tree to commemorate the start of a new chapter in the relations between Japan and the City of Durham. Durham University has leased land to the University of Teikyo in Tokyo for the construction of an overseas branch school consisting of a teaching and cultural centre and accommodation for staff and 130 students.

NEW FUNDING OUTLOOK FOR CASTLE

The Treasury has lifted the Government's ban on 'double-funding' which posed a threat to raising cash for urgent repairs at Durham Castle. It means the University can now draw up plans for fund-raising to protect the Grade One Listed Building and be treated as any other applicants to the Heritage funding bodies. The Castle is listed as a World Heritage Site with neighbouring Durham Cathedral. It will need well in excess of £1.4 million to carry out a programme of special conservation and essential repairs, to keep it fully open for use as a College, as a setting for graduations and other University functions and as a venue for public events and tourist attraction. Up to 30,000 people a year make guided tours of the Castle. The University is now eligible for grants from English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund (both supported by the Treasury) on the ground that the Castle is an important historic building in public use and in need of urgent repair.

J.C.R. REPORT

1988 could have been a very difficult year for the J.C.R. We went mixed and faced all the problems involved with making sure the facilities in Castle were suitable for women. The J.C.R. faced increasingly financial pressure from the Government, University and the College. Fortunately the J.C.R. survived relatively unscathed although the financial problem has not disappeared and will play an increasingly larger part in the way the College is run.

There were certain reservations in the JCR about the influx of women into Castle. The major concern appeared to be that the atmosphere within the College would change for the worse and that as a body we would become more insular. The unique outgoing nature of the College was maintained, if not enhanced, during the year. Castle was represented strongly within the Student Union, Palatinate, and the University's sports teams (both men's and for the first time women's). A castleman, Murray Buesst, was also President of the Union Society during the year. The women also made a strong impression in all aspects of College life. We were able to field women's hockey, netball, cricket and rugby (!) teams throughout the year. Admittedly success did not come easily due to the small number of women at present. The enthusiasm was there however and I am sure that in future years Castle will be a force to be reckoned with in women's as well as men's sport.

The J.C.R. in 1988 faced a number of financial problems. For the first time it was a requirement that the J.C.R. accounts should be professionally audited before we could receive any University grant. This involved a considerable amount of work to get the accounts and the accounting system to a sufficient standard. This was eventually achieved and the audit went smoothly. In future years our 'accountability' should enable the J.C.R. to negotiate from a stronger position when attempting to increase its annual grant.

A Rent Strike had to be called during the year, withholding the maintenance fee from the College to try and obtain a fairer settle-

ment for the students. This inevitably led to a conflict of interests as the students realised that the College was under financial pressure from the University, and indirectly the Government, to save money. With the level of the student grant being insufficient to meet the increased costs of being a student it was felt unfair of the Colleges to directly pass on the rise in running expenses to the students. Fortunately a compromise was reached without a prolonged strike but the financial future for the students looks increasingly bleak under the present Government.

On a happier note 1988 was a historic year for the College's rugby team. For the first time in twenty years of competition we won the Rugby Trophy. In a thrilling final against Hatfield we won 13-12 much to the delight of a sizeable Castle crowd. Hatfield have been hanging their heads in shame ever since at the ignominy of losing the trophy to a mixed College. Hatfield's 'Trophy' Dinner was indeed a sombre occasion in the absence of any trophy.

The social events during the year followed the usual format with Ladies Night (to which Castle Ladies were also allowed to invite guests), the Shakespeare Informal Ball and of course the June Ball. The June Ball was as usual very popular and successful. The ticket price of £100 is arguably getting a bit out of hand and hopefully it can be kept at the same level, if not decreased, over the next few years.

In retrospect the year has been a very happy one for me and I feel the J.C.R. is in good shape to face the financial and social challenges currently on the horizon. Floreat Castellum.

James W.F. Wight
Senior Man 1987-88

GOOD MORNING, CAMPUS!

Former Student Prince HUNTER DAVIES goes back to the past

(Reproduced by kind permission of Punch)

For the first ten minutes, I thought what have I done, what a mistake, I should never have come, perhaps I'll leave now, they were right, all those cold realists, such as the Old Trout, who can never understand why anyone in their right mind would ever want to attend a reunion. Her rule has always been NEVER GO BACK. She ignores letters from her old college, should they dare to write to her, though she has sent money for appeals, but she scoffs at the very idea of a Gaudy.

In my mind, I have never really been away. It's still June 1958 and I can smell the wood in the Norman Gallery, hear the cathedral bells, see the cover of that Ken Colyer record I used to play in the JCR, yet despite all this heavy romanticising, I have never in fact been back to a reunion. Life, which is what we call the daylight hours, has moved on and there's never been a suitable gap in the clouds or a break in the blue sky to fit in a return.

Can it be really thirty years since I left Durham, ceased to be a student, entered the World, which is what we call that bit outside the front door? I honestly, truthfully,

consider I'm the same age as Caitlin and Jake and only slightly older than Flora. The OT was always an older person. I married her for her wisdom and her bus pass. So I'm denying it's been thirty years. I demand a re-count. Inside, it's still the same old me. Only the date and the reflections in the mirror have changed.

A few weeks ago a voice on the phone said, hello it's Spike and did I realise it's exactly thirty years ago since we all came down. He was ringing up people who all left in 1958 to make a special effort to attend this year's Castlemen's Reunion. While I was trying to remember who the hell was Spike, he added that Dad would be coming as well, now what was his real name, and also Crockett, another dopey nickname, don't say they've gone through the last thirty years trailing these soppy names.

I arrived about four o'clock in Durham, just in time for tea, which was being served as ever in the Great Hall of the Castle, home of University College for the last 152 years. Oh, the memories! Now where was I sick, through which medieval window did I throw that orange at the Boat Club Dinner, or was it the Christmas Dinner, or was it an

apple, certainly ended with a broken window and for years I dreaded the bill coming in.

There were about fifty people having tea. I could recognise not one of them. I put on my glasses, yup I do admit to one or two minor alterations in the bodywork over thirty years, and I could still see no one I knew. All total strangers, some older, some younger.

I sat down at one of the long tables, on my own, and was joined by a bloke with a beard. I looked into his beard, for signs of history, clues to his real identity, but saw nothing. He said he was up in 1964. He'd just come on spec, his first time back. He seemed perfectly pleasant, nice bloke, but dear God, I haven't come all this way to chat to total strangers. We have nothing in common, except the stone and timbers, missing out on all our own private, passing legends. I have reached the stage in life, okay I am now going to admit even more signs of age, when I have not the same energy and excitement for new people, not after ten minutes or so. I have more than enough people in my head to keep me going.

Then, from a far corner I saw someone waving at me, shouting my name, and other pleasantries, and I rushed over to where a little gang had a table on their own, seven of them, all from the class of '58. For a second, they too appeared to be strangers, but in about ten seconds it was as if nothing had changed. It was like coming back after a particularly long vac. Not one had grown any older, not really, not once I looked into each face and wiped away the lines. All around, people were shouting good God, It's not, Bloody Hell, it must be, look at you, I can't believe it, are you really still alive, har har har.

Back in 1958, whenever any old Boys returned, I did find them pretty boring, and it was always a right drag to let them sit in

my room and ogle the view. At that time, they all seemed to be vicars. Durham has always had this strong ecclesiastical connection. Nowadays they mostly seem to be teachers, to judge by our little group. Five of my seven were in some form of teaching. Perhaps those are the sort who tend to come back. Of the other two, one is a big cheese on the *Financial Times* and the other in Shell. All but one were married, and married only once, with children now at student age. I wanted to hear in detail every part of their life story, but I also wanted to have a walk, so we agreed to keep the thirty years of chat for dinner.

Durham has become much prettier, but then in 1958 I never had a visual awareness, never took in architecture, which is why I always smile and agree when Flora maintains that Kentish Town is nicer than Cambridge, and Oxford Street more interesting than Oxford. Two of the old bridges are now traffic-free and the peninsula is even more of an Ivory Tower island, cut off from all modern nasties. I walked into the town proper and looked at the Market Square and the Town Hall where we used to attend Saturday Night Hops. Oh come on, Flora, you must have heard the word Hop. You're kidding me. Turns out there is no such word any more, no such concept, gone the ways of all innocence.

I saw a sign saying "Bailes the Printers". That name has not passed through my brain for thirty years, yet at one stage I practically lived there, as they printed the student newspaper which I edited. I entered *Palatinate* one year for *The Sunday Times* Student Newspaper of the Year award, sending down one copy as required, and Bailes did me a big favour and printed this one copy on specially thick glossy paper, instead of the usual bog-paper quality, wasn't that kind. We reached the finals, and I had a free trip to London, my first ever

visit, but we didn't win 'cos the clever-clog judges decided that glossy paper was not suitable for a student newspaper.

I drooled over South Street, what a gem, what views, I could not have been all that insensitive in 1958 as I remember trying for a room there for my last year, that was before I was promoted to glory and was elected Senior Man. Not again, Flora, I have told you several times, you never listen; it's what we used to call the president of the JCR. Still do, which is surprising, considering they now have women students for the first time.

I don't remember a great deal about the reunion dinner, except being helped to bed about two o'clock in the morning, and that's about the first time in thirty years, oh yes it is. But I did throw out a round robin question, asking each of the seven to think of one happy moment out of the many they must have had in the thirty years since we last met.

They all went quiet for a while, probably thinking how silly, or how soppy they will sound if they do tell the truth. But in turn, as the wine flowed, they all offered a little something.

Spike said the happiest moment in his last thirty years was during the week in which he was forty and his wife gave birth to their first child. Dave said his best moment was buying a house which was 200 yards from Hampshire cricket ground. Doug remembered seeing an ostrich from a train between Mombassa and Kampala.

Ian spent three years teaching a kid to read and write, if only his own name. A few years later the lad was charged for forging his name on a Postal Order. If Ian had kept out of it, the kid would never have ended up on a fraud charge.

Garry said he always felt close to tears every time he saw Durham Cathedral and Castle, even just a picture in a book or on the television. Dad, I think it was, said he would never forget the first sight of his wife's superb pair of legs. Dave, another Dave, the one formerly called Crockett, was still waiting for that one supremely happy, orgasmic moment.

Richard did not offer a happy memory, unless I've forgotten it, but he did have one regret. It was that none of his three children wanted to go to Durham. Mine too.

CHAPTERS FROM MY MUSICAL LIFE

An autobiographical note from the Senior Tutor, Duncan Bythell

Castlemen who remember me as a Norman Gallery resident in the late 1960s and who were treated to selections from my ever expanding collection of operatic recordings may well have concluded that I was an opera singer *Manque*. Those of a later generation probably realised that I am, in fact, an enthusiastic amateur conductor, because in the later 1970s, the St. James Group (a Newcastle-based choral society, one of whose stalwarts is David Wainwright) gave an annual concert under my direction in the Castle Hall.

These concerts, which featured such works as Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Gounod's *St. Cecilia Mass*, and *Hiawatha's Wedding*, were accompanied by student orchestras efficiently organised by David Price and stylishly led by either David Hales or Mione MacDowall, the wife of our former Master. Although I no longer conduct the St. James' Group on a regular basis, I still make guest appearances, and directed a performance of Rossini's delightful *Petite Messe Solenne* in the Tunstal Chapel as recently as 1985.

My apprenticeship as a conductor – a classic case of 'learning by watching' and then 'learning by doing' – was served in my schooldays in Lancashire in the 1950s, when I performed as singer and accompanist at my village chapel in the last days of a great choral tradition. Our highlights were *Messiah*, *Elijah*, *The Creation*, and *The Crucifixion*; and for light relief we indulged ourselves with an annual Gilbert and Sullivan production. But it was during my student years in Oxford that I won my first real opportunities to conduct choirs and orchestras for my college music society. (Among those who sang under my baton in those distant days was Professor P. J. Rhodes!) I suppose the summit of my achievement came in my final year, when I earned the princely sum of 40 pounds for conducting a week's performances of *The Gondoliers* in the Playhouse for the Oxford (City) Operatic Society.

During the last three years, however, I have extended by conducting range into what, for me, has been a completely new

field – brass bands. This is entirely the result of my moving back into College in 1983 when I replaced Stan Ramsay as Senior Tutor, because I was then able to sell my house in Crossgate and acquire a rural retreat for weekend and vacation use in Swaledale. I quickly discovered that, despite depopulation and gentrification, a handful of the villages had managed to maintain the brass band tradition which flourished throughout the dales at the beginning of the century. And when my next-door neighbour (a cornettist) told me that Muker Silver Band was in need of a new conductor, I wasted no time. I became the band's conductor in 1985, and since then I have been thoroughly absorbed in an activity which brings together my love of the dales, and my historian's interest in popular culture.

One result has been that the Band recently made its first recording – a professionally-made, 60-minute cassette featuring twenty brass band favourites and entitled *Music from Muker*. We can't claim to be Grimethorpe or Black Dyke, but for a village band from the back of beyond we don't do too badly, though I say it myself! Should any Old Castleman like a copy of the cassette – and here comes the commercial – I can gladly supply them by post at five pounds a time. All the profits will go to a good cause – we will be able to replace instruments which in some cases were bought back in the 1920s. But more importantly, the funds we raise will help keep alive a tradition of community music-making which has almost died out, but which surely has more to recommend it than the soap-opera culture which can so easily dominate people's leisure nowadays.

Music from Muker is not available from record shops, but can be obtained on personal application to Dr. Bythell.

PRE-WAR CASTLE

- The Thirties Remembered

by Canon G. A. Williams

I remember well making the train journey from Manchester to Durham on 4 March 1935 and I can never forget the shock I received when the train emerged from the cutting and began its slowing progress over the viaduct towards the station. I do not recall having previously seen ever a photograph of Durham and the first trip was of a certain unreality. I had received a communication from the College giving me a timetable of the examination for a scholarship in Theology which consisted, as I recall, of two three hour papers on the Bible and one paper each on Latin and Greek in which compositions of translations of English into Latin and unseen translations of classical Greek and Latin prose authors and poets dominated the questions. I was also informed that a room had been booked for me at the Durham Hotel. This was situated in Old Elvet under the proprietorship of a Mr Pattinson who had once been Mayor of Durham. It has now been absorbed along with the Waterloo Hotel next door into the Royal County. Although all the candidates would be fully or very nearly eighteen years of age, the Dunelm was the only one considered possible because it was the only temperance hotel in the city. On arrival we were informed that those young gentlemen who had applied for admission into University College were required to present themselves in the dining room at a quarter after nine o'clock that evening, as the Master would be coming down to the hotel then to see us.

Accordingly, after dinner about two dozen prospective Castlemen presented themselves and we stood in a circle, the tables having been cleared and put to one side. Eventually Canon How appeared, tall bearded and wearing a winter's overcoat on the top of which was his academic gown. I do not think he removed his square throughout the interview.

With hands clasped behind his back, he approached each

youth in turn and began the interview with a grunt. The questions asked were identical and the comments predictable. 'What is your name?', 'Which school do you attend?' – if the school was known to the questioner a comment might be forthcoming. The third and last question was 'Why do you want to come to the Castle?' to which the only possible response was 'because it is the best' even though the expected sentiment might be expressed with differing phraseology. 'Quite right' and a grunt with monotonous regularity and then the aged clergyman moved on to the next victim. The circle having been completed, the Master stood in the midst and said 'I hope you all pass the examination' raised his square and bade us goodnight. That was the only encounter we had with anyone from the University or the College. Two days later we all left from our various homes and schools. On the following Monday morning – the last exam was Wednesday afternoon – in the first delivery of the post was a typewritten duplicated sheet announcing the various awards – clearly a copy of the one which had been affixed to the notice board on Palace Green, and I learned that I had been awarded a scholarship.

Michaelmas Term, 1935

On the second Thursday in October, therefore, I made my second journey to Durham, this time to stay for sixty days.

My trunk had been sent by 'luggage in advance' and I was relieved to find it waiting for me in my room when I finally reached it. My former schoolfellow was on the same train and was kindly disposed: otherwise I might never have found it. He accompanied me to the lodge where I was introduced to the inimitable George Embleton who had been the Castle porter from time immemorial. He had a redoubtable wife whom we all called Spindle because she had two big feet. I was told that I had rooms in Bailey House and shown my pigeon hole in the letter rack.

Having found my room, and my trunk, it was a short matter to unpack. Two sheets were put in the bed so that the Bedder could make it up when she arrived in the early evening.

The first necessary shopping expedition went next to

Woolworth's emporium in the Market Place to purchase crockery if we hadn't already done so from a student who had gone down the previous term or if one's gyp hadn't already tried to sell you what he had acquired from his 'previous gentleman'. A kettle was also a necessity and a table reading lamp desirable. Woolworth's were still the 'threepenny and sixpenny' stores with no commodity offered for sale at more than sixpence. Accordingly, a table lamp consisted of a wooden base (6d), a stem with bulb fitting (6d), a shade holder (3d), a shade (6d), a bulb (3d) and flex at 3d per yard. In all - half a crown.

Academic Dress and Kindred Matters

Gowns were to be worn in all public places between the hours of 9.00 am and 1.00 pm and after dusk. During the summer term dusk was considered as coming at 9.00 pm. Thus it was necessary to wear a gown when going to and coming from the cinema. No smoking was permitted while gowns were worn. Infringement of these rules when apprehended by the University policemen (bulldogs), of which there were two (Plunket and Gray), was reported to the Censor - one of the dons who held this University appointment - the following morning who would apply the appropriate penalty, usually a ten shilling scone (fine).

In addition, students were required to wear gowns in Hall for dinner, during attendance at all University lectures, when visiting a don on academic business and when attending divine services either in the College Chapel or in the Cathedral. Students so garbed were permitted at Evensong in the Cathedral to sit in the Honorary Canons' stalls not otherwise occupied.

Gowns, of course had also to be worn while sitting examinations which, being held in June, frequently occurred in hot weather. If such were the case, the Invigilator would make an announcement before the examination began. This always followed a fixed formula: 'Gentlemen may remove any garments they wish consistent with decency, provided that they replace their gowns subsequently.' This conclusion, for obvious reasons, was not extended to the women candidates and amongst the men there was some speculation about the interpretation of the

word 'decency'. By careful adjustment it was thought that it might be possible to remove the lot except the gown. Nevertheless, the instruction to replace the gown subsequently implied the expectancy that it would be dropped before the removal process was initiated. This speculation was never put to the test.

Gyps and Bedders

The domestic staff of the College consisted of a Butler, Cook, housemaids, kitchenmaids, gyps and bedders. The Butler was a Mr Green who, although he lived in a house in Museum Square – now demolished to make room for Bailey Court – reigned supreme in the Buttery. He was cast in the mould of traditional English butlers and his dignity and assurance were quite terrifying to undergraduates. He could, however, carve sufficient beef to feed two hundred people during the service and consumption of the soup and fish courses, each slice wafer thin at a speed which no mechanical meat-slicer could rival. He presided at his own carving table at the north end of the Hall and kept the whole company under his surveillance throughout the meal.

The Cook was also somewhat traditional, especially in her physical proportions. She once won a prize in a marmalade competition and any complaint about the food passed on to her by the Secretary of the Junior Common Room was always passed by as acid reminder of this fact: in point of fact we were extremely well fed.

The Junior Common Room

The Junior Common Room used to be sited between the Norman Chapel and the Courtyard, the entrance being from the Chapel which was then a thoroughfare leading in the south-east corner to the staircase which led up to the Junction and the Keep. It was not a very large room but just about adequate for our needs because it was not until the academic year 1935–1936 that those members of the College who were 'in statu pupilaris' – and that includes fourth year students doing a post-graduate course

of study – exceeded fifty in number and that figure was never reached again until after the second World War.

During afternoons, the Castle was open to the public who were taken on a guided tour after payment of a sixpenny entrance fee. The housemaids acted as the guides. They had treated the rigmarole without any apparent comprehension and any student in the Junior Common Room on any afternoon would have his meditations rudely and frequently interrupted by the source of a half-recited, half-sung and high pitched voice proclaiming with a total absence of variation of penetration or pitch: 'This-is-the-Norman-Chapel-built-by-William-the-Conqueror-in-1072-this-way-ladies-and-gentlemen-please.'

At meetings in the Junior Common Room, cigarettes were provided ad lib and the cost divided between the members and put on their battels. Thus the cigarettes were paid for whether one smoked them or not. In point of fact, there were very few students indeed who did not smoke at that time, and some who were non-smokers took to the habit in self-defence because the atmosphere in the room at the end of a meeting resembled a huge tangled skein of wool.

There will be more reminiscences from the 1930's in the next edition of Castellum.

THE DURHAM CASTLE SOCIETY
Income and Expenditure Account for the period ended 31st March, 1988

1986-87	EXPENDITURE	1986-87	INCOME	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£
2112.07	Reunion Expenses	1120.65	Reunion, 1987		
425.25	Printing: Castellum, 1986	1017.75	Subscriptions and Contributions towards Castellum	1602.00	
90.20	Stationery etc.	92.82	(in arrears)	35.50	
143.37	Postages	186.21		<u>1637.50</u>	
	Miscellaneous Expenses				
	Receptions for students etc.	49.50	Less received in advance	115.00	
	Spray of Flowers	8.00	Interest on Investments		1522.50
74.00	Travelling	7.00	Miscellaneous receipts		163.06
			Donations		6.13
764.34	Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure, for the period	64.50			
		316.11			
<u>£3609.23</u>		<u>£2798.04</u>			<u>£2798.04</u>
		<u>£3609.23</u>			

Balance Sheet as on 31st March, 1988

LIABILITIES		
Contributions towards Castellum received in advance	327.98	
Sundry Creditors		3425.09
University College Capital Account	286.03	
As on 1st March, 1987		163.06
ADD Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	3298.75	
	316.11	
	3614.86	
	<u>£4228.87</u>	
		<u>3588.15</u>
		640.72
		<u>£4228.87</u>

ASSETS

Investments
Northern Rock Building Society – Preference Shares
As on 1st March, 1987
Added during the period
Interest

Cash at Bank

AUDITORS REPORT

I have examined the books of account of The Durham Castle Society and confirm that the foregoing Statements are prepared in accordance therewith.

K. Delaney
Old Shire Hall, Durham

April, 1988

COLLEGE OFFICERS, 1987-88

MASTER

E. C. Salthouse, B.Sc., Ph.D., C.Eng., F.I.E.E.

SENIOR TUTOR

D. Bythell, M.A., D.Phil.

BURSAR

Wing Commander A. E. Cartmell, B.A., M.A.

CHAPLAIN AND SOLWAY FELLOW

Rev. R. St. J. J. Marsh, M.A.

LOWE LIBRARIAN

J. S. Ashworth, B.A., M.A.(Econ.)

ADMISSIONS TUTORS

J. S. Ashworth, M.A.(Econ.)

*J. R. Bumby, B.Sc., Ph.D., C.Eng., M.I.E.E.

*E. J. Lowe, M.A. B.Phil., D.Phil.

TUTORS

J. P. Aggleton, B.A., D.Phil.

F. Ashton, B.Sc., Ph.D.

S. J. Banks

*J. M. Black, B.A., Ph.D.

*Sarah E. Black, M.A., M.B.B.Chip., M.R.C.Psych.

R. J. Brickstock

*Mrs. J. A. Bumby, B.A.

E. Cambridge, M.A.

*P. D. B. Collins, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.Inst.P.

*Margaret P. Collins, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Rosalind A. Crawley, B.Sc., Ph.D.

O. T. P. K. Dickinson, M.A., D.Phil.

G. D. Dragas, B.D., Th.M., Ph.D.

*M. P. Drury, B.A.

*Mrs. J. L. Drury, M.A.

D. Flower, B.Sc., Ph.D.

V. C. Gibson, B.Sc., D.Phil.

*J. C. F. Hayward, M.A., F.B.I.M.

- *Mrs. Hayward
 K. F. Hilliard, M.A., D.Phil.
 C. Jones, M.A., B.Litt.
- *Mrs. S. L. Lowe, B.A.
 J. C. Lumsden, B.Sc.(Econ.), Dip.Lib.Studies, A.L.A.
 W. T. W. Morgan, M.Sc(Econ.),Ph.D.
- *D. Parker, B.A., D. Phil.
- *Mrs. F. Parker
 F. W. Pritchard, LL.B., Dip.Lib.
 E. G. P. Rowe, M.Sc., Ph.D.
 Rosemary J. Stevenson, B.Sc., Ph.D.
 R. B. Thomas, B.A., M.A.(Econ.), Ph.D.
 M. E. Tucker, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S.
 P. A. Williamson, M.A.

*joint tutors.

Dates of 1989 Reunion

Friday 14th April to Sunday 16th April 1989.
 The Reunion Dinner is on Saturday 15th April 1989.

Dates of 1990 Reunion

Friday 23rd March to Sunday 25th March 1990.
 The Reunion Dinner is on Saturday 24th March 1990.

DATES OF 1991 REUNION

Not available at the time of going to press

Members are advised of the new telephone numbers of the College as follows:-

General Enquiries	091 374 3800
College Office	091 374 3863
University Main Switchboard	091 374 2000