

# Non Nobis Solum

*Thank you for your support in 2024*

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Professor Wendy Powers

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## Welcome

It is with the deepest gratitude that I thank all of our donors and volunteers who continue to support University College and those who have been inspired to support our College for the very first time this year. This brief report highlights the difference which your generosity has made.

In this issue we look at the impact of hardship funding, a key area where your donations made a positive impact over the last four years. We also highlight the transformative power of legacies as well as the Heritage Scholarship, generously supported by University College Durham Trust. Towards the end of this publication you will also find some information about the difference volunteering makes to Castle - showcasing an award winning student initiative and spotlight on Alex Nelson, one of our dedicated alumni volunteers.

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



Students taking part in MCR organised Holi festival

# Hardship Support

University College Access Fund supports unexpected cases of student hardship. It helps students pay for educational equipment, such as books or laptops, and in some cases pays for food and rent shortfalls.

The difference the fund makes is transformational to the individual recipients, far beyond helping students continue with their studies. Crucially, it allows individuals to make the most of co-curricular and work experience opportunities, giving them the skills necessary to prepare for future career opportunities. Thanks to generosity of our alumni community, and in particular the regular gifts made by our donors, we were able to support 60 students

experiencing hardship during the last academic year. Although the need for support is still considerable, we are now able to help nearly 50% more students than in 2021. This is a testament to a huge, and growing, difference which regular giving makes at Castle - no matter the size of the gift.

**“On behalf of our students I'm forever indebted, and grateful to the alumni community who can support our work through their donations. With your support, so many of our students are saved from financial stress, and I do not use the word 'saved' lightly! Without your support, we wouldn't be able to help students fix their laptops, reduce their working hours, or head home in an emergency.”**

- David Myers, Assistant Student Support Officer

## Thanks to you...

“With the fund, I was able to pay my rent. This took significant strain off my mental health. Previously, I was having to budget at £15 a week for groceries/student necessities including books. This led me to having to ration my food and unable to properly fuel my sporting activities. I am a runner and do strength training, so adequate nutrition is so important to me. I was left being absolutely exhausted by the end of the day, having to allocate a significant amount of my budget to my rent and not groceries. The access fund took the strain off me for a whole month, where I was able to feed myself properly. This also allowed me to focus on my degree a lot better than I could before. I really do not take it for granted. I am very appreciative of the help I have received and hope the access fund stays in place for future students in similar situations to me.”

- Second year Castle Student



An image of Castle walls by Bex Harvey

# A Lasting Legacy

William Thomas Wilson (Dai) Morgan (1927-2020), was a Durham University Lecturer and a prominent member of University College Senior Common Room. He was a popular character, passionate about his work on geography of Africa and promoting African Universities, and dedicated to many cohorts of Durham Geography students that he taught.

During his first year in Durham, Dai lived in Lumley Castle, when it was an outpost of University College. He was an assiduous undergraduate tutor and a champion for the community aspect of Durham College Life.



Fellows' Garden

It was Dai's generous legacy, alongside a significant gift from another University College alumnus and over 100 donations from the broader college community, which made it possible for us to embark on the transformation of Fellows' Garden. The key aim of the project, set to begin on 10th March, is to reimagine the space as a purpose-built performance venue for plays and concerts, with student enrichment at it's heart.



Architect's drawing of redeveloped Fellows Garden courtesy of Howard Litchfield Architects

As part of the transformation, we will introduce a new terrace/stage area at the North end of the garden, improve accessibility and add power and light infrastructure. Once part of Prince Bishops' gardens and later, in the 19th and early 20th century, a private space for the academic fellows of University College, the garden will become an important and much needed space for the College community, utilising the magnificent backdrop of the Castle walls to pay homage to the rich history of the space. This in many ways reflects Dai's own interests in championing College traditions and Collegial aspects of our University. His gift is truly transformational in opening up the space to the community he loved and championed.

Legacies have a truly transformational impact on University College, allowing us to respond to the changing needs of our community and helping to mark and weave the stories of inspirational individuals like Dai into the rich tapestry of our history.

“This experience has been, and will continue to be, massively affirming of my own confidence and capabilities within the professional world of museums and heritage.”

- Ariel Hollamby, Curatorial Intern

# Castle Heritage Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of our regular donors and University College Durham Trust (UCDT) we were able to renew our Heritage Scholarship at Castle. This award

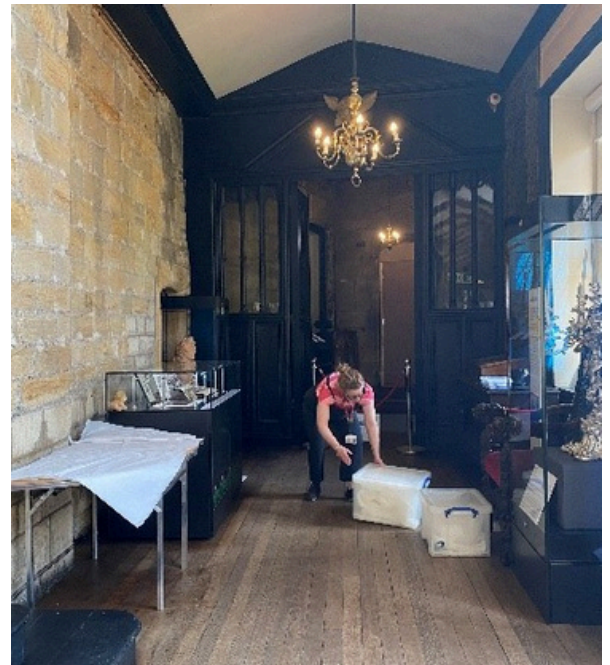
supports a student to pursue a part-time Masters' in Museum and Artefact studies as well as offering unrivalled professional experience as a Curatorial Intern to help care for and catalogue some of the college's artefacts.

As part of her internship, Ariel Hollamby, our 2023-25 Curatorial Intern, has the opportunity to learn crucial museum sector skills, such as working with collections databases, object care and handling, carrying out inventories of collections, and navigating pest-management addressing threats to the collections. This opportunity offers her valuable hands on experience in the arts, culture and heritage sector, enlivening her academic work.

Some of the highlights of her internship included an opportunity to collect information for the Norman Chapel interpretation project, researching the history and art of the Great Hall, and guiding new student volunteers to assist with a digitalisation programme for the collection's object archives. Ariel is very grateful to UCDT and all our donors, who have made this opportunity possible:

“Interning alongside studying has meant I have had the opportunity to apply academic learning from my MA in real-time within the Castle, whilst also having more professional experience to support coursework and assignments. The internship and scholarship have facilitated all of this, and has meant that, in a few months, I can begin to look for professional work with the confidence that I am a capable and skilled person, with academic and practical knowledge, who is always ready to learn and take on anything that is thrown my way. My time at Castle has been invaluable, personally and professionally, and I am incredibly grateful to have been given this opportunity.”

-Ariel Hollamby, University College (2020-25)



Gillian Rennie, Curator (Castle and Colleges), setting up an exhibition in the Tunstall Gallery





Ele James and Vernice Ng at the Volunteering Awards 2024

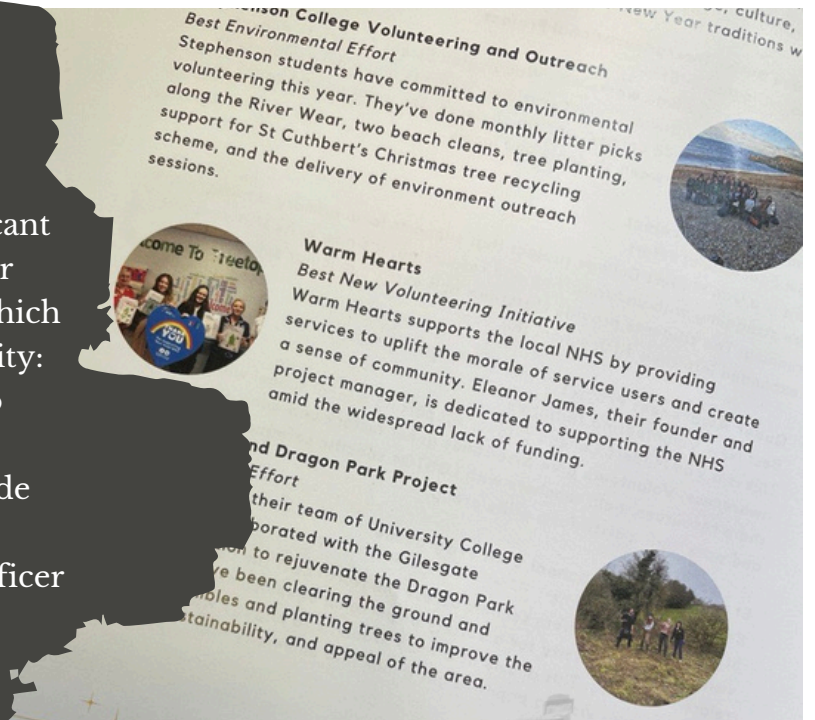
# Spotlight on Castle Community Action

Castle Community Action (CCA) is a student committee which aims to promote positive interaction between Castle students and members of the wider Durham community through a number of volunteering initiatives. CCA consists of several student led divisions: Homelessness, Elderly Care, Castle environment, Education and the Charities Committee, which provide much needed service to others and enable tremendous student learning.

One of its most recent initiatives, Warm Hearts, introduced by Eleanor James, JCR Outreach Officer, supports our local NHS and some of the youngest members of our community. The group of 20-30 students meets in the Bishops' Dining Room on Mondays to crochet and knit hats for premature babies. Ele's work was shortlisted for the Best New Volunteering initiative of 2024 at the Durham University Volunteering awards.

Thanks to a significant gift from Castle alumnus and dedicated volunteer, John Crowther, in addition to the ongoing support from the Castle Society, the group will be able to scale up their activities, further exemplifying our college motto, Non Nobis Solum.

Ele's long term ambition is for the group to be able to do more to support young people facing mental health challenges and ensure they are treated with kindness and compassion.



## Thank you!

"I cannot even begin to articulate how significant of an impact your donations make to us. Your support helps to support student initiatives which make a genuine impact on the local community: from our schools outreach and elderly care to supporting our local NHS. It also helps us to foster a stronger sense of community and pride within the College"

- Ele, JCR Outreach Officer

# A Gift of Time

Our volunteers make a huge difference to Castle, helping to foster a sense of community and belonging which is integral to our students' experience. This can be through mentoring or career advice as well as dedicated service as part of our alumni executive committees.

Many of you will recognise Alex Nelson, editor of the annual *Castellum* magazine since 1987 and recipient of last year's Dunelmensis Awards.

Alex's dedication to the society has involved a tremendous amount of time, community building, and partnership with College Office.

The magazine has not only grown and evolved beautifully but has also become quite the

historical record of college activity under his direction. His role with *Castellum* has made him the society historian and archivist, taking responsibility for producing the annual edition of the magazine, often illustrated with his own photographs. Through his executive roles within Castle Society and University College Durham Trust for more than three decades, Alex has

demonstrated sustained leadership, pride and personal commitment to the College and the University.

Alex has met and built lasting relationships with alumni across 60 years of University College's history, encouraging sustained connection with the College. His efforts have also had a marked impact on college fundraising efforts, acting as an ambassador for appeals and keeping his peers informed about the various projects at hand.



Some of our recent issues of the Castellum magazine



Left to right: Glen Whitehead, Alex Nelson, Wendy Powers and Kathrine Bertram

“It’s been a pleasure to work with Alex on the Castellum over the last four years. His dedication to the publication and to our College is an enormous asset to our community”

- Julia Bonner,  
Alumni and Development Manager

# A donor's perspective...

"My time in Durham gave me many opportunities and new experiences, and I still find it amazing that I was able to spend three years living in a Norman castle. As the number of students increases from year to year I've been impressed by alumni funded projects to create additional working and social spaces for students, including the West Courtyard, the Library extension and the Fellows Garden building which enabled former offices on Hall Stairs to become student bedrooms. The state grants that my generation enjoyed are now replaced by student loans, and financial hardship is a reality for far more students than it should be. The University College Durham Trust has made a major contribution to capital projects, but has also funded travel grants, scholarships and hardship grants."

-Kevin Hawes, University College 1977-80, President of Durham Castle Society and donor to UCDDT



## Final Thoughts

- Julia Bonner, Alumni & Development Manager

It's difficult to believe that this is already our fourth edition of *Non nobis solum!* I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks to all our donors. As University College staff we see first hand the difference your generosity makes to our students and the broader College community every single day. There is so much need within our community - we are currently able to support just over half of the access and opportunities applications we received, yet it is

heartening to be able to offer help to those students who need it most. Please know that no donation is too small to make a difference; even a few pounds a month can allow a student to pay for groceries or attend lectures, when they would otherwise struggle to do so.

I also want to thank all of our volunteers for sharing your precious time. Your support helps us to foster connections among our alumni community, shape the future of our College and inspire our students to think about their college journey beyond their time at Castle. Our alumni community is one of our greatest assets: a reminder of our rich history, a strong commitment to serving our community and a sense of pride in and responsibility for our heritage home.

None of what we have achieved thus far would be possible without the support of people like you. I hope that in the coming years we can count on you to continue supporting us in whatever way you can.

P.S. Do let us know if you're planning to visit Durham - it's always so wonderful to meet new alumni and find out how you've been! We'd love to include some of your stories in the next edition - perhaps you received an award or a bursary while in College, or maybe you were part of one of our sports clubs and societies and it had a big impact on your life? Let us know!



**£710,381**

In new philanthropic funds raised for the Fellows' Garden transformation



**109**

Awards made to Castle students in the last academic year



**39**

Student sports and societies at Castle benefitting from the generosity of our alumni community



**181**

Donors to University College Durham Trust



**13**

Different philanthropically funded awards and bursaries available to Castle students



**£4520**

Given away to student initiatives as part of "We are Castle" fund