



Collingwood College
Durham University



Love the Best

Aime le Meilleur



This brochure celebrates 50 years of Collingwood College: the place, the people, and the powerful ways in which it has transformed lives. It features a potted history of the College's past, reflections from alumni and staff members, as well as a snapshot of present-day Collingwood life.

Since 1972, almost 13,000 people have called Collingwood home during their university days, each with their own stories to tell. They now form an alumni community that stretches around the globe. Hundreds of staff members have enjoyed the respect and affection of generations of Collingwood students and contributed immeasurably to the success of the College. It is not possible to name or pay tribute to them all, nor to share everyone's treasured memories of Collingwood: there are simply too many. This brochure selects just a handful and speaks to pertinent themes of deep, lasting friendship and a strong sense of community that will resonate with anyone whose life has been touched by Collingwood College.

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Share your Collingwood story

This brochure shall be accompanied by a series of online articles and social media features. Contribute by sharing your memories, anecdotes and photographs—visit our website, follow us on social media, or get in touch via email.

Collingwood College

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Foundations of a College

Peter Bayley lays a corner coping stone at the topping out ceremony, 31 January 1973



The Conception of “College Y”

In the favourable financial climate of the 1960s, Durham University saw an opportunity to expand, calling for the creation of three new colleges to the south of the river. Collingwood, or “College Y” as it was then dubbed, was part of this extension. The intention was to complete the college in 1965, but this was postponed to 1972 due to expenditure cuts.

The designs for the building embraced Durham’s iconic landscape and followed the natural contours of the land as much as possible. This resulted in some accommodation blocks having rooms below the entrance and access level. The architects believed that preserving the surrounding trees would give the college a distinctive character and provide a sense of seclusion from the busy South Road. Along with their choice to use bricks rather than concrete, they ensured that the college would complement the natural environment, and that students would enjoy tranquil views of the grounds. The college’s North East roots remained at the heart of building plans and the residential blocks were named after places in Durham and Northumberland: Barnard, Jarrow, Wearmouth, Otterburn, Lilburn, Hexham, Corbridge, and Alnwick and Bamburgh (later renamed Richmond and Alnwick).

Naming “College Y”

In 1971, a competition was launched in the Palatinate student newspaper to find a name for the new college, with a prize of £5 offered for the winning suggestion. Out of the 35 submissions received, the prospective names were narrowed to Collingwood, Cromwell, and Lumley. Although Collingwood was eventually selected as the name of “College Y”, it had actually been cited in the Palatinate competition launch as an example of a suitable name, so nobody received the prize money!

The road to building Collingwood was by no means easy: there were two old coal seams running beneath the site, as well as several springs that flooded the building site during rainy periods. In 1972, labour unrest also left construction 12 weeks behind schedule, meaning that Collingwood’s first cohort of students had to be housed over at Van Mildert College whilst the building work was finished.

Bayley had an innovative vision for the College, and he was determined “to make Collingwood a happy, purposeful and active community.”

Photo credit: National Portrait Gallery, London, by Godfrey Argent



Peter Bayley
Master of Collingwood
1971-78

Peter Bayley (1921-2015) had a lasting impact, not just at Durham University, but also at Oxford and St Andrews. Whilst reading English at University College, Oxford, Bayley was enlisted during the Second World War to serve in the Royal Army and Intelligence Corps. Bayley completed his studies in 1946 and during his time at university was taught under the likes of C.S. Lewis.

Before the start of the 1971 academic year, Bayley moved to Durham to become the first Master of Collingwood College. He had been selected for his academic reputation and collegiate experience, which proved to be beneficial during Collingwood’s early years.

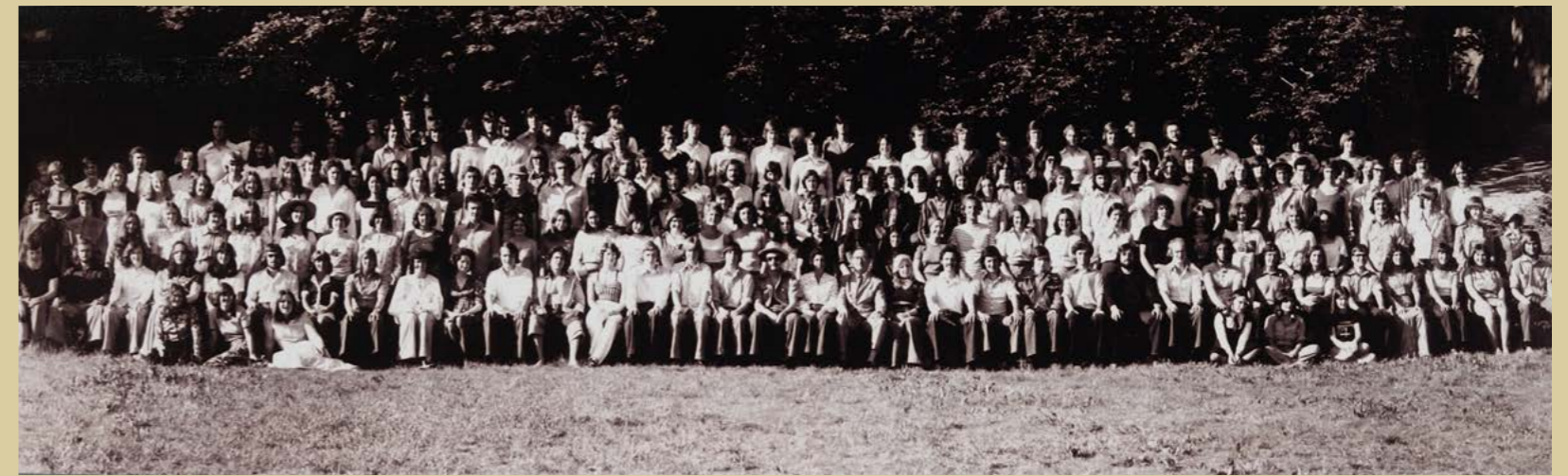
Bayley had an innovative vision for the College, and he was determined “to make Collingwood a happy, purposeful and active community.” Though he moved north to the University of St Andrews in 1978, Bayley left a legacy at Collingwood that can still be felt by the College community today.

Sir Edward Foyle Collingwood

Collingwood College is named after Sir Edward Foyle Collingwood, F.R.S (1900-70) who was born in Lilburn, Northumberland. After serving in the Royal Navy on H.M.S. Collingwood during the First World War, Sir Edward studied Mathematics at Cambridge University. He lectured there until 1938, and at the outbreak of the Second World War he served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Sir Edward became Chair of the Council for Durham Colleges in 1955, and then Chairman of the Council of Durham University in 1963, after Durham and Newcastle separated. He held this role until his death and was therefore involved in decisions that brought Collingwood College into existence. Sir Edward remained dedicated to the mathematical community, and until his passing in 1970 he was a member of the London Mathematical Society.



**Innovative
from
the Outset**



☺☺ The first full college photo taken in 1975

The First Fully Mixed College

With construction underway, Peter Bayley turned his attention to selecting the students who would give the Collingwood buildings life and purpose. Bayley was determined that Collingwood would be a fully mixed college—the earliest of all university residences in the UK to adopt these arrangements. Though controversial at the time, Bayley envisioned a college that would demonstrate equality in every regard: with rooms allocated irrespective of the sex of occupants and the idea of separate corridors for women and men abandoned. Some saw the prospect of these unsegregated halls as a threat to the camaraderie experienced in all-male colleges. However, to the credit of Bayley's vision, the arrangement fostered a family atmosphere that spread from residential staircases to shared living spaces.

The First Cohort

Collingwood's early success owed much to Bayley's selection process; he understood the importance of the first cohort in shaping the College ethos. Since building delays meant that Collingwood was not listed in a handbook for prospective students, Bayley recruited by asking heads of schools to recommend pupils that would "make an outstanding contribution to the life of a college." The response was overwhelming. After personally conducting 250 interviews, by the summer of 1972, Bayley had narrowed the applicants to just 32 women and 34 men, who became Collingwood's first generation of students. In addition, Bayley selected a handful of existing Durham students from other colleges who were willing to transfer to Collingwood to share their experience and provide leadership for the new student body.

Living in Van Mildert

At the start of the 1972 academic year, Collingwood's first cohort moved into the new extension of Van Mildert, the Middleton Stairs. Despite having to live in another college's building, the first Collingwood students cultivated a distinct College identity. Having quickly found themselves in an amicable rivalry with Van Mildert (where bread rolls were thrown in the Dining Hall and pitch battles could lead to students in the Mildert lake...) Collingwood students found a sense of belonging in the close bonds they formed with one another. This College spirit was strengthened by the formation of rugby and hockey teams, two fours on the river, a choral society, and a play-reading society. The students were keen to contribute to wider university pursuits as well; by the second term, the Palatinate student newspaper noted the "remarkable impact" Collingwood had on University life.

From the outset, Collingwood benefited from Bayley's unique vision. From the unprecedented living arrangements to the extroverted students selected as part of its first generation, Collingwood witnessed the emergence of a distinctive convivial character—one that became a hallmark in the College experience of successive cohorts.

Bayley envisioned a college that would demonstrate equality in every regard...



It was an odd existence during the first year of Collingwood, but our experience in Van Mildert helped to shape the College. Since there were no second or third years, the sixty or so of us in one block got to know one another very well and we became a tighter group because we were in a territory that was not our own.

I do not know why Peter Bayley had chosen us, but there were a large number of extroverts amongst the first cohort. Rather than staying in Middleton Stairs and getting on with being Collingwood, many of us got involved in the wider University. By the time our college building opened, there was a seed core of students who could then get Collingwood up and running. We were able to invent our own system and create an ethos of being outward going, having fun, as well as embracing this reverent approach to life. We were quite self-starting, and that infected the next cohort when they arrived.

Sir Andrew McFarlane
(Law, Collingwood College, 1972-76)

Coat of Arms and Motto



Love the Best means enabling every member of our community to recognise and realise their maximum potential; academically, socially, and personally, by pursuing activities that are meaningful to them.

At the heart of our College are our students. Collingwood, through its student body, staff, SCR, alumni, friends, and visiting scholars and professionals, provides a context that fosters and maximises each student's intellectual, social, cultural, artistic, sporting and moral/spiritual growth, and a strong awareness of, and commitment to, social responsibility. Fundamentally, we seek a strong communal sense of duty and care in which 'being the best' is framed not solely in relation to one's own personal achievements but also in the multiple ways that we enrich the lives of others.

Written by
Professor Joe Elliott

Edwin Fellows, local sculptor and long-standing SCR member, constructed the large Collingwood crest that has hung above the main entrance since the function rooms were built above Reception in the 1990s.

When costs of the extension work had escalated, there was no budget left to create a decorative crest for the façade of the main building, as had originally been planned. I realised I could make it for a fraction of the cost of a professional company. The whole project took six months of my spare time to plan and execute, and the final crest is made from a variety of materials, including aluminium, fibreglass, wood, clay, and gold and silver leaf. The whole undertaking was a huge learning curve for me, but great fun. I felt honoured to have been asked and trusted to complete the project. We had no idea how the light and weather would affect the appearance of the crest long term, but it has stood the test of time.

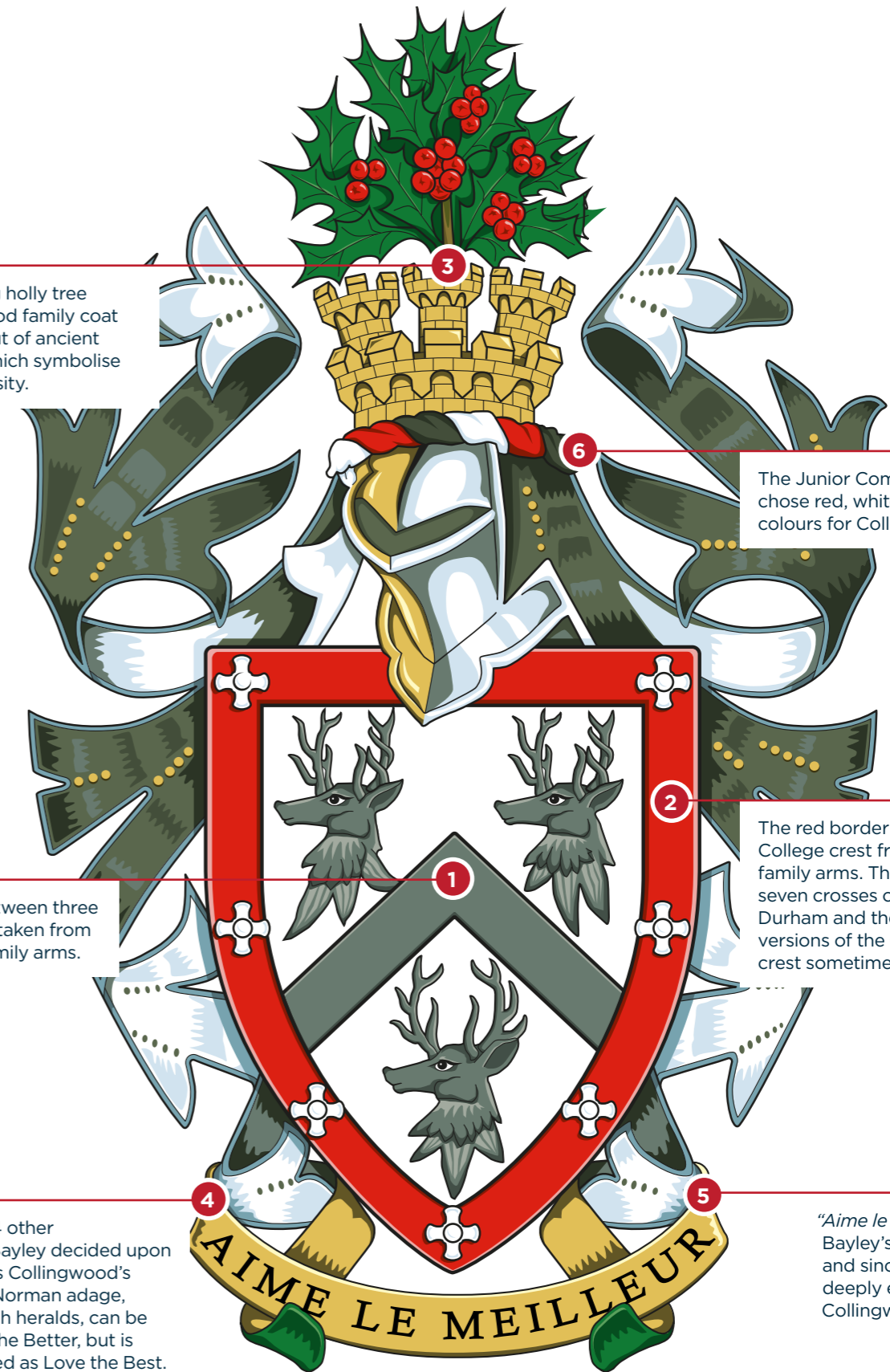
- Edwin Fellows

Edwin also created two stained glass window panels that feature the College crest and represent each of the Principals of Collingwood. The panels currently hang in what is now called The Bayley Room (formerly the Senior Common Room).



Peter Bayley took the task of designing Collingwood's crest and shield largely upon himself.

He drew inspiration from the College's namesake, Sir Edward Collingwood. With the permission of the Collingwood family, many features of their family arms found their way into the Collingwood College coat of arms.



The crest is a young holly tree from the Collingwood family coat of arms, growing out of ancient walls and towers which symbolise the City and University.

The Junior Common Room executive chose red, white, and black as the colours for Collingwood's scarf.

A silver chevron between three black stags' heads, taken from the Collingwood family arms.

The red border distinguished the College crest from Collingwood family arms. The red border and seven crosses of St Cuthbert signify Durham and the University. Simplified versions of the Collingwood College crest sometimes show eight crosses.

After considering 14 other possibilities, Peter Bayley decided upon "Aime le Meilleur" as Collingwood's motto. This Anglo-Norman adage, once used by English heralds, can be translated as Love the Better, but is most often translated as Love the Best.

"Aime le Meilleur" summarised Bayley's vision for the College and since then has become deeply embedded into the Collingwood spirit and mission.



The Early Years

Collingwood's Culture

Through the late 1970s and into the 1980s, Collingwood developed a reputation for its informal community life, which also attracted a flood of applicants each year. With its full complement of students, Collingwood made its presence known throughout the University: Collingwood students were heavily involved in the Palatinat, University orchestras, sports, theatre, and even held positions in the Students' Union. In the College itself, a lively intellectual culture thrived: the Dining Hall hosted various concerts and exhibitions, and the JCR held weekly poetry meetings, with appearances from the likes of Seamus Heaney and Basil Bunting.

Systematic policing of student life was never part of the Collingwood style. Students experienced a great deal of independence and autonomy, especially since the lowering of the age of majority from 21 to 18 in 1969

meant that College Officers at Collingwood never had to act *in loco parentis*. Collingwood students were free to come and go as they pleased, as long as they "kept term." Visiting hours were never imposed, although students required permission if a visitor were to stay in their room for more than three days.

Collingwood's informal nature was best observed in the Dining Hall. Collingwood diverged from the traditions followed by other colleges: students did not wear gowns nor say grace before meals; during the day, there was no separate high table, so staff and students dined together; and, even when there was a high table at formal dinners, it was not elevated, and regularly included students. Collingwood staff formed strong bonds with the student body; this inclusive, friendly atmosphere persists today.

Anthony Tuck Master of Collingwood 1978-87

Anthony Tuck had roots in the North East, having been educated at the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle. He studied History at Jesus College, Cambridge and completed a PhD in Medieval History. He was appointed as Collingwood's new Master at the age of 37, having had experience with colleges at the University of Lancaster.

On arrival, Tuck's main priority was to maintain the thriving college he inherited. Under the principle, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it,' he worked to nurture the aspects of Collingwood that fed its success. As a result, Collingwood remained the most popular college among applicants to Durham into the 1980s. Tuck also worked to broaden the social base from which applicants were recruited, encouraging more students from state-educated backgrounds to apply to Collingwood.

When Tuck left Collingwood in 1987, the JCR President at the time noted that Collingwood had flourished under Tuck's guidance, and that Tuck had always defended the best interests of Collingwood and its students, even in times of difficulty and uncertainty.



Women of the Wood

From the outset, the women of Collingwood were not content with being overshadowed by their male colleagues. Collingwood's mixed residences produced an atmosphere that empowered women like no other college, and women in Collingwood's early cohorts quickly proved that they could perform with equal distinction to men in both academic and non-academic spheres. Collingwood women made significant contributions in College and University leadership positions, sport, music, and theatre, and three of the first four Collingwood students to achieve first-class degrees were women.

Friendly Rivalries

In an upsurge of friendly rivalry with Van Mildert, in 1975, Mildert students managed to place a car in Collingwood's Dining Hall, as well as remove all the toilet doors and handles from Collingwood buildings. Some years later, during DUCK week, Collingwood students flour-bombed a Van Mildert formal dinner!



...In 1975, Mildert students managed to place a car in Collingwood's Dining Hall...

Collingwood at 10

By the time Collingwood was ten years old in 1982, the College was popular and flourishing, consistently attracting around 2000 applicants per year. In academic year 1982/83 Collingwood won major sporting trophies for the first time, being victorious in rugby sevens and athletics, as well as topping the intercollegiate football league. Students had started to arrange more formal entertainment events, such as the Summer and Winter Solstice Balls. The Summer Ball of 1982 was particularly lavish, to celebrate the College's tenth anniversary. Later that year, alumni were invited back for a weekend of events to celebrate this milestone. In the College bar, the appearance of Space Invaders marked the coming of age of computer games, and a pint of Guinness costed 54p!



Opening ceremony for the Red Telephone Box

The Red Telephone Box



Selecting the phone box from the depot in Middlesbrough



Students collecting the phone box. Features Jon Adler, Ross Tuffee, Mark Gray and Dave Higgins

On 22 January 1989, Collingwood student Jon Adler introduced the "Preservation of British Heritage Resolution" to the JCR. He saw that decommissioned K6 telephone boxes were being sold to private collectors and believed they would make a fantastic addition to the College. The motion for this "really wacky idea" was quickly passed with a resounding "oh yeah."

The students collected £240 in donations and travelled to the BT Depot in Middlesbrough, where the discarded carcasses of hundreds of telephone boxes lay, to select the box. After some refurbishment by willing volunteers, it was formally installed in the Bar. A further JCR resolution declared that each year 17 February would be celebrated as "Red Telephone Box Day" and a commemorative cocktail was created for the launch event.

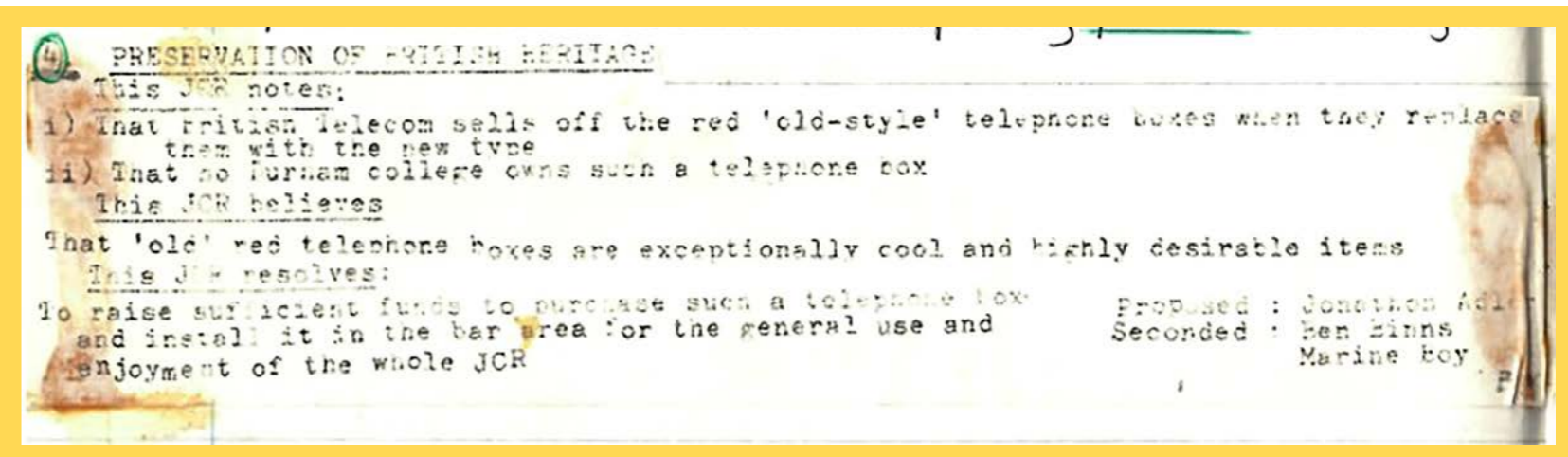
Although the working phone itself was made redundant by the advent of mobile phones, the Red Telephone Box remained in the same spot (which later became the JCR area after the Bar was relocated) until 2018. Following the major redevelopment work in 2018, the Red Telephone Box was moved outside to the new bar terrace. It has always been treasured by the College community and all Collingwood students since 1989 will have fond memories of its presence.



The Classic Kiosk 6

The classic Kiosk 6, or K6, telephone box, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, was first introduced in the UK in 1936. It is 8 feet 3 inches (2.51m) tall and weighs 13½ cwt (690kg). The K6 served the Nation well for 50 years and by the time British Telecom started to withdraw them from 1984, over 70,000 had been installed.

A further JCR resolution declared that each year 17 February would be celebrated as "Red Telephone Box Day"



PRESERVATION OF BRITISH HERITAGE
 This JCR notes:
 i) That British Telecom sells off the red 'old-style' telephone boxes when they replace them with the new type
 ii) That no Durham college owns such a telephone box
 This JCR believes
 That 'old' red telephone boxes are exceptionally cool and highly desirable items
 This JCR resolves:
 To raise sufficient funds to purchase such a telephone box and install it in the bar area for the general use and enjoyment of the whole JCR
 Proposed : Jonathan Adler
 Seconded : Ben Simms
 Marine boy

First College Musical



In 1988, the Collingwood Music Society performed the first ever College musical. The production of Oklahoma! was performed in the Dining Hall, and since very few musicals had been performed on campus before, it quickly made a splash around the University. Around 1000 people bought tickets and the show sold out on both Friday and Saturday evenings. The Palatinate remarked upon the “irresistible gusto by a cast who actually worked as though they were enjoying themselves.” From then on, the annual Collingwood musical became a highlight of the University calendar.

My third year of university was spent away from home (Missouri, USA) at Durham University. My plan had been to do as many “different” kinds of activities as I could that year, along with exploring the UK. The last thing I imagined doing was directing a production of a quintessential American musical at Collingwood.

I had played my cello in the pit orchestras in over 20 musicals in the US and had performed on stage in another four. However, Collingwood Music Society leaders, Claire Harle, and a very persistent Michael Pegg, convinced me that I needed to step up and help our lovely College to mount a full-fledged musical. Of course, it turned out to be the highlight of my year and left me with a gaggle of friends and great memories. Ross Tuffee joined as the Producer and managed to knit together all the “hard problems” of getting set materials, props and



Heather Biehl

staging, whilst I focused on turning a bunch of talented singers into stage and singing “actors.”

One of the funniest memories is a scene where the local men have a group dance. The cast members were all good sports... but none of them had ever done any dancing. I was afraid that they would end up with broken bones from tripping over one another. To their credit, they worked for hours on the side to make sure they would do the performance justice. Their smiles at the standing ovation (and laughter) from the audience was wonderful.

The entire crew and cast pulled together to make the production work. Hours of rehearsals, figuring out how to get tickets and programmes printed, building sets that we only could leave up for a few days (as the stage took up a third of the

Dining Hall), figuring out how to make a dream scene look like a dream, and many other challenges, were met with good humour and hard work. After our production, I had emissaries from five of the other colleges to ask about how they could also start a musical production group.

As the years have passed (34 years to be exact), I have watched Collingwood grow and develop amazing opportunities and facilities in music, theatre, dance and stage tech. I am so proud of the College and its continued dedication to foster the joy of performance and participation in the arts.

Heather Triplett Biehl
(Collingwood College, 1987-88)

Ross (top right) with cast and crew



“What does a Producer do?!”

I didn’t have a clue!

Claire Harle had heard that I had done the lighting for Oklahoma! at school and asked if I would be the Producer, alongside Heather as Director. I said I would be delighted, but I had one question... “what does a Producer do?!” I didn’t have a clue! The answer was, “basically everything that the Director doesn’t do!”

We had to build all the scenery in the week before the production because we were using a portable stage in the Dining Hall and it could only go up a few days before the show started. Scenery was built by a small team led by a postgraduate student whose carpentry skills became legendary.

We hired the lights in, and every light had to be hung from temporary bars. After the show we managed to persuade the College to pay to have permanent bars installed for future musicals. We also hired in the stage guns, which provided hours of fun for the lighting crew at the back. We knew that the gunshot was going to be a surprise for all and VERY loud, so we put bets on who in the audience would jump the highest when it went off!

The “Dream Scene” was facilitated by a massive gauze that dropped down; when it was lit from the front it was opaque and from the back, translucent/transparent. It had a big tree painted on it and allowed us to do some awesome effects fading the ballet dancer in and out. The gauze itself was borrowed from my school production—we took a van to Nottingham to get it. Dave Darby (Technical Director) was key to the sound and lighting, and he had experience of doing tech for the bands that often performed in College.

I’m very proud of what Collingwood started that year.

Ross Tuffee
(Geography, Collingwood College, 1986-89)



Hotel on the Hill

In the late 80s, Collingwood was nicknamed “Hotel on the Hill”. It had the reputation of being a cool, state-of-the-art, newbuild with ultra-modern rooms and furnishings—and indeed by the standards of some colleges, it was!

The architecture seemed cutting edge and the large windows in the Dining Hall and along the corridor made it feel light and airy. It was only when you found out that your room was on the bottom subterranean floor of Lilburn that you realised there were some dark and dingy parts of this “hotel” which didn’t quite live up to the billing! But at least that lower ground floor had a window that looked out onto grass and gardens, for which we were very grateful.

Collingwood provided such a safe base from which to explore the University, study, pursue sporting and other dreams. We have such fond memories: fundraising nights in the bar, Jazz Day, the Summer Solstice. The Collingwood Ball with our bad haircuts, taffeta ball gowns, and fake pearls—we felt so grown up and glamorous. Weekday lunchtimes were punctuated with religious observance of ‘Neighbours’ in the downstairs TV room, before we trooped back down the hill for lectures or back to our rooms for private study, or more likely back to bed...

There was always something to be involved in, you just threw yourself into College life and were carried along with it.

We spent evenings in the bar, and a favourite destination was the shop and the toastie maker for a calorific top up after supper. We even played one or two darts matches against other colleges, despite having no talent or skill—just happy to volunteer and join in if required. The Collingwood 5-a-side mixed football tournaments were memorable; from our photos it would appear that we swapped kits with the men, and they happily wore our games skirts. There was always something to be involved in, you just threw yourself into College life and were carried along with it. At the time, Collingwood was no great shakes at sport—how things have changed!



We still recall memorable conversations as our time at Durham was drawing to a close, and the bets we had with each other about what the future might hold: who would get what job, get married first, how many children we would have... conversations with friends, never to be forgotten. A few of us have remained in close contact: we go on holiday together; we are godparents to each other’s children; and our long history together that started back at Collingwood in 1986 makes our bond very special.

We have also both been lucky enough to have our own children return to Collingwood as students in recent years. Apart from an initial nudge, our children selected Collingwood having heard from their peers that it is the best college in Durham! It is known these days for having the best facilities and a relaxed, inclusive, friendly and buzzy atmosphere. We have loved the opportunity to re-engage with the College through our children’s time there, although have tried not to sound too interested or knowledgeable about any of it! They must have their own individual Collingwood adventure, just as we had ours.

Sarah Weldon (née le Huray) & Helen Savage (née Suddards)

(History, Collingwood College, 1986-89)





Expansion

Expansion Plans

As student numbers in the UK surged in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Collingwood faced the prospect of not being able to accommodate its increasing student body. In the early 1990s, Collingwood had to abandon its longstanding commitment to offer every student who wanted to live in a bedroom, instead only guaranteeing rooms for first year and final year students.

In 1992, Collingwood received approval to construct 200 additional bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms where the tennis court and car park were located. The Dining Hall and the JCR could barely cope with 300 students, let alone an additional 200, so the plans also included improvements to communal areas, as well as a conference centre above Reception to enhance vacation trade and revenue. Construction began in June 1993.

What a Site!

Building work continued across the whole of academic year 1993/94. One lecturer commented that they could “always tell Collingwood students by the mud on their shoes,” especially during rainy periods. The Palatinat also published an article titled, “Collingwood: What a Site!”

Construction could not pause during the exam period, and whilst the College Officers worked hard to ensure that disturbances were minimised, the building work brought a wave of complaints from students. However, exam results that year were the best on record!

By the start the next academic year in October 1994, construction was still not finished, and 230 second and third years had to be temporarily accommodated all over the North East: from the Stockton campus to the Durham Police Training Centre, and even within the nurses’ residences at North Tees General Hospital. This attracted much media attention and brought an onslaught of reporters and TV crews to Collingwood. However, the delay only lasted about a week, and the new residential blocks and extended spaces were formally opened by HRH The Princess Royal on 13 October.

By the start the next academic year in October 1994, construction was still not finished, and 230 second and third years had to be temporarily accommodated all over the North East

The ensuite accommodation revived applications to Collingwood, which had dipped slightly in previous years as other colleges also became fully mixed. Once again Collingwood was one of the most popular colleges.

Collingwood won the Built Environment County Award for the way the new buildings coalesced with the college’s existing wings and the natural surroundings. Geographical nomenclature was used for the new blocks—the names of five Cumbrian castles were selected: Egremont, Greystoke, Kendal, Penrith and Sizergh.



HRH The Princess Royal meeting students in the Dining Hall, 1994



Gerald Blake

Left to right: Nigel Martin (Vice Principal), Gerald Blake (Principal) and David Pain (Bursar and Assistant Principal), 1997. Photo credit: Philip Nixon.



When construction of Collingwood began in 1971, I was so certain that it would become a success story that I applied (unsuccessfully) to be its first Senior Tutor. By the time I became Principal in 1987, Collingwood was already immensely popular, known for good living and terrific spirit. The distinctive “Spirit of the Wood” was strong then and remains so 50 years on.

That spirit became evident during the upheavals of 1993-94 when a large accommodation block was built, and public rooms were added above the Reception. Resident students endured considerable disruption to their lives not least from noise. Worse still, the new rooms were not ready by the beginning of term, so more than 200 second and third year students had to be found refuge all over Durham for a fortnight. Amazingly they achieved the best exam results so far.

Some believed that larger numbers would spoil the friendliness and intimacy of the smaller college, but these qualities survived and evolved. With a larger talent pool to draw on, Collingwood excelled academically, in sport and in the arts, propelling the “feel good factor” to new heights. As a CCBC coach, I was excited to see Collingwood crews winning more and more trophies and ending the dominance of the old riverside colleges. One year, before the start of the Durham Small Boats Head of the River race, I was astonished to hear hearty singing coming from a crew waiting in the cold. It was the Collingwood men’s four performing songs from the College musical of that year. That, I thought, typifies the spirit of Collingwood!

Gerald Blake

Principal of Collingwood, 1987-2001



Collingwood at 25

By Collingwood’s silver jubilee year in 1997, the College had a total of 920 students (undergraduates and postgraduates combined), which made it the third largest college at Durham, after St Cuthbert’s Society and the College of St Hild and St Bede.

Even with the expansion of residential accommodation, Collingwood had only 550 bedrooms on site. Therefore, like some other colleges, Collingwood could no longer accommodate second year students. This produced a new sector of Livers Out students that drastically transformed the Durham collegiate system. As the College approached the turn of the century, 40% of Collingwood students lived out. There was a marked effort from College Officers, staff and students to adapt to these circumstances, to preserve the strengths of the College, and remain connected to Livers Out. Mega-formal dinners replaced twice-weekly formals, Livers Out reps helped to keep in contact with non-residents and a new publication, Woodward, was circulated to the whole Collingwood community—this newsletter was the first of its kind and was described as a rival to the Palatinate. The JCR President role, which became sabbatical, was crucial in keeping the community connected.

Ensuite bedrooms prompted a revival in applications and in 1997 Collingwood was once again the most popular college with prospective students. Due to increasing applications, Durham colleges could no longer interview every candidate for admission, although colleges and departments worked together to maintain high entry standards. By 1997, more than half of Collingwood students were admitted without an in-person interview, which has since become the standard practice.

The larger student body did put pressure on Collingwood’s communal spaces, but ultimately it created an enlarged pool of talent from which the College could recruit student leaders, and it presented all Collingwood students with greater opportunity to make personal and collective contributions to the College and the wider University community.



College sport was strong; following several trophy and league wins, the Palatinate noted Collingwood’s “growing claim to be recognised as a sporting college”

College sport was strong; following several trophy and league wins, the Palatinate noted Collingwood’s “growing claim to be recognised as a sporting college”. The visual arts committee was steadily growing, and the annual musicals were popular. Collingwood was the first to dedicate a student representative for its increasing number of international students. In 1996, Collingwood students established Durham’s Student Radio Station, Purple FM, which could be heard all over the University. Around this time, technological advances, such as new swipe cards, the University IT network, and greater use of email, revolutionised elements of College life.

Significantly, given the changes to maintenance grants, Collingwood alumni began to recognise that current students faced more financial pressure than they had done previously. There was a renewed energy from alumni, not only to reconnect with one another, but also to provide financial support to current Collingwood students, to ensure that current students could enjoy the College experiences that had made such an impact on their own lives.

A Community Like Collingwood

My time at Collingwood spanned from 1996-2001: firstly, as a student, then as the JCR President. I have some great memories: Jeff, one of the Porters, being gunged after winning a DUCK sweepstake, and the second-place student allowing Jeff to return the favour; the Silver Jubilee Ball; Gina G in the Dining Hall; running the shop in its new location, following the arrival of the Pizza Shop in the JCR. I was part of the tech team for College musicals, and I remember “The Web”, written by Henry Timms and Jon Boden, seemed to predict the future of the internet very accurately. There were considerable changes in technology during this period. Before my final year, phoning home meant waiting until a pay phone was available and on Sunday evenings the queue could be long. As more and more people bought what were often disparagingly known as “Rah phones”, the queues got shorter.

Photo credit: Laura Dorey

When I became JCR President, I saw it as my role to enhance the student experience. I spent hours making the photo board (in those days, with scissors and glue) and even more time attempting to put the names of 300-odd incoming students to faces. I was then able to greet most of them by name (much to their astonishment). As the JCR President, I also had a unique relationship with the staff; I was a member of staff working with the senior management team, but also a student representative. During the summers, I spent many hours helping the Porters set up for conferences and did the occasional shift as the Night Porter as well. I would say that really helped with relationships at all levels; it was uniformly positive.

In 2001, there was a suggestion that the College should move towards self-catering. The Principal, Gerald Blake, was firmly against this. I didn't understand why at the time, but the penny dropped after I left. On my first day as a postgraduate student at Warwick, I sat in the Students' Union on my own with a sandwich. It dawned on me that

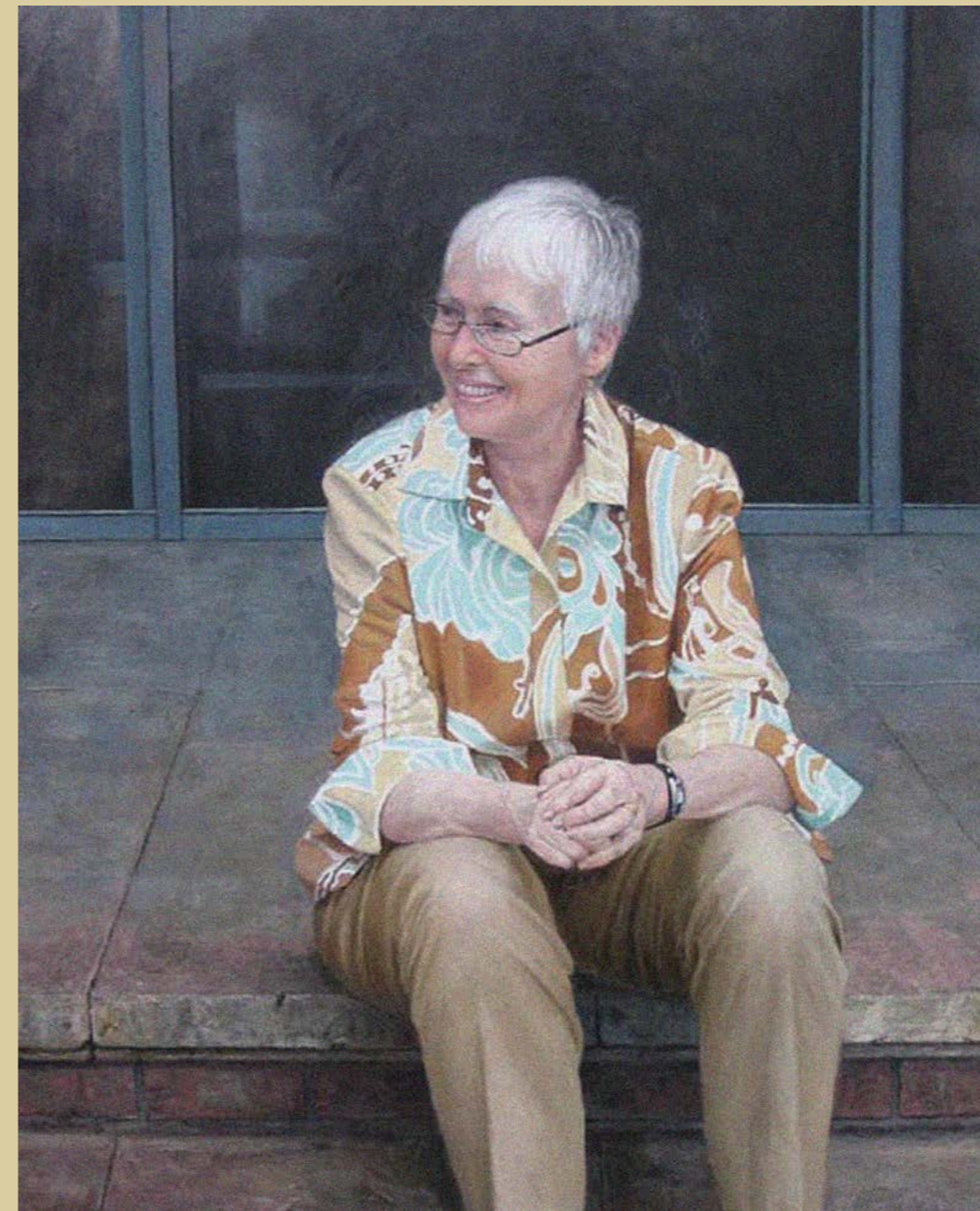
this was the first time in many years that I had eaten alone. At Collingwood, even if I arrived at the Dining Hall alone, it would not be long before someone else would join me. If nothing else, we would talk about the quality of the food. I realised that was what Gerald wanted to preserve. It made me appreciate the real value of eating with others, and to a greater extent, being part of a community like Collingwood.

Vivek Hajarnavis

(Engineering, Collingwood College, 1996-2000) and JCR President 2000-01



Jane Taylor



What I came so much to admire was the Collingwood community—by which I mean a whole, undivided community. Steve Rayner was the dream Senior Tutor: friendly, but firm when needed; engaged, but able to stand back. The Porters were wonderfully fatherly: they might turn up if things got a bit rowdy in the bar, but they'd also sort out potential confrontations well before they got out of hand. The Dining Hall staff were firmly in charge: I cherish the memory of a group of students trying out a bit of bread-throwing and being summarily “ushered out”; the cleaners often became stand-in aunts. But I also mean the way Collingwood knitted itself into the Durham community: with local social services, we set up a scheme whereby Collingwood students became “befrienders” for children and young people in care. When I announced it in the Dining Hall one evening and invited volunteers, I was expecting a mere handful, if that: in fact something like 50 students turned up. It was highly successful: the students bonded wonderfully with the children and social services found it very valuable. It became perhaps the initiative I, brought up in the North East, was proudest of.

I am delighted to see Collingwood celebrating its 50th anniversary, and still proud and confident in its identity. It has had a high table only very occasionally, for guest-nights—it has practiced democracy in a way still quite unusual. I used sometimes to go and sit with the students, and I'd sometimes see them flinching a bit. But another proud moment was when a student said to me, “When I saw you coming over, I was terrified... but actually, you're all right.” I wish the College every success in its next half-century. It deserves its place as the ideal community, and the cream of the hill colleges...

Jane Taylor

Principal of Collingwood, 2001-07

Collingwood, I must admit, seemed at first sight a bit daunting. 1200 students; 50 or more staff; determinedly democratic; 550 bed spaces; a busy and thriving conference business. Not quite the sort of academic peace that I'd been used to...

Discovering Collingwood, and Durham, was interesting. The Oxford colleges where I'd come from were really teaching institutions with beds attached; Collingwood, at first sight, seemed rather the opposite. But that was misleading: as I came to know it, I realised that the College played a much more central role in the student experience. Collingwood was, and had been for many years, indisputably the sporting college: its rowing teams in particular, but also its rugby teams, its football teams, its hockey teams, were almost effortlessly at the forefront of University sport. We collected cups and plates and plaudits, and I became rather too conscious, from the Principal's house, of the

regular weekend celebrations of yet another sporting success (“Another resounding victory...!”). But it was also artistically exciting: the musical was a highlight not just for the College, but for the whole University. I remember in particular a stunning Cabaret with a fantastically oleaginous MC playing to a full Dining Hall (we didn't have anything like the wonderful Mark Hillery theatre...), and a well-drilled, very American, Guys and Dolls. We also had, by all accounts, the best bar in Durham, which towards the end of my time Mark Hillery had generously supported us to renovate.

Collingwood Days

Since 25 June 1974, the Collingwood community has come together annually in final term to celebrate the end of the academic year. Over time, this has become known as “Collingwood Day”.

Over the last 50 years, the day has included some bizarre traditions including a charity “custard vote” in the 80s and 90s that awarded its “winner” a bucket full of gunge

concocted from the kitchen, as well as the very loud awakening of Livers In to either “Circle of Life” from The Lion King, a morning cock-a-doodle-doo or the banging of pots and pans. Previous Collingwood Days have featured, “Poems and Pints” in the Bar, cheese rolling in the Meadow and a champagne breakfast. The 1998 Collingwood Day fell on the same date as an England football fixture!



In recent years, Collingwood Day has moved from the Meadow to the Turning Circle where the additional space allows for a much larger stage, with tech, lighting and sound to rival Glastonbury!

In June 2020, Collingwood students and alumni all over the world were invited to celebrate “Collingwood Day: Virtually Here”, enjoying online student performances whilst tucking into a suggested menu of chips and

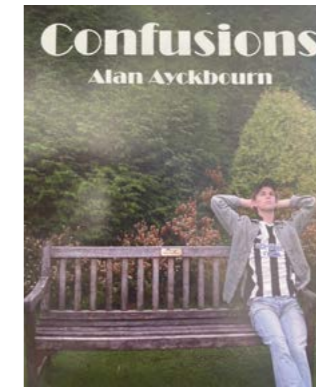
bucks fizz for breakfast, followed by a BBQ lunch.

In 2021, Collingwood Day was reimagined as “Collingwood Summer Festival” and hosted externally due to the prevailing public health guidance.

In June 2022, it returned bigger and better than ever.



The Founding of the Wood Players



From the archives: Wizard of Oz at Collingwood



The Wood Players were formed in my final year in 2004/05. Collingwood was known for excellent annual musicals, and in my first year there was talk of doing a summer Shakespeare, which, despite holding auditions, sadly never went ahead. I enjoyed musicals and was involved in them in first and second year (memorably as 5'9" Munchkin in the Wizard of Oz...) but I knew there were people in College that we weren't reaching because they “didn't do singing”. I proposed to the JCR that we should have a drama society, which concentrated on “straight plays” and would include bringing back the famous summer Shakespeare, to be performed in the Turning Circle after exams. To be frank, the JCR weren't entirely sold, but somehow we got them to agree to allow us to try one show in the Michaelmas term.

We were gratified and surprised when the turn out for auditions for Confusions by Alan Ayckbourn was good. We were able to cast it, mostly with people who had never been involved in the musicals before, which I took as testament that I was right that not everyone wanted to burst into song! We put it on at Christmas in the Dining Hall and it was a resounding success, including a cameo from Jane Taylor, the Principal.

Next was the turn of the traditional musical (Bugsy Malone that year), and then, somewhere between revising for finals, we cast Twelfth Night, to be performed in the Turning Circle for two nights. We did an intensive rehearsal period after exams, which, after the Summer Ball, included some dragging of people from their beds! We were able to have live music, composed by members of the cast and played by

To be frank, the JCR weren't entirely sold, but somehow we got them to agree to allow us to try one show in the Michaelmas term.



other College students. The first night we performed at the peak of a heatwave. It was incredibly hot and uncomfortable, and we prepared ourselves to do the same the next night. But Britain being Britain, the weather had other ideas and a massive storm broke about two hours before we were due to perform. Undeterred, we moved the whole show into the Dining Hall within an hour and hoped people would still come. Without social media, we had no way of letting people know that we would go ahead inside... so our numbers were slightly depleted. However, those who came made up for it with enthusiasm.

When I graduated three weeks later, I had no idea if Wood Players would last once the founding members had gone. It goes without saying that I feel enormous pride to know that not only are the Wood Players still going (they seem to use Woodplayers as a single word now), but they are one of the most successful theatre societies in Durham. Like many other alumni who were involved in the arts, I am jealous that current students now have a purpose-built theatre and don't have to disrupt the Dining Hall for every show!

Clare Corrigan (née Groome)
(English Language & Linguistics,
Collingwood College, 2002-05)

Ed Corrigan

When I first arrived at Collingwood, everyone was very friendly. I made it my task to get to know as many as I could among the staff—who were critical to maintaining the smooth running of the College—and the students.

The coffee shop also came to be very useful for me: in the afternoons, I used to go down there and have a cup of coffee, and this would inevitably enable a chat with one or more students. I was fortunate in having a sequence of very capable JCR Presidents and other student officers who kept me abreast of events. The Senior Tutors at the time (Steve Rayner and Kevin Miller), and the other College Officers, were superb colleagues. Overall, I felt that Collingwood provided an excellent environment within which students would prosper academically and in many other ways.

My fondest memory as Principal must be the interaction between the students and the staff. I soon found that Collingwood was like a huge family, where everybody seemed to be looking out for each other, whether the occasion was happy or sad. The way I saw

my role, and that of the College Officers, was not telling the students what to do, but rather assuming the students would let us know what they would like to do, and we would try to enable it. Several things I remember affected me more personally. For example, I invited student artists to use the Principal's garage, where they painted the floor and the walls and brought in some benches to use the space as a workroom (renamed The Studio). Behind the Principal's house, in what was then The Paddock, students created and maintained a vegetable garden for a while. I enjoyed seeing students being busy and looking after it, and, as ever, the Porters helped too.

At the invitation of an alumnus, Neil Lunt (at the time Provost of James College, University of York) a group of Collingwood students were invited to a sports match with students at James College. My task on that occasion, apart from some involvement in the organisation, was to play squash as part of the Collingwood team. This activity has since evolved into an annual Durham-York event. The University Rugby Coach, Alex Keay, lodged for a while in the

Principal's House, and he kindly invited me to Twickenham for a final. When it came to building the new gym, there was very strong support from the students, fired by Mark Hillery's wonderful generosity. On one occasion, a group of students arranged a sponsored bungee jumping escapade in Stockton; Jayne Dixon participated, as well as the then JCR President, Nic Peters. Unfortunately, being already over 60 meant I was not allowed to take part! Many alumni returned regularly to Collingwood to devote a few hours to students—some of them doing so annually—to promote discussions about future prospects and offer challenges. I always enjoyed meeting with them and hearing their news.

During my (relatively short) time at Collingwood, it was clear that students were very conscious of the wider community and wanted to contribute. For instance, there was a group that worked with children in care in County Durham, giving them a day out from time to time; others went off for short stays to other parts of the world, often funded at least partially by Collingwood bursaries, to help in other projects. If you take the totality of all activities, any given student was generally involved in one or more of: sport, the arts, the community, or in organising College or University events. When asked what I especially enjoyed about Collingwood, it has to be the Woodplayers. They were (and by all accounts still are) absolutely fantastic. Their musicals and other productions were always ambitious and executed to a very high standard. The huge energy among Collingwood students was palpable on many occasions, though perhaps especially so on Collingwood Days.

To sum up, I think colleges are for the students, and as far as is feasible, are run by the students. I believe Collingwood achieved this very effectively.

Ed Corrigan
Principal of Collingwood, 2008-11



Ed Corrigan (left) with other Principals of Collingwood. Left to right: Ed Corrigan, Jane Taylor, Gerald Blake, Joe Elliott

College Staff



It goes without saying that Collingwood is unique, but one element sets the College apart: its staff are at the heart of some of students' fondest memories.

Whilst there's an abundance of stories about chatting to friends in corridors, or nights whiled away in the bar, when graduates reminisce about Collingwood they are undoubtedly drawn to adventures with the Porters, sneaky second helpings from the catering staff, early morning gossips with housekeeping, chats with Reception and College Office teams, or empowering meetings with Principals. The university experience of every person who has passed through this College has been moulded and supported by Collingwood's staff. Not only have they made College run each day for 50 years, but their unfailing kindness and passion is what makes Collingwood so much more than the buildings.

Gabe Allason

(History, Collingwood College, 2018-21) and JCR President 2021-22

Stan and Jeff caricature



Tales from the Porters' Lodge

Over 50 years, there have been many characters in the Porters' Lodge. Porters are backbone of Collingwood, and often the very front line of college life—first to react to emergencies, stropky conference guests, students in crisis, and occasionally, those who may have over-served themselves in the Bar.

Stan and Jeff epitomise the spirit of a Collingwood Porter. Jeff arrived in May 1994 when the College was still a building site. A few years later, in 2000, Stan came to work at the College for one month, and he's been at Collingwood ever since. From the vantage point of their Lodge, they've amassed plenty of stories (only some of which are suitable for public consumption).

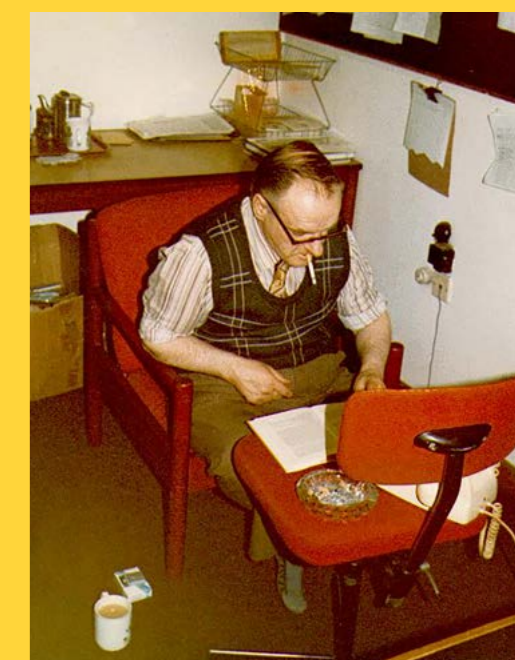
Jeff

Every day is different. I think I've seen it all and heard all the excuses, but students find ways to surprise me. I remember the eery moment of silence as I stepped out into the Turning Circle during a snowball fight with Grey students, seconds later to have snowballs flying in my direction. My favourite night though has to be the Boddingtons promotion night in the Bar. Every pint came with some shaving foam (or a squirt of shaving foam to the face). As I popped in to check on the Bar periodically, I could hear students muttering, "no, don't get Jeff." I brushed this off, but as I walked in to help clear out the Bar at 11.20pm, they were all waiting for me, and I was sprayed head to toe—the shaving foam was six inches thick. It was all good fun.

Students and staff from all Collingwood generations remember the Porters; they work incredibly hard, but always find time for a bit of fun and laughter. They are the first suspects if a prank has been played and staff members who go on holiday rue the day they forget to bring back selection of sweets for the Lodge! Despite the occasional stern façade, Collingwood's Porters have gone to great lengths to help students out, from the more personal, to the practical: listening to those who are homesick, helping to settle people in, changing lightbulbs, catching spiders and fishing out phones lost under the bar terrace, or, in one instance, carefully sawing to release a student who got their arm stuck in the underbed storage lockers!

Stan

We used to have a Collingwood branded door mat that repeatedly got "trophied" by visiting students from rival colleges. It had disappeared twice in one week, both times whilst I was on shift, and I was not about to let it happen a third time on my watch. So, when a group of students from Grey grabbed the mat and took it back to their bar, I quickly ran after them, only to be pelted with potatoes! I grabbed the mat and left but I think they might have gotten in a bit of trouble for that.



Jimmy "The Gut" Winter, Porter, 1973-90



I am often tasked with helping students turn their event ideas into realities, safely. The first time I was tested was a request for fireworks on Freshers' Sunday in 2009. From then on, we've arranged some extraordinary things: firewalkers, bungee jumps, inflatables, sumo wrestling, rodeo surf boards, lasers, pyrotechnics, a car driven screeching into the Turning Circle for a play, and even searchlights from the roof (for which we had to get the permission of air traffic control).

In 2012, Collingwood Day got a large festival style stage for the first time and in 2013 I was asked for dodgems at Spring Ball—that turned the tide... From then on we had fairground rides of all shapes and sizes during Freshers' Weeks, Winter Solstices and Summer Balls. "Just this one time" very quickly turns into "we always have this!" Collingwood are trend setters, and a colleague from another college once asked me, 'what will Collingwood be having at events this year, so I know what our students will be asking for next year?'

As a senior management team, we believe this positive, 'can do' approach is important, and I only recall one instance when we felt the need to say no outright... that was to a suggestion from one much-loved JCR President to have a petting zoo at one of the largest events of Freshers' Week, which typically involves hundreds of students, loud music, rides, and a very busy bar...

Jayne Dixon
College Operations Manager



Joe Elliott



The Stag, nicknamed Collin, has kept a watchful eye over Collingwood since it was installed in 2012.

Initially, Collin suffered a spate of antler injuries at the hands of well-meaning but slightly over-enthusiastic students and visitors, keen to pose for a photo with him. More often than not, it was the right antler that sustained damage, but replacement antlers could only be purchased in pairs... meaning a pile of left antlers has accumulated in the corner of the Principal's garage!

Miraculously, after several attempts to deter visitors from grabbing onto Collin's antlers failed, a discreet chain rope fence placed around the base of the statue by the Porters seems to have protected Collin from significant injury in recent years.



**“Whoooosh... What was that?
That was your life, mate!
Oh... that was quick; do I get another?
Sorry, mate, that's your lot.”**

- Basil Fawley

While perhaps not experiencing Basil's existential angst, I have found myself increasingly lamenting the speedy and unrecoverable passage of time. Although it seems like yesterday, in reality it was almost 50 years ago, just as Collingwood was opening its newly completed building, that I began life as a Fresher at Bede College (later Hild-Bede). Little did I realise then that after roles as a teacher of children with behavioural and learning difficulties and as an educational psychologist in clinical practice, I would eventually find myself taking on the leadership of Durham's finest college.

Looking back over my eleven years at Collingwood for the purposes of writing this short piece, I recall a range of emotions: joy, pride, frustration and, on rare occasions, immense sorrow. It has been an immense privilege to be allowed to serve and support many thousands of outstanding young people from all around the world at such a dynamic stage of their lives. Collingwood's students are typically inspirational, aspirational, idealistic, energetic, and socially committed. They question, provoke, and challenge, as they certainly should. On occasions they can be thoughtless and frustrating, but, of course, such characteristics are part of a human condition that is true of us all. One of the great joys of my role, that I share with my colleagues, however, is helping our students learn from the consequences of their positive and negative actions and experiences, of assisting them through the developmental process of becoming the person they aspire to be. Witnessing someone who has been struggling to cope with personal hardship and challenge gradually begin to make progress, to gain in confidence and agency, to thrive and prosper, is truly uplifting.

Particularly joyful occasions are too many to list but, in no particular order, the following spring immediately to mind: Collingwood Days, Summer Balls, Finalists' Dinners (while also tearful occasions for many of us), graduation events on Palace Green and back in College, Freshers' Sundays, so many

outstanding arts performances, classic sporting moments at all levels of proficiency, the openings of our magnificent new facilities (I thank Mark Hillery for all that he has done for our students in this respect), and, certainly, the 1000+ Collingwood student flash-mobbing of one of our formal dinners in 2016.

On rare occasions, I have shed tears of sorrow, as our students are sadly not exempt from tragic events. Responding to the death of a member of our student community to illness, accident or through taking their own life, is certainly the hardest task I have experienced in the role. However, somewhat paradoxically, in each desperately distressing case, I have been heartened by the way that our students and staff have pulled together to support grieving family members, and to take care of each other. It is at such times, perhaps, that our ideal as a supportive and emotionally connected college community is most clearly revealed. Pride is usually viewed as an unattractive and undesirable quality, but I hope that my devoted colleagues and I will be forgiven for feeling a sense of pride at such times.

However, focusing on the most striking experiences underplays the magnificent privilege of being able to share in daily college life with students and staff. For it is the everyday, seemingly mundane, proximal interactions—in the Dining Hall, the grounds, the corridors, the Bar, in Reception—that most bind me to this community. While these exchanges are typically inconsequential and usually fade quickly from memory, they nevertheless constitute the core fabric of a Collingwood experience that I shall always treasure.

Like Basil, I won't get a second shot, but... no worries; for me personally, the first time around has been just perfect.

Joe Elliott
Principal of Collingwood, 2011-present



In 2016, Joe suggested surprising the attendees of an Invitation Formal Dinner (including senior leaders of the University) with a “flash mob” of students in the Turning Circle, all wearing limited edition t-shirts printed for the occasion. Throughout the dinner, College Officers and student leaders were nervous that students wouldn't actually show up and the surprise would be a damp squib. However, in the end, there were no t-shirts left and around 1000 students were waiting outside ready to celebrate the retention of the Intercollegiate Sports Trophy for what was then the 5th year in a row. Another ambitious idea that earned its place in the Collingwood history books!

Transformational Redevelopment

The MUGA

In 2016, after years of planning and nervous waits for news about crested newts and bat colonies, Collingwood received approval to build a Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) on the Paddock behind Principal's House. Thankfully, confirmation that a deep mine shaft was located far enough away in the trees by South Road reduced initial fears that Collingwood students might disappear just as they were readying to score a memorable goal.

The principal donor, Mark Hillery (Engineering & Management, Collingwood College, 1985-88) was joined by several

other key contributors to make this project possible. Later, cricket nets and a bowling machine were added to the area, as well as substantial landscaping of the surrounding grounds.

The floodlit pitch, informally called "The Crumb", is available to students for casual kickabouts or team training, and enables Collingwood's many clubs and societies to host tournaments, charity games, and community outreach programmes right on the College site.

The first match played on the MUGA was a fixture between Collingwood students (a combined team of men and women) and a scratch team called the *Vice Chancellor's All-Stars* (who were eventually joined on the pitch by some of the Bursar's dogs!)

The pitch was formally opened by Rafa Benitez (then Manager of Newcastle United FC) in November 2017.



The MUGA was just the beginning of a major phase of redevelopment at Collingwood.

As a personal legacy, **Mark Hillery (Engineering & Management, Collingwood College, 1985-88)** generously agreed to fund a substantial transformation of the College's social and Wider Student Experience spaces. To determine what would make the most

impact, Joe Elliott and Mark spent time speaking with student groups and hearing their ideas. Once plans were finalised, construction started in summer 2017, lasting until the end of 2018. Student leaders were heavily involved in the planning and decision making, helping to choose everything from carpet colours, carpet densities, gym equipment and even bathroom taps and soap dispensers!

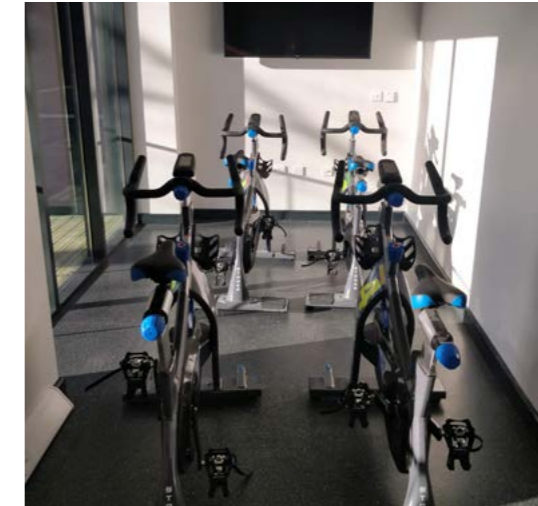
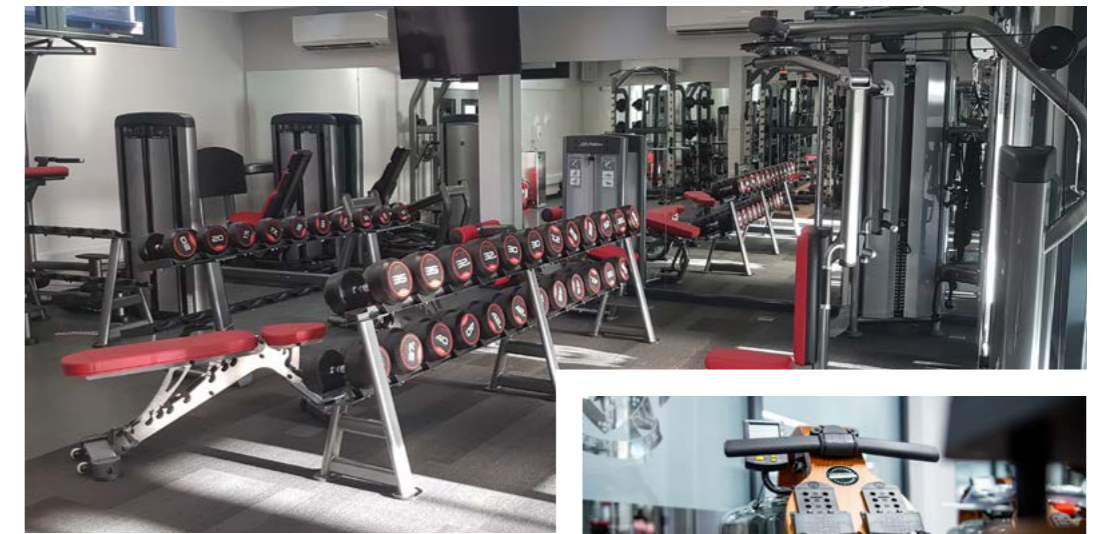
The purpose of this major redevelopment was not only to have state-of-the-art physical spaces so that students could have an enjoyable time at Collingwood, but crucially, and reflecting the College motto, to provide facilities that would enable Collingwood students to thrive academically, socially, and in whichever recreational domains are of greatest importance to them.

The Gym

The Mark Hillery Gym had originally been created on the main corridor in 2012. However, with so many Collingwood students participating in sport or enjoying physical activity, the gym was doubled as part of the redevelopment project. The larger space has distinct weights and cardio sections, which can be separated by sliding doors if desired, and features industry standard equipment, including water rowers, Peloton, and a Wahoo Kickr bike, making it one of the best equipped gym facilities at the University.

Below the gym extension, a Dance and Fitness Studio was created. This Studio can be used for a range of activities, including gym classes and dance rehearsals. The space is also home to a suite of rowing machines and spinning bikes. Coloured LED lighting and electrostatic smart glass windows allow students to switch easily between a high energy atmosphere to a more peaceful, tranquil space.

Not only does The Mark Hillery Gym help Collingwood's athletes hone their sporting strength as they compete to retain the Intercollegiate Trophy year after year, but it also provides a valuable resource for all students to explore new ways of staying active, which has enormous benefits to mental health and wellbeing.



The JCR

Whilst it is named the Junior Common Room, the area down the stairs from Reception has always been a social hub for the whole College community.

In the redevelopment project, the JCR was almost doubled in size and gained a range of new accessories, including new pool and table tennis tables, and table football with the team colours hand-painted to match Collingwood's home and away kits! Two 55-inch TVs, with Sky and Freeview, were installed to show media wirelessly from devices or even livestream sporting events taking place just outside on the MUGA. The JCR was also equipped with a surround sound home cinema section, games consoles and a virtual reality set.

Coloured LED lighting can be controlled by touchscreen panels, allowing the mood to be set for an ordinary night in College, or entertainment after a formal dinner. The sabbatical officers (JCR President and Bar Steward) share a glass-fronted office in the JCR, which is *sometimes* tidy.



The Theatre

The Mark Hillery Arts Centre (Theatre) was created on the main corridor, opposite the Principal's Office, where the Bayley Room (or before that, the library) once was. The benefits are obvious: Collingwood's performing arts groups are no longer limited by the Dining Hall space, nor competing with 550 hungry Livers In!

The Theatre is a modern multi-purpose venue equipped with state-of-the-art technical facilities unparalleled in Durham City. With the aid of a motorised lighting rig, the black-box space can be transformed into almost any arrangement, including traditional "straight-on" proscenium arch stages, thrust stages, traverse stages, and even in the round. It can seat up to 200 people and hold even more for a standing gig or event. The technical inventory is outstanding and boasts dozens of moving lights, a full RCF sound system, LED video wall, lasers, and even a snow machine.

With oversight and leadership from the sabbatical Venue Manager, these facilities, coupled with the ever-increasing skill and ambition of the student technical crew, have dramatically lifted the quality, creativity and professionalism of theatre, music, dance and other creative arts at Collingwood.



Coffee Shop

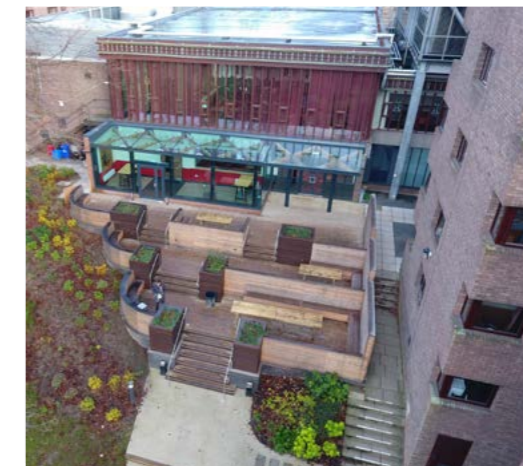
Moved to a brand-new location, the coffee shop (The Wood'n'Spoon) became a centrepiece of the new JCR area, serving a fantastic range of toasties, coffees and confectionery to the people of Collingwood.



The Bar

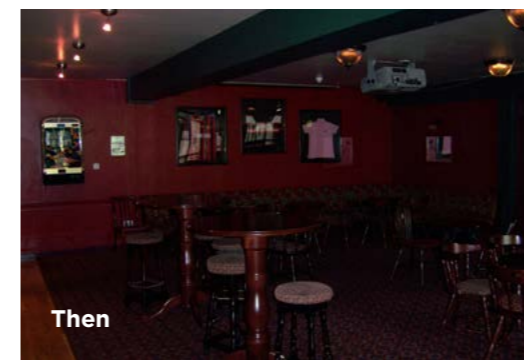
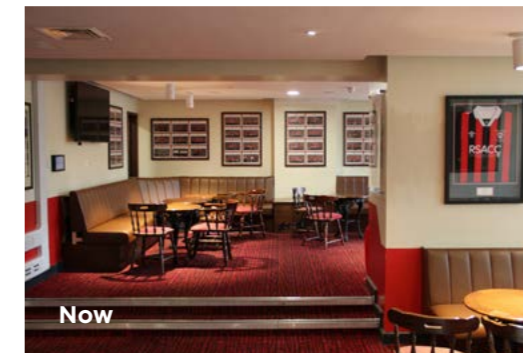
To the untrained eye, the Collingwood bar (The Stag's Head) may appear to be the same rustic pub-bar that it has always been, but the real change came in the details.

The redevelopment project added a new conservatory and a cascading outdoor terrace that overlooks the MUGA—both of which were instantly popular with students. A darts area also replaced a set of toilets, serving as a recreational area for Collingwood's best and worst dart players alike. The new speakers, TV, and projector, controllable by touchscreen panels, allow sections of the Bar to be transformed, whether that is to watch the big game, blast out some karaoke tunes, or host a quiz. But, despite the changes, including new tables, chairs and carpets, The Stag's Head retains the traditional feel of the Collingwood bar that all alumni have known and loved.

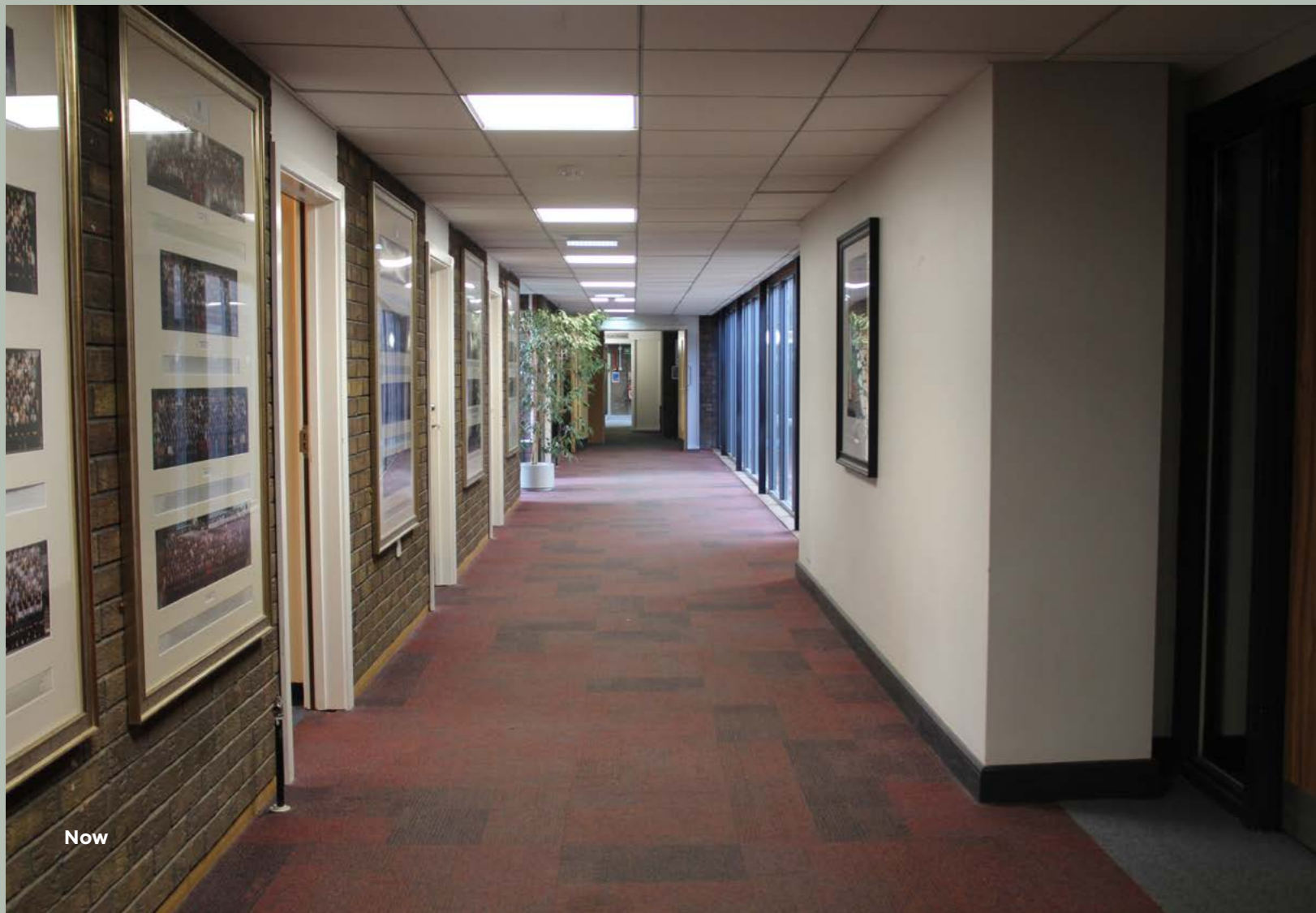


The Collingwood bar has moved around the College building a few times. The vast majority of alumni will simply have referred to the space as the 'College Bar', although it has also been known as *The Redwood Arms* in the 2000s, before it was rebranded in 2010 as *The Stag's Head*.

Since 1999 the Bar Steward has been a sabbatical position: a full-time role post-graduation to manage the best bar in Durham!



Then and Now



Collingwood at 50

In 2022, Collingwood is the largest college at Durham University, with a total of 1850 students (undergraduates and postgraduates combined). Most of the 550 bedrooms on site are occupied by first year undergraduate students (typically an intake of around 480 each year). Due to the use of 'teacher assessed grades' in the UK in 2021, more students than ever met their offer to study at Durham, and Collingwood welcomed a record number of 620 freshers, with some students being accommodated in Rushford Court, near Durham Train Station. The matriculation photo for this exceptionally large cohort had to be taken in two parts, with the top rows being added to the main photo using photoshop!

Collingwood remains incredibly popular with applicants. For entry in academic year 2022/23, Collingwood was the second most popular college with offer holders, behind only University College. The student demographic continues to change, and Collingwood welcomes an increasing number of international students, as well as home UK students from a widening range of social, cultural and economic backgrounds.



Sporting Prowess

Sport is a large part of many Collingwood students' lives, whether they consider themselves 'sporty', or not. Team Collingwood have won the Durham University Intercollegiate Sport Championship for 11 years in a row (2011-22), and don't plan to lose any time soon! This trophy is based on the total performance of women and men across a wide variety of sports, at all levels of proficiency. Importantly, Collingwood also achieves the most points per student.

Sporting success is underpinned by very high participation rates, involving students ranging from novice to expert. Team Collingwood is made up of over 70 individual teams across 23 sports.

Collingwood College Football Club (CCAFC) is the largest football club, amateur or professional, in Europe, in terms of the number of adult men's and women's teams. In the 2021/22 season, CCAFC fielded 17 teams: 15 men's teams (A - O) and 2 women's teams. The club even had a development squad of approximately 40 players, all eager to play their way into the O team and above. Collingwood teams make up a high proportion of teams in the top Men's Premier League: 4 out of a total of 13 teams.

Several teams across a number of sports were undefeated in the 21/22 season, including Men's Rugby A. The Table Tennis A team remain undefeated for three years and the Boat Club had one of their most successful years on record. Eight netball teams are thriving, and the Netball A team only recently lost a game for the first time in four years.

Collingwood finished the 2021/22 season with a total of 4224 points: more points than the second and third position combined.

Collingwood students also make up significant proportions of University first teams, particularly in hockey, lacrosse, football, and rugby. There were 12 Collingwood players in the first team squad of Durham University Rugby Club when they became BUCS Super Rugby Champions in 2022, and almost half of the Durham Women's Cricket Team that made history when they beat Loughborough University to clinch the BUCS Championship were Collingwood students.

Many Collingwood elite athletes have been selected for national and international squads, and Collingwood student Fiona Crackles won a bronze medal in hockey at the Tokyo Olympic Games.



Collingwood at 50

The JCR exec take seriously their role in making sure all students are represented, valued, and able to participate, whatever their background or identity.

More Energy than Ceremony

Collingwood's culture is informal and non-hierarchical; staff and students call each other by their first names and student leaders have a positive, productive relationship with the senior management team. It's common find the Principal playing table tennis with students in the JCR, and College staff supporting students pitch-side or in the theatre.

Formals are big, energetic events that take place three or four times per term—sometimes black tie, sometimes themed fancy dress. Staff and guests sit beside students, rather than on a high table, and formals often conclude with a rousing rendition of 'Country Roads'.

The JCR exec take seriously their role in making sure all students are represented, valued, and able to participate, whatever their background or identity. The MCR Committee maintains a close relationship with the JCR, and this strong, united student leadership enables postgraduates to immerse themselves in all aspects of



Collingwood life. In addition to sports teams, there are 24 different societies and committees to join, and despite temporary disruption caused by the pandemic, participation rates are very high.

The Lormor Library is a hub for budding writers and journalists, and student librarians help to organise a range of events that stimulate intellectual curiosity and broaden student horizons, including Collingwood Connect careers sessions, workshops, and talks hosted by alumni and SCR members.

The Bar, The Stag's Head, is busier than ever, and a pint of Guinness costs £3.



Giving Back

Thanks to the hard work of students in Collingwood's sports clubs, societies and committees, Collingwood raises thousands of pounds every year for good causes, through events such as CCAFC's 24 Hours of Football, the Charity Ball, and CCFS's Charity Fashion Show.

Additionally, hundreds of Collingwood students and staff regularly volunteer within the local community through College or University projects, or self-sourced activities. Students also make a difference to communities all over the world through academic research projects or by taking part in summer volunteering initiatives. In 2022, Collingwood was shortlisted for more volunteering awards than ever before and came first in four categories.

Increasingly, Collingwood clubs and societies are embedding outreach and charity work into their core activities and partnering with community groups and organisations.



Excellence in Arts

Whatever their level of experience, students at Collingwood can utilise industry standard equipment and enhanced arts facilities to pursue their interests, explore their creativity and take their skills to the next level.

The Theatre boasts a packed schedule of productions and shows from Collingwood and University groups. The Woodplayers musical continues to be a highlight of the College calendar, as well as their annual plays. Coinciding with the College's 50th anniversary year, Woodplayers took their first ever show to Edinburgh Fringe, with a fully Collingwood cast and crew. The show was aptly named '1972: The Future of Sex'.

Alongside more traditional ensembles in the Music Society (including orchestras and choirs), Collingwood has been a powerhouse in contemporary music, with some of the best-known student bands and soloists on the Durham circuit originating from Collingwood or featuring Collingwood talent.

Collingwood's reputation for all things lighting, sound, and tech attracts students with an interest in the technical aspects of the arts. Experienced techies and beginners alike get to use industry standard kit and make shows and events look just as spectacular as professional set ups.

The youngest performing arts group, the Dance Society, welcomes beginners and advanced dancers, and their showcases feature everything from ballet to street dance.

A dedicated Media Suite supports budding filmmakers, photographers, and designers, and in 2021, two ambitious undergraduate finalists created a feature-length film 'Audition', which was released on Amazon Prime.

WoodArt have a new home in a dedicated Art Room, fully equipped with generous support from former Principal, Ed Corrigan. The society display their work each year

at a Creative Exhibition, alongside entries to annual creative competitions in music, performance, poetry, photography and video.

Ed Corrigan also established the Eileen Corrigan Arts Prize, awarded to a number of finalists each year, in recognition of their significant and sustained contributions to the arts of all forms.



Music Studios

Opening in 2022, The Mark Hillery Music Studios will offer outstanding facilities for musicians of all abilities at Collingwood. The new building, which is solely dedicated to music, features two spacious practice rooms and state-of-the-art recording studios.

The studios, which are the only purpose-built music recording facilities in the University, comprise of a live room, vocal booth and cutting-edge control room. No compromise has been made on the equipment in the building. A comprehensive stock of top-end microphones, amps, guitars, electronic instruments, and mixing equipment will form the springboard from which students can achieve their most ambitious musical goals.

Designed by GSS Architecture, who completed the Theatre in 2018, in conjunction with acousticians and recording studio specialists Miloco (whose clients include

Abbey Road, Pnau and Calvin Harris, to name a few), the space has been built for recording from the ground up. The angular form of the studios means there are no parallel surfaces from which reflections and standing waves can form, and high ceilings with suspended absorbent panels improve the acoustics in each room.

The practice rooms and studios will be available to all students regardless of ability, not just those studying music. As with the Theatre, the Music Studios will also provide opportunities for students from other colleges, alumni, and groups from the wider local community. The building is not a formal teaching space, but instead a facility for musical and technical exploration, experimentation and enjoyment.

External render: GSS Architecture
Internal render: Miloco



Researching Collingwood

I was not sure what to expect when I started researching and writing parts of this brochure, but I didn't anticipate that I would be able to connect to things that had happened decades before I started at Collingwood: the enthusiasm for sports, the friendliness, the feeling of a community—themes which came up a lot in my interviews. When Peter Bayley picked Collingwood's first cohort, it was almost as if he was selecting my own—which is odd, because we never actually interviewed for our places. There were worries about what it would mean for Collingwood if these interviews never took place, but the Collingwood spirit established in the 1970s appears ever-present.

I am from the cohort that started in October 2020, contending with the Covid-19 pandemic. While these were tough times for everyone around the world, I feel I could relate to cohorts from Collingwood's past that had to endure a series of financial crises, difficult construction periods as well as drastic national transformations—and just as

Collingwood students had done in the past, we thrived in our adversity. I am grateful that our turbulent year meant that we truly got to appreciate living in College: spending summer days on the bar terrace, squinting whilst trying to work under the sun; having Sunday night pub quizzes on Zoom; or even snacking on cheese in the botanical gardens, just the other side of the Meadow.

I also believe that the staff at College have been a crucial part of my, and many others', experiences at Collingwood: affectionately being called "pet" in the Dining Hall, the conversations with Porters whenever I had to pick up a parcel (or, very occasionally,

got locked out of my room...), and even the chats I could have with Emma, Grant or Joe whenever I passed them in the corridors. I was also fortunate to have been placed in a "household" with my year's JCR President and Bar Steward—I was overjoyed when they let me bake banana bread in their kitchen during a national lockdown period.

Having listened to anecdotes from alumni from their own Collingwood days, I realise that our time at College is filled with an array of happy memories, all centred upon one location and the ethos that surrounded us during our time there. But simultaneously, I believe that we contributed to our experience

I believe that we contributed to our experience at College as much as we inherited a spirit that I can't quite explain—but I believe anyone who has been to Collingwood would understand.

at College as much as we inherited a spirit that I can't quite explain—but I believe anyone who has been to Collingwood would understand.

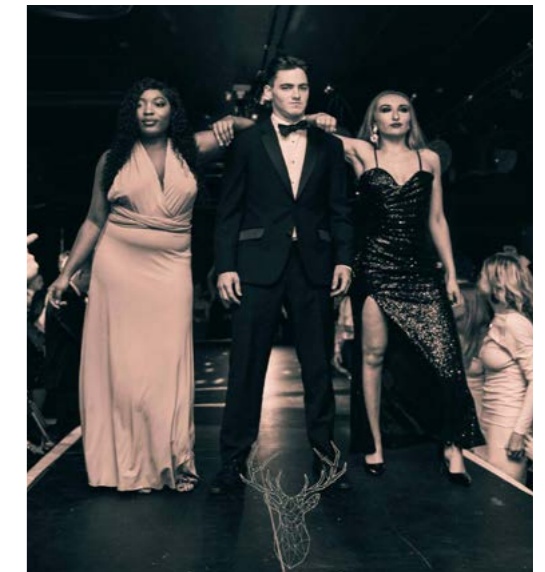
When I talked to people about their experience at College, it was almost as if they were envisioning themselves back in the same halls that I lived in, but with different cohorts and invariably different furniture and surroundings. I can imagine that in another 50 years, when Collingwood celebrates its centennial anniversary, I will revisit and feel instantly transported back to my time at College. Perhaps that is what has been so rewarding about my writing experience: being able to bring life to countless memories, as well as Collingwood's fascinating history.

Phoebe Leonard
History



DUJ Psychology Charity Ball

Phoebe (left) with friends



Student Support

Student support and wellbeing is at the very heart of what we do, and supporting our students through their university journey involves every element of college life and work: from catering and JCR activities, to enrichment and the Wider Student Experience.

All our staff are essential to the support we offer, not just those of us seen as the 'Student Support Team'. Housekeeping, catering and kitchen teams, Reception, College Office and Porters... often these people spot struggling students well before they come forward themselves; indeed, they often encourage a student to seek support. We work extremely closely with the JCR Welfare Team: the students who volunteer their time to support fellow students and who consistently deliver a level of commitment and service that leaves us in awe. The JCR team lead on proactive campaigns promoting good mental health, sexual health and personal safety, to name but a few.

The proportion of students who complete their degree programmes here at Durham is sector leading, and the supportive environment colleges provide is one of the most important factors in this. We certainly don't do someone's degree for them, but if they stumble and fall, we help get them back on their feet again—back on track to achieving what they joined the University for, both academically and personally. Most commonly we are dealing with matters related to transition and fitting in, academic concerns and progress, financial difficulties, relationship or family problems, health issues, and above all else, mental health struggles.

We are supported superbly by central services within the University's Student Support and Wellbeing Directorate, such as Disability Support, Mental Health Advisors and the Counselling Service.

The real privilege of support work is the ability to make a difference for our students on a day-by-day basis. The greatest gift this work brings is to be engaged with a student right through their time here with us. To support someone who is struggling, at times in very dark places, unable to see themselves succeeding at Durham or at anything in life, and thinking they are not good enough (a very common fear), and then later to see them processing across Palace Green in their gown and hood ready to graduate in the Cathedral... tell me a greater privilege than that.

Whilst my work primarily involves people facing problems, I get the opportunity to see students enjoying themselves too. To witness students that I am supporting playing sport for College or the University, performing in our wonderful theatre, taking on leadership, or volunteering for the benefit of others, is a real joy.

Above all else, we see Collingwood as a family. We are all here for everyone in this family, through the good times and the bad. The range of issues we deal with knows no limits and is endlessly challenging, but that's what makes it the best job in the world. There is no such thing as a dull day.

Grant Slater
Assistant Principal

Grant with students at a formal dinner



Student Development

Durham University students are truly amazing. They are intelligent, articulate, energetic, socially skilled, talented in so many domains, and highly aware of their responsibilities to their loved ones, their friends and peers, and to wider society.

At Durham, they gain multiple opportunities to participate, sometimes as novices, sometimes as experts, across a vast range of student-led activities—sports, music, theatre, tech, art, dance, media, committees, activism, volunteering, entrepreneurship, fundraising... the list is endless. These pursuits enable the acquisition and enhancement of proficiency, not only in their chosen fields, but also in the soft interpersonal and leadership skills that are so important for adult life.

While the University's academic programme has long been designed to ensure the highest levels of intellectual and technical proficiency, a pervasive focus upon proactively and explicitly assisting our students to prepare for their future professional lives has arguably been less evident. In recent years, however, there has been increasing recognition of the importance of providing a wide range of opportunities that, in conjunction with

their overall university experience, can help students to fulfil their undoubted potential.

Collingwood College has embraced this goal wholeheartedly. Drawing upon the support and encouragement of committed alumni and friends, we have introduced a range of funding, activities, and programmes that provide outstanding opportunities for our students to grow, learn, excel, and to give back to others.

Our students are our future and we are fully committed to helping them fulfil their individual and societal promise. In turn, they will surely recognise their responsibility to assist the generations who follow them.



One fateful evening in the Redwood Arms (as the College bar was called back then), a scarecrow met a soldier at a freshers' fancy-dress event. The rest, they say, is history... A decade later, surrounded by at least 30 friends from Collingwood, we got married.

This is not exceptional: so many Durham alumni met significant life partners at their college. So, there is something so satisfying about sharing my story with the new first years each academic year. The tale usually provokes muted laughter, and some muttering as, cogs turning, they quickly scan the room, considering just who they might have already met on their corridors, in the Dining Hall, or in the JCR. If not a future spouse, most certainly friends for life.

Upon graduation, never in a million years did I expect to return to Collingwood as part of the senior management team, but it has been the greatest privilege, and an honour to be surrounded, every day, by intelligent, creative, and kind students, who put an inordinate amount of time and energy into making Collingwood the very best place it can be. It is truly humbling.

Collingwood is a very special place, with a unique spirit—a spirit that I know remains with Collingwood alumni wherever they go. All alumni that I meet share a love and affection for College, noting how Collingwood—the place, the opportunities, and the people—enriched their lives. In my current role, particularly working to grow our student development programme, I am so often moved to witness first-hand what can happen when alumni and supporters put their minds, energies, and resources together to enrich the experience of current students. It quite literally transforms lives.

Emma Brownlow

Vice Principal
(Theology, Collingwood College, 2009-12)

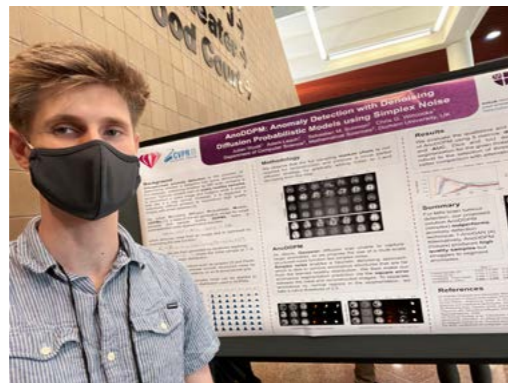
Student Opportunities Funds

The 1972 Club Student Opportunities Fund

From studying at the Old Vic Theatre to presenting at international conferences on virtual reality, showcasing talents on music and sports tours, trialing for Great Britain, or improving access to clean water in Thailand, The 1972 Club Student Opportunities Fund contributes to the costs of a wide range of activities that students feel will make a great difference to their development.

The fund exists thanks to a growing number of donors to Collingwood, especially alumni, who make regular gifts. This fund is one of the primary vehicles for ensuring that opportunities offered by Collingwood, or sourced by students themselves, remain open and accessible to students from all financial backgrounds, and that all Collingwood students can access support in grasping life-changing opportunities they might otherwise not be able to afford to take on.

...ensuring that opportunities offered by Collingwood, or sourced by students themselves, remain open and accessible to students from all financial backgrounds...



"Thanks to hard work, determination and a bit of luck, a shortened version of my dissertation was accepted at the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition in New Orleans, one of the top computer science conferences in the world. I received support from the 1972 Club Student Opportunities Fund towards the costs of my travel, accommodation, and expenses. The effect of presenting my work was clear: I was approached by a professor who encouraged me to apply for a PhD scholarship. I also got the opportunity to explore cutting-edge computer vision demos and network with other researchers and companies."

Julian Wyatt



"During my time at university, I have discovered two things: that stories are incredibly powerful and that I'm deeply passionate about being a voice for the voiceless. I'm delighted that the 1972 Club Student Opportunities Fund has supported me in a trip to Eastern Bulgaria to support minority groups in one of the poorest parts of Europe."

Sam Couper



"I had the precious opportunity of taking part in a programme by the Film Scoring Academy of Europe. Originally meant to be in Bulgaria, the course was converted into an online programme due to the pandemic. It was still an amazing 26-day journey with 23 other aspiring composers from all over the world. We developed skills in writing music for motion picture through practical and theoretical sessions, learning from professionals and industry specialists. We also got to hold four unique recording sessions where the music we wrote for a short film was played by professionals. This programme widened my horizons and gave me courage to work towards becoming a film composer, which I never thought I would be capable of. It was a life-changing experience that would not have been possible without Collingwood's support."

Loren Ma



"Following a rigorous process, I was selected as the institutional judge for Durham at the World Universities Debating Championship in Bangkok. I was excited, but quickly realised that flights were too expensive for me to afford. Thankfully the 1972 Club Student Opportunities Fund offered support. My experience was nothing short of amazing! I got to judge some of the best teams in the world, which was a thoroughly enjoyable and humbling experience. The motions themselves were interesting and ranged from topics such as the Mexican Government's stance on war on drugs, beauty standards in the modern world, and discontinuing the Olympic Games. Flying back home, I knew I was not the same person that had left ten days prior. I had transformed into a more globally minded individual with more nuanced stance on many of the world's most pressing issues and keen to pass this perspective on to the next generation of Durham debaters."

Georgios Filippopoulos

Supporting Edinburgh Fringe

The 1972 Club Student Opportunities Fund supported a number of students involved in taking the first ever Woodplayers production to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2022, including performers, crew and technicians.



Theatre Rigging Skills

Four students received funding to attend a three-day theatre rigging course with UK Rigging.

The course increased their knowledge of safe rigging practices in the industry. Bringing these skills back to the technical crew at Collingwood, this experience will allow them to use more complicated equipment and create more elaborate rigs around College, ultimately making Collingwood events look and sound even more spectacular!



The Greatest Need Fund

Some students face more financial hardship than others, needing to work multiple part-time jobs to afford the cost of their education, struggling to make ends meet, or lacking familial financial support. Sometimes these students also fall marginally outside the threshold for additional scholarships and bursaries dedicated to students from low-income backgrounds.

These students are most at risk of having to turn down opportunities or not being able to afford the costs associated with ongoing involvement in sports, music, theatre, and other student societies.

The Greatest Need Fund, established thanks to the generosity of Philip Green (Law, Collingwood College, 1976-79) and Jane Green (Combined Arts, Van Mildert College, 1976-79), is part of the 1972 Club Student Opportunities Fund, working to remove

financial barriers for students who find themselves in this position. It has supported the costs of a range of activities, including rowing training camps, cricket and netball competitions, attendance at the National Student Drama Festival, internship living expenses, and taking part in international debating championships.



"After a long and difficult application process, I was offered a summer internship in finance. The internship is in London, where I do not live, so this money will go a huge way in supporting the costs of my accommodation and travel. Without this, I may have not been able to do the internship, which would have meant missing out on the fantastic opportunity to experience working in a top accountancy firm and learning lots of skills for my future career. I cannot thank the donors enough for the incredible opportunity you have given me; what I have learned so far will help me grow as a person and inspire and motivate me to aim high in my future career."

Anonymous

The NE Opportunities Fund

Thanks to the generosity of Chris French (Geography, Collingwood College, 1975-78), the NE Opportunities Fund supports students from the North East who participated in Durham's Supported Progression scheme or come from areas considered to have low participation in Higher Education.

It provides small grants to help students participate in activities that will enhance employability, personal and academic development, and allow them to be fully involved in College and University life in ways that other students might simply take for granted. The fund has provided a range of grants, including the costs of vital sports equipment, core textbooks, society memberships and interview travel expenses.

"Having the support of this fund has been incredibly appreciated during my time at university. The fund has helped me not only acquire the correct law books necessary to complete required reading for my modules, but also helped me succeed in two interviews with two magic circle law firms through supporting the cost of online practice tests. It's felt really nice to know I've had support throughout university and that my background hasn't stopped me from succeeding and making the most of my experience here at Durham. Coming to Durham from a state school in quite a disadvantaged area of the North East was a massive social change for me and the funding has meant that I can compete with other people on my course using resources that I otherwise couldn't afford. It's an amazing fund and I hope to be able to support it myself as an alumna in the future."

Kaylin Raine





The Sara Pilkington Personal Development Fund

After Collingwood finalist, Sara Pilkington, suddenly passed away in 2012, her parents, Jonathan and Jools, established the Sara Pilkington Personal Development Fund at Collingwood to support students who wish to take part in rewarding projects they might otherwise not be able to afford.

Eligible Collingwood students can apply for support towards the cost of activities that contribute to their personal and academic development and enhance their employability. Often this takes the form of international travel to take part in research or meaningful volunteering with existing organisations tackling important social, medical, environmental and global issues. For others, it might be funding for skills development or to take part in extracurricular sports or music activities that they would otherwise not be able to complete. In all cases, the support is life-affirming and life-changing; experiences supported by this fund have led to profound self-discovery and even changed the direction of students' intended paths and careers.

"We hope that Sara's Fund will continue to enable Collingwood students to pursue new challenges that they had not thought possible, to enrich their life experiences. Hopefully, they will learn more about the people they meet, about the world around them, and very importantly about themselves, as well as being inspired to always try to broaden their horizons and aspire to fulfil their true potential."

Jools and Jonathan Pilkington



Rugby Tour

I am incredibly grateful for the Sara Pilkington Personal Development Fund because it has enabled me to enjoy opportunities that would otherwise have been closed off to me.

Through the fund I was able to travel to Portugal to participate in the Durham University Rugby Tour. This tour was especially important to me because it was the first time I was able to represent DURFC, having missed over a year of rugby through injury. The fund gave me something to look forward to through the long and intense rehab I had to undergo and helped me get back to my favourite activity. I am so thankful for the generosity of Mr and Mrs Pilkington and Collingwood College.

Walter Watson



Teaching in a Buddhist Nunnery

I travelled to Kathmandu to teach English and live in a Buddhist nunnery for a month. This was by far the most far-fetched thing I've ever done; having never been to Asia, nor travelled on my own, it all felt very surreal. We woke up at 5am with the morning prayers. Even when we didn't join the nuns in the prayer hall it still felt like we were there; alongside the prayers were gongs, trumpets and symbols, so the other volunteers and I got a personal alarm clock—only there was no snooze button!

Volunteers and I had complete freedom over the content of classes, which took some trial and error. With the older children we spent a lot of time on geography, as we discovered they did not have lessons in this, nor maths and science. This was a very eye-opening experience, as many of the girls had no sense of what a continent or capital city was (or even that we lived on a planet) so trying to explain something that seems so obvious really put into perspective how insular education can be in other parts of the world. However, seeing the kids so fascinated by everything, and asking questions to learn more was incredibly rewarding. It really felt like I was making a difference by teaching them about the world they didn't realise was around them. Without the help of this grant I would not have been able to take part in this project, and I feel that it was such an important and humbling experience to have taken part in. It is something I'll remember for the rest of my life.

Alexandra McLaren



Competing in the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge, Australia, with Durham University Electric Motorsport

Two years of preparation, two weeks of extensive testing in Australia and six days of action-packed racing, 2834km across the harsh Australian Outback on sunshine alone...

Looking back, the whole experience of being part of this solar car challenge team hugely supported my personal development: from leading the team through the highs and lows, thinking up solutions to complex problems under intense pressure, and seeing the result of all our hard work after two years of blood, toil, tears and carbon fibre. It was also a great opportunity to meet and network with other highly talented young engineers from around the world. I am very grateful to the Sara Pilkington Personal Development Fund for helping to make the whole adventure possible. It was an experience I will never forget.

James Marriott



Undergraduate Research Internships

In 2012, support from Jon Conder (Law, Collingwood College, 1980-83) and Beatrice Puoti founded the Undergraduate Research Internship Programme (UGRI), initially offering five funded internships over the summer vacation each year.

2022 marks ten years of the scheme. A decade on, the UGRI programme has become so popular that it has more than tripled in size, with other alumni also feeling inspired to offer their support to this flagship scheme. The impact is undeniable.

The UGRI Programme

Collingwood undergraduates can apply to work within research teams in academic departments of Durham University for six to eight weeks over the summer. They work alongside distinguished Durham professors and researchers, making valuable contributions to existing and ongoing research projects, which are often at the forefront of academic discovery. This might involve, for example, completing lab work and data analysis, or conducting research using rare manuscripts and primary sources.

Thanks to our alumni donors, the interns receive a grant to support their living costs, and Collingwood provide college accommodation free of charge to those who require it. This is critical: it ensures the programme is accessible to students who might otherwise need to work over the summer vacation to afford the costs of their education.

The UGRI programme reflects what is at the very heart of a Durham education: research-led teaching. It offers a unique opportunity for undergraduates to experience a research environment, learn from experts, develop technical skills and enhance their understanding of their academic discipline. However, interns also develop skills valuable to their personal and professional development more generally, including teamwork, communication, and project management.

Many UGRI interns have gone on to study for PhDs in their subject areas, utilise their skills in professional domains, or even had their names published as part of academic papers.

“The motivation to start this programme came from our desire to enhance student development opportunities. As we’ve watched the scheme grow over the years, we’ve marvelled at the cutting-edge research topics that interns engage in at Durham... from semiconductors and galactic supernovas to warfare propaganda and Dante... the diversity is fascinating. We’ve also witnessed the many, often unexpected ways, in which these internships can meaningfully shape student lives. It is a pleasure to remain connected to Collingwood in this way.”

Jon Conder (Law, Collingwood College, 1980-83) and **Beatrice Puoti**

The impact of a UGRI



Multi wavelength study of galactic supernova remnants

After my Foundation year, I was selected for the UGRI programme to work with the Durham very-high-energy gamma-ray astronomy group. Gamma-ray astronomy is the observation of high-energy light (photons with energies >20 MeV), necessary to understand the processes powering some of the most energetic objects in the universe. My project focused on applying machine learning techniques to data from the Fermi gamma-ray space telescope in order to detect supernova remnants (the remains of massive stars which have exploded). This helped me to develop new skills in data analysis, programming, and machine learning.

The UGRI experience was invaluable to me: it provided my first glimpse at a career in research. After completing my MPhys at Durham, I decided to remain in the field, studying for a DPhil at Oxford, before moving to Germany for my current position as a postdoc at Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg. My current work follows directly from the research I performed during my Undergraduate Research Internship, and I still collaborate with the Durham gamma-ray group to this day.

Samuel Spencer
(Physics and Astronomy,
Collingwood College, 2012-17)



Interaction between UK euthanasia law and EU free movement provisions

The goal of the project was to argue in favour of British citizens accompanying a family member seeking end-of-life treatment in a member state, without the risk of those family members being prosecuted upon their return to the UK. The internship was tremendously helpful as it developed my understanding of the subject matter, allowed me to appreciate the finer details of how EU law interacted with local laws in the UK, and offered me invaluable networking opportunities as I pursued my career in law. I am grateful that this opportunity that was made possible by Collingwood and the alumni donors to the UGRI programme.

Aauysh Kaiyina
(Law, Collingwood College, 2016-2019)



Records of Early English Drama

The internship had a spectacular influence on my personal and professional life, about which I could wax lyrical. But to pinpoint just one impact: my research internship saved me forever from the three tyrannies of cover letters, interviews, and CV writing.

As someone from a more-than-remote area furnishing less-than-mediocre opportunities, nothing could raise more dread than having to discuss the void that was my past experiences. Neither being inventive nor uninteresting was especially appealing. All that changed when I came to Collingwood. On the UGRI programme, I was able to engage in everything from audience research to palaeography and events management... all providing particularly appealing fodder for subsequent master's, PhD, and job applications. The fact that the internship led directly to the career path which I now pursue—providing the experience, contacts, and reference which granted me my present position—is, of course, an incidental benefit.

Emily Smith
(English Literature,
Collingwood College, 2016-19)



The policy of restorative justice in tackling youth crime

Through the internship, I discovered that I was passionate about understanding young people and researching the issues they face, including how they are perceived by, and experience, society.

This led me to complete my master's dissertation on how LGBTQ+ youth experienced lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic, and how online and gaming communities provided them with social support. This then led me to pursue a PhD at Durham, which explores the legacy of Covid on this cohort and how it has impacted LGBTQ+ youth in their transition to adulthood.

The working relationships I forged with staff during my UGRI definitely led to these further opportunities. The most helpful thing, however, was discovering what career I did not want to go into. Beforehand, I thought that I was headed for a career in policy analysis, but the UGRI opened doors for my research career and provided me with a research interest, allowing me to focus on what I enjoy.

Steph Daw
(Sociology, Collingwood College, 2016-19,
2020-21, and current PhD candidate)

Impactful research



Evaluation of the 'Levelling Up' science outreach scheme

The scheme is a collaborative project between various institutions, including Durham University, which aims to support disadvantaged A-Level students from across the UK in reaching their full potential, encouraging more students from low-participation demographics to aspire study STEM subjects at top UK universities.

Working on this project to evaluate its impact is a great opportunity for me to make use of skills I have acquired at university, such as research, communication, and critical thinking. The opportunity to learn from professionals is an invaluable benefit for interns. To me, this research internship is a great source of practical experience, learning teamwork, building personal and professional relationships, and to receive a financial income (grant) over the summer. I am very grateful for this programme.

Linh Phung, Chemistry

Shortest vector problem

The advent of quantum computing has meant that current encryption methods that secure the internet are at risk.

The research project I am working on will explore proposed but untested algorithms that could continue to keep our data secure and work to implement and compare them. This internship will give me a crucial insight into academic research and the opportunity to work on hard mathematical problems with real world applications. The UGRI scheme and funding has completely changed my summer plans: it is allowing me to pursue academic research relevant to my career plans, rather than work in the private sector building websites as I had originally planned.

Orry Goberman, Computer Science

Visual processing in mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are known to mediate the transmission of malaria that has led to millions of deaths.

So far, the reduction of malaria has been achieved by masking human odours from mosquitos with insect repellents. However, alongside emerging insecticide resistance, progress towards eliminating malaria has stalled, and new strategies are urgently needed. In this research project I will contribute to the exploration of a new approach that targets mosquito larvae using interdisciplinary techniques. This internship is a new challenge and is significantly meaningful to me. I will gain a deeper understanding of the biology field and build technical skills and expertise. The internship will provide a great foundation and will be a giant leap for me to grow and become a scientist.

Rahee Song, Biosciences

Views of Durham, Past and Present

By researching historical and contemporary imagery of Durham, this project aims to recognise changes to Durham's city and heritage, identify potential future changes, as well as creating an inventory of these changing views.

I will explore the archives of historic paintings and photographs, as well as Durham Castle's collection. Without the donor-funded internship grant, I would not be able to participate in this research project. Not only will this internship provide great opportunities for my personal, professional and academic development as I progress to postgraduate study at Durham in the Conservation of Archaeological and Museums Objects, but I will also learn more about the place in which I live and study, as well as create a platform for others to learn about Durham as a city, cultural centre, and a community.

Ranunthiya Pochanukul (Pang), International Affairs



Internships and Opportunities

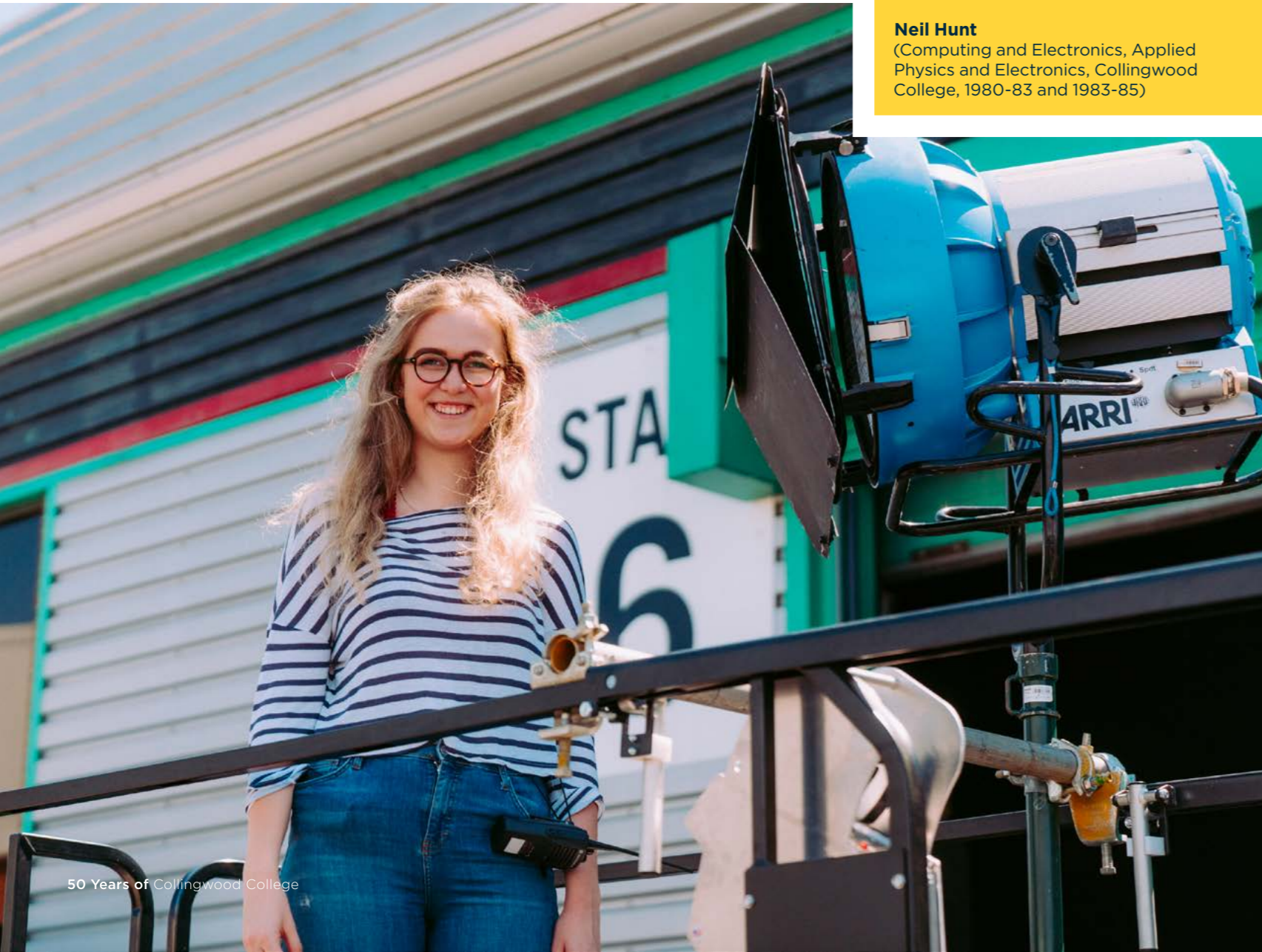
Each year, Collingwood students can apply to a range of internships and once-in-a-lifetime developmental opportunities sourced by the College, hosted by our alumni and supporters all over the world. The placements vary year on year but are often opportunities that are not readily available outside the Collingwood network.

Students are selected on the basis of a competitive, needs-blind, application process. Where internships or opportunities are unpaid (perhaps due to the nature of the industry, or because access to unique opportunities has been negotiated exclusively for Collingwood students), students are able to apply for funding from the College, where this is needed. This is crucial to ensure that all Collingwood students are encouraged to apply, and no student who succeeds in obtaining a College arranged internship or development opportunity has to relinquish it due to a shortage of personal or familial funds, or a concomitant need to earn an income over the summer to cover the costs of their education.

In 2019, Collingwood alumnus, Neil Hunt, made a gift to support the growth of our student development and internship programmes. Neil became the first ever Chief Product Officer of Netflix in 1999, steering the company from a nascent start-up providing an online DVD rental service to one of the largest and most recognisable streaming platforms in the world. He is widely credited for the development of the personalised user experience, which is now synonymous with the Netflix brand.

"My education at Durham University was a key stepping stone to the success that I have been fortunate to enjoy in my career, and I want to maximize the opportunities for those who follow. Summer internships and career placements can be transformative for students, but unfortunately, they are not always accessible to people from all backgrounds; it's crucial that we make these opportunities available and affordable to all Collingwood students."

Neil Hunt
(Computing and Electronics, Applied Physics and Electronics, Collingwood College, 1980-83 and 1983-85)



Louise Roe Internships

Louise Roe is a fashion journalist, broadcaster and founder of her own homeware brand. After eleven years in LA, Louise moved back to the UK and now lives in London with her husband and two daughters. Louise was one of the first alumni to support Collingwood's internship programme, and she has hosted five Collingwood interns since 2018.



"I have such wonderful memories of my time at Collingwood and Durham: playing loads of lacrosse, watching cricket and drinking Pimm's in the summer, and of course...my degree! It taught me discipline and a love of books that I shall never lose. I met people at Durham who became friends for life. It's such an incredible place to live as a student; even after three years there I would still be blown away by the beauty of the Castle and Cathedral."

"It's been great to continue my relationship with Collingwood by supporting current students with internships. In an industry like mine, experience is everything, so it means a lot to me personally that I can offer opportunities to students from my own college; it is one way I can give back to a place that gave me so much."

"The Collingwood team help with the recruitment and application process each time, and I'm always impressed by the talented and creative applicants. I'd encourage any alumni who could host an intern to do it - it's a very rewarding experience."

Louise Roe
(English Literature, Collingwood, 2001-04)



"Collingwood has provided me with many unique opportunities. Despite studying Biological Sciences, this internship has shown me that the skills I have acquired throughout my degree are highly applicable to the working environment, even in a different discipline. I have learned so much. Not only have I been able to show my passion for marketing and e-commerce, but I have also quickly picked up new skills such as creating a newsletter for the business. Louise and her team have been amazing to work with and I am truly grateful for this opportunity as it has also helped me to further clarify what job I want to pursue in the future."

Linzi Colaco
Biological Sciences

Ajuno Internships

Will Barnes is the co-founder of Ajuno, a company that supports national infrastructure and emergency services to adopt drone capabilities that benefit people and the planet. Ajuno have hosted two Collingwood interns.



"As a Collingwood student I remember spending most of Michaelmas term applying for internships, alongside an already busy engineering degree. This type of business experience is something that employers are increasingly looking for and with the pandemic it's become more difficult for students to gain. It's been amazing to be able to offer this opportunity to those looking to get a taste of the working world."

"I did expect good things from Collingwood students, but the quality of applicants across the board was really impressive, and as an alumnus it's been great to engage with current students, not just to help them grow professionally, but also hearing about their experiences. I have so many great memories of my time at Durham and it's been fun to reminisce, and hear that students still frequent the Swan and Three after exams!"

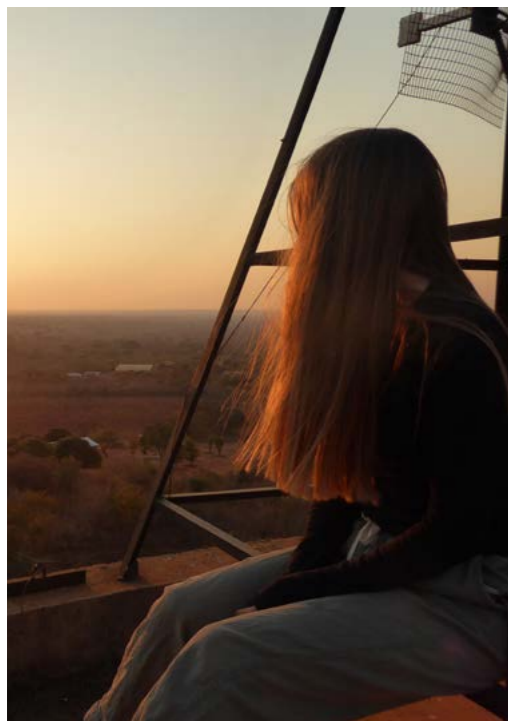
"As a small and relatively young company we would have struggled to offer internship placements without the amazing internship programme at Collingwood; I'd recommend other alumni who have capacity to host a student to explore it."

Will Barnes
(Engineering, Collingwood College, 2011-15)



"I could not believe when I was successful in the internship application, because I know it was competitive. Within the first few days of the internship, I was invited by the co-founders to network with other entrepreneurs. Being able to experience that sort of an active, vibrant atmosphere surrounded by professionals was a first-time experience for me. Getting the chance to sit around with the people who founded this start-up gave me a real sense of responsibility and motivation. Talking to clients, producing ideas and having the flexibility to think innovatively sounds like the best combination of things to me! The wide variety of opportunities to develop myself and guidance from College staff and alumni is one of the many reasons I am extremely happy to be a part of Collingwood."

Dheepan Singaravel
Physics



HIV Research in Zambia

“When I applied for the internship advertised by College, I had no idea how much it would impact my life and shape my future. For the one month internship, I joined the Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) study at Macha Research Trust (MRT) in Macha, Zambia, which tracked the developmental trajectories of children affected by HIV.

I contributed to a study investigating the possible negative effects of Efavirenz (a first-line drug for treatment of HIV-1 infection) on the neurological development of HIV+ children in the Macha area, and the role of gene variants in the metabolism of Efavirenz. I also spent time getting to know Macha; it’s a small place, so making connections and friends was relatively easy and I met so many lovely people.

The opportunity was life-changing for me, helping me to realise that I wanted to go into research out in the real world, surrounded by the people whose lives my research was contributing to. I fell in love with Macha so much that I returned there for a placement year and published an academic paper with Mei Tan and the other researchers, with another first author paper forthcoming.

None of this would have been possible without the internship opportunity from Collingwood and subsequent funding from Collingwood supporters; I will be forever grateful.”

Megan Bowers
(Biomedical Sciences, Collingwood College, 2017-21)



Notable internships and opportunities

- Marshalling in the Royal Courts of Justice
- Maritime Security
- Studying Glaciers in Norway
- Researching Child Development in Russia
- Global Development with MGM in Las Vegas
- Experiencing Movie Sets
- HIV Research in Zambia
- Drug Safety Internships with the Loop
- Interning with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport
- Developing a Bidi Worker Network in India

- Software Development in Australia
- Analysing Risk with Atom Bank
- Working with Plastic Oceans



The Impact of Alumni Support

I never chose Collingwood, literally. As an international student from Indonesia who had never heard of a “collegiate university” before, I neglected to choose a college. When I saw that I, an introvert who struggled to run for five minutes straight, was assigned to this lively and sporty college, I was confused, excited, and scared—but mostly scared.

Little did I know that Collingwood would become my home-away-from-home, even though I never lived in College throughout my time there. This was unusual for a first year, but it never barred me from feeling welcomed and at home in Collingwood, which speaks volumes to the inclusive nature and kindness of Collingwood as a community. I slept on the floor of my friends’ rooms, and so often ate my own packed lunch in the Dining Hall with my Liver-In peers that I became—and still am—friends with one of the Dining Hall staff, Joan. My time in Woodplayers also kept me close to College, as I took part in showcases,

musicals, performances, and social gatherings over the course of three years. In some ways, sitting in a half-lit, empty Dining Hall with your peers, munching on greasy pizzas and kebabs at 3am while gazing at a half-set stage is just as amazing of an experience as seeing the audience clap and beam at the end of our showcase in the new theatre.

With the help of Collingwood’s generous alumni, supportive staff, and welcoming community, I have been able to grow, academically and beyond. In 2018, I took part in the Undergraduate Research Internship (UGRI) with EU Law Professor Robert Schuetze. Without the generous funding from Collingwood alumni, I would never have been able to work with Robert as, although academics love the help of research assistants, they do not often have funding to hire and pay new ones. That summer, I also had the privilege of marshalling then Rt. Hon. Andrew McFarlane LJ (now Sir Andrew McFarlane P) in the Royal Courts of Justice. I remember feeling overwhelmed and intimidated as I walked on the building’s marble floors. This later

However, one of my fondest memories is eating my Tesco meal deal alongside Andrew while chatting about future plans, law, and life in general.

These experiences were not only welcome additions to my CV, but they have significantly impacted me as a person. The UGRI made me realise my passion for academia which, eventually, led me to my research master’s and to where I am now as a PhD candidate in Law. It also became a catalyst for many other opportunities, including teaching and even continuing to be Robert’s research assistant for the past four years. Moreover, the marshalling opportunity made me realise that, unlike many of my peers, I did not want to be a barrister, judge, clerk or even a solicitor. But, most importantly, Andrew helped me feel comfortable with that realisation. These things would not have happened without the support of Collingwood alumni and staff because these opportunities, though available, were often unpaid. Taking time off the multiple jobs I worked in order to pay international fees and living expenses was not an option; Collingwood alumni helped to

I never lived in College... but it never barred me from feeling welcomed and at home in Collingwood

intensified as I reached the Courts’ literal red carpets—indicating the designated offices and passages of Rt. Hon. Lady and Lord Justices. This, however, all went away when I met Andrew; he was warm, welcoming, and funny—just like most Collingwood alumni I’ve met. Throughout the week, I sat in court proceedings, toured the Courts, and even saw the swearing in of Geoffrey Cox as Attorney-General for England and Wales.

remove these barriers for me through their generous donations. It felt very meaningful then, as a student fundraiser working on several telephone campaigns for Durham and Collingwood, to be able to share my story and explain just how much donations can genuinely change the lives of students.

As Collingwood celebrates its 50th anniversary, I recall what one student said to me while I was waiting for a friend in the Collingwood Reception. He reminded me that we met whilst I was giving tours of Durham colleges as a Student Ambassador, and he thanked me for helping him choose Collingwood. Out of curiosity, I asked, “what did I say?” He replied, “you didn’t say anything... you just looked so happy and at home here, and I wanted to feel that too.”

My hope, for all Collingwood students past or present, is that you find joy within the Collingwood walls, regardless of whether you stumbled—like me—or intentionally walked through its doors. And, for Collingwood College, that you will always remain a home-away-from-home for us all.

Aileen Editha
(Law, Collingwood College, 2016-21)



Changemakers NE

Changemakers NE provides opportunities for Collingwood students to spend six to eight weeks over the summer vacation supporting communities in the North East of England.

Changemakers NE internships vary each year, but are always themed around improving the lives of others, gaining understanding about the complexity and causes of key issues affecting communities, and working towards sustainable and lasting social change. This involves partnering with existing charities and organisations who are working to better the lives of people in some of the most vulnerable communities in the North East.

The internships involve an element of volunteering and front-line delivery of services, as well as a contribution to ongoing research, projects or campaigns—meaning students contribute not just their time and hands, but their minds and ideas too.

Opportunities in this sector are usually unpaid. Thanks to the generosity of Jon Conder (Law, Collingwood College, 1980-83) and Beatrice Puoti, the students receive an internship grant, and Collingwood provide accommodation if required. This helps to make Changemakers NE accessible to all Collingwood students.



“My internship was an eye-opening experience which allowed me to see a side of County Durham outside of the university bubble. Foundation provides accommodation and support to adults with complex needs. This includes people who may be affected by homelessness, domestic abuse, or have a background of offending. Adults who the charity supports, known as clients, take on a temporary six-month contract to rent one of the charity’s properties and this gives them a chance to get back on their feet and start building a future for themselves.

I got involved with all aspects of the charity’s work and I travelled all over County Durham meeting clients on support visits. I also participated in group activities with clients, whether that be a walk in the countryside, a litter pick, or even a visit from a petting zoo. Weekly group meetings gave clients

an opportunity to meet other people in a similar situation and make new connections, which is incredibly important, as one of the most common issues clients face is isolation. I also created a report on reducing the organisation’s environmental impact and improving energy efficiency in their properties. This was a challenge because I had limited existing knowledge in this area, but it was great to know the report could lead to practical improvements.

This internship helped me to grow as a person and I developed new ideas about community and social justice. I can’t thank Collingwood and Foundation UK enough for making this opportunity possible.”

Ieuan Chappel
Worked with Foundation UK, Durham



“I am excited to be working with Washington Mind to conduct a scoping exercise and add to the existing evidence base on adult mental health services across Sunderland. Having just completed my dissertation on resilience, specifically using what is considered ‘grey’ literature (e.g., reports, evaluations and anything unlikely to be in academic journals), I am excited to learn more about such an important and underfunded area from the

people ‘on the ground’. This internship will be invaluable when I start my Social Work postgraduate course, as I will need to complete placements with vulnerable groups alongside completing academic work.”

Maisie Doyle
Education and English Studies
Working with Washington Mind



“Working with Moving On Durham will make a significant difference to the development of my ethnographic skills, something crucial in the discipline of anthropology. Through meeting and collaborating with people from the local area who, naturally, have a different background from me, I hope to become a better problem-solver and a more compassionate person—skills that are vital in law, a career I am passionately pursuing.

I will also be producing a report on how Moving On can use social media to improve their outreach.”

Charlotte Ogden-Meade
Anthropology
Working with Moving On Durham



“I am exploring careers related to the charity sector and I am keen to support an area that is of socioeconomic contrast to the area of North East England that I’ve spent most time—Durham City. Having previously researched how music can be used as a source of social change, I am very keen to get involved with some of the exciting new projects Washington Mind are contributing to. In particular, the ‘Pop

Recs Teenage Market’ run by the ‘Washington Minds Young Peoples Project’ is a scheme aiming to provide opportunities for young people to express their creativity and explore future career paths.”

Liam Hannon
Combined Honours in Social Sciences
Working with Washington Mind

Community Connections

Thanks to the generosity of alumnus Chris French (Geography, Collingwood College, 1975-78), a number of College outreach projects connect current students to young people in the North East, providing opportunities for young people to experience Collingwood life and enjoy our outstanding facilities, as well as giving Collingwood students chance to develop their skills in leadership, project management and communication through volunteering.

C⁵ (The Collingwood College Community Challenge Cup)

C⁵ was born when alumnus Chris French (Geography, Collingwood College, 1975-78) made a generous gift to help the College involve young people from the North East in football outreach activities on the MUGA and support the growth of girl's football, whilst simultaneously offering Collingwood students the chance to take on leadership of a volunteering project and enhance their own skills. C⁵ has had several successful years under the direction of numerous Collingwood student leaders. Student organisers connect with local youth teams and invite them to participate in a full tournament day at Collingwood, complete with lunch in the Dining Hall, live pitch-side commentary, medals, trophies and awards—the full package.

"The aim of C⁵ is to give children in North East a real feel of university life, whilst also getting to play football on our state-of-the-art pitch. We have such wonderful facilities at Collingwood and we want to use these facilities to connect with the wider Durham and North East community. We try to showcase the benefits of going to university and, hopefully, to encourage the kids to seriously consider it for their futures. The tournament days held at College are a very easy way to make university engaging for kids and they get a lot from it. So do the parents and the coaches! This project is great and does work."

Mark Erridge and Dan Aichen
C⁵ leaders, 2019-20



The team and I had a great day, and it was a real eye opener for the girls about going to university, something they probably wouldn't have thought about before as over 65% of the town we are from is classed as a deprived area.

Local team coach

"Our friendship has been based on a shared passion for football as well as a shared commitment to coaching and volunteering. We all proudly play for the DU Football 1st XI as well as being a part of CCAFC Men's and Women's A teams, and we jumped at the opportunity to lead C⁵ in our first year."

After an enforced hiatus during the pandemic, C⁵ exploded back into full force with two tournaments. First, an Under 13 girls club tournament, with an added logistical challenge of getting Emma and Freddie to Maiden Castle mid-tournament to play in their

summer cup finals... both of which were won! Then it was a mixed schools tournament for Year 7 and 8.

The tournament days created such a buzz around College. The tech team helped us to provide music and live pitch side commentary, and it was great to recruit our friends and other Collingwood volunteers to help with organisation and refereeing. Coaches and players were stunned by the offer of a College Lunch and we capped the days off with an awards presentation, everyone taking home medals and the winners taking home a trophy each.

Having this opportunity whilst studying at Durham is a real privilege: we were trusted to lead the tournaments and we established solid connections with schools and clubs, which will hopefully become meaningful partnerships long-term. We want to express gratitude to the donor for making these tournaments not just possible, but a great success. C⁵ is a fantastic initiative and one we feel incredibly passionate about."

Emma Wallis, Freddie Merrett and Jack Camarda
C⁵ leaders, 2021-22



Art Outreach Project

The Art Outreach Project began following the successes of C⁵. In the first year of this project, Collingwood students worked with a group of young people between the ages of 13-15, from a local youth centre in Durham.

Armed with a range of art supplies and snacks, the Collingwood student volunteers delivered several art and craft sessions at the youth club, before hosting the group for two more sessions at College.

Student volunteers provided informal mentoring, answering questions about their degrees, university life, and providing general support to young people who typically come from disadvantaged parts of the North East. Donor funding ensures that there are no financial costs to the young people and supports the Collingwood student volunteers with equipment and travel.

The youth group were invited to see their artwork on display as part of Collingwood's annual Creative Exhibition in the Theatre.



Feedback from their Youth Workers confirmed that the project was enormously beneficial because it was about far more than the art: it made university feel less intimidating to the young people and gave them the opportunity to interact with university students directly.

Similar outreach projects will be set up over the coming academic years, focusing on music, theatre and tech.

"I've volunteered at schools and at soup kitchens in the past, but never at a youth centre. It was a completely novel experience. The kids were lovely and really keen to express themselves through the art but also to chat to the volunteers. The volunteers and the kids definitely opened up as the project went on and everyone, even those who were not keen on drawing or painting, felt they had a place there. It was really touching to see how important the youth centre is for these young people: it is a safe refuge from the home, where they know they will be respected and be able to spend time with people their age with the support of the kind

and friendly youth workers. The medium of art was a great way to connect with the young people, and we had also had the chance to talk to them about the nature of university life."

Tom Spens
Art Outreach Project Volunteer





Looking Forward

As we look to the future, we seek, of course, to ensure that Collingwood continues to serve as a welcoming, inclusive home to students from all backgrounds. Collingwood should always be a place where students are supported through their university journey, including through any personal challenges they may face along the way, as well as a place where they can explore their interests, pursue passions, try new things, and aim high. However, there is no single path to the fulfilment of one's potential; our goal is to help students take one that is appropriate for them.

We are, of course, immensely proud of all the ways in which our students develop themselves and contribute to our College, University, and wider community, through involvement in music, theatre, film, visual arts, sports, volunteering, other societies, student-led events, positions of responsibility and activities within their academic courses. Much of this activity is already ingrained in the DNA of Collingwood, largely due to the efforts of student leaders who drive and sustain a strong culture of participation, passing their experience and enthusiasm like a baton from generation to generation.

However, more concentrated effort is needed to ensure that the more recent achievements of our student development programme become embedded into the College DNA in a similar fashion. Therefore, one of our greatest priorities in the coming years is to massively upscale the work we do in this area. Our hope is that, increasingly, students who benefit from the funding, internships, and opportunities, and from the support of our alumni in other forms, will recognise their role and responsibility in supporting the next generation of dynamic young people who follow. Therefore, by means of an iterative, long-lasting process, the student development programme will be sustained through the generations, and, by the time Collingwood reaches 100, the impact will be staggering.

... there is no single path to the fulfilment of one's potential; our goal is to help students take one that is appropriate for them.

We are proud

We are proud of the internships, opportunities and funding that we have been able to offer to our students so far. We believe that our student development programme is unique, and unlike anything else on offer at other educational institutions around the world.

It is testament to the drive of our students that each year we receive hundreds of impressive applications for the available internships, opportunities and funds. Whilst not all applicants can be successful, the process of writing an application, demonstrating skills and in many cases, undergoing a face-to-face interview with alumni or an internship host, and receiving detailed feedback from them, is a valuable developmental experience in itself.

Most importantly, we are proud of our wonderful students for grasping these opportunities, and the diverse paths they have taken. Our students are our greatest assets, and they throw their hearts and minds into everything they do.

We are grateful

We thank all our supporters: those who offer developmental experiences for our students; those who offer advice and expertise; and those who offer generous gifts to support our various funds and programmes. Without this support, the life-affirming experiences reported by our students would never have happened.

We also thank colleagues from around the University who help connect us to opportunities and turn ideas into reality, most notably, close colleagues within the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

We are changing lives

It is clear that funding, internships and opportunities can change the course of a Collingwood student's life. As a result of their involvement in our programmes, many of our students have secured jobs, had their names published in academic papers, or gone on to pursue careers or further education in areas they had not previously considered. Additionally, Collingwood students are using these opportunities to make a difference to the lives of others in the UK and beyond.

We need your support

The foundations of our student development programme have been built on the generosity of our supporters. To expand in line with our aspirations, we need more supporters to come on board. We respectfully invite you to consider how you might be able to contribute to this mission.

We are ambitious

Our aspiration is to provide funding, internships and opportunities to more than 150 Collingwood students annually. To achieve this goal, we are constantly working with alumni and supporters to build our Student Opportunities Funds, repeat existing internship placements, and bring new schemes on board.

We are committed to our communities

The Changemakers NE internships, C⁵ and the Art Outreach Project represent major additions to our student development programme, providing opportunities for students to engage proactively with communities around them and make a long-lasting impact upon the lives of others. We are committed to expanding these programmes into new domains and new areas.

We want to remove barriers

As we scale up our student development programme, we are committed to financial accessibility. Financial support is crucial: without it, many students quite simply would not be able to engage in summer internships or other life-affirming developmental activities, needing instead to gain regular paid work during the vacation to support the costs of their education. We are committed to ensuring that no Collingwood student is deterred from seeking to participate in developmental activities on financial grounds.

We are equally committed to providing funding to remove the financial barriers that some students face to fully participate in everyday College and University life, such as joining extracurricular clubs and societies, attending events, or accessing key academic resources—the likes of which students from more affluent backgrounds might easily take for granted.

We are looking for variety

Whilst internships in Vegas or in the fashion industry may attract particular attention, we seek to offer a rich diversity of opportunities. We are seeking to connect our students to opportunities in a range of professions, in education, finance, marketing, social and charity work, tech start-ups, the arts, and so much more.

Coming Up

International Opportunities with the Lincoln Center

Thanks to alumnus Henry Timms (History, Collingwood College, 1995-98), CEO of the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts in New York, we will be able to offer international opportunities to our students in the Arts and community outreach.



The Sports Road Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of alumnus Rory Lonergan (Economics & Politics, Collingwood College, 2018-21), The Sports Road Scholarships will support students from low-income backgrounds who come to Collingwood with a strong track record of sporting achievement, and the potential to contribute significantly to Collingwood's sporting success by competing at the highest levels within College sport, and/or at a University level.



Be part of our future

You can support the growth of the student development programme at Collingwood in several ways.

- Host a Collingwood intern, or offer a unique work or summer opportunity
- Start a regular gift to our Student Opportunities Funds
- Make a special contribution to one of our programmes or funds
- Offer expertise and advice
- Share your professional experience and insights with our students

Get in touch:
collingwood.alumni@durham.ac.uk



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