



*the Durham Union*



# ALUMNI WEEKEND GUIDE

*Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd February*

# INTRODUCTION

As President of the Durham Union, it is my pleasure to invite you to our Inaugural Alumni Weekend and welcome you back to the beautiful city that is Durham.

The Union is Durham's oldest and largest student Society. The Union has hosted prominent national and international speakers for over 175 years. In these challenging times we need your assistance to keep this society, its values and traditions going for another 175 years.

We have numerous esteemed alumni such as yourself, in diverse fields of work, which I have

no doubt that current members would be delighted to hear about. With this in mind it would be an honour to meet you during our alumni weekend.

**Sarah Kuszynski**

**Epiphany President  
the Durham Union**



## WEEKEND ITINERARY

### SCHEDULE

#### Day One - Friday 21st February

**20.30 - 22.30** Watch one of our Friday Night Debates in the Durham Union Chamber on Palace Green. The motion - *This House Believes that the Legacy of the #MeToo Movement is One of Failure*

#### Day Two - Saturday 22nd February

**13.00 - 14.00** Networking with our officers and Members in the Union Chamber

**14.00 - 16.00** Alumni Welcome Back Debate in the Union chamber. The motion - *This House Would Codify the UK constitution*

**19.00 - 00.00** Gala Dinner in the Undercroft of Durham Cathedral followed by casino tables, live music in 24s bar and an afterparty in Durham most well-known nightclub

#### Day Three - Sunday 23rd February

**11.00-13.00** Farewell Lunch - location TBC

**From 13.00** Departure from Durham



# ACCOMMODATION

The Durham Union Society is a charitable organisation, unfortunately this means that we will not be able to refund accommodation costs, however there are multiple good value accommodation options in Durham city centre.

There is also no obligation to stay for two nights or attend all the events hosted by the society, but we would be delighted to see you at as many events as possible!

## A SELECTION OF HOTELS IN DURHAM

### Hotel Indigo Durham:

9 Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HL, United Kingdom

Phone: 0191-3293535

Email: [frontoffice@indurham.com](mailto:frontoffice@indurham.com)

**Contact us and book through the Union to get our discounted rate for rooms at the Indigo.**

### Royal County Marriot:

Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3JN, United Kingdom

Phone: 0191 386 6821

<https://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/xvudm-durham-marriott-hotel-royal-county/>

### Radisson Blu:

Frankland Ln, Durham DH1 5TA,

Phone: 0191 372 7200

### Premier Inn:

Freeman's Pl, Walkergate, Durham DH1 1SW

Phone: 0333 777 4669

### College Rooms:

Some Durham colleges offer guest rooms at very reasonable rates. Contact your former college via email or phone to see if this is available to you.



## PARKING IN DURHAM

Parking is limited in Durham, but we recommend the following locations:

The Hotel Indigo has **33 parking spaces**, if you are staying there.

Street parking on **Old Elvet** which is free between **6pm and 8am** and **£1.80** per hour outside of these hours.

The Prince Bishops multi-storey car park, which has **400 spaces** and **charges £1.50** for overnight parking.

## DRESS CODES

Traditionally speakers and officers will wear **black tie** for our Friday night debates however you are welcome to attend in smart clothing, lounge suit or equivalent.

For our networking event the dress code for those attending will be **smart casual**.

As the show piece for the weekend the Gala dinner is **black tie**, or equivalent, for all guests.

The farewell lunch is informal therefore **casual** clothing is certainly suitable.



# NETWORKING

## DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATIONS

To start off the second day we return to the Union chamber for a chance to meet smaller groups of our members and discuss your career paths over tea, coffee and other light refreshments.

If you would like to prepare something more formal, such as short 10-15minute presentation on your experiences beyond

Durham, as well as from your time at university, you are more than welcome to do so.

The event will also see the launch of the Preservation Project via a short presentation from our Sponsorship Committee, detailing how you many wish to help ensure that this Union continues to grow and develop.

*If you have any questions regarding this do not hesitate to get in touch.*

## ALUMNI DEBATE

This is your chance to debate once again at the Durham Union! As I am sure many of you will be well aware that our debating structure follows the traditional **British Parliamentary System**.

The motion to be debated ***This House Would Codify the UK Constitution. This will be held Directly after the networking event in the chamber.*** If you are interested in speaking in this debate please to get in touch.

Each speaker for either proposition or opposition will deliver **an eight-minute speech**.

After everyone has spoken, **the audience will be able to respond** to what they've heard through floor speeches.

Finally, there are **two summary speeches**, one speaker from the proposition and opposition side. The proposition speaker shall be the last to speak.

We will then **call a vote**, usually by division, and **the winning side will be announced**.



# THE GALA DINNER

## THREE COURSE MEAL, LIVE MUSIC, CASINO TABLES & MORE...

The centerpiece of the weekend, on the Saturday evening, will be the Union's second Epiphany Gala Dinner in the heart of Durham.

The evening will begin with a drinks reception in 24s' Reading Room at 7pm. We will move onto a three course meal with entertainment in the Undercroft Restaurant of Durham's world renowned Cathedral, only a stones throw from 24s.

Following the dinner the President or a member of the Union's Officer corps, **will escort you to 24 North Bailey** for entertainment including live music and casino table's.

Finally -for those hardy enough - we will venture to the VIP room of Durham's cheesiest night-club Klute.

For alumni wishing to attend this event you can sign up separately to our student members. **We will be selling tables of 10 at a reduced rate.**

**The cost of which will then be divided among attendees. Tables of 10 will be priced at £450**

Alternatively, you can sign up can be done via the Union website, however these tickets will be purchased individually and **at the student members rate of £55.** The Gala is certainly not one to miss!



## SUNDAY LUNCH

The final event of the weekend and will be an **informal lunch hosted by a restaurant in Durham city center, location TBC.** After the lunch you are welcome to depart.

We hope that you will remain closely in touch with the Society, attend future alumni events and continue to support the Union's contributions to university life and to the wider city community we are a part of.



# PRESERVATION PROJECT

## SECURE YOUR UNION'S FUTURE

The alumni weekend will see the launch of the **Preservation Project** at the Networking Event.

This will highlight areas in which the Union, in these uncertain times, is in need of **greater support** and that is where you come in!

Even if you cannot attend the weekend's events there are **numerous ways that you can still contribute, big or small, to the society** and remain connected to the work that we do.

The Union has been a home to so many current and former students, Durham would simply not be the same without all the fantastic events the Union offers.

## WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Union currently hosts events with some of the best speakers from across the world. We also have a world class debating team and our own bar 24s, the hub of our Union community.

These have been endangered by:

- Declining Membership (a national trend among Union's societies)
- Rising Transport and Accommodation Costs
- University Restructuring

**All donations are welcome!**

**Feel Free to Gift Aid any donation by simply filling out the form at the end of this brochure.**

What could your contributions support:

- Ensuring our buildings remain top quality
- High profile speakers
- Debates on topics close to your heart
- Social events
- Debate Competitions & Training

All alumni are welcome to attend any of our weekly debates and addresses and keep up to date with what the union is doing via our Facebook or LinkedIn Pages.



# SOCIAL MEDIA



The Durham Union produces high-quality marketing materials from professional photography to videography and social media outreach.

**Every event has videography and photography unless stated otherwise.**

We will make sure to use our channels to promote videos and photography of the event for your marketing and publicity purposes.

Our social media channels include: **Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Youtube.**



**LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN FEBRUARY**

**ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO GET IN TOUCH**



**Email:**  
**President@dus.org.uk**



**Twitter:**  
**@theDurhamUnion**



**Facebook:**  
**the Durham Union**



**LinkedIn:**  
**the-durham-union-society**



**Telephone:**  
**0191 3843724**  
*(Mon – Fri 9AM-5PM GMT)*



**Mailing Address:**  
**the Durham Union Society**  
Pemberton Buildings, Palace Green,  
Durham, County Durham, DH1 3EP

## Charity Gift Aid Declaration – multiple donation

### Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

**In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:**

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

**Name of Charity** \_\_\_\_\_

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

### My Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please notify the charity if you:**

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.