

BUTLERCOLLEGE

April 2016

A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

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NEWSLETTER



The past, the present and the future Principal's report

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Josephine Butler College. As we head towards our 10th Anniversary, we have been thinking about the ways in which we can celebrate the success of the youngest college in Durham: how we have grown from a muddy field to the second most popular in terms of applications; how we have developed the largest and most varied group of societies; how we have the friendliest and most egalitarian spirit.

On p3 there is an outline of the events spanning 2016 and 2017 designed to engage our students, staff, alumni and other friends of the College in opportunities to celebrate and reflect on our success.

Looking to the future, as part of our 10th Anniversary, we can announce an exciting new project to develop study space in the College. By building at the back of the main social building, we will create new space to allow us to reconfigure many of the current rooms and develop dedicated study and library space. On p2 there is a little more detail, though the next issue of the newsletter should contain more information.

Most of the newsletter is focussed on the present: what has been happening over the past few months, the development of our societies, the successes of our sports teams etc. There is also a report from our Trust Board about how they have

used our charitable donations over the past six months. At the moment, our Trust is developing three main strands to its work: it continues to support the student experience by purchasing equipment for the college, it has developed two access funds (one for sport and one for other forms of engagement) and it is now beginning a major fund raising campaign for the study space build.

Over the past six months we've had a lot of alumni activity: two reunions, a networking event and 'meet the angels' (opportunities to get current students talking to alumni about their futures). We also held a wonderful new event: "Meet Your Future" - this was a careers oriented dinner developed from an idea from Mike O'Connor, a parent of one of our current students, which brought together alumni and representatives from various large companies to support current students thinking about what they need to do to leverage their talents and education into the best possible start to the most interesting and fulfilling careers.

That, on top of college fellows, artist-in-residence, lectures, scholars' suppers, concerts, plays, volunteering, charities, bake offs, trips, open days, socials ..., suggests Butler is in fine fettle.

Adrian Simpson
The Principal.

Developing our study space

One of the most common concerns raised by our students is the lack of dedicated study and library space in the College. While we have a functional computer room with some book shelves on which we try to maintain a stock of core texts, this is no substitute for a proper suite of spaces where people can study and which might be used in different configurations to support the academic and scholarly aspect of the College. Working with the JCR and MCR, from an initial idea from Des O'Neill, our bursar, we developed the plan to build an annex at the back of the main social building. This would give a variety of rooms which might be used directly as study and library space or might be used in combination with existing space to provide that academic space.

Having received outline agreement from the University as well as a number of generous donations to get us started, we

got a clear vote of confidence from the JCR when they generously agreed to part fund the build. Our Trust Board and College Council have appointed GSS Architects, following competitive tendering, to design the annex - luckily GSS know the site very well, having been the architects who designed Butler in the first place!

Our Trust Board has developed a clear strategy for raising the funds and the University's Colleges Board agreed to support a proposal for a portion of the funding to come from some student experience resources. Our plans are to make this a major project for our 10th Anniversary and we will be asking alumni, parents, students and friends of college to see if they might donate to turn this plan in to reality, with the aim being to open the space at the start of the 2017-18 academic year.

Watch this space.

Alumni

We have had an extraordinary level of alumni activity this year, with two reunions, a networking event, opportunities to 'Meet the Angels' as well as the careers dinner (mentioned on page 4). In the middle of November, alumni came back to Durham for a weekend where they were welcomed by societies such as *Pitch, Please* and *Rock and Alt Society*. In addition to the usual dinner, many alumni took the opportunity to revisit old haunts in town and we have planned the weekend to co-incide with the world famous Lumiere lights show.

The following day was an opportunity for our current students to 'Meet the Angels'. The Butler Angel scheme aims to put students in touch with alumni to ask questions about careers and future plans.

This is normally done through the Angels' website, but the fact that a number of our Angels were also at the reunion gave us the chance to bring students in to meet them informally to chat about futures.

At the beginning of April we decanted to London for the second alumni

reunion. The day started with a new and highly successful networking event. Alex Davies (one of Butler's first alumni now working at Jump Trading) kindly lent us the use of his

spectacular offices with a wonderful view over the skyline of London. The event brought together alumni from across all ten years of the College (and even a current student managed to blag his way in!). The evening saw a reunion dinner at the Inn of Court.



Current students meet the Angels.

Sports Awards

Butler College has 40 teams in 22 clubs. In addition to the work done week by week in playing sport, the College has run a rainbow laces campaign to eliminate homophobia in sport and organised an inter-varsity event with Langwith College, York.

Particular recognition was made this year for the following outstanding contributions:

Team of the Year.

Women's Badminton A. Promoted last year and, despite losing key players, the team are still looking strong contenders for the premiership title.

Club of the Year.

Lacrosse. This team has doubled in size and created a B team. They continue to work to get a large number of people involved in their sport

Most Improved Team.

Cheerleading. Butler Tigers gained a 3rd place for their Co-Ed performance and 2nd place for group stunt performance in the intercollegiate competition.

Sports Person of the Year.

Sarah Gold. Sarah captains the successful Netball B team and is a key member of the women's football club.

Unsung Hero.

Laura Marriott. Laura undertakes tireless work as a cox for the boat club, enabling the crews to get out on the water.

Outstanding Contribution.

Lewis Li. Lewis plays in all manner of sports teams, but goes well beyond simply plays, showing a willingness to help out at all levels.

Highest Achievement.

Claudia MacDonald. Claudia plays rugby and netball at the elite university level while still maintaining her commitment to a number of Butler clubs.

Fresher of the Year.

Richard Nicklin. Despite being at College for only a few months, Richard has got involved in football, cricket and pool, as well as representing the University at darts.

Societies Awards

Best President.

Richard Johns. Richard is President of both the Tabletop Games and Woodwind Societies. His enthusiasm for both ensures that everyone feels involved and he ensures that all of the behind the scenes organisation runs smoothly.

Best New Society.

Debating. Debating has come and gone a number of times in the history of the College. The enthusiasm of the new group in organising debates on a range of issues and honing their argumentation skills suggests that it is now here to stay.

Biggest Contribution.

Zoe Destang. As President of Dance Society, Zoe has put in a large number of hours supporting the development of the group and individuals within it; she choreographs dances and teaches less experienced members. In addition she re-invigorated BodySoc introducing the fun weekly sessions which she runs with such enthusiasm.

Society of the Year.

Jazz Band. The Band has developed throughout the year, improving its organisation and maintaining a strong level of commitment from all of its members. It has played at events in College, busked to raise money and been recognised by being invited to play for the Mayor of Durham at an event bringing together dignitaries from across the region.

Most Improved Society.

Photography. The Photography society is ever present at events, capturing them for posterity. The society meets for scheduled events including photographing sports, painting with light and walks around Durham to record the local environment.

10th Anniversary

In October 2006 a new college was born. To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Josephine Butler College, our 10th Anniversary Committee is pleased to announce a series of celebrations across 2016-2017, including:

4th-5th June 2016: Butler Day - the extended version. We've extended our normal College Day to include extra events and we invite alumni, previous staff and other friends of the College to join us for two days of music, societies showcases and relaxation.

3rd-9th October 2016: Induction week. We will be including some special events for our new students to celebrate our anniversary.

22nd October 2016: Boat Party on the Thames. An opportunity for alumni and current students to come together for a party on the Thames to celebrate the founding of the College.

December 2016: Staff Celebration Dinner. Gathering of current and previous staff to thank them for their contribution to the development of the College.

17th-19th February 2017: Alumni Reunion in Durham. An opportunity for College graduates from the past decade to come back and visit the College.

18th February 2017: Cathedral Service. A more formal opportunity to celebrate the founding of the College and hear our choirs sing in the unparalleled cathedral setting.

June 2017: Butler Day. The formal end of the celebratory year.

July 2017: Residential Reunion. The first opportunity to bring alumni who graduated in our first five years (2006-2011) back to stay in College and reminisce on their time as Butlerites.

If you are interested in knowing more about any of these events, just contact us at jbcollege.secretary@durham.ac.uk.

Trust Board Funding the student experience.

A Trust Board, with members of the College community as well as external, independent members, oversees our fundraising and expenditure strategies. Compared to older, more established colleges, Butler has much smaller resources to draw upon, but the extra funding we receive from donors is very welcome and can make all the difference to the student experience. Between August and December 2015, the Trust received £19,313 in donations, including a one off generous donation of £13k in support of the study space build project, with other funding coming from parents, alumni and students. The Board agreed to a new strategy to view the funds as having three main goals: capital (to support the study space build), access (to support sports and other student engagement) and asset bids (to support student experience through equipment purchases).

The Trust approved equipment purchases for new lockers for the JCR lounge to support livers out coming to college, backcloths and lighting to allow photography society to take more professional photographs at events, new posts nets and storage for the tennis court.

If you wish to give to the Josephine Butler College Trust Fund, you can do so online at:

<https://www.dunelm.org.uk/sslpage.aspx?pid=356>

The Trust Board is there to ensure that every donation is used for the best possible advantage of the student experience, now and in the future.

‘Meet Your Future’

In early March, we held our first ‘Meet Your Future’ careers and networking “in-formal” dinner at Josephine Butler. Throughout the night students had the chance to network with representatives from high-profile firms and local businesses in a fun and informal setting.

The night started with two sessions on personal branding and consultancy by KPMG and PA Consulting. Students then had a chance to network in the bar with representatives from these firms, along with Addleshaw Goddard and SCR members with a wealth of experiences in careers such as politics, venture capital, teaching and the Armed Forces. It was particularly useful to have our own alumni coming back to act as representatives from these companies, to give a Butler ‘spin’ on life after graduation.



The night continued with a buffet-style meal in the Howlands Building where students once again had the opportunity to ask questions in an informal round-table setting. Students loved the relaxed atmosphere, appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and get a better sense of

what is necessary in order to enter their desired professions. Our guests also enjoyed the evening, of course, and are excited to come back to Butler in the future!

With the graduate employment market getting increasingly competitive, we are committed at Butler to providing our students with the best possible experiences and skills to develop, grow and make the most out of their time at Durham. We hope that in coming years the ‘Meet

Your Future’ event will itself grow and develop to include a wider range of careers and representatives. Anyone interested in being involved in future events should feel free to get in touch—we would love to hear from you.

Sports (League Table Positions)

Sport	Division	Place
Badminton (Men's - A team)	Premiership	6
Badminton (Men's - B team)	I	7
Badminton (Women's - A team)	Premiership	2
Badminton (Women's - B team)	II	6
Badminton (Mixed)	Premiership	5
Basketball (Men's)	Premiership	9
Basketball (Women's)	Premiership	4
Cricket (indoor)	Premiership	1
Football (Men's - A team)	I	1
Football (Men's - B team)	I	13
Football (Men's - C team)	II	7
Football (Men's - D team)	IV	6
Football (Men's - E team)	V	6
Football (Women's)	Premiership	2
Futsal (Men - C team)	Premiership	3
Futsal (Women)	Premiership	1
Hockey (Men's)	I	8
Hockey (Women's)	I	7
Lacrosse (Mixed - A team)	I	2
Lacrosse (Mixed - B team)	I	11
Netball (Women's - A team)	Premiership	7
Netball (Women's - B team)	I	12
Netball (Women's - C team)	III	8
Rugby (Women's combined Milbut)	Premiership	2
Squash (Men's)	Premiership	11
Table Tennis (Mixed - A team)	Premiership	6
Table Tennis (Mixed - B team)	Premiership	8
Table Tennis (Mixed - C team)	I	10
Table Tennis (Mixed - D team)	I	12
Ultimate Frisbee (Mixed - A team)	Premiership	4
Ultimate Frisbee (Mixed - B team)	II	10
Volleyball	Premiership	6