

# BUTLERCOLLEGE

October 2015

A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR  
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND  
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Josephine Butler  
College  
University of Durham  
South Road  
Durham  
DH1 3DF

T 0191 3347260  
F 0191 3347259

[www.durham.ac.uk/  
butler.college](http://www.durham.ac.uk/butler.college)



*Hattie Pridmore, Alice Whitehouse and Sudhan Raja running to raise money for Grace House*

## NEWSLETTER

### Happy New <sup>(academic)</sup> Year Principal's report

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2015-16 academic year. As we welcome our new intake of undergraduate and postgraduate students, we are beginning to think about new opportunities and the medium term development of the College.

This is our tenth student intake and the end of this year and start of the following academic year will be a time for celebration as we recognise ten years of Josephine Butler College. We've come a long way in that ten years, thanks in large part to the spirit which our students and staff generate in which everyone pulls together to make things work.

As the university welcomes its new Vice-Chancellor, Stuart Corbridge, the College is welcoming a number of new staff. In addition to welcoming a new administrative assistant Natasha Miller, new porters, cleaning staff and resident tutors, we're delighted that Neil Crimes is joining us as Student Support Officer, taking a lead on supporting our postgraduate students and taking on the task of developing new ways to engage our whole college community in the scholarly aspects of College.

Neil will also take charge of our Pre-Sessional Programme. While this is the first newsletter of the academic year, and our full time students have been away over the summer, life at Butler never

stops. We have just bid farewell to around 600 students who have been with us for their English Language Programme. A substantial part of this is the collegiate programme which engages these students in seminars, mentoring schemes, visits through the region and across the wider UK, sports and faith visits.

In the newsletter you will find articles on a number of aspects of the college. On page 2 there is a discussion of our support for students of any faith (and none). Our trust board reports on where it has spent some of the generous donations which do so much to enhance the student experience. Our alumni assistant details some of the planned activity with alumni (including, this year, a Durham reunion planned to coincide with the Lumiere exhibition in November).

There is also an article about our expanding fellowship programme. Having had only a single college residential fellow in 2013, in this coming year we will welcome seven distinguished academics from around the world who will engage with the college and our students. In addition, we will be welcoming Alan O'Cain as our artist in residence (jointly with St. Cuthbert's Society).

Adrian Simpson  
The Principal.



# College Fellows

We are delighted to announce the major expansion of our college fellowship programme. In 2013 we had our first residential college fellow. In 2014 we had three. For 2015-16 we have seven!

Our first term sees Prof. Penny Harvey, Prof. Hubert Locher and Stella Ghervas joining us. Prof. Harvey is the Institute for Advanced Study Butler Fellow. She is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester and has worked extensively on technology, the state and social change. While at Durham she will be working on a monograph on decentralisation and regional government in Peru and collaborating with the departments of Anthropology and Geography on a new comparative study of infrastructures and changing state forms.

Prof Locher joins us from the Kunstgeschichtliches Institut, Marburg and is one of the most innovative

researchers in the field of art history. His work looks at the formation of the art historical canon in Germany and his visit is timely for Durham, coming just as the University has developed the major cross-disciplinary Centre for Visual Arts and Cultures.

Stella Ghervas is a visiting scholar at Harvard's Centre for European studies and she will be working with the Law School while she completes her book on the history of peace.

In addition to our distinguished academic visitors, we are delighted that we will be hosting an artist-in-residence, Alan O'Cain. Alan is both an artist and poet. Born in Sunderland, he has been a teacher and his art encompasses experimental portraiture, drawing and photography. He has had residencies in the Edvard Munch studio in Oslo and is looking forward to a major exhibition of his work at Manchester

everyone a chance to increase the sophistication of their belief system.

The college has a range of events linked to faith across the year, including religious festivals, and supports different social justice projects and interfaith activities. For example, one group is looking at ways in which they might tackle food poverty and social isolation. In addition, we have links to local churches and other faith spaces. Many churches reach out to local students primarily in a social sense (complete with tea and cake!) though also are welcoming to those who wish to participate in religious services.

The university has many opportunities for different faiths to meet together (and meet each other) including societies like the Jewish Society, Islamic Society and links in to faith support for Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh groups (to name a few).

The city and region have many wonderful church and faith spaces (including, of course, what Bill Bryson described as the best cathedral on planet Earth!)

## Faith Support

Josephine Butler College is a welcoming community for people from any faith (as well as those who have no immediate association with a faith group). The College Chaplain, Andrew Tinkler, has a dual focus in that he provides pastoral and spiritual support for the college members and works with the student body to develop opportunities for community volunteering. While coming from a Catholic background, Andrew both provides one-to-one support in matters of faith and spirituality and can also signpost students to link them in to a range of faith and worship opportunities in the University, the city and the region.

Many students coming to university find that they reflect on their beliefs, values and identity and the chaplain supports students in exploring those questions and enabling them to challenge and develop their faith.

The College has a wide cross-section of students from across the world, each of whom brings their own view of that world with them and the opportunity to debate and discuss cultures and beliefs gives

## College Staff

### College Officers

#### Adrian Simpson. The Principal.

Adrian has overall responsibility for the College and its strategy. In addition to leading the College he is Professor in Mathematics Education and teaches in both the Education and Mathematics Departments.

#### Karen Langdon. Vice Principal. As

Vice Principal, Karen leads the student support team and helps to develop the distinctive educational and social experience which Butler offers. She also works with the Business School with a particular interest in developing entrepreneurship.

**Des O'Neill. Bursar.** Des manages the operations, financial and logistical side of the College. He ensures that the facilities are in place to support all of the activity of the College. With a background in quantity surveying, he also works more widely for Durham's colleges in supporting their operations.

#### Pam Burdis. College Secretary.

Pam provides support for The Principal and College Officers and heads the administrative staff.

## Student Support

The student support team provides members of the College with advice and guidance. They can provide support for wellbeing, liaise with specialist support units and academic departments.

**Andrew Tinkler. Chaplain.** Andrew provides support for students of any faith (or none), signposting to different faith groups and works with student groups to develop charitable and volunteering opportunities.

**Neil Crimes. Postgraduate and Pre-sessional.** Neil provides support for our students on postgraduate programmes and for those on the English for Academic Purposes course in the summer. He also helps to develop the wider scholarly programme.

#### Sandra MacDonald.

**Undergraduate.** Sandra works full time during term time to provide guidance and advice for our undergraduates and can support them in liaising with departments and specialist support units.



## Student Support

**Deborah Norman and Julie Barratt. Student Support Secretary.** Deborah and Julie deliver the administration for the student team and is often the first port of call for students with queries.

**Judith Vincent and Natasha Miller. Administrative Assistant.** Judith and Natasha provide support across the college administration.

**Resident Tutors: Ruth Houghton, Linda Wang, Rania Ventista.** The resident tutors provide out of hours support for students in case of emergency or distress.

**Alice Whitehouse. Alumni Assistant.** Alice supports the JCR and supports the College in keeping contact with alumni.

### Operations

**Vivian Flowerday. Operations Manager.** Vivian leads the operations team on a day to day basis, ensuring the safety and smooth running of the buildings and facilities.

**Pete Carson. Assistant Operations Managers.** Pete supports Vivian, particularly in managing the porter team.

**Mandy Herron. Bar and Catering Services Manager.** As well as managing the bar, kitchen and coffee shop, Mandy liaises with university catering to provide for formals and other meals

**Kate Cummins. Finance Assistant.** Kate is the person to see about bills and payment and provides support for the bursar in monitoring our budget.

**Fiona Bell. Receptionist.** Fiona is the person who can point people in the right direction if they are unsure who to talk to.

**Porters:** Bob Ball, Kevin Bell, Les Cooper, Fred Douthwaite, David Henderson, Jim Kimmins, Brian Sugden and Robert Swinbank (recycling).

**Housekeeping:** Jean Farrell (Supervisor), Julie Curry and Claire Milburn (Team Leaders). Claire Barker, Maureen Bell, Katarzyna Brzostowska, Wendy Dowdle, Linda Elliott, Valerie Forster, Anne Fox, Rita Higham, Karen Hockaday, Agnieszka Kordulewska, Sarah Lonsdale, Natalie Punshon, Lesley Race.

## Alumni News

This year we have plans to ensure that Alumni are as engaged as possible in the College community of which they are still a vital part. We have two alumni reunions through the course of the year. Our first is taking place between the 13th and 15th of November at College. The weekend coincides with the Lumiere festival, which takes over Durham city with an amazing display of light installations. We are excited to welcome alumni back to college during the weekend to see the Lumiere festival, meet our current students at an Open Mic Night and enjoy a dinner to reconnect with old students. Our second alumni reunion will take place in London on the 2nd of April, giving an opportunity to meet, catch up and reminisce.

In addition to reunions, we are going to ask more alumni to participate in our current Butler Angels scheme. The scheme is in place to support current students, particularly with careers advice. With more participation from alumni we are hoping the scheme will grow and develop.

We are also beginning to plan for our 10th Anniversary, which we hope will give our alumni an opportunity to come back to College, reminisce with friends and contribute towards our development in the future.

It is very easy for our alumni to stay in contact with what is going on with Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7852787225/>

Twitter: @butler\_alumni

or our own alumni website :

<http://community.dur.ac.uk/butler/jcr/alumni>

Alice Whitehouse (Alumni Relations Assistant)

## 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. It raises money to support both short term requests and to develop a longer term fund for larger projects (including, for example, the building of a tennis court). In particular, at the moment, the Board is allocating some of the money raised to a project for our 10th Anniversary.

In 2014/15 our income from parent and alumni donations was £2640.00. In addition, we received other income from the sale of merchandise and gift aid. The Board received a wide variety of bids over the year and committed £4112. This included support for our student welfare group, presentation music folders, sports equipment for badminton, cricket, football, ultimate frisbee and netball, a new indoor basketball set, lighting equipment for the stage and chair covers for formal dining. The Board has also established hardship funds to ensure that members of the College can access sports and other parts of the student experience.

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.

## Grace House

A few years ago as a college we decided we wanted to support Grace House in its development and running. Since then we have raised many thousands of pounds for this cause through a variety of events held in College. In July, a group of us had the privilege of attending a private viewing of Grace House prior to the official opening. Nearly fully finished with a few tweaks to be made, all that is missing are children! They are now eagerly awaiting a visit from Ofsted to have the final inspection before the facility is given the go ahead to be fully up and running.

Dr Karen Parry, the CEO gave an inspiring tour of the building, emphasising the key features which really make a difference to the experience of families who visit. There is specialist equipment

throughout the building, which will enable the children to have a comfortable stay whether they are playing in a soft play area, sitting in the lounge watching TV or having a shower.

Six months ago, the board of trustees decided that Grace House would not be opened as a hospice, but for

respite care, so 'hospice' was dropped from the name. Dr Parry emphasised that due to advancements in medical care, many patients now live much longer. In the North East, the need for hospices is not as great as it was while the need for respite care is greater, so the decision was supported by the trustees.

Although finished and fit for purpose, there are still visions to develop the experience at Grace House further to

fulfil the requirements to become Centre of Regional Excellence. For example, they would like to develop interactive opportunities in sports and arts for the children, and create services for parents who may also stay. On our calendar for this year, we have added two new fundraising events including a Fun Run 'Race For Grace' and a 'Charity Expedition' similar to the Coast to



Coast Bike Ride which took place last year. We are also hoping to develop a volunteering scheme with Grace House this year, enabling some of our students to visit and provide direct support.

Hattie Pridmore (JCR President)

## Butler Developments The Launch of JB's Coffee Shop

While Josephine Butler College has had a coffee shop for a number of years, it is undergoing a major restructure to become .... JB's. Serving hot and cold food and drink daily for the students' convenience, JB's not only offers a social, work and eating space, it creates job opportunities for Butler's students, and gives the bar its amazing atmosphere, which is a vital part of our reputation as the friendliest college in Durham.

The dinner menu includes pizzas and burgers, as well as healthier options such as our spectacular salads and brand new pastries, all at student-friendly prices. The dinner menu is a good friend to those students who want a cheap, tasty and convenient meal with friends, or are stuck on the introduction of an essay with a deadline looming and want nutritious food without the time taken in cooking and washing up.

Equally popular is the lunch menu, serving baguettes, wraps, paninis, jacket potatoes, and sweet snacks. These are perfect to grab and go on the way to a lecture, or as a lunch break from studying. Finally, equipped with classic favourites, our legendary college drinks, and outrageously cheap soft drinks, the bar has a great atmosphere each night, welcoming students for all occasions. All our students will have the chance to try out JB's and will see just what great quality service and food we have to offer.

Vicky Ribbon & Becky Teece (Services Officers)

## Congratulations Vice-chancellor's Scholarships

We offer our sincere congratulations to students at Josephine Butler College who are receiving awards of vice chancellor's scholarships.

Awards for academic excellence are based on the recommendation of heads of department and pro-vice-chancellors on the basis of performance in previous year's assessments and examinations.

The awards for sports, music and the arts are for students joining the university who are able to demonstrate exceptional levels of excellence in their field. This year's scholars from Butler are:

For Academic Excellence:

Kira Brown  
Evelyn Garlick  
Shangshang Li  
Jonathan Owen  
Ankita Sahadev

For Music:

Tristan Latchford  
Alexander Mackinder

For Sport:

Steven Parsonage