



Van Mildert College
Durham University



Van Mildert College SCR Bulletin

Michaelmas Term 2019

SCR President's Report

Welcome to the new academic year and I hope you all had a great summer break.

As the start of the Michaelmas term looms there is plenty to look forward to in both the College and the SCR. The full programme of our events for this year can be found on our website (<http://community.dur.ac.uk/vm.scr/>). Just to highlight a few of our SCR events for your diaries.

Dr David Petts from the Department of Archaeology will showcase his recent widely acclaimed research. David is an Associate Professor in the Archaeology of Northern England and convenes the Department's North-East England Research Group. His main research interests focus on the social archaeology of the 1st millennium AD, with a particular focus on the development of Christianity. As part of this he is carrying out fieldwork on the Holy Island on the site of the Anglo-Saxon monastery of Lindisfarne. His lecture on the 28th October at 18:30 will be followed by a wine reception and dinner.



At the time of writing the Book Group are working to get another author visit for November and we are finalising a walk from the Priory to the Cathedral by Keith Taylor. Charlotte is busy with a programme of social events. If you are able to lead a walk (including a pub visit) during the Epiphany Term, in the local area, then please could you let Vicky Brown know as soon as possible. We will circulate you all by email when we have further details of these events but keep your eyes on the website.

It is hoped the long awaited Prowse Room make-over will start this term. Phase 1 will be to update the furnishing and TV to try and make the room more welcoming. As pressure comes on for the use of all meeting rooms in College it would be great to see more use being made of the Prowse Room.

Please note if you are a college mentor to tell your students about the new SCR Arts Scholarships. Application forms will be available in Michaelmas term and advertising should appear around the College. Van Mildert has a thriving arts community and the SCR aims to foster this spirit through two general Arts Scholarships granted to full and part time students from any discipline, currently registered for undergraduate or postgraduate study at Van Mildert College. The purpose of these Scholarships is to encourage the development of the arts life of the College across the areas of music, theatre and the visual arts whilst also nurturing a student's personal development. Awards of up to £250 are available.

The SCR prides itself in playing an active and supporting role in the life of the College. Our mission is to deliver academic, cultural and social events that enrich the life of the College community and

SCR President's Report

our members. At the AGM this year a number of key positions will become vacant on the Executive. Nominations are sought for:

SCR Secretary

Deputy Treasurer

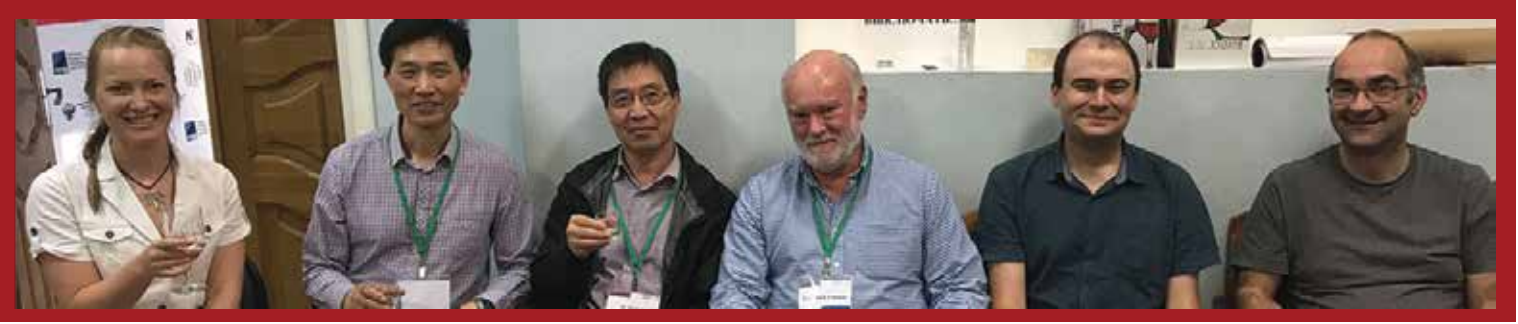
While neither of these roles is particularly onerous it is difficult to see how the SCR can continue its present level of activity if these positions are not filled. Please contact Howard Armstrong (h.a.armstrong@durham.ac.uk) if you are interested (or can be persuaded) to stand for either of these positions or indeed are happy to be involved in the ongoing work of the SCR.

I look forward to meeting with you at our events or the Wednesday lunches,

Howard Armstrong, SCR President



Principal's Report



A summer break for some research. Culmination of a meeting of Lower Palaeozoic palaeontologists and stratigraphers in the academic town, Akademgorodok, near Novosibirsk (July 2019). The small group pictured here all study Lower Palaeozoic brachiopod fossils.

The very short summer vacation ended in September with a thump. Term had already started with again, upwards of 450 Freshers joining the Van Mildert Community, about one-third from overseas and most engaging in over 80 different clubs, committees and societies that the student body has to offer. Each evening, most College rooms are filled with all manner of activities from Dance and Music to sport (e.g. badminton and cheer), and from Dec Soc to the Knitting Soc! Staff from the Principal's Office have already met with the six outreach projects and the Director of Outreach; and there is already a deep reservoir of enthusiasm, experience and expertise.

Induction was an exhausting carousel of briefings and talks by our own staff, our colleagues in the Fire Service and the Police, and a massive menu of JCR, and to a lesser extent MCR, events. Matriculation in the Cathedral was a colourful and lively occasion and Mildert's own pride Formal, suitably labelled the *Sic Vos Non Vobis* formal was hugely enjoyable. Huge credit to our outstanding Frep Team; they were superb.

I can report a couple of staff changes. Liz Ryder (formerly our Sabbatical Development Officer) has been appointed, after a competitive assessment and interview process, as our first ever Student Experience Officer. Liz will be primarily involved with our student development and enrichment programmes (notably Mildert Dimensions) together with Alumni Relations but will have time to help with other tasks. Restructuring in the catering and operations areas has provided challenges but we have been extremely fortunate to have been assigned Katie Dowson (Community Operations Manager) and Guy Morton (Food and Beverages Manager) as part of the Van Mildert Community. I hope you will welcome all three to their new and exciting roles in Colleges. Within our scholarly community, we are delighted to welcome Dr Sean McMahon who has already presented his IAS Lecture, '*How to find fossils in Mars*' to a packed Ustinov Room.

The SCR has already a packed programme for the Michaelmas Term, with the ever-popular book club, dinners and lectures, the SCR mid-week buffet lunch together with walks and an outing to the Oriental Museum. Members are especially welcome to the 10th Annual Van Mildert College Trust Lecture by Dr Richard Lane OBE on Friday 15 November. Richard's theme is particularly relevant to Mildert and its environmental agenda, '**World Health - their problem is our problem**'.

Maureen and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events.

Professor David Harper, Principal of Van Mildert College

JCR President's Report

'Time was not passing, it was turning in a circle' wrote the late and lauded Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez. And so another year has concluded at Durham University with much of the same flair and passion and unique brilliance that characterises this historic seat of scholarship and adventure. It is impossible in just a few hundred words to pay testament to what these students have achieved and to everything that has happened this year, and to give a worthy eulogy of those students who have now graduated and become alumni of our College.



Looking to the year ahead, the JCR is in rude health and we have welcomed another crop of Freshers, another batch of young, colossally intelligent, and undiminished students who will go on to run not only this JCR, but our country as well. College life is flourishing, with a hugely successful Fresher's week and college events, and we are currently busy recruiting a new wave of volunteers and committee members with applications for our College Chair and Sports and Societies Officer currently open. The College's diverse array of sports, societies and committees continue to thrive, and it should be of particular note that we are looking to found a 7th Outreach Project, with more exciting plans currently underway.

As you may well be aware, in February 2019, the JCR voted overwhelmingly to withdraw from the Durham Student Organisation Framework, which was set up in 2011 and has since overseen the Common Rooms financially and administratively. Independence means that the JCR will have to reorganise itself as a charity under the Charities Act 2011, and therefore we need to recruit a Board of Trustees. We are currently welcoming applications from SCR members for positions on the Junior Common Room's first Board of Trustees. Although experience in the areas of law, finance and charity governance are especially relevant, all applications are welcome. Please contact vm.president@durham.ac.uk if you have any queries.

I have been inspired by the continued collaboration of students and staff, and their shared love and ambition for Van Mildert College. Somehow I believe that, no matter what the next change is, we have the right people to guide us through. I am privileged to serve as JCR President for a second term, and thoroughly convinced that our transition into an independent charity will be smooth and successful. I am truly excited for the year ahead.

Sheehan Quirke, JCR President

MCR President's Report

Welcome back to another term at Mildert!

The MCR enjoyed a successful Summer term, with a variety of events for our MCR Members to get involved with! In June, the MCR Research Seminar continued with another talk hosted by postgraduate students. Also in June, the MCR celebrated the time, energy and dedication of its committee and MCR Members, with a wonderful 'MCR Awards' evening, attended by members of the Principal's Office.



Reflecting on MCR Induction Week, we were delighted to welcome a new group of Postgraduate students to Van Mildert College and the Middle Common Room.

During Induction Week, we held a welcome event in the Bankside Room for all new and returning postgraduate members, and held our Liver's Out Dinner in Durham City Centre, followed by an intercollegiate MCR social. In addition, we made a return, once again, to the Oriental Museum for a 'Night at the Museum' event and also welcomed back Maximum Pastry Band who played for us during a spectacular Intercollegiate Postgraduate Ceilidh in the Ann Dobson Hall!

We are currently appointing our new executive for this year, but have many more exciting projects and events planned for the term ahead. For instance, we will continue our Liver's Out events with 'Fishy Fridays' where we welcome students to the College to enjoy Mildert Fish and Chips on a Friday, and our coffee and cake event. We will also be hosting a number of larger scale events including the return of our Postgraduate Research Seminar, open to all members of the Senior Common Room, and an Intercollegiate MCR Christmas Formal.

Please feel free to contact us by emailing vm.mcrpresident@durham.ac.uk or you can find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Alice Amber-Keegan, Interim MCR President

Student Experience Officer

Welcome back! Following my time as the Development Officer at Van Mildert, I am delighted to be joining the Principal's Office as the College's Student Experience Officer.

Summer term at Van Mildert was fantastic, with a host of events including a wonderful Jam By the Lake, along with a great 48 Hour Musical production of 'Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again', End of Year BBQ, Summer Shakespeare, Principals Formal, Sports Formal and Mildert Day! In July, we said goodbye to the latest graduating Mildertians with a series of Congregation Dinners hosted at the College, and welcomed back many Mildert Alumni who joined us for a fun-filled VMA Reunion Weekend.



This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Van Mildert College Trust, and an opportunity to reflect on the many achievements and successes of the Trust, from the promotion of academic excellence through the Trust's PhD scholarships, to the Anniversary Garden which has recently seen the planting of three new trees, contributing to the College's environmental sustainability goals, and the Trust's support of a variety of Common Room Projects, including the SCR's Word Sharing project. In September, the Trust hosted a celebration evening, including a fantastic Sparkling Wine and Champagne wine tasting at The Caledonian Club, London, attended by many who had helped to make the Trust a success over the years.

In celebration of this anniversary, we are delighted to welcome Dr Richard Lane OBE, formerly of the Wellcome Trust and Director of Science at the Natural History Museum, for the tenth annual Van Mildert College Trust Lecture on Friday 15 November, with what I know will be a fascinating talk on the topic of 'World Health - their problem is our problem'

Looking ahead, there are many events to get involved with this term, from the IAS and SCR Lecture, alumni events in London and Manchester, the SCR AGM and Carols by Candlelight service in December. In addition, we are also delighted to welcome, as part of our Dimensions student development programme, the Mayor of Tuebingen, Germany who will be hosting a talk on the topic of 'Greening the City' on Saturday 16 November.

In addition, Michaelmas term will also see the publication of Quaesitum, the College's Scholarly Journal. If you would like to submit an article as part of this edition, please do let me know by emailing vm.development@durham.ac.uk

I look forward to seeing you at a Van Mildert event soon,

Liz Ryder, Student Experience Officer

Events Calendar

Thursday 10 October - *Pride Formal*

18.45 - Drinks Reception - Lakeside Room

19.15 - Dinner - Ann Dobson Hall

Our sign up system has been updated. Please visit the Van Mildert College 'What's on' webpage to sign up. The link will be circulated three weeks before the Formal. Any queries, please contact vm.development@durham.ac.uk

Saturday 12 October - *VMA Alumni London Bar Crawl*

18.00 - Lakeside Room

Join members of the Van Mildert Association, for a London Pub Crawl. More information can be found on the events calendar on the Van Mildert Alumni website at www.dunelm.org.uk/van-mildert-college

Wednesday 16 October - *SCR Buffet Lunch*

13.00 - Lakeside Room

Please sign up in advance by booking at Van Mildert College Reception by 1pm on Monday 14 October (0191 334 7100 or vm.reception@durham.ac.uk)

Thursday 17 October - *IAS Fellow Lecture and Dinner*

17:30 - Talk - Turner Room

Talk from our IAS Fellow, Dr Sean McMahon, in the Ustinov Room, followed by a Drinks Reception on the Reception Foyer.

Monday 21 October - *Van Mildert Book Club*

20.00 - Prowse Room

The title for discussion is 'Machines Like Me' by Ian McEwan. Please contact Kathryn Armstrong at k.m.p.armstrong@btinternet.com with any queries.

Monday 28 October - *SCR Lecture Series with Dr David Petts*

18.30 - Lecture - Ustinov Room

19.30 - Drinks Reception - SCR Reception Foyer

20.00 - Dinner - Lakeside Room

The SCR Lecture series will continue with a talk from Dr David Petts, Associate Professor of Archaeology at Durham University entitled 'Uncovering the Early Medieval Archaeology of Lindisfarne. Booking for the Dinner is now closed, but members are welcome to still attend the Lecture, no sign up required.

Wednesday 30 October- *SCR Buffet Lunch*

13.00 - Lakeside Room

Please sign up in advance by booking at Van Mildert College Reception by 1pm on Monday 28 October (0191 334 7100 or vm.reception@durham.ac.uk)

Events Calendar

Thursday 31 October - *Halloween Formal*

18.45 - Drinks Reception - Lakeside Room

19.15 - Dinner - Ann Dobson Hall

Please visit the Van Mildert College 'What's on' webpage to sign up for this Formal. The link will be circulated three weeks before. This Formal will be fancy dress, in aid of VM Outreach. Any queries, please contact vm.development@durham.ac.uk

Wednesday 6 November - *SCR Buffet Lunch*

13.00 - Lakeside Room

Please sign up in advance by booking at Van Mildert College Reception by 1pm on Monday 4 November (0191 334 7100 or vm.reception@durham.ac.uk)

Monday 11 November- *Van Mildert Book Club*

20.00 - Prowse Room

For more information please contact Kathryn Armstrong on k.m.p.armstrong@btinternet.com

Wednesday 13 November - *SCR Buffet Lunch*

13.00 - Lakeside Room

Please sign up in advance by booking at Van Mildert College Reception by 1pm on Monday 11 November (0191 334 7100 or vm.reception@durham.ac.uk)

Thursday 14 November - *Oriental Museum Visit and Handling Session*

18.00 - Museum Handling Session - Oriental Museum

19.00 - Drinks Reception - SCR Foyer

20.00 - Dinner - Lakeside Room

More details to follow but to express an interest, please contact vm.scr-events@durham.ac.uk

Friday 15 November - *Van Mildert College Trust Annual Lecture*

18.00 - Lecture - Ustinov Room

The tenth annual Van Mildert College Lecture will be given by Dr Richard Lane OBE, formerly Director of Science at the Natural History Museum. More information about the Lecture will be available shortly. Please contact vm.development@durham.ac.uk with any queries.

Wednesday 20 November - *SCR Buffet Lunch*

13.00 - Lakeside Room

Please sign up in advance by booking at Van Mildert College Reception by 1pm on Monday 18 November (0191 334 7100 or vm.reception@durham.ac.uk)

Thursday 21 November - *Mentor Information Evening*

19:00- Ustinov Room

Meeting for Mentors, including a Buffet. For more information, please contact Mrs Sharon Bagnall at sharon.bagnall@durham.ac.uk

Events Calendar

Tuesday 26 November - *Mentor's Formal*

18.45 - Drinks Reception - Lakeside Room

19.15 - Dinner - Ann Dobson Hall

Please visit the Van Mildert College 'What's on' webpage to sign up for this Formal. The link will be circulated three weeks before. Any queries, please contact Mrs Sharon Bagnall at sharon.bagnall@durham.ac.uk

Wednesday 27 November - *SCR Buffet Lunch*

13.00 - Lakeside Room

Please sign up in advance by booking at Van Mildert College Reception by 1pm on Monday 25 November (0191 334 7100 or vm.reception@durham.ac.uk)

Wednesday 27 November - *MCR Research Seminar*

19.00 - Lakeside Room

Members of the MCR take the opportunity to present their current research. Drinks and snacks will follow the talks.

Monday 2 December - *Senior Common Room AGM*

17:30 - Turner Room

The Van Mildert Senior Common Room AGM will take place in the Turner Room. T

Monday 2 December - *Carols by Candlelight*

18.30- Pre-Carol Service Drinks Reception, Turner Room

19.15 - Show - Ann Dobson Hall

Carols by Candlelight Drinks Reception open to MCR and SCR, followed by the Carol Service. More information to follow.

Tuesday 10 December - *Christmas Formal 1*

18.45 - Drinks Reception - Lakeside Room

19.15 - Dinner - Ann Dobson Hall

Please visit the Van Mildert College 'What's on' webpage to sign up for this Formal. The link will be circulated three weeks before. Please contact vm.development@durham.ac.uk with any queries.

Thursday 12 December - *Christmas Formal 2*

18.45 - Drinks Reception - Lakeside Room

19.15 - Dinner - Ann Dobson Hall

Christmas Formal 2 will be advertised as above.

Engage and Inspire



Greening The City

Boris Palmer, Mayor of Tubingen

*An insight into our twin city's approach to becoming
carbon neutral by 2030*

Saturday 16 November 2019

Talk at 11am, Ustinov Room, Van Mildert College

Student sign-up available online at
vm.studentconnect.durham.ac.uk



Van Mildert College
Trust Annual Lecture 2019

World Health
Their Problem is Our Problem

Dr Richard Lane OBE

Former Director of Science at the
Natural History Museum



Friday 15 November 2019
6:00pm

Ustinov Room
Van Mildert College

For more information, please contact
vm.development@durham.ac.uk



Van Mildert College
Durham University

Van Mildert College 2018/2019



SCR Committee

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