PRIVATE EYE

Thanks to all those who entered our caption competition. The year's subscription to Private Eye goes to **Michael Fox**

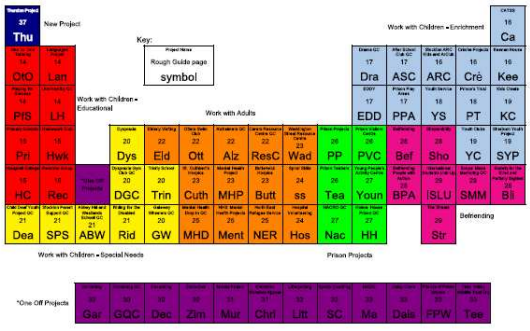
"That does it! Israel's gone too far this time"

Highly Commended:

"The Archers Movie"
(James Davis)
"One day son, all of this will be Moors"
(Luke Blackburn)

Student Community Action

Project Table of the SCA Elements



SCA Week - June 1-8

Beach Litter Pick, Football Tournament, Mural Painting, Volunteering Taster Sessions and much, much more

MOSTLYHARMLESS MUTTERS
THE WEIGHT OF TRADITION

You won't have to look hard to find a student hack stating that Durham, for better or worse, is a traditional, small collegiate university. The university's rumoured desire to rip students from the spiritual heartland of the peninsula has only added to their numbers. But is the university really as steeped in tradition as the cobbled streets suggest?

The departments on Old Elvet, often cited as a bastion of tradition under threat from a money-minded Vice-Chancellor, are actually buildings, dilapidated by modern standards, that the University has only inhabited for forty years. The prime example is Old Shire Hall, the late 19th-century University Offices. The City Council sold it to us in 1963 – only one of many examples of the University's tendency to scavenge for abandoned buildings whose original function has been served.

At the time the University bought Old Shire Hall, Van Mildert (1965), Trevelyan (1966) and Collingwood (1972), let alone Stockton (2001) and Josephine Butler (2006), didn't even exist.

In fact, with the majority of the colleges, despite their inherited traditions and rivalries, barely sixty years old, large parts of the University don't really match up to the 'centre of history' image that the prospectus paints. Even the Union Society's much-vaunted debating chamber has only housed the Society since 1977. Yet each student's brief sojourn in the city allows them to build an assumption that what they see has existed since time immemorial.

Fostering these pseudo-traditions allow us to rest safe with the prestige they afford us. It allows us to avoid having to stand on our own merits as a university. What are we afraid of? Perhaps it's that, without this ancient image, we might find ourselves becoming members of 'just another' university.

ANY COMMENTS, CRITICISMS OR COMPLAINTS, SCRIBBLE THEM OFF TO
mostlyharmless06@gmail.com

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THERE WILL BE ANOTHER ISSUE AFTER EXAMS, SO PLEASE KEEP THE ARTICLES, CARTOONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS COMING

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