



# Grey Matters

Grey College Association Magazine

February 2010



*The Cathedral & Castle in the snow from Mountjoy field at the back of Fountains Hall, a photograph taken by the Bursar, Karen Blundell*

## *Letter from the President*

Dear Association members,

Very best wishes for 2010! This very special year of Jubilee in Grey has been stimulating and enjoyable. At the College Reunion in April we welcomed back many Grey men and women from the fifty years of our history. In addition to alumni it was good to see Margaret Halliday (the widow of Eric Halliday), and his three children) Mary Weston (the widow of Mike Weston former Vice Master and Senior Tutor), Pam McCartney (the widow of the former Bursar John McCartney), Val Hamilton, Former Bursar, Vernon Armitage, a Founding Member and Tutor, Bill Hale the Second Senior man and our present Vice Chancellor Chris Higgins, as well as current and retired staff.

## *From the Master*

As I write this, in late January 2010, the Jubilee period still has several months to run. This has been an altogether delightful time, during which my wife and I have made the acquaintance of so many Greymen and women at dinners, private meetings and other events. We still have some way to go: a JCR Presidents' dinner in the spring, a Service in the Cathedral in June, Art Exhibitions and, of course, the reunion weekend in April. With luck, and a little organization, there should also be a family weekend celebration taking place on the East Coast of the USA in late summer, to which College senior members in both the US and Canada will be cordially welcomed. We shall also be producing an edition of Grey Papers containing essays and other contributions by members of Grey, or by speakers at a variety of talks or chapel services held here over the last few years. If you require details of any of these

The Revered Malcolm Peach led a Service of Thanksgiving and Holy Communion in the Lattin Chapel in the morning which was well attended.

The Association continues to flourish and be a useful part of Grey College life and its continuity.

I have now been President for six years and I feel that it is time to stand down, as soon as a suitable replacement is found, in order to ensure shared responsibility and renewal. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming involved. I hope the next fifty years of Association life strengthens its role as a guardian and strength of our very special College. All good wishes and thanks for your continuing support.

*Henry Dyson, Association President*

matters, please check on the Association website, or contact the Association secretary or the College by email.



*The Master with the former Grey College Chaplain, Canon David Kennedy*

As part of the Jubilee, the Trust launched an Appeal and I am delighted to say that this currently stands at £250,000. Please give as generously as

you can to support this (the Appeal will be open until the end of 2010). We plan to spend this entire sum, together with any other funds still to be raised, on much-needed projects such as an enlarged Reading Room for the Victor Watts Library, an Arts “conservatory” behind Fountains Hall and, it is hoped, an extension of the JCR to provide a shop, a quiet space and an office for the President. Once again, please don’t hesitate to contact College for any further information on the Appeal, or on its planned objectives.

My editorial last year was, inevitably, a little retrospective and focused on the first fifty years of the College’s existence. But what of the future? How will Grey’s fortunes fare in a time of change; and how will the College face the challenges of the next few years, as the demographic landscape alters and the number of eighteen year olds in the UK begins to decline? These are also tough times financially and no institution of higher education can assume that there will be a guaranteed stream of public funding to pay for teaching, research or to uphold the quality of the student experience. In particular: what steps will be taken to ensure that the best education, of the type provided by Durham, is available to all, regardless of their ability to pay, thereby encouraging mobility in society and the realisation of individual potential? Should Durham move to become even more research-oriented than at present; and if so, what is the role of the committed undergraduate teacher and of the strong support given to students reading for a first degree by their Colleges? The present economic climate provides a suitable opportunity, in my opinion, to carefully think through these matters and to emerge in a much stronger position.

The first thing to say is that the College must remain true to its heritage, ensuring that the main part of the student body, its undergraduates, is well-supported at such a profoundly important part of their lives. It is clear, from so many conversations that I have had over the Jubilee Year, that the experiences, the broader knowledge gained and the relationships

formed during undergraduate years have all formed a firm foundation for the subsequent career and personal development of Grey men and women. This situation must be safeguarded for future generations and the necessary facilities, support and advice that the College provides must be guaranteed. Furthermore, efforts by the College must be matched by University teachers to ensure the very highest quality of teaching, reinforced as appropriate by research, so that first-degree students at Durham in general, and Grey in particular, emerge as well-rounded and fully-educated individuals.

As part of its strategy for the next quinquennium, the University plans a marked growth in numbers of graduate students. Grey is already responding to this situation and plans to increase graduate student numbers to around 15-20% of overall membership by 2013/4. This figure is realisable and would generate a balance of undergraduate and graduate student members that is appropriate and not far out of line with some of our comparator collegiate institutions in the Thames Valley or the Fens! We are, of course, a residential College and so it is likely that one block will be set-aside for graduate student use, possibly for up to 50 students. We shall also strengthen our Tutorial provision for students reading for higher degrees and, in due course, expand the Middle Common Room. Eventually, and through the generosity of Alumni, we hope to acquire further College housing off-site to meet the needs of such students and to build further flats for junior research fellows, in partnership with the research institutes in the University. By this means, I am convinced that we shall build a great community of scholars as Grey enters the second half of its first centenary.

I do hope you enjoy reading this edition of Grey Matters, that it awakens some happy memories and that I shall have the chance to meet with many of you personally over the next year.

*Professor Martyn Chamberlain*

## Obituaries

Rob Whewell (1955-2010)  
Senior Man (President of the JCR) 1975-76

I had the greatest of respect for Rob. (He and I were room-mates at the start of our second year at Grey.)

You are right in your recollection. After leaving Grey, he went straight into teaching, at Burnham on Crouch, and married Linda McQueen (Mary's, 1973-76). A few years later, he left teaching to join the Chemical Industry, with Hays Chemicals and then Durham Chemicals Distributors. Sadly, he and Linda divorced.



*Rob Whewell with friends from Grey and beyond in September 2009*

His big break came after he took a position as Pharmaceutical packing supervisor at the Wellcome Foundation at Dartford and quickly rose (within a few weeks) to become their Pharmaceutical Production Planner. From here, he was recruited

by Glaxo (shortly before they took over Wellcome) and continued his rise to stardom. However, his role with Glaxo involved a great deal of time out of the country (managing one of their acquisitions in Russia) and he decided that he needed something closer to home, and he joined PA Consulting.

At PA, his “big idea” was a system to prevent the counterfeiting of pharmaceutical products, and PA Consulting formed a company, Aegate to commercialise this. Rob was working on this when he was diagnosed with MND in 2008.

After the diagnosis, Rob still retained his positive approach. With his wife, Jean, he started to import Italian Wines (with the proceeds going to the MND association) and maintained his own blog.

A small group of ex-Greymen were privileged to see him and Jean at a MND fundraiser in Leeds in September 2009 (no mean logistical feat for Jean and her family, given the extremely rapid decline in Rob's condition) and shared Rob's obvious delight at the company of so many of his old friends. (The attached photo is from this event. The woman kneeling alongside Rob is Jean. You may recognise some of the other faces!)

Rob had become a bit reclusive in later years (hence his rare appearances at the Association meetings) but was always delighted to hear from his old friends. I think he was genuinely humbled to realise how respected he was amongst his old friends.

A very sad loss.

*Steve Swales*

**There will be a Memorial Service for Rob Whewell in the College Chapel at the Reunion on Sunday 11th April at 10am. All are welcome to attend.**

## *Reunion for East Coast and Canadian Alumni*

Greymen and women living on the east coast of the US and the eastern side of Canada may be interested in a reunion event to take place in late summer this year. The proposed venue for this event is one of the Colleges of Princeton

University, in New Jersey from Friday 20th through Sunday 22nd August. The event will, it is planned, be “family friendly” with a barbecue and an outing suitable for all ages! If this is of interest, please can you contact the Master's PA (joyce.dover@durham.ac.uk) as soon as possible to help us plan the event properly. Costs will be kept to a minimum and it is hoped there will be a good turn out of Greymen and women!

## *From the JCR President*

Although another year has passed within the Durham bubble and another set of finalists have ventured out into the real world, the Junior Common Room has refused to grow old. This year has seen the arrival of a new bunch of enthusiastic freshers who have injected a breath of new life into the JCR, whilst the old cohort have ensured that the JCR have focused on it's core values, in the face of many challenges that have threatened to change the Grey College that we all know and love.



*Grey in the snow, 2010*

As has been mentioned in previous editions by my predecessors, the Junior Common Room has been forced to react to changes that were made to the Charities Act in 2006. This year has seen the University withdraw their support for the previously preferred option of 'independent charity registration' and has asked each JCR to reconsider their future position. This situation has been magnified by the financial failings of other Durham JCR's, which has seen the financial independence of certain JCR's temporarily removed until the problems can be resolved.

A stark contrast from the picture that was painted in the previous edition of Grey Matters, it has become clear that whilst working alongside the University to find an agreed solution, the next few years will be vitally important in ensuring that the

JCR is able to retain it's independence and that we safeguard the unique student experience that Grey has to offer. Despite the turn in fortune this year, I am confident that the JCR has the strength, character and resilience to overcome the obstacles that may lie in it's path and still be here for the current generation of Greymen and Greywomen to come back to in 50 years and talk about 'that time in the formal when....'

Away from these difficulties, the JCR has continued to thrive and showcase the best of what Grey has to offer. At the time when this was written, Grey sat proudly top of the College Sports Table by 100 points and is currently on course to raise over £10,000 for charity; in doing so breaking the record for the most money raised in a year. The annual Barfest and Fireworks events brought the rest of Durham onto the hill and showed them how it really should be done.



*Phoenix Ball 2009: 'Arabian Nights' theme*

The Phoenix Ball 2009 took over 600 students on a magic carpet ride to the Oswald Manor Country Club for an unforgettable 'Arabian Night, whilst the Informal Ball helped us to 'Escape from Reality' with an evening of Roald Dahl fairytales and a Dining Hall that was transformed into a Narnia Winter Wonderland.

**Adam Ruddock has just been elected  
JCR President for 2010/11**



*Dan Tresman & Naomi Parkin, Strictly Come Dancing Winners 2009*

There were trips this year to Whitby, York and Alton Towers and improvement in college food has led to the introduction of a wider variety of variety of formals, including the ‘South African’ Formal that was held to raise many for a Grey Alumni working in the region of Mozambique. The money raised from this formal helped to rebuild part of school that provides free education to over 60 pupils within the local community.

Other highlights have included a highly acclaimed production of ‘Joseph & his Technicolor Dreamcoat’ by Fountains Theatre Company, the first ever ‘Grey does the Apprentice’ and a Grey Day that refused to be dampened by the rain to provide the perfect way to round off the Easter Term.

Outside of Durham, the JCR has also been making a real difference within the local community. This year has seen the expansion of the ‘Grey in the Community’ project and has partnered with a local exclusion unit in Sunderland. Through group visits, peer mentoring and teaching lessons, Grey students are helping to raise the aspirations of students who have previously struggled to succeed within mainstream education.

Although in the face of adversity, it is clear that the JCR is as strong as ever, giving support to those who need it, the chance to excel to those

who want it and the opportunity for everyone to embody the Grey College clique ‘get involved’. In the words of a previous President, ‘Grey is our little secret’ and despite the hard times that may lie ahead, I hope it will always continue to be that way.



*Grey in the Community students performing ‘A Christmas Carol’*

*Andy Sparrow, JCR President 2009 - 2010*

## LONDON REUNION 2010

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September



Reception with Drinks, Canapés  
& Dinner - £45.00 (including wine)

Sarasin & Partners LLP  
Juxon House  
100 St. Paul’s Churchyard  
London  
EC4M 8BU

(Situated next to St. Paul’s Cathedral)

Bookings to Henry Dyson 07798884638  
henry@henrydyson.co.uk

(Cheques made payable to the Grey Association)



## *A New Chaplain for Grey*

It was just less than a year ago that I was interviewed for the post of Chaplain at Grey. I remember, after the panel had finished its interrogation in the Pennington Room, I glanced briefly at that amazing view towards the Cathedral and wondered if it was going to become a familiar scene in my life.

I'm delighted that it has, and not just the view from the Pennington Room, but everything about Grey College. Perhaps my favourite moments have been those when I've felt the privilege of being accepted here. I feel that the role of the Chaplain can't be done well unless the Chaplain has become part of the place. I cannot make that happen. Only the people of this place, the students and the staff, can allow it happen.



*Simon with the Bishop of Oxford at the College Feast, 17th November 2009*

The ministry of a priest is often simply to be around at the right moment. That can happen by good luck or grace, but is more likely to happen if

the priest has cultivated the habit of being around. My role involves planning and conducting services, going to meetings, and being available to people. However there are three other things that seem vital in 'being around'. They are: eating, drinking, and praying.

The eating and drinking reflect the vital essence of Grey as a community. Prayer reflects the vital spirituality of this place as the community stretches as far as it can with body, mind and spirit.

What am I looking forward to right now? Well DUCK Week starts in a fortnight. I want to throw myself into the fundraising effort by living in a makeshift shelter in Hollingside Courtyard. It'll be made of a few bits of scrap wood with tarpaulin thrown over the top. I'll limit myself to a morsal of food a day and hope the snow will have melted. Actually I'm really looking forward to it. It'll help with raising money for charities, it'll visibly remind people of all those for whom hunger, cold, and homelessness, are an ever present part of life. It's also a way to get to know more people, and perhaps that's what I enjoy best!

*Simon Airey, College Chaplain*

## *Rabbi Lionel Blue Seminars, 2010*

Another series of seminars on Science and Religion will take place in the Easter Term. The dates are 27th April, 5th May, 11th May, 18th May and 8th June. All seminars begin at 7.30pm and will take place in the Holgate Suite, Grey College. All are welcome to attend, anyone wishing to have diner beforehand at 6.30pm should contact Henry Dyson, [henry@henrydyson.co.uk](mailto:henry@henrydyson.co.uk).

## *Senior Common Room News*

The SCR has had a particularly lively year. We have been delighted to welcome many new members from Town, Gown and Alumni, together with a whole host of Visiting Fellows to the College. The Visiting Fellows come from all around the world and, though they typically stay for only a term, contribute so much to the vibrancy and diversity of the SCR.



*SCR Members and University Robers Marni & Tony Myers with Julie Bushby, Assistant Senior Tutor at the College Feast*

The weekly formal dinners, on a whole variety of themes, continue to be well attended by both students and SCR members, and provide a stimulating and dignified atmosphere. A highlight is the All College Guest Night, which provides the opportunity for the merging of JCR, MCR and SCR members to enjoy a very special menu.

In June we ambitiously hired a boat for more than 100 College members to take us along the river Tyne from the heart of Newcastle out to sea and back, although no whales or seals were spotted. The commentary provided on the boat was well informed and the “Eye” bridge was opened specially for us.

Our new instigation of general talks after Sunday lunch, on several occasions during term, open to all, has been very successful. These illustrated

presentations have been of exceptionally high standard and have provided excitement, enlightenment and much fellowship. One of these speakers was the curator of Wallington Hall, the home of the Trevelyans, and as a follow-up we are invited to a guided tour of this beautiful National Trust property with its very special walled garden. This out-of-town trip is planned for May 23rd. Again all are welcome. Yet another event was a successful whisky tasting evening accompanied by informed guidance by the SCR wine steward.

There is a wonderful family atmosphere in the SCR. We are always happy to welcome new members, particularly Alumni from near and far, who would like to participate in the life of the College.

*Professor Alan Martin, FRS*

## *The Grey College Trust*

This charity was set up for the benefit of Grey College in the 1980s and plays an important role in supporting Grey College, its students, its fabric and its development.

Various appeals have been launched and developed under its auspices. Currently we have The Jubilee Development Appeal.

If you wish to give money to the College and you do so through the Trust then for every £100 you give we can get an extra £20 in the Gift Aid scheme if you are a UK taxpayer. If you would like to leave something for the College in your will you may do so by a bequest to the Grey College Trust. You may specify how you would prefer the money to benefit the College and be assured that the Trustees will do their very best to honour your memory and your wishes. You may also give something in your own lifetime, specifying how you wish the money to be spent. For further details please contact the Master.



## *Grey College Accessories*



These are available from the University Robers Gray & Son, 4 Neville Street, Durham. 0191 386 4168 or from the College, contact reception on 0191 3345900. All merchandise bought includes a small donation to the Grey College Trust.

## *50th Anniversary Leisurewear*

Is your College polo getting tatty? Does your jumper have too many holes? Grey 50th Anniversary Leisurewear is available at: [www.phoenixprint.co.uk/greyjubilee](http://www.phoenixprint.co.uk/greyjubilee). Orders until June 2010.

## *You Never Had It So Good!*

Fifty years ago, when Grey College was in its infancy, the Prime Minister of the day, Sir Harold Macmillan, famously said that the people of Britain had “never had it so good”. On June 12th 2009, as part of our Jubilee celebrations, Grey hosted a celebrity debate on this motion. The College’s worthy opponent was the Reform Club, with whom our links have strengthened over the past few years. The Club, formed by those who wished to press for parliamentary reform in the 1830’s, has a natural connection with the College, founded to honour the memory of the Reforming Earl, Charles Grey. The College had hosted the exhibition “Reform, Reform, Reform” in the old library in 2007, the first time that it had been taken out of Pall Mall. Mihir Bose and Brian Holden, from the Club side, proposed the motion. Mihir Bose is the BBC’s chief sports correspondent and Brian Holden is Professor of War Studies at Kings College, London. Speaking for the College were: Jonathan Porritt, veteran environmental campaigner (and father of a current

Scarf	£18.00
Tie/Polyester	£10.00
Tie/Silk	£21.00
Tie/Boat Club/polyester	£10.00
Bow Tie/Silk	£26.00
Cufflinks	£19.00
Shields	£29.00
Pewter Tankard	£24.00
Lapel Pin	£10.00

Prices shown exclude Postage & Packing.



Grey undergraduate); and Ed Waugh, playwright and member of the SCR.

Addressing a packed house in the Holgate Lecture Theatre, the distinguished guests provided a full hour and a half of witty, sincere, brilliantly-argued and convincing debate – on both sides! The situation “then and now” was contrasted; and the responsibility of the present generation (for good and ill) was debated in some detail. The audience was composed of Grey students, SCR members, University staff and visitors from Durham city. Lively questioning followed the speeches: in the end, the motion was defeated; but only just!

The College plans to continue to deepen its relationship with the Club over the next few years, and this Debate was another important part of this process. For many of the students present, this was the first occasion they had seen at first hand such a lively discussion between celebrities and will be significant in their memories of life at Grey.

*Martyn Chamberlain*

## *A New Website for Grey College Association*

Following the successful and well-received launch of a new website for the Senior Common Room ([www.greyscr.co.uk](http://www.greyscr.co.uk)), the Association now has a new site of its own. The website can be found at: [www.greyassociation.co.uk](http://www.greyassociation.co.uk).

Developed by Richard Hilton the website provides information for both members and non-members alike.



*Richard Hilton at the Tom Lamb 'My Mining Days' exhibition*

## *Henry Dyson at the College Feast 17 November 2009, in reply to Bill Bryson, University Chancellor*

“Mr Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Master, your Royal Highnesses, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour to speak as President of the Grey Association at this important milestone in our history.

Many things make Grey special, our distinction has grown and developed since our beloved founding Master Syd Holgate, a Mathematician,

If you have an email address, the Association would be grateful if you could send it to us so that we can communicate with you more effectively. You can do so at [www.greyassociation.co.uk/email](http://www.greyassociation.co.uk/email). It is worth keeping an eye on the News & Events page (which, for the technologically adventurous, has an RSS feed) so that you don't miss out on any of the Association's activities.

The Business Angels system has been given a complete overhaul and you can now search for Angels by industry, subject and graduation year. Plans are underway to restrict access to members and alumni of the university, alongside several other improvements.

Website developer Richard Hilton is a recent alumnus of Grey College and runs Hiltonian Media ([www.hiltonian.com](http://www.hiltonian.com)) providing web development services to a wide range of clients across the country. He is a College Tutor and member of the SCR executive, and is involved in the life of Durham Cathedral in a number of capacities.

*Richard Hilton (Computer Science, 2003 - 2006)*

set up the College fifty years ago, he believed that one was marked by one's past but not completely determined by it and sought to ensure that undergraduates represented a good social mix and admission was gained by intellectual ability and character, rather than social or ethnic background. He affirmed the value of meritocracy reflected in the Latin motto he chose for the College: 'Gradibus Ascendimus' – 'Ascending by Degrees'. The spirit of optimism, creative energy and intellectual curiosity brought by the first intake of undergraduates, post-graduates and Senior Common Room members exists to this day and I am especially pleased to see one of our first students and the second Senior Man Professor Bill Hale, here tonight.

This College was built on the firm foundation of excellent educational achievement and the sound objectives of seeking to educate the whole person rather than just providing vocational training. Today we speak of the 'Durham difference', this rests, in my view on what I call the Durham Tripos, first of all, excellent departments where world class research is carried out. Secondly, informed, stimulating and challenging teaching and learning. Thirdly, Colleges of scholarly communities underpinning and supporting all members of the University. Our Colleges offer a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary exchange and personal development. Colleges are a place where we can explore the interconnectedness of all learning. In today's speak they enable and ensure 'joined up learning'.



*Henry Dyson, Chris Higgins & Alan Richards*

We have had three Masters of College since Syd retired in 1980. Our second Master Eric Halliday, an Historian, developed Syd's vision of a scholarly community and encouraged sporting excellence, especially in rowing. The third Master Victor Watts, a Mediaevalist and English Literature specialist extended the College, most notably by the building of Holgate House, with en suite study bedrooms, Conference Centre and Library, and by encouraging art exhibitions and founding a permanent collection of fine art. He brought visiting Fellows to the College and established scholarships to promote outreach and enhance academic reputation.

There are so many people that I should thank tonight but time prevents comprehensive inclusion. However, I feel we should acknowledge a special debt to Professor Alan Martin, Fellow of the Royal Society, who by inviting Physicists from around the world to visit the University and stay in Grey, developed the international reputation of the Physics Department, culminating in the building of the Ogden Centre for Fundamental Particle Physics. Alan has always said that without the initial support of Grey College this would never have happened as and when it did.



*A Trio of Tutors, John and Cynthia Bolton and Philip May*

I would like to thank our Bursar Karen Blundell and our Assistant Senior Tutor Julie Bushby for their work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the College over the last ten years and indeed all the staff, past and present, who have worked so hard to make Grey a great place to live and work.

Most of all I would like to thank our present Master Professor Martyn Chamberlain, a Physicist, for working so hard to raise the intellectual profile of Grey in recent years. During his mastership new scholarships and Fellowships have been created bringing distinguished academics from all over the world to stay here. This has significantly added to the corporate life of the College and the University as a whole. Martyn has also been instrumental in pioneering the exciting new Bio Physics Institute, once again

enhancing our international reputation. He has also promoted the arts in the College and we now have the biggest collection 20th century art in the University as well as frequent exhibitions of International Contemporary artist's work. Martyn has also organized extra-curricular lectures and debates and supported the annual series of Seminars on Belief, Religion and Science given by the writer and broadcaster Rabbi Lionel Blue, a Fellow of this College and an Honorary Doctor of this University. We are very grateful for your outstanding leadership Martyn! I would also like to thank Sarah for all she does so unobtrusively behind the scenes and present these flowers as a token of our gratitude.



*The Bursar inspecting the Dining Hall before the Association Dinner*

Our Junior Common Room provides excellent opportunities in sport, the arts, drama, music and all sorts of special interest groups to enhance undergraduate experience. Our Middle Common Room has post-graduate members engaged in serious research, teaching and professional training. Our Senior Common Room fosters the intellectual life of the College, providing a

place of support, refreshment and fellowship for Departmental staff and College tutors and members. Through this facility we are able to offer superb hospitality for visitors.



*Dave Baldwin 'Bungle' and Richard Hilton at the Dinner*

The Grey College Association has pioneered the Business Angels Scheme, a network of career mentors for current students providing valuable advice and internships, the first College in Durham to do so. Alumni also bring generous support in time, effort and financial resources to the College bringing the added extras that make all the difference to our collegiate life.

At the moment we have a Jubilee Development Appeal for funds to enhance student experience by extending the library to give more study space, to refurbish and extend Fountain's Hall to give more space for arts and sporting activities and music practice rooms. We also hope to build a new block to provide more accommodation for Fellows visiting the College and the University. All ambitious plans I know but I am pleased to announce that our appeal has raised £250,000 to date thanks to the generosity of Alumni and a recent legacy of £100,000s from the estate of our late College Fellow and Honorary Doctor, the artist Thetis Blacker. Please generously add to it if you can.

So Grey is thriving and we have genuine cause to celebrate tonight. This College demonstrates what can be achieved by co-operation, hard work

and the generosity of spirit Grey women and men are famous for. Syd Holgate valued not just sharp intellects but also kind hearts without which there would be no fellowship and community at all.



*Pam McCartney, Philip May and Mary Watts*

Finally our emblem the Phoenix symbolizing as it does the triumph of will over circumstance, reminds us of the continuity and renewal of subsequent generations of students and staff. The extraordinary power of creative good will in Grey College has brought much transformation here and in the many walks of life our former students are engaged in. We are inspired to strive for ever greater things in the next 50 years. I hope some

## *The Grey Association Phoenix Rugby Football Club*

Grey College's old boys rugby club, 'The Phoenixes', has been in existence for a number of years. Run by Simon Lea, the club toured Eastern Europe, Sleaford and Chester a couple of times with a contingent of finalists and has always been enjoyed for its ability to bring the 'old guard' back together for some champagne rugby and a few beers.

In 2008 the first old boys match took place at Maiden Castle in Durham, the college running out 31-0 winners. Organised by Dan Tresman (college) and Charlie Sammut (Phoenixes), the

of you will be at the centenary to celebrate what else has been achieved by 2059. If we continue to exercise vision and imagination when deciding what we want our College to become I am sure it will be a very special educational community, even better than it is now.



I can sincerely say that Grey College woke me up to the beauty of life and it's potential and I am eternally grateful to it. In this community inclusivity, encouragement and educational opportunity are truly affirmed. Mr Chancellor I present a College we can be proud of!

Please rise and drink and toast to Grey's future."

event was a huge success but did leave a sour taste in the mouth of the graduates who had travelled up to play! In order to field stronger old boy teams in the future and to allow graduating finalists to continue playing rugby with their college peers it was decided that the club needed to be reorganised.

In Summer 2009 the new club organisers applied for a Grey Association grant to restart the Phoenixes RFC. Having had the club proposal approved, a website was created and a club strip bought. On the 17th October 2009 the newly attired Grey Association Phoenixes RFC took on the college again at Maiden Castle and lost 14-0 in a very closely contested and heated encounter. It was a better spectacle than the

previous match in all respects and, but for a few choice refereeing decisions, could have gone either way (the author is still bitter!). On the 18th December 2009 a group of twenty two old boys met in Covent Garden for Christmas drinks and at the end of April 2010 are planning a match against the Durham Occasionals RFC in London. Needless to say the new club has been received with a great deal of enthusiasm from graduates and undergraduates alike.



*Cheeky Veteran Rugby Players*

## *Returning to Grey*

*Chris Jones, Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S. (Grey College 1995-2001) Senior Lecturer in History, University of Canterbury, New Zealand Sydney Holgate Fellow in Grey, Michaelmas Term 2009*

The drive leading from South Road up to Grey is, for the most part, something that tends to stick in the mind largely because in its ascent the climber feels a sudden kinship with Hillary but upon reaching the top suffers the dawning realisation – and concomitant irritation – that someone has been there before. The first time you walked up that driveway, however, you almost certainly saw matters slightly differently: you were concentrating on what lay at the top and where it might one day lead you (rather than worrying if you should have packed the Kendal mint cake).

The club is now looking to commit to these three events (and more in time) every year allowing graduates to socialise and play with their university friends. We hope to encourage old Grey men and women to renew their relationship with Grey rugby and come and meet some faces from the past. Similarly the club hopes to give newly graduated Grey men and women a platform to continue playing with their college peers as part of a truly impressive network! The website ([www.phoenixesrhc.com](http://www.phoenixesrhc.com)) is constantly being updated with news and displays player profiles and club information. Whether you still play rugby or have hung up your boots we would encourage you to get in contact with us, enter your details on the website and attend our events. The club has gone from strength to strength in a very short amount of time and hopefully this trend will continue as each graduating year from college and players from the past join our ranks.

We look forward to hearing from you!

*James Redman, Dan Tresman and Tom Jeffery  
Honorary Club Organisers, Class of 2009*

Returning in October last year, eight years after leaving, I had the opportunity to re-experience some sense of that heady sensation on my first walk up the drive. Of course it was not quite the same wide-eyed wonder I had experienced at eighteen: since graduating from Grey with a BA in History, an MA in Medieval History and a Ph.D. in something similarly historical, I've had much opportunity to travel. I've had the pleasure of living everywhere from the traditional destination of all newly minted graduates, London, to the slightly more exotic climbs of Paris and Toronto. I presently find myself lecturing in history at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. College life should, in other words, have been put into perspective long ago. And yet wherever I go I suspect there will always be something rather special about the first sight of the College and that first plod up the hill after a prolonged absence.



*Chris Jones with the Master at the Tom Lamb exhibition opening*

I returned to Grey at the kind invitation of the Master to take up the position of Holgate Fellow for three months during a sabbatical from my New Zealand post. I have to admit I paused before accepting: Would my visit serve nothing more than to take the gloss off a few memories? I need not have worried. The College has certainly changed a lot since I was last a resident; there is no doubting that. Perhaps, though, ‘change’ is not quite the word: ‘grown’ would be more appropriate. It is more than the fact that walls that were once rather drab are now aglow with the College’s burgeoning art collection. Amidst the usual hustle and bustle, the College seems to

## *Tom Lamb Mining Exhibition*

‘My Mining Day’s by Tom Lamb. Held at Grey College 22nd January – 14th February 2010.



be enjoying its very own renaissance. And what could be more appropriate in this, its Jubilee year? Yet in character the College remains exactly as it was: it is still the friendly, welcoming institution that it has always been, enjoying an environment where a commitment to traditions of scholarly excellence is balanced by a happy unwillingness to take itself too seriously. I had expected to see a few familiar faces; I had not been prepared for how quickly I would come to see faces, both old and new, as those of good friends. I must admit, though, that I still find the fact that one of my former first-year tutees is now the SCR treasurer, a reminder of the Swift passage of time!

Since returning to Britain, I have been invited to lecture to the Durham Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, to the political thought group in Cambridge and to the Institute of Historical Research in London. All were highly enjoyable but none quite compared to the pleasure of giving a lecture on medieval Paris to the College. The Holgate fellowship gave me the time to conduct considerable research, to write papers and to do all those things that academics are supposed to do. Yet it also gave me much more: A reminder of why there is nowhere quite like Grey. If it’s a while since you’ve been back I recommend braving the drive.

*Tom Lamb has kindly given the picture ‘Testing for Gas’ (below left) to the Grey College Trust Art Collection.*

Tom Lamb: “As an artist and miner, it was the greatest and most monumental experience portraying my fellow miners as they toiled with strained, clenched muscles in the dignity of physical labour in the dark, wet and dangerous conditions underground. These figures struck a deep chord in me and I was very aware of both an emotional and visual experience brought about by seeing the courage, sorrow and sometimes even death of the working miner in his environment.”

Tom Lamb, now 81 years old, worked in the mining industry for twenty seven years and despite having no formal art training produced a remarkable series of drawings and paintings of life underground. The images displayed in the exhibition reflect the 'Pillar and Stall' and the 'Long Wall Face' methods of mining in the mid 20th century in Durham.

This retrospective Exhibition is not only aesthetically pleasing but represents a vanished

world of work that is passing from living memory.

The exhibition has attracted people from all around the region and has had good press coverage. School parties and current students have also visited this important event.

A fully illustrated colour catalogue is available from the College priced £10.00 (including postage and packing).

### *Tom Lamb Private View*



*Paul Griffin (third year student) examines a painting*



*Jenifer White and Paulina Lubacz (University Treasurer) in Durham purple*



*Tom and Margaret Lamb*



*A student in conversation with the artist Fenwick Lawson, himself from a mining family. His wife Joan is in the background.*

Photography by Bill Muir.





*Sarah Duffin, Emma Fraser and Jenny Lee, all first year students, look at the pictures*



*Sarah Chamberlain in conversation with Joan Norton*



*Tom Lamb with Professor John Norton*



*The Vice Chancellor with The President*

## *Association Executive*

Henry Dyson – President

Janet Gyllenspetz – Vice President

Alan Richards – Treasurer: [adrichards@westhillcorpfin.com](mailto:adrichards@westhillcorpfin.com)

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Editors of Grey Matters: Henry Dyson and Foster Neville ([foster.neville@durham.ac.uk](mailto:foster.neville@durham.ac.uk))

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/grey.college/>, <http://www.greyassociation.co.uk/>

The Agenda for the AGM of the Association 2010 is available from the Secretary.

In view of the continued increase in postal rates we would like to hear from those members with e-mail access who would like to receive their copy of Grey Matters electronically. Please send your e-mail address to the Secretary.

## College Reunion 2010 booking form

The college reunion will be held on the weekend of April 9th, 10th and 11th Dinner is free for anyone graduating in 2009.

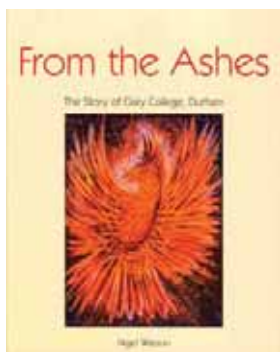
### Name(s):

Accommodation (all prices include breakfast)		9th	10th	11th
Single standard room.....	£30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single standard en suite.....	£40	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twin en suite.....	£70	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twin standard.....	£60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday/Sunday Lunch.....	£10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grand Reunion Dinner (per person, excluding wine).....	£35		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Friday night High Table supper.....	£10	<input type="checkbox"/>		

You can also book online at [www.dur.ac.uk/grey.college/alumni/grey-college-reunion](http://www.dur.ac.uk/grey.college/alumni/grey-college-reunion)

Completed booking forms and cheques (made payable to the Grey College Association) go to Julie Bushby at Grey College, South Road, Durham DH1 3LG, 0191 3345591, [j.e.bushby@durham.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.bushby@durham.ac.uk)

*Please make us aware of any dietary requirements you may have.*



## From the Ashes

*From the Ashes* by Nigel Watson is the illustrated history of Grey College, its genesis, buildings, masters, dons, fellows and students, and will be enjoyed and treasured by anyone associated with Grey College. It is available from the College by completing the order form below or by e-mailing Kellie Stephenson, College Secretary, on [k.l.stephenson@durham.ac.uk](mailto:k.l.stephenson@durham.ac.uk).



### ORDER FORM

Return the form to: Kellie Stephenson, Grey College, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LG, UK

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2. Please send me:.....copies at: £30 £ .....

Postage & packing per copy at: £4.50 (UK), £5.50 (Europe)  
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3. I enclose my cheque, payable to 'University of Durham (Grey College Trust)' for the total of: £ .....