



# Grey Matters

THE MAGAZINE OF GREY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION



FEBRUARY 2014



**ABOVE:** Steve Gregory (left) receiving the 2013 Dunelmensis Award from Chris Higgins Vice Chancellor and Warden. Steve is recognised for his contribution to the development of the Business Angels scheme and is the second Grey Alumnus to receive this award in recent years, following on from the recognition given to Henry Dyson in 2011.



## A note from the Association President

DEAR ASSOCIATION Members,

Since the last edition of Grey Matters we have seen another Graduation and another cohort of Fresher's join the College. Whilst those who are sceptical may comment that this is just the natural progression of our education system, I very much see this as the ongoing evolution of the community of Grey College and the growth of our exceptional alumni network.

In the last 12 months we have also seen the appointment of a Grey Alumnus Peter Swift as new Vice Master to replace the departing Ian Spencer and the thoroughly deserved promotion of Julie Bushby to Assistant Vice Master for Welfare.

All of these events were augmented when the Dunelmensis award was bestowed on Steve Gregory, Association Secretary, for his voluntary services to the University, especially in developing the Business Angels concept and helping other colleges to implement similar schemes. It should be noted that this is the second time in 3 years that this award has been given to a Grey Alumnus and says so much about the positive impact that our College and our Alumni continue to have on the University.

This year the association has continued to offer the wide range of events it has now established in the college, adding a second careers event and bringing external sponsorship back to one of our formal dinners for the first time in five years. None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of the College and the assistance of the association's Executive Officers and to all of them I offer my thanks.

Aside from that brief news update I wanted to take this opportunity to talk about something that has made me very proud to be president of the association. Whenever I meet alumni of all ages they tend to ask me: "What is College like nowadays?" and whilst I always tell them about the growth in the student Grey Matters

population, the new buildings and the continued and improving strength of the three common rooms, I am always keen to tell them that the ethos, vitality and sense of purpose, with an edge of fun exists just the same today as it did in any era.

One of the things I enjoy most are those moments when those from different eras get together, often with Grey being the only link between them, and they click, get on and over



ABOVE: *Thomas Cliff, Association President*

time become friends. Recently we have been developing some of our careers support to the students and the group that have been delivering this is one of these very groups; spread over 15 years of Grey College Graduates, they have come together to develop and deliver two exceptional events, whilst becoming good friends in the process. This lead me to think that we should be making more of our Grey network, we should be giving to it, making and helping create connections and using it to make Grey not just a great place to come and study but also a fantastic place to continue to be associated with throughout your life.

To this end I would encourage all of you to use our social media pages to stay in touch with the Association and make connections with other likeminded Grey Alumni. This will also help us to keep you up to date with goings on and events during the year. The links are:



- ❖ [Facebook](#)
- ❖ [Linked in](#)

Finally I want to take this opportunity to ask you to join us to continue to make Grey College the best and most connected College with its alumni in Durham, whether by attending one of our reunions, becoming a Business Angel, contributing to the next edition of Grey Matters, holding your own

smaller reunion or by making a donation to the next phase of the Jubilee Development Project, I'd welcome your support. Grey is a great place and I want everyone who wants to, to have the opportunity to continue to make it so.

**THOMAS CLIFF**

*Association President*



TOP: Grey Day 2013 from Hollingside Lane, photo by John Oliver (Undergraduate 2010-13)

BOTTOM: Grey Day 1993 form Elvet, photo from Fran Boorman (Undergraduate 1990-93)



# A Year in Grey College

PROFESSOR TOM ALLEN MASTER OF COLLEGE GIVES HIS THOUGHTS ON A YEAR AT GREY

Things are as busy as ever in the College, with a regular programme of sports, cultural activities, art exhibitions, drama, outreach, academic conferences and commercial trade. As I write, we have just had a weekend in which the Senior Common Room hosted a performance of the Bearpark & Esh Colliery Band in the Dining Hall, followed by a talk by Norman Emery in the Holgate Room on 'The Banners of the Durham Coalfield'. As this was happening, the Grey in the Community group was giving its second tea party for the elderly in the SCR and the JCR Trustees were meeting in the Pennington Room. The night before, the JCR's 'President's Guest Night' took place in Beamish Hall at the same time as the College held a dinner in the Pennington (organised by Henry Dyson) to mark the opening of an exhibition of art by Hassan Meshkimfamd. This was all in addition to the usual buzz of activity that characterises Grey.

With all of this going on, it's not surprising that the College and its staff succeeded in winning a number of important awards last year. The Grey College Front of House Team won Annual Staff Recognition Award for best 'Environmental Champion' and, once again, the Grey College Bar won the University 'Best Bar None' prize, and Mel Philip, Lisa Davies, and Nicola Gittins also won individual awards for Attention to Detail, Outstanding Contribution to a Team, and Best Leader. The students also recognised the support of the staff: Nicola won the highly-coveted 'Extra Mile' award from the Durham Students Union and Kellie Stephenson received an Honorary Life Membership from the JCR.

Our alumni are also winning awards at Durham: this year, Steve Gregory was given the Dunelmensis Award. The University set up the Award several years ago to recognise alumni who have demonstrated meritorious and exceptional service in support of the University. Steve was recognised for the support he has given to staff and students across the University, not only in Grey, but



ABOVE: Tom Allen, Master of Grey College welcomes the new Fresher's with help from the College mascot

also in Josephine Butler, St Aidan's, John Snow, Ustinov and others.

We've welcomed John Oliver and Craig Fisher as our new JCR and MCR Presidents and Andy Lucas as the sabbatical FASCO officer. Many thanks to James Mullinder and Alex Kelsall, the two departing presidents, and to Nicole Barrett, our first sabbatical FASCO, for the excellent work they did last year. Thanks are also due to Laura da Costa, who was our resident postgraduate tutor for two years before handing over to James Collinson in September. Laura is still heavily involved in the College as a mentor. Not only that, but she also performed in the Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band in its recent concert!

We've also welcomed Dr Peter Swift to the College, as he has taken over as our new Vice Master. This is a new role for Peter, but he is not new to Grey. Peter arrived as an undergraduate in 1999, continued as a postgraduate and then as a research associate and lecturer in Engineering and Physics and a mentor in Grey. He remained an active member of our common rooms throughout and has been involved in many other sporting and music groups in Durham. Peter takes over from Dr Ian Spencer, who has moved to a

senior lectureship in mental health nursing at Northumbria University.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Grey Matters. Alumni are always welcome back at the College. You're bound to see some changes since you graduated, but the spirit and loyalty

to the College of our staff and students remains as strong as ever.

**PROFESSOR TOM ALLEN**

*Master, Grey College*

## Senior Common Room News

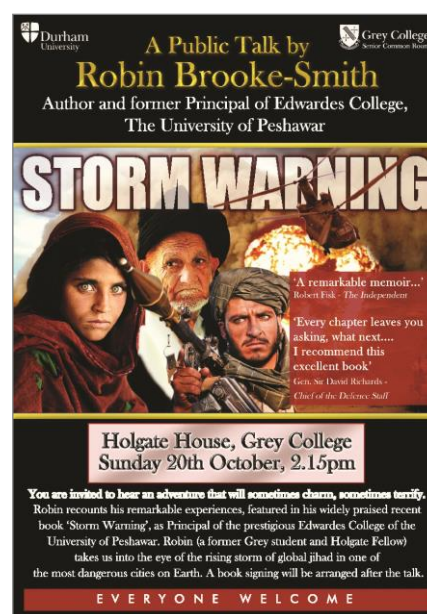
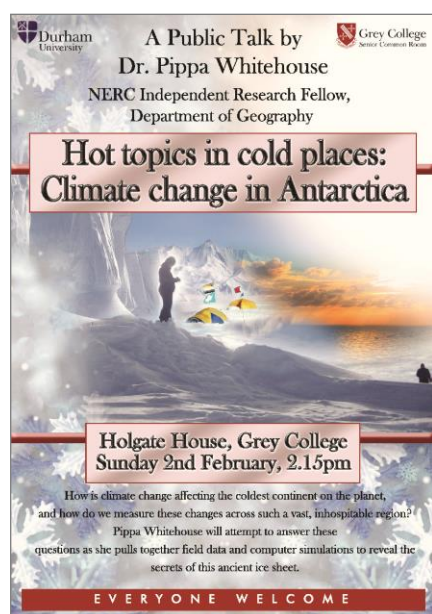
### PROFESSOR ALAN MARTIN ON THE GROWTH OF THE SENIOR COMMON ROOM

During the year the Senior Common Room has offered an exceptionally friendly and lively atmosphere, with many activities and events. The SCR has welcomed many new members from both inside and outside the University. An excellent development is the appointment of Peter Swift as Vice Master of Grey. For many years he has been a key member of the SCR and this appointment will ensure that we continue to play an appropriate role in the College.

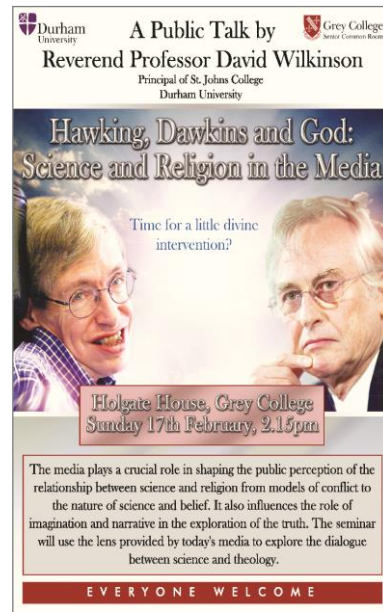
Formal dinners continue to be held on Wednesdays throughout term time and are an excellent opportunity to meet visitors to the University and Fellows resident in the College, as well as people employed in all aspects of University life. The joint SCR/MCR formal dinners have proved a success and strengthened the collegiate atmosphere.

The Sunday afternoon talks continue to The talks arranged by the SCR continue to be very popular. They are held about three times a term, following an SCR informal lunch, to which student "livers-out" are also invited. The talks have been on a variety of subjects of topical and timely interest are well-attended by people within the University and by the general public. The four posters show examples of the talks. We have just had an ambitious double-bill event timed to occur on the 132rd anniversary of the Trimdon Grange mining disaster---first we enjoyed a lively performance by the Bearpark and Esh colliery band, followed by an illustrated talk on "Banners of the Durham coalfield", with several banners on display.

Another noteworthy talk entitled "Life of a Cold War football interpreter" was given by



**ABOVE AND OVERLEAF:** Posters for four of the of the recent and increasingly popular SCR talks held over the past 12 months



George Scanlon, who last stayed in the College in 1966 with the Russian World Cup football team. Keeping us right up-to-date, Richard Davies gave the talk "Frack or fiction" The termly Art Exhibitions are another type of event which has enriched the College life and fostered interactions beyond College boundaries. We are very grateful to Henry Dyson for putting these on. You are most welcome to come to these exhibitions and to join the artist at a preview (but please notify Henry@henrydyson.co.uk).

The liveliness and success of the SCR of your College is due to a truly remarkable executive committee, who have managed to create a wonderful family atmosphere which extends an especially warm welcome to all those who wish to come. It goes without saying that we would particularly welcome Grey Association

members who would like to join the SCR. Membership of the SCR entitles you to the use of the comfortable Senior Common Room itself, where you can call in for coffee etc. You are also able to sign in for one, or more, of the weekly formal meals (the dates are given on the events list on the Grey SCR website [www.greyscr.co.uk](http://www.greyscr.co.uk)), and to book in for other meals at the College. Also, accommodation in the College may be booked, subject to availability. The annual subscription is £20 for single, and £30 for joint, membership. To join, or to seek more information, please visit our website. Alternatively, you may join by contacting Peter Swift, the SCR Treasurer and Members Secretary ([treasurer@greyscr.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@greyscr.co.uk)).

**PROFESSOR ALAN MARTIN**  
*President, Senior Common Room*



ABOVE: A Senior Common Room Formal

## Steve Gregory Awarded Dunelmensis

AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY

The 2013 Dunelmensis award has been conferred on Steve Gregory (Theology, Grey College 1965-69). The Dunelmensis award is the highest and most prestigious accolade that can be given to Alumni. It is awarded for the outstanding and continued contribution of alumnus or alumna to further the progress of the University

Steve is the secretary of the Grey Association and is the current driving force behind our Business Angels scheme. Steve has also dedicated a considerable amount of his time to supporting the University and helping other Colleges to establish similar schemes.

The Business Angels scheme was the brainchild of Steve Baker (former vice-president of the Association) and was established back in 2004 with 45 angels acting as mentors for our students. From the start the scheme grew quickly and Steve, realising the potential of the scheme volunteered to look after its administration

and development, guiding it to 450 members the largest in the University. Steve has also implemented similar schemes in Hatfield, Trevelyan, Josephine Butler, and most recently, Ustinov.

In each instance the Angels scheme has been developed as a forum through which students can contact members of alumni for career advice and direction. In growing our scheme and supporting other with theirs he has dedicated countless hours to many finalists and recent graduates as they make the transition away from education in to their chosen career paths.

Steve formally received his award on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013, from another former Greyman, Chris Higgins, the Vice-Chancellor and Warden of the University. The ceremony took place at the Dunelm Society Annual Dinner, held at Ironmongers Hall in London.

A picture is shown on the front cover of this issue.



### ANNOUNCEMENT: RETIREMENT OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Professor Chris Higgins informed Robert Gillespie the Chair of the University Council some months ago of his desire to retire from his role as Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University not later than his 60th birthday in June 2015.

It has now been agreed that the University will start the process of recruiting a new Vice-Chancellor with Chris retiring from all his executive responsibilities with effect from 30th September 2014. He will remain as Vice-Chancellor Emeritus until his successor is appointed and a successful handover completed. In this role, he will continue to develop the University's many external relationships; continue to act in an ambassadorial role; and be available to advise Council and Senate.

Durham has been at the heart of Chris' life since arriving as an undergraduate in 1973 and nobody who has ever met him can be in any doubt as to his love of and pride in the University and its Colleges. As Vice-Chancellor, Chris has driven the University forward over the last 7 years and will leave us well placed to continue to build on our long history of scholarship and learning.

# An introduction from our new Vice Master

DR PETER SWIFT ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS VICE MASTER OF GREY COLLEGE



ABOVE: Peter Swift, Vice Master at the organ of St Oswald's Church

For those of you I've not met and for those who don't know me, my name is Peter Swift and I have taken up the role of Vice Master of Grey College, completing the restructuring of the former Senior Tutor role. I will combine this role with my teaching post in the Department of Physics. I am no stranger to Grey, being an alumnus of the College studying mathematics and physics as an undergraduate before reading for a PhD in experimental physics, I've also been SCR Treasurer since 2007. Outside work I am heavily involved with church music as an organist and I play cricket both in the local leagues and as captain of the university staff team.

The remit of Vice Master is broad ranging, with particular responsibility for leading on academic initiatives within the College and

the development of alumni relations. In particular, I will be working to develop:

- ❖ a programme to support student employability;
- ❖ the college's community of postgraduate students; and
- ❖ the research and scholarly environment of the college.

In the post, I am looking forward to meeting fellow Grey alumni, at Association and other events, and working with them to further develop the support mechanisms they already have in place for our students through the Business Angels' Scheme and Careers' Clinics. I am keen to ensure that Grey remains a place where any student can join in with any College activities which they choose, irrespective of financial background. Furthermore, I will be working with the SCR and JCR to build links with the local community through a wide range of projects.

I am happy for alumni to contact me at [g.p.swift@durham.ac.uk](mailto:g.p.swift@durham.ac.uk) if they wish to discuss my role, or have ways in which they can support their alma mater, particularly through the development of a student experience programme

DR PETER SWIFT

*Vice Master, Grey College*

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** It is with great sadness that I must inform members of the Association of the death of David Younger. David has been an active member of the College for many years, he was a SCR member and a Trustee of the College. David died very peacefully early on the 2nd February; all his family were with him and he will be remembered as a great friend to all who knew him.

## Contributions

If you would like to contribute to Grey Matters, perhaps with memories of your time in Durham, pictures past and present or anything else that may be relevant to our alumni, please contact the Secretary and archivist, [Steve Gregory](#).



## Grey College Trust

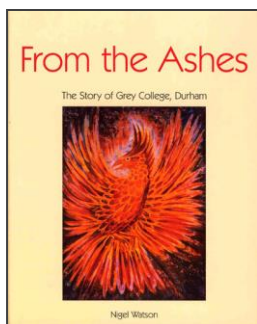
The Grey College Trust was set up for the benefit of Grey College in the 1980s and plays an important role in supporting Grey College, its students, its fabric and its development. Various appeals have been launched and developed under its auspices. Currently we have The Jubilee Development Appeal.

If you wish to give money to the College and you do so through the Trust then for every £100 you give we can claim 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.

### 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 emailing Kellie Stephenson, College Secretary, on [k.l.stephenson@durham.ac.uk](mailto:k.l.stephenson@durham.ac.uk).

**Return the form to:** Kellie Stephenson, Grey College, South Road, Durham DH1 3LG with a cheque payable to "*University of Durham (Grey College Trust)*".

	Totals	Delivery Details
Please send me ____ copies: £30.00 each	£ _____	Name: _____
Postage & packing per copy: UK £4.50 Europe £5.50 Rest of World £9.50	£ _____	Address: _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	£ _____ -	Post Code: _____
		Phone: _____
		E-mail: _____

# Junior Common Room News

JOHN OLIVER ON AN ACTION PACKED YEAR FOR THE JCR



ABOVE: *The Man behind the Mascot - John Oliver Grey College JCR President*

2013 was a very exciting year for the Junior Common Room. As well as building on our existing strengths, with record breaking takings for the fireworks display and an excellent year for Grey Bar, 2013 also saw the charity committee

establish a link with a Cambodian School and the opening of a new toastie bar. All of this mixed in with our continued development as a charity and large influx in fresher numbers has been more than enough to make 2013 a year to remember in the life of the JCR.

The year started with the students returning to a packed Michaelmas Term, highlighted with Bar-Fest, the annual Charity Fashion Show and President's Guest Night.

Bar-Fest is an opportunity for attendees to enjoy live entertainment whilst having a large selection of world beers, ciders and other drinks available, and is always eagerly anticipated. Thanks should be given to the Bar Steward, Nicola Gittins, Bar Manager, Craig Hawes, and their team who put on an outstanding event, most of whom were working for the entire day. It is also worth mentioning that Grey Bar won the colleges 'Best Bar None' award for the third consecutive year, a testimony to the hard work of both the staff and student teams.



ABOVE: *The stage is set for Barfest.*

Next in the social calendar came the Charity Fashion Show, where the men and women of Grey took to the catwalk in the name of Charity, wearing clothing provided by local retailers. In the end the event raised over £1,000, which along with the infamous Valentines Formal and the unpredictable 'Auction of Promises', as well as smaller events, contributed to a total charitable fund-raising over well over £6000 for the year. Later on in the year, the Charities Committee established a partnership with a United World School in Takok Charai, Cambodia. This partnership allows some of our annually raised funds to be given directly to a school that we support, with the intention to send JCR members to visit and teach in the near future.



ABOVE: *Members of the JCR, do their little turn on the catwalk for the Fashion Show*

President's Guest Night was once again a great occasion to celebrate the individuals who contribute so much to make the JCR the active and lively body we know and love. Particular mention should be given to Lauren Sweeney, winner of the 'unsung hero' award, who later went on to organise a simply astonishing Informal Ball. Grey in the Community were given the best society award and continue to have various project running throughout the year, including sports days for disabled children and a new project which hosts tea parties for the elderly hosted in the SCR.

Exams arrived, ended, and quickly became a distant memory aided by a 'secret garden' themed Phoenix Ball hosted by Mount Oswald Manor and a Grey Day which, for the first time in my memory, was not grey. In fact, to

everyone's surprise, the sun stayed out throughout the day meaning the music, dancing and merriment continued unhindered right into the night.



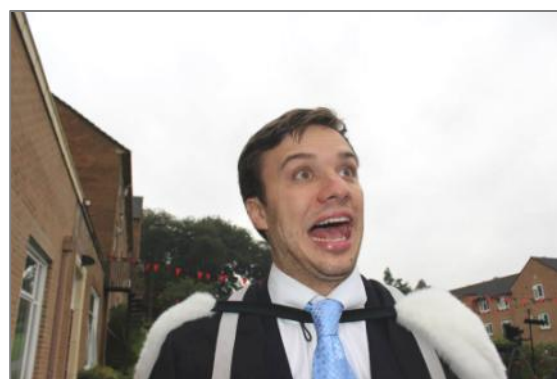
ABOVE: *Grey Day 2013*

Moving into the current academic year, the decision was made that the Sabbatical role of Finance and Commercial Services Officer would continue and Andy Lucas was elected to the role. One of the areas in which he has been instrumental is the establishment of a Toastie Bar in Fountains Hall. Initially operating out of the college kitchens, the well-loved snack dispensary was reborn just in time for the bumper harvest of new fresher's who have contributed substantially to its success. I remember in the first week of term driving manically (but safely) down to Tesco on an emergency bread run as a group of almost 50 hungry first years arrived in one go.

The toastie bar is not the only area in which Grey has felt the strain of the increase in

numbers, with many Fresher's Week events having to be rethought and some general concern with the potential of losing the community feel we value so much. Fortunately the new cohort have taken well to the sports teams and societies, however the thought does linger that if numbers continue to increase then the 'feel' of Grey may be significantly altered.

Speaking more generally, the JCR's status as a charity continues to function well. With the tri-annual referendum on this coming up in the next few weeks, it is hard to say exactly what the JCR will be this time next year, though I feel certain that whatever the decision we will endeavor to provide the best possible experience for our members.



ABOVE: *John Oliver JCR President sees the size of the challenge as he gets ready to lead the troops down to the Cathedral for Matriculation. (Photograph: Andy Lucas)*

**JOHN OLIVER**

*President, Junior Common Room*

## Association Executive

**Thomas Cliff**, President

[tomjhcliff@hotmail.com](mailto:tomjhcliff@hotmail.com)

**Dave Baldwin**, Vice President

[david.baldwin@standardbank.com](mailto:david.baldwin@standardbank.com)

**Foster Neville**, Grey Matters Editor

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**Richard Hilton**, Website Editor

[r.j.hilton@durham.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.hilton@durham.ac.uk)

**Vacant**, Treasurer

[tomjhcliff@hotmail.com](mailto:tomjhcliff@hotmail.com)

**Steve Gregory**, Secretary

[stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk)

## Grey College Association - Reunion 2014



The annual Grey College Reunion will take place on the weekend of 04<sup>rd</sup> to 06<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Grey College. The Grand Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday 05<sup>r</sup> April, attendance at the dinner is free for anyone who graduated in 2013.



**Contact email/phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dietary Requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Accommodation</b> <i>(all prices per room per night, including breakfast)</i>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	
Single standard room	£30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single en-suite room	£40	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twin standard room	£60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Grand Reunion Dinner</b> <i>(excluding wine)</i>	<b>£35</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Years you Studied at Grey College** \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Completed booking forms and cheques (made payable to "Grey College Association") should be sent to Kellie Stephenson at Grey College, South Road, Durham DH1 3LG; phone 0191 334 5591; or by email: [k.l.stephenson@durham.ac.uk](mailto:k.l.stephenson@durham.ac.uk)



**ABOVE:** *A peaceful afternoon at Grey College during Summer 2013 (Photograph: Andy Lucas)*



## Welcoming our new intake

ANDY LUCAS GIVES US HIS TAKE ON INDUCTION WEEK, OR AS YOU PROBABLY KNEW IT FRESHER'S WEEK

I was having a conversation with the Association President recently where we were discussing the changes we had made to this year's induction week. Tom mentioned that whilst there were many similarities to past years he suggested I write a short piece to let you compare and contrast what we did in 2013 versus your own Fresher's week...

Some would describe it as merely 168 hours, the more mathematically capable as ten thousand and eighty minutes yet induction week was no ordinary seven day period as it allowed bonds to be made, friendships to blossom and created memories that would last a lifetime.

On arrival Saturday I waltzed into the JCR a little past seven in the morning, deserted with the exception of Jessica Leech, Senior Fresher's Representative. She looked at me, I at her, both nodded and she said "let's put on a show". The next seven days were her ideas, visions and although executed by a strong team of helpers, those being inducted have her to thank for creating a magical week.

John and I had been here all summer, John sorting many of the forms associated with arriving at University. Many of these forms have passport photographs attached and often presented in alphabetically order. For that reason, Luca Acerini's face became familiar. This young man walked in with parents, whether he was apprehensive or excited or both he probably did not have

enough time to decide, I looked at him, extended a hand and said "It is very nice to meet you Mr Acerini", his face was a mixture of shock and awe, but it most certainly broke the ice.

The week was a synergy of tradition and new. The first full day saw the first of the mentor formals, an everlasting component of the week and opportunity to truly experience the much discussed academic gowns. What had preceded the formals was a carnival atmosphere. Whilst other colleges were arriving to Durham, the three hundred plus Grey Fresher's were busy shooting new friends in the Laser Quest. The welcoming tunes heard from Collingwood were drowned out by the inaugural radio show of Ed Noble and Lottie Weinberg whose passion has led to the establishment of Greydio, the newest society in Grey.

All best laid plans however come under scrutiny, Texas and AJ slaved one afternoon to produce an introductory human bingo activity. The pair agonized for hours to make what I am sure would have been a truly wonderful game. I say "would" as the situation never arose where it was necessary. From the first instance individuals mixed with individuals, then corridors with corridors and finally, when a tour of town was given, blocks with blocks. The laser quest arena even deflated for three quarters of an hour for not having the correct electrical certification.

The hunt for sponsorship had gone so well that daily activities were sprinkled with freebies. Free coffee and miniature cupcakes one afternoon lifted some tired spirits and watching very well built future college rugby players daintily paint a mug for an hour was a personal highlight. The hypnotist returned for yet another year to universal acclaim and a new addition was Durham Improvised Comedy Show. The final evening of the week saw a fiercely contested 'Grey's Got Talent' competition in which the show was well and



ABOVE: Grey College Matriculation Photo October 2013. (Photograph: Andy Lucas)



ABOVE: *The Grey College Induction week Team 2013 (Photograph: Andy Lucas)*

truly stolen by Vice President Ed Preece, firstly for his Simon Cowell judging impressions but more pertinently from his impromptu dance to what the young people would call popular music.

As ever the welfare team did an exceptional job and by the end of the week were more concerned with the health of the helpers than the Fresher's. Their professionalism and team spirit is a real asset to Grey College. Without them the annual Newcastle Night Out would be very difficult. This year the journey across the Tyne went with no major problems. It allowed me to re-do the Tutu from last year's Strictly Come Dancing. It is a tough job, but someone has to do it.

A special mention needs to be made to a certain police officer. The thought of another hour of health and safety talks were not thrilling on the penultimate day, mutterings were heard of 'This is going to be well dry' and 'how close is the nearest tavern'? Within moments of talking to a very unsympathetic audience Phil Raine's mixture of humour and self-deprecation brought down the house. I asked him, but he is sadly unavailable for a special comedy show next year.

All is left is to thank the team that brought it all together, namely John, Jess, Ed, Nick and Fran. They will suggest I need a thank you nod however any monkey can write the cheques.

It is time for my incessant waffling to cease now and there is no better way to sign off than with some memories from those who induction week is meant to welcome and inspire.

*"Fresher's Week, for me, was like wearing an old pair of shoes: welcoming, structured, and my feet never touched the ground"* Jack Newman

*"Induction week was a whirlwind; a crazy combination of the new and the old, with new friends, places and experiences being mixed with Durham traditions of Matriculation and formals."* Grace Dean

*"Induction Week introduced me to the new world of Durham University and was the start of a great ERASMUS exchange programme."* Dominik Schuler (University of Berlin)

*"Fresher's week dives you in at the deep end, a welcoming and entertaining information overload, meeting amazing people, making new friends and seamlessly becoming a part of Grey College, leaving you feeling completely at home by the end of the week."* Eric Harvey-Fishenden

Harold Wilson once said 'A week is a long time in politics'. He didn't know the half of it!

ANDREW LUCAS

*Finance and Commercial Services Officer,  
Junior Common Room*

# Business Angels

STEVE GREGORY - YOUR COLLEGE NEEDS YOU

The 'Business Angels' scheme continues to go from strength to strength . Thanks especially to the JCR's Career's Rep in 2012/3, Juliet Robey for publicising the scheme , getting more and more students to contact the Angels,. The addition of 25 of the 2013 leavers has brought the number of Angels to over 460. In the last twelve months, we have offered advice and support to five other Colleges who are following Grey's acknowledged lead in this area.

If you are not yet an Angel . there's still plenty of room for more support for our own scheme - we particularly need Alumni who work in areas we don't yet fully cover ( and those who live// work outside the UK , but all volunteers are welcome! Our retired Angels bring experience of a number of roles and/or a range of companies as well as the special requirements of senior management , whilst the more recent graduates can offer much-needed advice on current company training schemes and recruitment procedures. Where you live is not important (all contact is through e-mail) and we know that most Angels get 2 or 3 mails a term, but that may depend on how much information you offer in your web-site entry, and could peak during the 2nd Term.

As competition for the best graduate jobs becomes more and more fierce , the importance of having any kind of experience of work is becoming increasingly apparent to our students. If any of you are able to point Grey students towards internships, work experience or summer placements in your (or other) companies, please send details to Steve Gregory or to the Vice- Master ([g.p.swift@durham.ac.uk](mailto:g.p.swift@durham.ac.uk)).



Further help comes from the annual Careers Workshop in November which has become another well-established (and much appreciated ) service for students offered by Alumni for which volunteer presenters are always welcome. In addition, we are always looking for Alumni who are prepared to review and polish CVs submitted by current students. As you will see below, Alumni ran a very realistic Assessment Centre day to help students get that special edge over the competition when it comes to attending those challenging days.

Finally , if you are already an Angel ,PLEASE can you check that your profile is up to date , especially your current company/ position and your e-mail address. Any updates should be sent to Steve Gregory (see below).

For more details, please contact me via e-mail at: [stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk)

STEVE GREGORY

*Association Secretary*

# Next Steps – The Assessment Centre Workshop

ANDREW SPARROW GREY COLLEGE JCR PRESIDENT 2009-10

The Grey Association has had a long-standing tradition of running the Careers Workshop on during the Michaelmas Term. The workshop is run with the intention of providing careers advice to current students covering topics ranging from CV presentation to interview technique and other helpful hints and tips that were aimed to give Grey Students an advantage when applying to graduate roles by learning from ex-Grey students already working within those roles.

Attracting around 70-100 students each year, this event is now a firm establishment in the Grey JCR Calendar and looking for ways to further strengthen the brilliant Grey Alumni Community with the current student body, the Grey Association wanted to go one step further this year and the Assessment Centre Workshop was born!

With Assessment Centres very quickly becoming the most commonly used

graduate employment tool to help institutions filter out and decide on their final candidates, the Grey Association wanted to replicate the environment, exercises and pressures that are experienced during an Assessment Centre that often can be very daunting, with a view to giving Grey Students a real advantage over other candidates applying for these roles.

Held over the weekend of the 1st-2nd February, nine Grey Alumni returned to run the Workshop and put 15 students through a

series of exercises and tasks that all were aimed at testing different personality and work-based capabilities that a potential employer would be looking for:

- ❖ One-On-One Interview and Psychometric Testing
- ❖ Communication Exercises, Group Discussions and Literature Based Case Studies and Presentations

Various year groups were represented amongst the students that took part (2nd, 3rd, 4th and Masters) and after the gruelling day of activities, all participating students and alumni were joined by a select number of JCR Members for a meal in Pennington Suite that was very kindly laid on by the College and allowed for the further strengthening of links between the student body and the Association.

A key part of this event was to also provide each student with a detailed level of feedback to ensure that they could

learn from the workshop and work on any areas for improvement ahead of their future graduate

assessments. The alumni spent a total of 8 hours across the Saturday evening and Sunday morning reviewing the individual and group performances throughout the day and through individual sessions on the Sunday Morning, provided feedback to students on their performance and how they could specifically improve to become an outstanding candidate.



ABOVE: Students and facilitators taking part in the group exercises that formed part of the Assessment Centre Workshop.



From the initial feedback received on the day, the main aims of this event from the outset were met and exceeded and many students commented that it was not what they expected, in the sense that it provided a real-life experience that they will now be able to grow and learn from.

On behalf of the Alumni who were involved in the workshop, the event is something that has been in the pipeline since 2012 and to finally see it take place and achieve a number of positive outcomes is something that gave us all a great sense of satisfaction and fulfilment. We are sincerely thankful to the College for all of their support, in particular the efforts of Karen, Julie and Joyce and to the Executive Committee of the JCR who ensured that

everything went smoothly. A special mention and thank are to be noted to Jess Webster and Caroline Small (Careers Reps) who really did a superb job.

We hope that the 2014 event will go down as a solid foundation from which to plan and build future events on that will only help to benefit the students of Grey with the knowledge, experience and goodwill of the thousands of Grey Alumni who will always be proud to be part of the Grey College Family.

**ANDREW SPARROW**

*Event Organiser*



**ABOVE:** *Aspects of Sporting Life*, by Dave Barden. Dave was chosen as an artist-in-residence for the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992 and painted this picture of Grey College sports teams in 2000. This triptych takes pride of place outside the College Dining room. (Photograph: Thomas Cliff)

# Grey College Fiver Fund – Support the College your way

THOMAS CLIFF - ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

I suppose the first question on every one's lips is: "What is a Five Scheme?" A "Fiver Scheme" is something used in a number of Colleges to help Alumni support current students in the pursuit of their extracurricular activities e.g. Sport, Drama, Music and Community work, by offering small regular levels of funding to enable them to do so. The first scheme of this type in Durham was introduced at Hatfield in 2004 and not wanting to be outdone Grey wants to offer a similar, and ultimately better, scheme.

Following a discussions with the College Trust and the JCR and the Association has decided to adopting this idea for Grey College, with a couple of improvements:

- ❖ The opportunity for individuals to give for a specific period or in perpetuity.
- ❖ Not limiting the funds to "extra-curricular activities" Offering options to support: Sports and Societies (specified or not), College Infrastructure and Student Hardship

Ultimately the idea is that alumni of all ages sign up and donate five pounds monthly for a period of their choosing to the Grey College Trust specifying exactly where they would like their donation to be spent. The money will be regulated by the Trust to take advantage of the excellent interest rate their fund benefits from and to ensure that the funds are spent in our College for the specified aims



**ABOVE:** *Grey College Fiver Fund: "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts". (Aristotle)*

Why should you be interested in giving money to the College and not the University? The short answer is because you can dictate where your money goes. If, for example, you have been part of a sport team lacking equipment or kit which the JCR was not able to provide, and sponsorship for whatever reason has not been unsuccessful, you can ensure that future teams will have some income to put towards what they need. If you belonged to a committee which is in need of some extra funds to achieve its aims, you can help them achieve this even after you leave. There may be a society you belonged to during your time at Grey, which could use donations to hold events or support activities.

It is not just the JCR you can donate to, however. You may have been a recipient of the College Hardship Fund or some other form of financial assistance, and giving a small donation every month or even every quarter is a fantastic way to help those in a similar situation. You may be an avid member of Fountain's Theatre Group and want to ensure that the Hall stays in top form for future generations. You might simply want to donate to capital projects the College may pursue in the future.

The simple message is that you stipulate what you want your donation to go towards, and by law this is what the money must be spent on. You are guaranteed that your money will reach its target. A panel consisting of the College Master, JCR President, Association President, among others, will allocate the rest of the funds which have no specific target allocated, and all members of the College will be able to apply for these funds.

Thank you so much for reading this. If you have any questions about it, please contact me, or you can donate straight away be clicking here

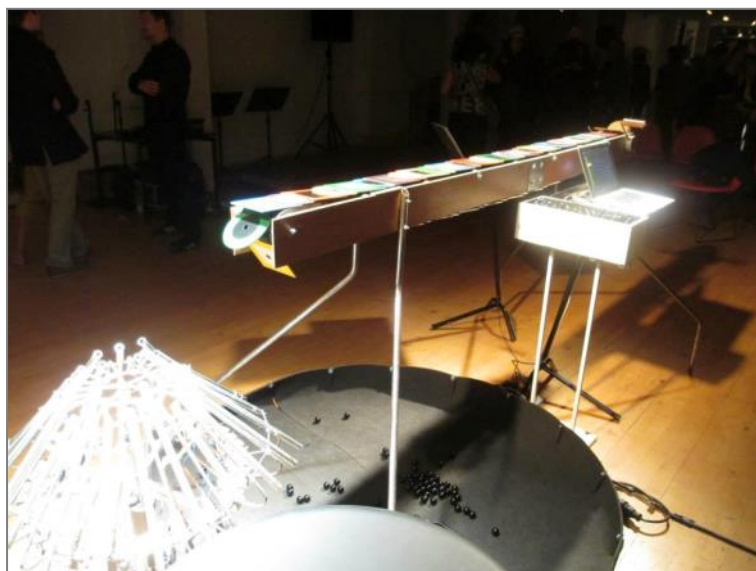
THOMAS CLIFF

*Association President*

## Grey Award Report – In tune in Copenhagen

MATTHEW WARREN REPORTS ON THE KLANG MUSIC FESTIVAL, COPENHAGEN, PART FUNDED BY GREY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

Living and studying in the UK has somewhat restricted my view of contemporary art music; the British taste is towards the



ABOVE: A conveyer belt contraption mixing art and music

conservative and I had assumed that this was a general attitude but this trip was a hugely eye-opening experience. Going to this festival was incredible; it illustrated to me the creative vibrancy that exists in Contemporary Art Music in other countries.

The concerts were hugely varied in their content from piano quintets to balloons to dance to bizarre contraptions nestled in a small pub. I particularly enjoyed the dance-theatre which, in a kind of dreamlike way, flitted between the abstract and explicit and conjured ideas of rehabilitation and recovery from mental slavery. I had never been to a piece of dance theatre of this sort before and I found myself completely drawn into the darkness of the world they portrayed. This performance was just one of the many we went to and no two were alike. It was an intense week which let us explore the kind of art that

was being created and where exactly we might lie within the spectrum of composition. One of the odder concerts was one where the composer had created these conveyer-belt-like contraptions, onto which marbles (or the like) were placed, striking tuned metal pipes when they fell off the end of the conveyer-belt. In the photo I've included a photo of one of the contraptions (below) on which you can see the conveyer-belt, the tuned pipes on a rotatable stand, the used marbles on the black mat on the floor and the laptop, off which the score is read. The effect when all three were running was one very akin to the Indonesian Gamelan. Again, this is just a taste of the experimentation that the festival showcased.

It was not only concerts that we attended, however. As we were a group of students, a few seminars were put on especially for our group. These consisted of three talks from practicing Danish composers, two of whom were having pieces performed and the other was joint festival director. These were invaluable insights into the workings of music

BELOW: An exhibit from the Louisiana gallery of contemporary art



in Denmark, how governmental support is so much stronger than in the UK and the impact of that on the public interest in contemporary art music as well as a greater understanding of the compositional processes and developments of the composers. We were also invited to sit in on a compositional workshop in the conservatoire where we saw several pieces for various combinations of piano and strings rehearsed with the composers before they were to be performed that evening at the festival.

When not involved in the festival we made use of the time by exploring the city, seeing the sights, including various marvelous palaces and, best of all, the Louisiana gallery of contemporary art. This was a wonderful experience. I found their exhibition of pop-art

a little under-whelming but there were some great pieces in there. But their permanent collection was magnificent. The variety of sculpture was incredible, with one collection of huge, dominating exaggerations of shapes and textures of nature. Another highlight was experiencing a Rothko for the first time.

I'm extremely grateful to the Grey Association for the help they gave me in going on this trip and I hope this has given you a glimpse of the overwhelming quantity of new and exciting experiences that this festival turned out to be for me.

**MATTHEW WARREN**

*Undergraduate*

## Grey Award Report – Painting Europe Purple

**MATTHEW WARREN REPORTS ON HER TRIP WITH THE DURHAM UNIVERSITY PALATINATE ORCHESTRA, PART FUNDED BY GREY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION**

The summer 2013 music tours with Durham University Palatinate Orchestra (DUPO) and St Mary's College Chapel Choir were a great way to finish the year. With exams over, and weeks of rehearsals completed, I set off on my two-week tour of Amsterdam and Berlin.

The DUPO tour began in Amsterdam with a day of relaxation on the canals and a visit to the Anne Frank House. The venue for the concert was the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church) on Delft Market Square. The audience really enjoyed the performance, in particular Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, which was colourfully enhanced through a narration in Dutch by one of the DUPO members. The tour was a great way to make new friends and perform in a different cultural setting. It could, perhaps, be said that the triple bunk beds in the hostel proved to be the 'highlight of the tour!

I then travelled from Amsterdam to Berlin for a hectic schedule of concerts and activities with St Mary's College Chapel choir. As Tour Manager for the choir I was anxious to ensure

that all would go as planned and I was really pleased when everything worked out well, we had great audiences and hospitality throughout.



**ABOVE:** *Orchestra members relaxing after the afternoon concert in the Nieuwe Kerk (seen in background)*

Berlin Cathedral was the venue for the choir's first performance, a selection of pieces from the concert repertoire. The concert, entitled *To be sung of a Summer Night*, was performed in the Kaiser-Wilhelm- Gedächtnis-Kirche and St Matthäus Kirche. It consisted of a mix of English and German vocal music including works by Britten, Bach, Delius and Byrd. On the last morning of the tour the choir sang at a service (involving three baptisms) in the Friedenkirche in Potsdam, a beautiful church in a really tranquil setting about 30 minutes outside Berlin.

Despite a busy performance schedule I managed to see many of the sights of Berlin including the Holocaust Memorial, the Brandenburg Gate and the Tiergarten and to hear the Berlin Philharmonic



Orchestra perform Britten's *War Requiem* at the Konzerthaus Berlin. A highlight for me was my Segway tour of Berlin-an exhilarating way to discover the famous sites and history of the city. It may not have been such a smooth ride had it been through the cobbled streets of Durham!

Both tours were very rewarding in that I was able to perform some lovely music in great locations, become better acquainted with the choir and DUPO members and enjoy new cultural experiences. It was also a great opportunity for both groups to represent Durham University abroad and bring our performances to new audiences.

**ROSIE BURNS**

*Undergraduate*



ABOVE: *St Mary's Chapel Choir after the morning service in the Friedenkirche, Potsdam.*



ABOVE: *A sunny day at Kingsgate Bridge*

## Association AGM

The AGM of Grey College Association will be held at 4pm on Saturday 5th April 2014, in The Pennington Room at Grey College. An agenda for the meeting is shown below

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of Minutes from 2013 AGM
  - a. Matters Arising
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts 2013/14
5. Subscriptions and Fundraising
6. Governance development and Election of Officers
  - a. Vice Presidents
  - b. Treasurer
  - c. Secretary
7. Reunions 2014/5
8. AOB

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** It is with great sadness that I must inform members of the Association of the death of Chief Samuel C.O Nwinyi. Chief Nwinyi studied Chemistry and graduated from Grey College from 1965. He died on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2013 at age of 80 years. The burial/funeral rites were performed on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013.

# The Jubilee Development Project Continues

GREY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF THE COLLEGE

Following the successful completion of the first phase of the Jubilee Development Project in 2012, Grey College Association is proud to be supporting the next phase of this project aimed at redeveloping Fountains Hall to the multifunctional building it was always intended to be.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: *Original Artists Impressions of Fountains Hall c. 1960*



In 2013 Grey College Association made an initial donation of £5,000 to the Grey Trust to support ongoing fundraising and we will continue to work with the College to fundraise, design and ultimately deliver this project over the coming years.



ABOVE: *Banner hanging above the JCR to welcome fresher's to college (Photo: Andrew Lucas)*