



Grey Matters

The Magazine of Grey College Association



February 2016



ABOVE: *This image of a stormy July night at Grey College has been a Twitter and Facebook sensation being shared around the world (Photograph: James Collinson)*



A note from the Association President

DEAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS,

In my last edition of Grey Matters I wanted to take a little time to reflect on my time as President and look forward to the future of Grey Association.

First, life moves on, I've been a involved with Grey College now in some capacity for just shy of 20 years and last year I made the decision to step down from all my roles, so that I could step back and let a new generation of Grey College alumni start to take the Association in a new direction. I know that Grey Association will continue to grow, it will be kept fresh, engaging and will continue to keep the Association at the heart of the College community, working with our alumni from 21 to 80 to support the College's events and activities and retain a thriving community of old Grey men and Grey women.

Having made this decision I reflected on the changes that have been made to the Association over the last 18 years. It is barely recognisable to the Association that I first engaged with in 1997/8. It is seen as one of the most proactive in the University and offers a wide range of services to both current students and alumni alike. I believe that we are now delivering on the promise of an Association for all: helping those in the Durham bubble prepare for the outside world whilst continuing to reconnect those already on the outside. To do this it has taken the leadership and vision of three presidents, supported by their executives and the volunteers who make sure that the Association is best placed to fulfil its remit

So I feel that I leave the Association in good shape, in a position from which it can evolve without need for internal revolution. It is financially stable, and has the support of the College and its staff. However, it is not all



ABOVE: *Thomas Cliff, Association President*

plain sailing. The changes in higher education funding continue to focus the microscope on costs across the University and the Collegiate system, in which every member of Grey Association thrived, continues to be seen as a cost and not a unique selling point. The recent change in leadership has as yet failed to yield the articulation of a clear cut vision for the Colleges, a vision that everyone associated with the College needs to enable them to focus on the delivery of clear objectives. It is my hope that the impending announcement of the University's strategy focusses on the colleges, which we all know deliver on a higher purpose than pound notes.

And whilst some days bring challenges it is something I personally believe in, and something that I think all Grey Alumni should continue to believe in. As alumni we, above all, know that the collegiate system provides excellent onsite pastoral support, offers opportunities in sports and societies to those of all abilities far beyond those experienced by our peers who attended mainstream universities and one that fundamentally offers the opportunity for young people to develop in vibrant and thriving community, not a soulless residential block.

Grey Association plays a key part in this, making use of our members' expertise, time and energy to work with the students, staff and

University employees to further the College and demonstrate the value it adds. We support the Junior, Middle and Senior Common Rooms as they continue to amaze and delight by setting up new events and societies, each driven onward by their members who demonstrate a passion for Durham. So, whilst being Association President may not be for everyone, I hope that my successor will unleash fresh ideas and renewed energy, encouraging more and more of our members to come forward and continue to develop the Association by working with our younger alumni and the current members of the JCR. Whatever the future holds Grey College Association will continue and it will maintain

the traditions it has established that make our Association one of the most active and engaging in the University. I would encourage all of you to use social media to stay in touch with the Association, where we will keep you up to date with goings on and events during the year. The links are:

❖ [Facebook](#)

❖ [Linked in](#)

Please take the time to get involved, I'm sure you will find it as rewarding as I have done.

THOMAS CLIFF

Association President

A Year in Grey College

PROFESSOR TOM ALLEN MASTER OF COLLEGE

Many congratulations to all of our graduates. Those of you who left Grey several decades ago may be interested to know that graduation has grown to the point that we now have fourteen separate ceremonies in the Cathedral in June, and another five in January. Nevertheless, the sense of community remains as strong as ever, due to the commitment of our upper year students and the staff. This was shown, once again, in Freshers' Week. This year we welcomed over 305 freshers and 100 new postgraduate students to Grey. Special thanks go to Courtney Caton, Bethany Allen and Shaun Stilwell and all the Freshers Reps for making the welcome to Grey as wonderful as it is. Courtney has taken over from Nick Klein as our new JCR President; Bethany has taken Will Hockedy's post as JCR Finance and Commercial Services Officer (FACSO) or



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

Treasurer to the older member of the Alumni; and Shaun is the new JCR Vice-President, in place of Ghislaine Odjevvedje.

A group of our postgrads did an excellent job welcoming the new postgrads, so thanks are also due to Craig Fisher, James Collinson, Matthew Kirk and Sarah Grey. Andrew Plygawko, last year's MCR President,

completed his studies and Stuart Flegg was elected as the new President. Stuart is new to Grey, but not to Durham: he did his undergraduate studies at Queen's Campus in Stockton, where he was the JCR President of John Snow College.

As part of the induction week, I (literally) ran the 'Master's Challenge'. Students were challenged to race against me in Durham's weekly Parkrun, a 5k run around the paths and fields at Maiden Castle. It is held at 9 am on Saturday morning, at the end of Freshers' Week, so I was hoping that that any student who was able to get out of bed would be too tired to keep up. I take it as a mark of the dedication, resilience and sobriety of our students that this was not the case at all.

The Fountains Hall project is moving ahead. Designs are nearly complete, thanks to financial support from the Grey College Trust and the JCR Trust. The layout will be changed and extended, with only the chapel remaining as it is. There will be new music rooms, a green room for theatre, a space for video and multi-media productions and an art studio. The seating area in the main hall will be expanded to accommodate up to 150 people, and the entire building will be made accessible to wheelchair users.

We also welcomed two visiting fellows to Grey in Michaelmas. Professor Carlo Vecce, fellow with the Institute of Advanced Studies, gave a talk on Leonardi da Vinci's aversion to completing anything. As a matter of his personal philosophy, he rejected the very idea that anything could be finished. Dr Salvatore Stella was our Alan Richards Visiting Fellow in mathematics. He gave a talk in the SCR on the geometry of simple games, which led into

something much deeper: how do mathematicians decide that something is worth investigating? Currently, we have Roar Kjaernstad as a visiting artist in residence and Laurens de Rooij as a visiting fellow, doing research on issues relating to Muslims in Europe.

In May, we welcomed the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart Corbridge, at our SCR Guest Night. Professor Corbridge was the Academic Provost at the London School of Economics, and we wish him every success in his role at Durham.

Henry Dyson is retiring from his post as the University's Keeper of Fine Art. As noted in previous issues of Grey Matters, Henry received the Dunelmensis Award from the University for meritorious and exceptional service in support of the University. Henry will be greatly missed. Anyone who has been to Durham in recent years will see the tremendous impact that he has had on the College and the University. The Chair of our College Council, Paulina Lubacz, is also retiring, at the end of Epiphany Term, after many years as the University Treasurer and lately as the Chief Operating Officer. I am personally very grateful to Paulina for her support and advice over the years. And finally, in June, Grey College hosted a dinner for several hundred guests in honour of Professor Chris Higgins, a Grey alumnus, on his retirement as Vice-Chancellor of the University. As Vice-Chancellor, Chris had to remain neutral, but he was finally able to reveal the truth and declare that Grey is, and has always been, the very best college.

PROFESSOR TOM ALLEN

Master, Grey College

Senior Common Room News

PROFESSOR ALAN MARTIN

So what has the SCR been up to in the past year? One highlight was the very successful Guest Night at the end of May. We were delighted to have with us, among other guests, Jonathan & Jane Ruffer and Professor Stuart Corbridge, who became the new Vice-Chancellor of the University in September. In fact Grey was quick off the mark and the VC gave his first Public University Lecture in the College shortly after he came to Durham. The talk, entitled "The Possibility of Development – the life and work of W. Arthur Lewis" was thought provoking. Interestingly, the new VC arrived at the College on his bike.

These Sunday afternoon talks are greatly enjoyed. A talk by Jill Cochrane was entitled "Cutting the Mustard". Jill, an award-winning TV interviewer, challenged our audience and insisted on their participation which was particularly welcomed by the students. She said "The art of good communication is a skill that can be taught." She told us exactly how to prepare for applying for a new job or a loan from the bank, or on meeting your partner's parents for the first time, or seeking promotion. We were delighted to have a talk by Professor Glenn McGregor, the Principal of Ustinov College on "Heat Waves – the silent killer". Though the talk was focused on London, and not Durham, we learnt how best to manage extreme heat events. We were also delighted to welcome back Seif El Rashidi, our former Durham World Heritage Site coordinator. Seif chose to talk on "The Rites of Durham" which is a late 16th century extremely detailed account of Durham Cathedral. He researched the topic especially for us --- when the questions came we were surprised that Margaret Harvey was actually writing a book on this interesting topic.



ABOVE: Jill Cochran – *Cutting the Mustard* was one of the highlights in this year's series of SCR Talks

We thank Richard Hilton for organizing our annual croquet afternoon, which was again very enjoyable, with touches of skill and not a little malice. Our summer trip this year was to have been to South Shields, but regrettably the weather intervened. However, we have already lined up another trip to Wallington Hall, where the curator Lloyd Langley is always so welcoming to us. Indeed, we have ambitious plans to play croquet on their expansive lawns. This is trip not to be missed.

The Master Tom, and Helen, Allen continue to organize family events, one preceding the November Grey fireworks display, which are well received by SCR families. The normal Formal Dinners go on as before and provide a welcome interaction of the SCR with the students.

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

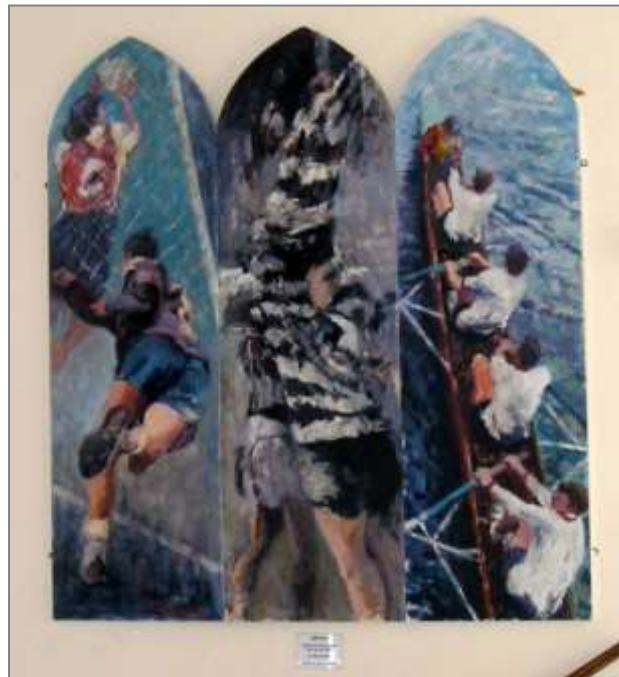
the events list on the Grey SCR website www.greyscr.co.uk), and to book in for other meals at the College. The annual subscription is £20 for single, and £30 for joint, membership. To join, or to seek more information, please visit our website. Alternatively, you may join by contacting Peter Swift, the SCR Treasurer and Members Secretary (treasurer@greyscr.co.uk)

ALAN MARTIN

President, Senior Common Room

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 are a UK taxpayer, 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 under the Gift Aid scheme. 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

Plans commissioned for Fountains Hall

GREY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF THE COLLEGE

Between 2012 and 2015 Grey College Association has made an donations totalling £25,000 to the Grey Trust to support the development of Fountains hall.



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



The project is now taking shape, and architects drawings have now been produced. A working party comprising the key stakeholder groups from across the University has also been formed and the project is currently on track to start works over the Summer vacation in 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENT: It is with sadness that I must inform members of the Association of the death of Peter Diggle. Peter is remembered for being quite a character around college in it's very early days

Junior Common Room News

COURTNEY CATON REPORTS ON PROGRESS FROM THE JUNIOR COMMON ROOM

If 2014 was described as a year of opportunity for the Junior Common Room, then as a follow-up 2015 would definitely be described as the year that students relished these opportunities and took true ownership over their experiences here at Durham. We've had the pleasure of seeing the instigation and integration of several major changes to the Common Room; both in terms of the physical room itself, and in the nature of the body of students that it seeks to represent.

In January the final processes of the JCR-MCR Merger were realised; setting up what promises to be a more unified approach to student life at Grey in general. This takes the official Common Room student number up to 1000+ students, and has opened up JCR opportunities to Postgraduate students more so than ever, particularly in the wider access to the JCR and its facilities as an umbrella organisation to the MCR community.

February brought Barfest back to Grey, and with it a host of Ciders, Beers, Ales and more from beyond the confines of the 'Durham Bubble'. Hailed by many as 'the Best Barfest in recent years', the event was an extreme success due to wonderful management from David Jones as Bar Manager and the rest of his team. Ents included a variety of live music, a JCR-crafted photobooth, and an indoor bouncy castle to keep spirits up (in many ways) throughout the day and into the course of the evening!

Epiphany term also saw the annual return of President's Guest Night, this time held at the Hilton Hotel in Gateshead. JCR President Nick Klein took the opportunity to really make the event his own, combining the black-tie tone of the awards evening with an area to chill out and truly indulge in some Mario Kart. This



ABOVE: *Bethany Allen, JCR FACSO (Left), with Courtney Caton, JCR President (Right)*

year saw the Netball club pick up the coveted 'Sport of the Year' for their continual success in matches and positive club growth to five teams, in addition to the newly emerged Languages Society being awarded 'Society of the Year'. For their continual effort in carrying out the event that Grey is best known for and extremely proud of, the Fireworks Committee received the 'Committee of the Year' award, and Layla Batchellier was hailed as Grey's 'Unsung Hero' for her commitment and involvement with JCR activities across the board. In amongst the awarding of Colours and Commendations Alex Davies received the 'Excellence in Leadership' award for his sustained commitment as Captain to a host of sports at Grey, before those in attendance Ceilidh'd the night away and danced to Grey band Komodo.

Once again the Charity Fashion Show rolled out across an evening, this time to raise money for the United World Schools charity and the Teenage Cancer Trust. Epiphany was also a great sporting term for the JCR, with many of our teams successfully reaching the finals of both league and cup games.

After the hard work of exams the sun miraculously came out for Grey Day, which was also received as the best in recent years.

The 'Around the World' theme covered everything from challenging students to test their beachy surfboard skills, to playing UV table-tennis in the space-themed Old Library, and the JCR was out in force in the colourful array of Grey Day t-shirts. Once again we were treated to a day of incredible live music that featured acoustic sets from freshers and finalists alike, in addition to UkuGreyle, the DU Gospel Choir, and a host of bands from all over the hill, before student band The Quays headlined and got everyone in the mood for a post-Grey Day night in Jimmy's!

Days after saw the return of what is now the Annual George Palmer Rugby 7s tournament, in which teams of 7+ took each other on in games of touch rugby in an array of fancy dress to raise money in aid of the Samaritans. Defending champions 'Annie's Bells' reclaimed their trophy, and it remains to be seen in 2016 as to whether they can make it third-time lucky and take the triple...

And of course, Easter term would be nothing without the event of the year to look forward to. Phoenix Ball certainly did not disappoint, with this year's Chairs opting for an Arabian Nights theme for the evening. Once more held at Hardwick Hall, the Ball committee pulled off an incredible event from start to finish (for those of you viewing this online, please check out this fantastic video that captured the delights of the evening!), with ents including a snake, funfair rides, and the infamous silent disco on the lawn.

In amongst the traditions of the JCR, 2015 saw a multitude of opportunities for students to instigate real change and progress. A programme of bystander training was offered to student leaders within the College, reflecting a willingness to help improve anti-social behaviour and a concern for social regard within our JCR.

A committee led by the JCR President submitted a review of the JCR structure which looked at the practice of reporting and operating for all positions and committees. The review included changes to JCR positions and executive roles and was approved for implementation across 2015/2016, with the hope to result in a better line of reporting structures, representation, and efficiency across the board.

The Summer Holidays are usually a quiet time for the JCR, but this year, thanks to approval at the last JCR meeting of the academic year and a generous contribution from the College, we were able to commission and complete a £30,000 redevelopment which has breathed a new sense of life into the room itself. It has been received well from freshers and finalists alike, and recently graduated Alumni have returned with a sense of envy in being unable to enjoy the room as it exists now. In addition to what was previously hailed as the 'largest screen in all of the Durham Colleges', Grey JCR now proudly owns a 136" mounted project screen with inbuilt sound fitted into the ceiling, in addition to new ceiling lighting, AV, furniture, and a dedicated Television Room. The JCR this year is truly the social hub of the College, which would not have been possible without the efforts of Will Hockedy (Finance and Commercial Services Officer 2014-15) and Nick Klein (JCR President 2014-

BELOW: Grey Collee in the Snow, by Chris Mouncey, part of the College Collection



15). They also saw in the relocation of the Toastie Bar from Fountains Hall to the JCR in combination with the shop, a move which has only strengthened the commercial service and resulted in higher profits and better pay for the staff.

With the new academic year came new students, and the Fresher Helper team once again did an incredible job in welcoming in the new members of the Grey Army! Freshers themselves persevered throughout the week, most notably during the downpour of rain that hit as we took the matriculation photo, yet they boldly made it down to the Cathedral to become official members of the University. Later on in Michaelmas our Fireworks Display seemed to happen against all odds, however Guru Alex Curtis confidently led his team despite the lack of a Vice-Guru, and the threat of rain on the morning of the display. Nevertheless we saw the return of the crowds that come year-in-year out, and had the

pleasure of entertaining students, staff, and locals with an incredible display and time-travelling set-list.

Looking forward to the future of the JCR in 2016 there certainly are some obstacles to overcome; Accommodation Fees continue to be on the rise and present a real challenge to College accessibility as we currently know it. However, 2016 should see the launch of a new website that has been years in the making, and the Fountains Hall project continues to look extremely promising as a redeveloped facility. Whilst it must be a research year in assessing the effects of the Structure review and its approach to tackling anti-social behaviour and culture, 2016 should be a year for the JCR that ultimately finds itself more stable than ever, as we look forward to 2017 and the reassessment of our Charitable status and core values.

COURTNEY CATON

President, Junior Common Room



ABOVE Freshers Representatives get ready to welcome the next generation of Grey Student

ANNOUNCEMENT: Paulina Lubacz, our The University's Chief Operating Officer, is set to retire in April this year following a 40-year career in Higher Education. For the majority of her career Paulina has been part of Durham's senior management team as Deputy Treasurer, Treasurer and most recently COO. In addition to this Paulina has been the Chair of Grey College Council and a keen supporter of our SCR. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Paulina all the best in her retirement.

Durham rises 31 places in the world rankings

A NOTE TO ALL FROM STUART CORBRIDGE, VICE CHANCELLOR

I have some very good news about Durham's position in the QS World University Rankings: The University has risen from 92nd last year to 61st in the 2015-16 rankings.

This is our highest ever position in this influential league table of higher education establishments.

Durham's meteoric and highly unusual rise is largely due to a long overdue process of data normalisation by QS, which has corrected an imbalance that previously gave an unwarranted advantage to institutions with large science and medical research establishments.

It is interesting to note that Durham scores particularly highly (world rank 54) in terms of citations, a measure of how influential our research is amongst the global academic

community, and employer reputation (world rank 31), which is based on a survey of employer perception of graduates.

Durham's placement in the 2015-16 QS rankings is fully merited and reflects extremely well on all of the University's staff, whom I know have worked extremely hard to achieve this excellent result. This is a marvellous start to my tenure at Durham and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts.

Our strategic aim must be to further improve our position in the years to come, cementing Durham's position as one of the world's leading universities.

For further details of our performance in the QS World University Rankings, please [click here](#).

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My 24 Hour Row

TOM FOX ON A CRAZY, STUPID, AND DEMANDING BUT SO WORTH IT CROWD FUNDING EFFORT FOR GCBC

At precisely 9am on Saturday 10th October, I took my first stroke of many as I entered twenty four hours of rowing.

I set off with a marathon, supported by a growing crowd of Grey Colege Boat Club (GCBC) members (including my rowing coach from last year who came back especially). Our Club Captain took the first post as pacemaker - this lasted all of eight minutes before he became afflicted with boredom. Despite this, there was a good vibe in the hall - watching films and having people around made a huge difference. The first three hours flew by in a blink of an eye and I finished the marathon piece in 3h 13m 03s, just 37 seconds off my PB. I was so pumped with adrenaline I hardly felt tired!

Following the marathon, I planned to do a half-marathon, followed by repeated 10k pieces with increasing breaks between each one. The aim was to finish the 200km in 23 hours so I wouldn't have to be sprinting at the end -just in case I didn't make it!

Having trained by myself for the whole summer it was really motivational to be joined by eager members of GCBC, jumping on the erg next to me and rowing alongside me in support. Even if people weren't rowing, they still dropped by and I was greeted with "keep going" or "well done, keep it up!". And so it went on, erg after erg, smashing through 10km pieces, each one more encouraging than the last. As I was maintaining split times in the low 2:20s, I was way ahead of schedule. There was a point when we were seriously considering being able to try and beat the world record but I kept focus - I didn't want to tired myself out too early on. Between each 10km piece I was refuelling on bananas, Soreen and sugar snacks as well as drinking



ABOVE: Tom Fox: Oarsman Extraordinaire

plenty of water and Science in Sport's energy powders.

10 hours in I hit the crucial six-figure milestone of 100,000m (celebratory selfie was a necessity!). It was a fantastic feeling to get to halfway less than halfway through the time. Despite still feeling positive there was a feeling of uncertainty in the back of my mind - going beyond 100,000m was uncharted territory for me.

And so into the night I went. Just before midnight I met a fresher (now a rower in our IM3 VIII) who had decided to miss a college event to row alongside me. Only a true rower would decide to come and row 30km that early in the morning, and his dedication gave me great encouragement to make it through the night.

15 hours in, I had what I'll call a 'sense of humour failure'. My legs were aching and my stomach was feeling rough. The lowest point was having to endure the sounds of Bo Burnham (whom I never heard of before) that the Club Captain decided to put on. This massively tested my mental strength.

According to my support crew, I did not look happy.

The hours from 2am onwards were dark (both mentally and atmospherically) but it was made better by the arrival of some of the College Freps and their corridor. I powered through that 10km to a Taylor Swift playlist - it was special. I'd just hit 170,000 m; so close yet so far!

With three hours until the deadline, the final 10km before the big 200km arrived - dubbed, 'THE GLORY ERG'! This was one of the highlights of the entire row. With the length of Durham racecourse (750 m) left of the piece I started to pick up the pace. I sprinted the last 500m to one of my favourite songs: 'Can't Hold Us' by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. It was incredible - even now, I can hardly believe that after 200 km I could still do that! It was a special moment and there were congratulations and cheers all round.



ABOVE: 24 hours on an Ergo and a smile on his face

The feeling of beating my target was indescribable! I treated myself to a longer break than planned so I could row gently over the finish line. At 8:45 am I started my last piece of 15 minutes. The "Sounds of Klute" were back on and I only had one thing on my mind - to finish what I started. With the clock counting down, members of GCBC came along to cheer me over the finish line and this was my second highlight of the whole event. As the last 750m began I started picking it up, adrenaline surging through my body, and everyone was shouting and keeping me going. I physically gave it all I could - getting down at one point to a ridiculous 1:33 average 500m split. The last stroke took me to 209,330m - I finished off the 24 hours in style!

And so it was over. I could not have been happier! The journey that had begun so many months ago was finally done and I was so pleased - with over a million metres in between. I knew there was one and only one way to celebrate this achievement and that was to go to Sunday night Klute - despite the fact that I had only four hours sleep and at 7:30 pm could not physically move out of my bed! In the end, we didn't make it into the club but ended up getting a HUGE margarita pizza which I am pretty sure I must have set a new record for time taken to eat. I lost a ridiculous 5kg over the row, so it was pretty necessary.

Since then, everyone has asked, "What's next?" I am a highly ambitious, determined (and possible slightly crazy) person so I do always have the feeling of wanting to achieve something bigger and better. I have already started training for the next challenge in which Dave Drury and myself will be attempting to break the world record for the tandem 24 hour row in October 2016. See you there?

Post-Script (including many 'thank you's)

Over the past few months there have been so many people that have offered their support to help me achieve this goal; without them I simply would not have managed. Every sponsor, like, share, retweet and shout-out all helped me achieve this feat. It was fantastic to have so many members of GCBC come along throughout the day to come and see me and offer their support. It makes me feel proud to belong to such a community.

There are so many people I wish to thank for their support but there are a few who I must give an extra special mention to. Firstly, a massive shout out to Ellen Lockstone, Lizzie Powell and David Drury who stayed and rowed alongside me nearly all day and all through the night (Dave rowed 70km and Ellen 62km

fuelled only on beer from the night before - arguably a more impressive achievement) as well as Isla Mackenzie, who isn't even part of GCBC, yet stayed all night to encourage me along. Secondly, I am very grateful for the help from two Grey Alumni, Michael Cannon and Nathan Young whom gave excellent advice in promoting the challenge, Thirdly, to my friend, turned editor, Lucy Coates for helping me making sure all my posts and letters sounded amazing. Last but not least, to my parents who from start to finish had 100% belief in me that I was going to complete it and helped me all the way in between.

We raised an incredible £7000 toward a new men's eight boat. The search for the perfect boat is now on!



ABOVE: Tom Fox accompanied by his team following completion of the 24 hour Rowing Challenge

Business Angels

STEVE GREGORY - YOUR COLLEGE NEEDS YOU

We had another good year in 2015, with numbers continuing to rise steadily (approaching 540 now) and current students continuing to use the scheme regularly. We have continued to be approached by other universities for information about the scheme, including a request from Australia.

Thanks are again due to Richard Hilton for continuing to take care of the technical stuff which keeps the system running, and to the JCR's Career's Reps (Felicity Liu and Harry Hayllar) for ensuring that our JCR 'customers' are aware of this brilliant resource and are encouraged to make the most of the practical and up-to-date advice available.

Led by Andy Sparrow, Alumni continue to organise and present other Careers events in College, including the annual Careers Workshop and the mock Assessment Centre which help give Grey students to get that extra edge over the competition when it comes to the real job search. Offers of work experience, internships or summer placements are also much sought-after, so please get in touch with Steve or the Vice - Master (g.p.swift@durham.ac.uk) if you can help in this way.

If you are an Angel, can I offer thanks again for your support, and ask you to PLEASE have a look at your profile and let Steve Gregory know of any changes which need to be made, especially to your Company, job title/position and e-mail details. Recently, I have been considering extending the scope of the scheme so that Alumni could also use it for their own career progression and I'd like to know if you think that is appropriate and/or needed.

Also during 2015, the University has launched a computer platform to support careers mentoring for all Colleges; it was tested last summer and roll-out is being planned. We will keep you posted on that and any other developments.

For questions, to become an Angel if we've not caught up with you so far or to update your details more details, please contact me via e-mail at stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk

STEVE GREGORY
Association Secretary





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

Grey Award Report – Chapel Choir tour to Rome

JAMES QUITTMAN REPORTS ON HIS EUROPEAN ESCAPADES PART FUNDED BY GREY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION



ABOVE: James Quitmann (Right) with the St John' College Chapel Choir (Left)

It is with tremendous gratitude to the Grey College Association that I write this article, as everything that follows would not have been possible without their financial support - thank you so much.

My name is James Quitmann and I am a third year Geography student at Grey College. I am heavily involved in the music scene in Durham, singing with Durham University Chamber Choir and Durham Opera Ensemble, in addition

to holding a choral scholarship in St John's College Chapel Choir. It is with this choir that I went on tour to Rome in July, thanks to the generous support of the Grey College Association. In this article I will endeavour to share some of my experiences whilst on tour in Rome, from the unforgettable memory of singing a solo in the Vatican, to the joys of wearing all-black on stage in 40 degree heat!

On 13th July 2015, the choir met at Stanstead airport to travel to Rome, marking the start of our seven day tour. The tour was to include two concerts and three masses in a selection of the city's magnificent churches and Basilicas, in addition to plenty of sight-seeing. As soon as we stepped off the plane, we quickly realized that we would not need any of the trousers or jumpers packed – Rome was experiencing a heat wave where temperatures ranged from 38-42°C every day that we were there!

Rehearsals took place from 10:30-12:30 every day in the American church 'St Paul's Within the Walls'. This was usually followed by an afternoon of sight-seeing, before either a concert or mass on most evenings. Our first performance took place in the evening of the first full day – we sang mass in the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore, a beautiful building which is the largest Catholic Marian church in Rome. It was a very special experience singing in such an amazing place, despite the fact that most of the choir, including myself, didn't understand a word of what was going on!

Our first concert followed on the evening of the second day, in San Clemente church. Repertoire included Rheinberger's 'Abendlied' and 'Loquebantur Variis Linguis' by Tallis. It

was a serious challenge to sing demanding repertoire in 40 degree heat, however we managed to get through each of our performances without a single person fainting – an achievement in itself! The evening was spent sampling some of Rome's many bars – a well-deserved break after such a physically and mentally demanding concert.

The third day was, for me, the most memorable. It was then that we were given the unbelievable opportunity to sing mass in the Basilica di San Pietro, in the Vatican. I have never been to Rome before, and so stepping into San Pietro for the first time was breathtaking – not only is it one of the largest churches in the world, but it contains some of the most impressive (and largest) paintings that I have ever seen. This experience was made even more special for me by the conductor of the choir, Dr Alasdair Jamieson, asking me to be the Cantor for the plainchant that we would be singing, as a solo. Although the pressure of soloing in the Vatican was absolutely terrifying, I managed to sing the part without a mistake, and it is an experience that I will never forget.

Our second concert took place in the stunning Sant'Andrea church on the fourth day. Repertoire was the same as our previous concert, and thankfully the huge size of Sant'Andrea meant that it was much cooler – and so much more pleasant to sing in! The tour was organised superbly by Grey College student Anna Jackson, including an impressive publicity campaign, resulting in large audiences for the majority of our performances. This made the singing even more enjoyable, and we received a warm reception from all of our audiences.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Grey College JCR is looking for a new Alumni Trustee. As you know, Grey College JCR is now an independent charity and as such is governed by a board of trustees comprised of JCR members, Alumni and independents. If you would be interested in volunteering as a Trustee and becoming part of this ground-breaking organisation please contact [George Whalley](#), Chair of Trustees, who will be able to provide you with more information

On the fifth day we were given a much-needed day off from singing. We took full advantage of this by visiting the Colosseum and Roman Forum, followed by dinner near the Trevi Fountain. The history and ancient buildings of Rome were something that I had only seen in history books, so seeing them in person was amazing.

The final performance of the tour was singing mass in the American church that we had been rehearsing in all week - 'St Paul's Within the Walls'. It was a welcome change to be able to understand what was being said, as it made following the order of service (and thus knowing when to sing) much easier! Plenty of

tears flowed following this performance, as for many of the third year students it was the last time that they would sing with the St John's College Chapel Choir – an emotional realization when you have been involved with such a special ensemble for as many as three years.

Although I was sad to leave Rome the next day, I had an absolutely incredible time and I will never forget some of those experiences – particularly singing in the Vatican. I am so grateful to the Grey College Association for making this tour possible for me - thank you so much.

JAMES QUITMAN

Grey Award Report – Summer Teaching Internship

JESS HUNT REPORTS ON HER EXPERIENCE WITH THE OGDEN TRUST

There aren't enough graduates from Russell Group universities that go on to teach at secondary level (Department for Education, 2010), particularly in physics. Without enthusiastic physics teachers with subject-specific knowledge we can't expect students, particularly girls, to choose to study physics post-16. Across all schools with girls in the UK, a massive 46% sent no girls on to complete A-Level physics in 2011 (Institute of Physics, 2012). This highlights the desperate need for good physics teachers to share a passion for their subject with secondary level students (particularly girls) in order to regain physicists in our society. I would love to teach physics upon graduating and the Grey Association Award enabled me to gain work experience by covering my travel and accommodation expenses for an internship organised through The Ogden Trust (a physics trust).

In the internship I worked as a teaching assistant at Parkside Academy, Willington. Throughout the 3.5 weeks I observed many

lessons (predominantly in science), had the opportunity to teach 5 curriculum lessons that I had planned myself, delivered a workshop on careers in physics to 60 students and helped out with special school events such as Inspire Day and a continued

BELOW: Demonstration on the subject how light travels and the differences in various materials



professional development session on forces for primary school teachers. Having volunteered as a teaching assistant through Durham University's Student Community Action, I already knew a little bit about teaching and was keen to get involved quickly. On my third

day, I already planned, resourced and delivered a lesson to a year 8 class. The topic was how light travels and the differences between opaque / translucent / transparent material. With the help of some thought-provoking demonstrations such as this one on the right, I managed to keep everyone's attention and (for the majority of the time!) the students were keen to get involved with the lesson.

For my careers workshop, I was happy with



ABOVE: *Running a careers workshop in careers with Physics Students*

how student-led the activities and discussions were; I only spoke for about 15% of the workshop in between activities. The students

were sat around tables in groups of 5 with large poster paper and marker pens. Activities included naming famous scientists, putting careers in order of salary, listing physics careers and listing reasons for and against going to university. In general, I worked backwards and started with careers, then discussed university and finally mentioned post-16 education and subject choices. It was interesting to see a big show of hands when asked if anyone had considered going to university. I had been told in the previous two weeks that the students generally aren't interested in university and have low aspirations but I was glad to have demonstrated to the staff that they do actually aspire to reach further education.

Overall, my placement was very enjoyable and I learned a lot from the experience. It has confirmed for me that I would love to enter a career in teaching science and possibly maths too once I finish my undergraduate degree at Durham University. Thanks to the Grey College Association for making this possible.

JESS HUNT

Association AGM

The AGM of Grey College Association will be held on Saturday 16 April 2016 at 4pm in The Pennington Room at Grey College.

Notice of forthcoming election - Association President

The term of the current President will conclude at the 2016 AGM. The Secretary would like to hear from any Association member who is interested in standing for election. Duties include:

- ❖ Represent the Association and support the Master of the College
- ❖ Organise the Annual Durham Reunion
- ❖ Edit Grey Matters Magazine
- ❖ Chair the Annual General Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting
- ❖ Work with the Association Executive to co-ordinate a rounded and engaging programme of events for all members

Grey Award Report – The office of Economic Affairs

JOSHUA RANDS REPORTS ON HIS INTERNSHIP AT THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The five weeks I spent at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in London as part of their summer internship programme were a fantastic experience and were invaluable to me as an undergraduate student of economics. The IEA is a charity funded, politically independent, free-market, think-tank that was founded in 1955 with a strong educational focus. On our first day the institute's aims were described to us as a desire to 'move the Overton window'; to use research publications and events to shift the public opinion on various topical issues. The internship itself was split into a number of areas, but the main focus of our programme was to research and produce a 5000 word project of our choice, supervised by an assigned member of the staff at the IEA. The title for my project was 'UK Renewable Energy Policy; brilliant or just embarrassing?' and was an exploration into and evaluation of the domestic policy, with a clear focus on greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy markets. It is an area that really interests me as a student and I enjoyed researching and writing the report.

The rest of the time at the IEA was spent attending talks which ranged from an enthusiastic presentation on free speech to a stark talk on the gender pay gap by Kate Andrews of the Adam Smith Institute, with my favourite talk being one on the hidden fossil fuel subsidies given by Radek Stefanski from the University of St. Andrews. These were all incredibly interesting and gave an enormous range of views and ideas over the five week period. Furthermore as interns we were required to complete weekly readings which were discussed in seminars, as



ABOVE: Joshua with the other interns

well as preparing and performing debates on topics assigned to us which required a number of us to portray the side of an argument that we may not necessarily agree with. On the first weekend of the programme the interns also attended the IEA's very own conference called 'Think', which consisted of two days of talks and panel based discussions covering a wide range of topics including the economics of prison gangs as well as the sharing economy, presented by speakers from all over the world.

Finally there was of course the social side of the programme; there were 25 interns in total and I made a number of friends during the internship. As well as the events put on by the IEA itself, we also organised five-a-side football after work as well as of course making numerous trips to the local pub! Ultimately I can honestly say that the whole experience was truly fantastic, it allowed me to discover and explore the areas of economics that interest me most as well as really helping me to develop my career interests. Therefore I would like to finish by saying thank you for supporting me through this internship, the money allowed me to enjoy the programme and certainly gain the most out of the experience.



ABOVE AND BELOW: Naomi Tansey took these shots of Grey College during January 2015. Spectacular at any time of the year, the view of Durham Cathedral through the College from Hollingside lane is always one to enjoy. Naomi kindly lets The Association reproduce these images.

