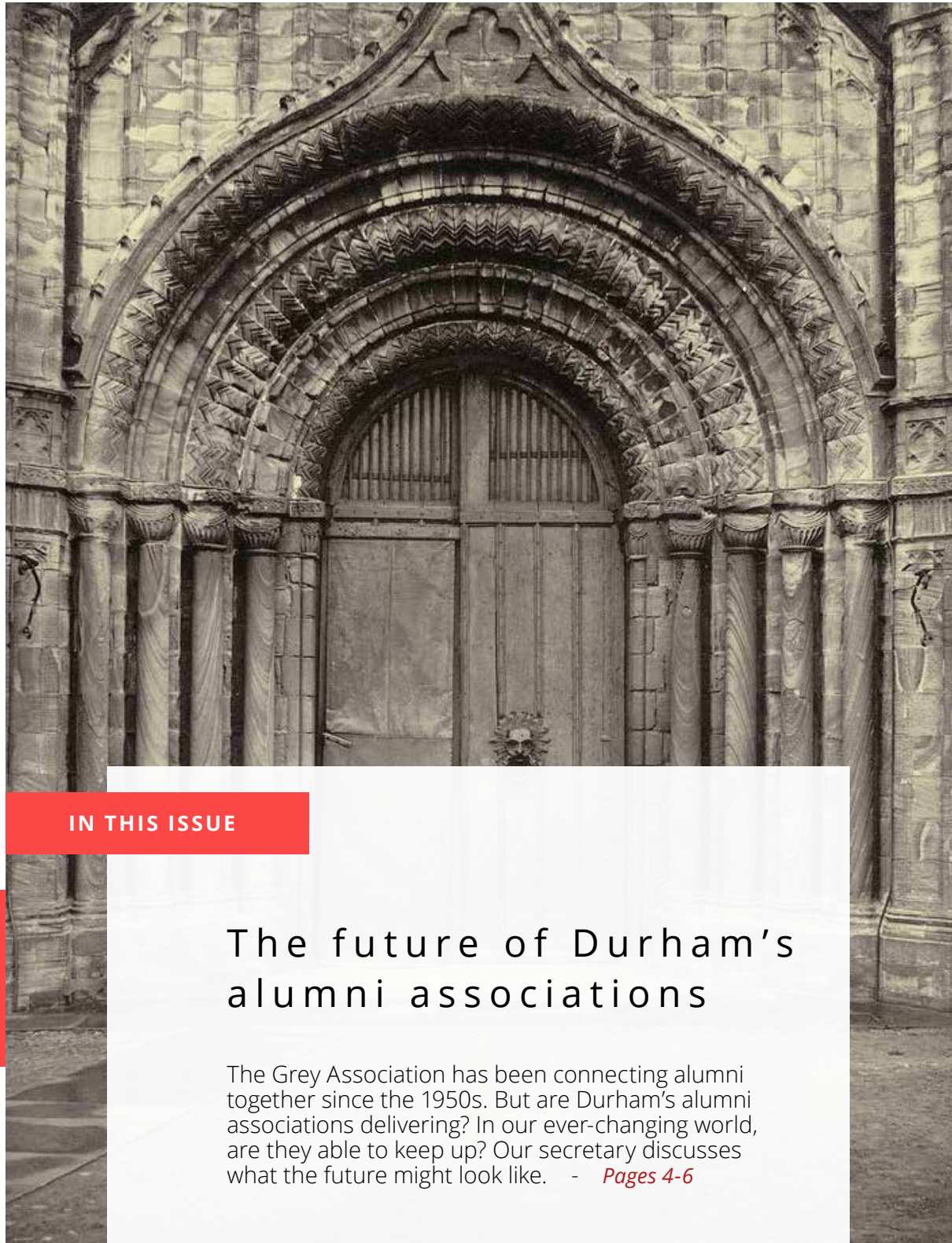


GREY MATTERS

THE GREY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

'GREY MATTERS' - ISSUE 12 - FEBRUARY 2017



IN THIS ISSUE

The future of Durham's alumni associations

The Grey Association has been connecting alumni together since the 1950s. But are Durham's alumni associations delivering? In our ever-changing world, are they able to keep up? Our secretary discusses what the future might look like. - *Pages 4-6*

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Share your news



Grey Matters is your magazine, and we want to hear your news! If you have any special memories you'd like to share, any pictures, or any other news (births, marriages, retirements, passings) then please contact the Association Secretary.

All contributions to: stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk

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Find out what's happening - page 30

▼ **CONTACT THE SECRETARY**
Email stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk

Steve Gregory

Secretary's Note

WHAT A CHALLENGE this past year has been; across the globe there has been turmoil and unknown territory with the Brexit decision and the election of President Trump as leader of the Free World. Closer to home, the Grey Association has had its own challenges – not least that we've been without a President since Tom Cliff stood down from the post in April 2016 after 6 years.

Tom did a tremendous job in following Henry Dyson and bringing the Association together; his presence has been greatly missed. The remaining Exec members have been working hard to keep things going, and we are incredibly grateful to the staff and College Officers whom have supported us these past ten months.

In last year's issue, Tom wrote of his concerns about the future of the college system in Durham. This year we've seen a number of changes

that may impact this; a new Pro-Vice Chancellor has been appointed to oversee this side of the University's plans, in a reassuring step that seems to confirm the value still assigned to our Colleges by the powers that be. The Master's report, also in this issue, delves into this a little more.

Interestingly, the University have made the decision to close the Stockton campus in the next couple of years, with plans to move John Snow and Stephenson colleges to Durham City and relocating the academic facilities. This, along with the announcement that significant increases in student numbers have led the University to plan the building of a brand new college, also give me reason to hope that our college heritage is not being ditched as soon as some feared.

It is worth noting that in April, the Vice Chancellor will be meeting

representatives of the independent colleges' alumni associations, to discuss the role of such communities and their relevance in the twenty-first century. I would be particularly grateful to have your thoughts on this matter since this is, to my knowledge, the first time that such a meeting will have taken place in at least 12 years.

Those of you who attended the AGM in April 2016 may recall that there was a serious discussion about the role of current students in the affairs of Grey Association. All first-year students are asked to pay life membership fees, currently at £55, during their first weeks in college. Previously, students were prevented from attending the AGM or running for elected positions within the Association until after graduation. We agreed to amend the constitution to accept students as members with full voting rights as soon as they have paid membership fees, but with the caveat that only Grey College graduates may be elected as President or Treasurer.

At this year's AGM, on April 1st, we shall have to consider how best to ensure the relevance of Association membership to current students. It was a cause of some considerable concern when we discovered that 27% of the 2016/2017 intake had opted out of paying Association membership fees, and therefore opting out of membership. The JCR President has offered to help us to understand why the number of individuals opting out has suddenly increased from a handful in each of the last few years, to a significant minority.

But things are not all doom and gloom; Grey continues to flourish with new projects like the launch of the College's own crowdfunding platform and the refurbishment of Fountains Hall with better facilities for music, the arts and theatre, the students maintain the old tradition of "getting involved" in many parts of the life of Grey, the University and the local community. Durham is still, by far, one of the most magnetic and memorable cities in the UK and

▶ CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Secretary's Note

(continued)

I hope you are able to join us for the AGM to revisit the college and hear about our plans for 2017. You are very warmly invited to get involved with Association activities and to also get in touch with any stories or updates – we would love to hear what you've been up to. I'm certain I speak for all members of the Exec when I say how much I anticipate hearing from you soon, and look forward to meeting many of you again at the AGM this year.

STEVE GREGORY
[ASSOCIATION SECRETARY]

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THE ANNUAL REUNION
IN DURHAM, AND THE
ASSOCIATION AGM

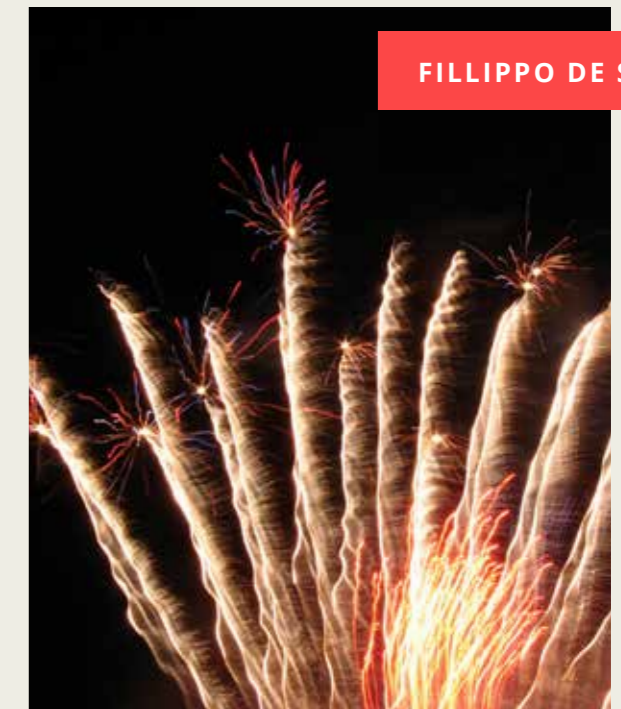


A BEAUTIFUL SKY

This stunning picture of the sun setting over Grey was taken by [@yarnstew](#) and shared on Instagram - we love all the colours!

GREY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Picture perfect



THE GREY COLLEGE FIREWORKS

We stumbled upon a series of wonderful photos by [Filippo De Santis](#) on Flickr, showing the fireworks in their full glory. RIP.

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THE MASTER'S VIEW
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Alan Martin

SCR News

WE HAVE HAD another lively year. As usual the Guest Nights have been enjoyable and popular, sometimes shared with the MCR and post-graduates. We had three during the year, March, June and November, and were delighted to have a variety of guests from both inside and outside the University.

The Sunday talks and musical events after an informal high table lunch have continued to be informative and are well received. Two of these events were musical of truly exceptional standard. In February the world famous organist, Dame Gillian Weir, presented excerpts from her acclaimed 1988 BBC series "The King of Instruments" in which she played and talked about six of the finest Organs in the world. Another spell-binding and well attended event, shared with the SCR of van Mildert College, was a fantastic performance of Scheherazade by Rimsky-Korsakov and scenes from

Stravinsky's Petroushka played by duet pianists Antonina Lax and Alla Levit. We are fortunate to have Gillian and Antonina as enthusiastic members of our SCR.

We arranged two outings this year. The first was to Wallington Hall where we were looked after by the curator, Lloyd Langley, another member of our SCR. We took our croquet set and were allowed to play (in the rain unfortunately) on one of the lawns. Another very enjoyable visit was to John and Rosie Aston's home in Romaldkirk.

Other events occurring in the College are regular "Games Evenings" and a croquet match versus the MCR. I am pleased to report that the SCR easily won. Then we had the famous fireworks display, which was preceded by a party in the Master's house for families with young children.

The SCR, through the Grey College

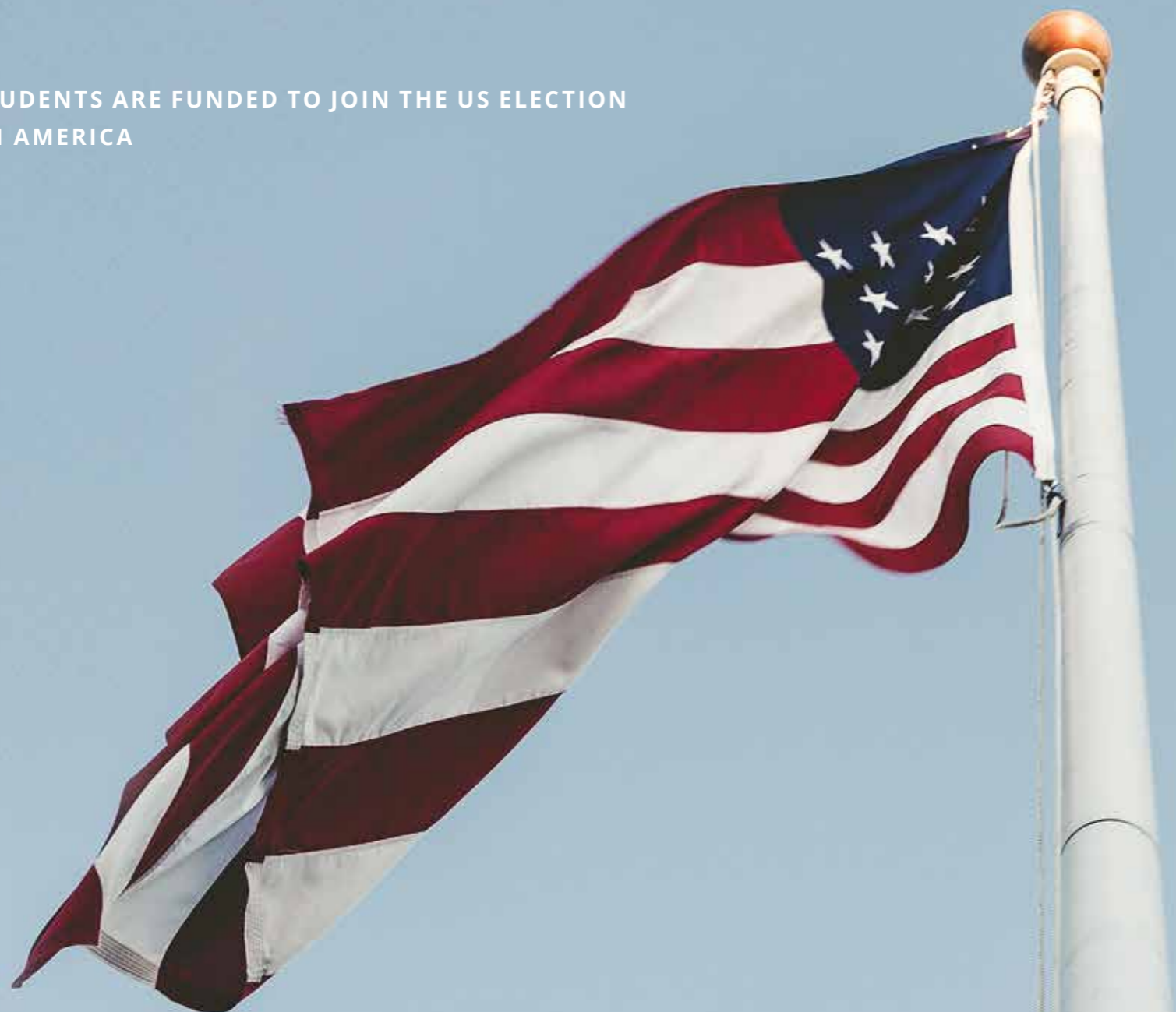
Trust, continues to provide funds to enable postgraduate students to participate in scholarly activities.

It goes without saying that the lively SCR community would welcome members of the Grey Association to join us. 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 Membership Secretary (treasurer@greyscr.co.uk).

ALAN MARTIN
[PRESIDENT: SCR]

CAMPAIGNING FOR CLINTON

TWO GREY STUDENTS ARE FUNDED TO JOIN THE US ELECTION
CAMPAIGN IN AMERICA



U.S. election 'war rooms'; watching Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton debate; canvassing for a former television star. Two students tell us about their experiences working on both sides of the campaign, thanks to Grey Association funding.

JACK HODGES: Thanks to the generous funds provided by the Grey College Association, I was able to travel to Florida to participate in the Clinton 2016 Campaign. While, evidently, the campaign didn't go completely to plan, it was an extraordinary experience and one that I am incredibly grateful to have been part of.

Under the Florida Democrats, the campaign opened up thirty-three offices across the swing state, with the goal of increasing voter registration. I was placed in Fort Myers as a Field Organizer. During the day, I moved through my assigned areas, attempting to register potential voters who were passing by. From 5PM, we would call democrat voters, attempting to recruit volunteers. It was then my job

▶ CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



▲ SOME BEHIND-THE-SCENES PICTURES FROM THE CAMPAIGN. HERE, THE TEAM ARE SETTING UP A NEW OFFICE

to train and schedule those that volunteered.

The work was demanding. I'm glad I was there for a short period only, as we worked seven days a week, fourteen hours a day. I'm impressed the others were able to sustain that from July through 'til November.

Undeniably, these demanding conditions did develop me professionally. My job required me to become confident and efficient. I developed my persuading skills, and with quotas of over 250 calls to make in four hours, I also became more effective. I learned a great deal about American everyday life

and culture. Looking at this country from the position of a worker rather than a tourist was enlightening.

The campaign was not particularly well organized, and the managers of the project were rather unprofessional. I believe another skill I developed from this experience was the ability to manage workplace relations, which were often drawn threadbare thin by the conditions. It gave me insight into how leaders should incentivise teams.

Trump may have taken Florida and the White House, but if there was one silver lining it was the lessons

I took from my trip. I am incredibly grateful for the Association allowing me to do this.

▼ STUDENT JACK HODGES CAPTURES THIS GORGEOUS SUNSET OVER FORT MYERS DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN FLORIDA



▲ THE WIFE OF CLINTON'S RUNNING MATE DRAWS A CROWD

Report: U.S. Election

(continued)

LIAM GILL: Thanks to the Grey College Association I had the opportunity to visit the US during their primary election season and work with the campaigns. Getting a behind-the-scenes look at the campaigns was a unique experience, which has helped in my study of the law.

The 2016 United States Presidential election has been an internationally observed event heavily influencing markets, politics and businesses across the globe. I visited the United States during the election season and was in the state of Ohio when its primary election ballots were cast.

While the polarizing election has grasped the attention of many students at Durham and throughout the UK many of us have been quick to judge supporters of both major political parties due to their extremist policies and questionable

behaviours. Being in the United States allowed me not only to learn more about the US political process and candidates but also about the people and their opinions of their candidates.

After a few days in the Columbus, Ohio it was quickly apparent that most citizens did not support any of the candidates (this being even when 9 candidates remained in total). Instead it appeared that individual voters were being driven to the polls in record numbers not to support a saviour but to combat an enemy. Unlike the 2008 election, which saw a man campaign on a promise of hope, this election saw campaigns run on fear, hatred and bigotry.

It was satisfying to see that the views of the candidates, which are so feared in the UK, did not truly represent the people of the United States. However it was troubling to

think that hundreds of millions of people were likely to be represented by someone who did not have the same values, integrity and policies which they favoured.

While the political views and opinions of the people are what I truly took from the trip, I had a tremendous time being involved in the campaigns. I had the opportunity to be in the war room for John Kasich's campaign during a republican primary debate. In the 'war room' Kasich's main advisors tracked social media reactions to the statements by their candidate and his competition hoping to gain insight into which topics and phrases voters related to. When the candidate made mistakes in the debate (for example when stating facts) his campaign was quick to publish corrections on his twitter during the debate to make sure his mistake would not detract from

his overall message. I also had the opportunity to canvas door to door, encouraging voters to cast their ballots and make their opinions heard as well as making calls for the Kasich campaign. Finally one of the highlights of the trip was the opportunity to attend live rallies for the candidates. Hearing Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, John Kasich and Donald Trump speak in person was an unforgettable experience. The different types of people and attitudes at each of these campaigns made clear the demographic to which each candidate resonated.

Overall, my trip to Ohio was an educational and unforgettable experience and it is my hope that I can use the information and experience gained to continue to contextualize my studies and debates while at university and beyond.

£600

JACK HODGES

Jack was awarded £600 by the Association to fund his trip.

£500

LIAM GILL

Liam received £500 from the Association, and was awarded a Trust bursary.

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David Jones

JCR News

2016 HAS BEEN a year of change for the Junior Common Room. We were sad to see George Whalley, the chair of our trustee board, step down from the JCR trust. His efforts to help create our charitable status were infallible and the job of FACSO flourished with his aid. He is replaced as chair by current trustee Edward Brunner, with our new trustee being alumnus Geoffrey Simpson.

Our events showed the best Grey has to offer, with BarFest and the President's Guest Night taking place in the Epiphany term. BarFest 2016 was the Bar Committee's opportunity to delight our taste buds with a variety of ales, ciders and cocktails, alongside live music and activities. President's Guest Night was JCR President Courtney Caton's time to shine, and she did so with aplomb. Using the occasion to reward those students who make life in Grey so wonderful, colours

and half colours were awarded to the most deserving members in all student groups. Special awards were presented to Women's Hockey, Charities Committee and Darts for exceeding expectations under their current leaders. Courtney created a new prize, "Team of the Year" and awarded it to Men's Badminton A Team for 3 years unbeaten in the top league (amounting to over 35 wins in a row). Our two individual awards were highly coveted. "Excellence in leadership" was awarded to ex-vice-president Edward Preece for his involvement in so many different aspects of college life, not least his coaching of the Women's football team. Our "Unsung Hero" was Isobel Britton for her example as Teikyo rep, excelling at including members of Teikyo into our college.

We have a series of challenges facing the JCR next year, the greatest of which is the threat of a large road bisecting the college

between Hollingside and Holgate blocks. Although the university master plan is exciting, there are parts that the JCR does not support. We will be looking at alternatives for such a road or at least methods in which we can minimise the impact on students. We also have our Charity/DSO referendum approaching in 2017 but hopefully this will run as smoothly as it has in the past.

The future of the JCR is looking exciting. With a new JCR website and the Fountains Hall renovation set to be complete by the end of 2017, there are plenty of things to watch out for. I look forward to seeing the JCR continue to grow and thrive thanks to the wonderful voluntary efforts of Grey students without whom the JCR experience would be very different.

DAVID JONES
[PRESIDENT: JCR]

DETECTING SUCCESS

STUDENT LUCY MOORE FINDS SUCCESS WITH HER FINAL
YEAR PROJECT

In her own words, Lucy Moore tells us how she spent her Association bursary of £50 and reflects on her degree, in a frankness we can all appreciate.

LUCY MOORE: Every finalist's nightmare (or dream, in some cases) is the gargantuan project otherwise known as the dissertation. This two module project represents a third of your final year mark, and considering third year is worth 60% of your total degree (19.8% of the total, to be exact), it's a pretty hefty essay.

Right about now you're probably wondering what my topic was. The stereotypical title that comes to mind when considering a dissertation title is usually niche and uninteresting to the average reader. Projects such as '*Structure-Function Studies of the AIP-Surviving Complex*' and '*Predicting Range*

of Motion and Joint Posture: Subchondral Apparent Density in the Sheep Hind Limb' are obviously not everyone's cup of tea. To narrow it down slightly, I am an Archaeology student. Usually when I explain this, the following questions tend to quickly follow:

'Do you like digging?'

'Do you like dirt?'

'Wasn't that a waste of £30,000 of student debt?'

The answers, in case you were curious, are: no, no, no.

Although my degree tends to bring to mind images of Time Team scampering across the countryside, I am more than happy to inform you that it consists of more than old men waving trowels around (mostly). This is happily encapsulated in my dissertation title, '*Metal Detecting Law in an International Context*'.

▶ CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



▲ ATTENDEES OF THE CONFERENCE. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: FRANCE, BULGARIA, SPAIN, POLAND, THE UK (LUCY MOORE WEARS BLUE), IRELAND, THE PAS, AND MINELABE

Admittedly, this remains firmly in the category labelled 'Not Everyone's Cup of Tea'. However, it does break free of the Time Team shaped box that most people place archaeology in. In a nutshell, my dissertation compares international law from across Europe that has the potential to affect metal detecting. Without going into too much depth, this included law from over thirteen countries in Europe and more codes, statutes, laws, and judicial precedent to even comment on.

However, the issues with my topic were that:

- I had never even touched on the subject at university,
- it was a mammoth task, and
- I don't speak Spanish, French, Finnish, etc.

It was clear that I needed some extra help. So, I got in contact with the National Council for Metal Detecting (in the UK). They have an active website and a huge number of members whose experience I could draw on. As a result of my enquiries I was invited to the NCMD's 'European Council for Metal Detecting' conference, where representatives from several

£50

LUCY MOORE

Lucy was awarded £50 by the Association to attend the NCMD conference.

European countries would be in attendance.

The conference itself was a resounding success. Over the two days I was able to interview Michael Lewis (head of the Portable Antiquities Scheme), Alistair Hackney (Chair of the NCMD), along with representatives from Minelab (a metal detector manufacturer) and delegates from the attending countries.

I myself would argue that without the opportunity to attend this conference, my dissertation may never have materialized. The access to this personal type of information, as well as interaction with those who had direct experience of metal detecting activities in other countries is simply not available online or in any library.

I was able to attend the conference only due to the Grey Association Fund. Had the financial aid that enabled me to travel not been available, it is highly likely that I would not have been able to participate in the conference. I do not feel I am able to stress enough the significance of the Fund, or my gratitude for being awarded it. It is an incredibly meaningful cause to support, as those students at Grey who are unable to further their academic study because of a lack funds are given the opportunity to do so.

Hence, I conclude that anyone who wishes to get involved with this cause should do so in whatever capacity they see fit. It saved one third year's degree: why not another's?

LONDON CALLING

LAST YEAR'S LONDON reunion took place on Friday 23rd September 2016 at Champagne Charlies, under the Charing Cross Railway arches.

Champagne Charlies was tucked away between Embankment and Charing Cross in the arches between the stations. The Grey Association hired a room at the back of the bar for everyone to relax and

chat in.

It all sounds very posh, but Champagne Charlies was a pub rather than a champagne bar (although they did have plenty of champagne on hand!) and the evening was a fun informal event. It was great to see so many people drop in over the course of the evening and chat about their time at Durham.

The event was generously organised by Dave Baldwin who deserves more than a glass of bubbly for putting it all together for us. There'll be another London reunion later on this year, so keep your eyes peeled and your ears open for the sound of corks popping.

▼
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Books: Sacristy Press presents

Sacred Ibis: the adventures of an ornithological Indiana Jones

WHEN YOU THINK of ornithologists you don't necessarily think of explorers and adventures. That is, unless you know about Henry Baker Tristram. You can think of Tristram as a bird-watching Indiana Jones. Born in 1822 he undertook expeditions to the Sahara and Palestine at a time when doing so was even more fraught with danger than it is today. He had a beard that was so wild he required special permission for it from his bishop.

As well as an adventurer, Tristram was a collector. He acquired collections of specimens running into the tens of thousands. Primarily these were of birds, but also of plants, fish, mammals, insects, molluscs, geological samples and archaeological material. He was the first scientist to support Charles Darwin in print, at a time when Darwin's views were scandalous. In 1868 he became a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was also a

founding member of the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), and contributed regularly to its journal, *Ibis*. His contribution to ornithology was so great that he earned the nickname "Sacred Ibis" and had not one but five birds named after him: Tristram's Starling, Tristram's Warbler, Tristram's Woodpecker, Tristram's Serin and Tristram's Storm-Petrel.

Written by Bill Hale (Zoology, 1959), alumnus of Grey College, *Sacred Ibis* follows Tristram's epic adventures and love for birds; from his boyhood on the moors of Northumberland to his time as a Residentiary Canon of Durham Cathedral. Along the way we meet the people that influenced him. As a fresher in Oxford he met Gladstone whom he disliked. Later Disraeli offered Tristram the position of Bishop of Jerusalem. Tristram declined. The book also features over 80 colour plates and a reproduction of Darwin's first letter

to Tristram.

Professor Hale graduated with a degree in Zoology from Grey College in 1959, followed by a PhD in 1962 and a DSc in 1985. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, a Chartered Biologist, and an Honorary Fellow of Grey College. He has served on committees of the Natural Environment Research Council, the Council for National Academic Awards, and as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Wildfowl Trust. Hale has published widely in the fields of entomology and ornithology, and recently on antiquarian bird books. He is author of several books, including the *New Naturalist* No. 65, *Waders* and the *Collins/Smithsonian Dictionary of Biology*.

'SACRED IBIS: THE ORNITHOLOGY OF CANON HENRY BAKER TRISTRAM, DD. FRS' BY W. G. HALE IS AVAILABLE TO BUY ONLINE FROM SACRISTY.CO.UK

About

2011

THE YEAR SACRISTY PRESS WAS FOUNDED, BY TWO DURHAM ALUMNI (ONE FROM GREY COLLEGE)

SACRISTY PRESS IS BASED IN DURHAM, PUBLISHING HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND HISTORICAL FICTION.

£55

SACRED IBIS IS PRICED AT £55 AND IS AVAILABLE TO ORDER ONLINE FROM THE PUBLISHER.

£10

EVERY COPY SOLD VIA THE PUBLISHER'S WEBSITE WILL GENERATE A £10 DONATION TO THE GREY COLLEGE TRUST.

CHARLES BOSS remembers his time as one of

The Three Musketeers of Grey College

AS TOLD TO STEVE GREGORY

Skinny dipping, angering Head Porter Ford, and taunting Sid Holgate: we were thrilled to hear about the crazy adventures of John Pottier, Tim Allen and Charles Boss during their time at Grey in the '60s.

CHARLES, TIM AND JOHN were at Grey College from 1963-66. Well, they were there for most of the time. They left the country for 24 hours every year, just to make sure they broke the matriculation rule. On their international jaunts they'd send dear old Sid Holgate (the Master at the time) a cheeky postcard: "Wish you were here..." they'd say, with a snapshot of somewhere decidedly outside of the UK.

The three of them had adventures that would make Just William proud. On one occasion they decided to go skinny dipping at Seaton Sluice. They piled all of their clothes at

the edge of the sluice and jumped in. After splashing around they returned to the edge to find their trousers, pants and shirts stolen. All that remained was John's copy of The Times. They crept back into college with the personal ads section strategically placed so as not to offend the lady "bedders".

Their foe at the time was Ford, the rabid anti-communist Head Porter. In his desire for order, Ford riveted the kettles and toasters down to the worktops with chains to prevent them being stolen – or even moved out of alignment. Ford was on a mission to stop the Grey men and honouree Grey women (for this was before women were admitted to Grey) from sneaking in and out of the college after the 10 PM curfew. Ford even went so far as to have the downstairs windows riveted shut. Yet, as fast as he could rivet windows, John, Tim and Charles would drill them out. Eventually,

Ford left, in a fit of anti-Communist outrage when the Russian Football World Cup tea was housed at Grey College.

"Ford riveted the kettles and toasters down to the worktops with chains to prevent them being stolen"

Even with Ford gone, the 10 PM curfew continued and each night there would be a scurry of women leaving Grey around 9:40 PM to go back to Mary's. Of course, often they weren't alone. Charles recalls the single fixed handset at the end of his corridor in Oswald ringing off the hook. "Charlie!" a voice would shout, "can you ruffle up my bed so the bedders won't report a bed not slept in!"

The three of them, John, Tim and

Charles, managed to amass a total of two degrees and a blank during their time at Grey. But, more importantly, they had a wonderful time there.

In 1966, much to everyone's surprise, Charles somehow managed to take Maths (Hon). He scraped a pass degree - probably because he turned up to the exams. Yet they allowed him into Oxford University to do his Dip Ed.

At Oxford he was treasurer of the Hertford College MCR. His adventures continued there, but how the previous incumbent ran off with the money and Charles restored the college coffers is another story.

Charles is still teaching today – at the age of 72. Sadly John Pottier died in 2014. Just two months before that he met up with Charles, the first time they had seen each other in 45 years and shared happy stories of their time at Grey.

▶
DONATE TO THE TRUST
Find out more - page 54

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JCR NEWS
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Tom Allen

Master's Report

THE FOUNTAINS HALL project suffered a delay, when we discovered County Council records showing an old footpath running through the centre of the Hall. The records have now been corrected, the tendering process has begun, and we are hoping that the project can start after examinations in Easter. Many thanks to all the alumni who have given generously to help fund the project.

The section leaders of the College had a positive meeting with Owen Adams, the new Pro-Vice Chancellor (Colleges and Student Experience) on January 26th. As Pro-Vice Chancellor, he is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Colleges Division and Experience Durham. Mr Adams was previously head of the Royal School of Artillery, and was Programme Director at the British Army's Strategic Human Resources Board and Director at

the UK Defence Academy. He also commanded the 40th Regiment Royal Artillery, which included a demanding tour of Afghanistan in 2009, and served in Northern Ireland, Bosnia (where he was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service) and Cyprus.

I ran a 'Six Words' Competition with our JCR Arts Chairs, Miranda van Noorden and Sophie Gregory. This was inspired by the story that Ernest Hemingway bet some of his fellow writers that he could tell a story in six words. They said he couldn't. He won the bet, with the story: "For sale. Baby shoes. Never Worn."

There is some doubt that Hemingway ever made this bet. Nevertheless, we thought it would be fun to run our own Six Words competition. Entries had to tell a story. One way or another, there had to be a hint of characters

and events. "Brevity is the soul of wit" doesn't have a story so would not have won. Three prizes were awarded, at each of the Christmas formals and the Burns Night formal. The winning stories were:

"Blinking Cursor. Blank Page.
Deadline tomorrow."
- *Barbara Pressendo*

"Her heart stopped working. Mine
broke."
- *James Fairbrother*

"Reunion with friends alone at
memorial."
- *Michael Xin*

Helen Barstow joined the College in November, as a part time Student Experience and Volunteering Officer. Helen is working with the

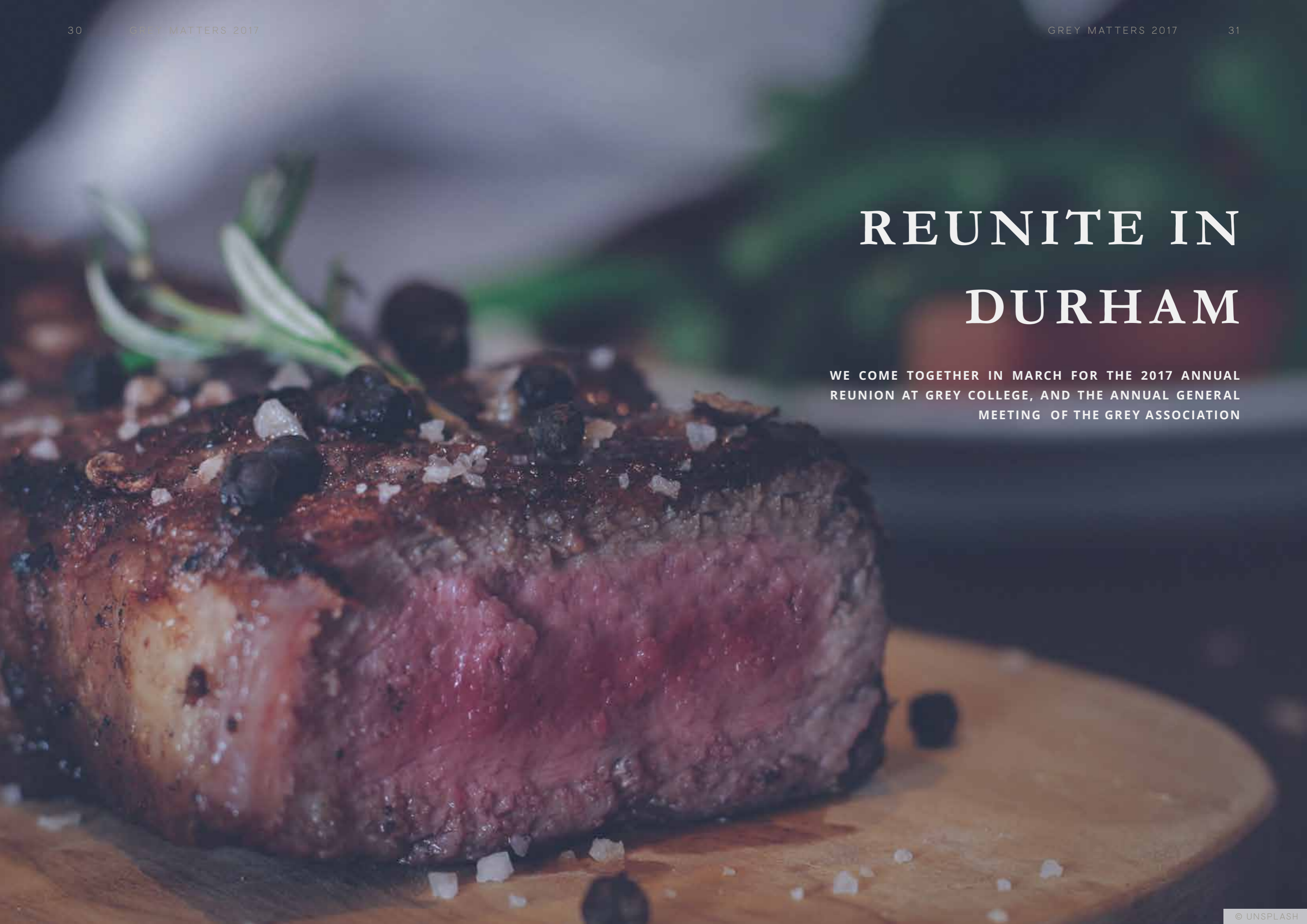
JCR on organising a volunteering competition in the College amongst the clubs and societies, with prizes to be awarded next term.

If you would like to know more, please contact Helen at: helen.g.barstow@durham.ac.uk

PROFESSOR TOM ALLEN
[MASTER, GREY COLLEGE]

REUNITE IN DURHAM

WE COME TOGETHER IN MARCH FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL REUNION AT GREY COLLEGE, AND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GREY ASSOCIATION



▼
ENQUIRIES
 Telephone the college on 0191 334 5900

▼
ANY QUESTIONS?
 Email grey.college@durham.ac.uk

The Grey Association

Annual College Reunion

It's that time of year again - it's time to reconnect and join us for another Grey reunion. We'll be meeting at Grey on April 1st this year, and hope to see as many of you there as possible.

The annual Durham Reunion will take place on the weekend of 31st March to 2nd April 2017 at Grey College. The Grand Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday 1st April.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 1st April, at 4pm in the Pennington Room.

Full details and an agenda is available - simply email Steve Gregory (stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk) for more information.

Bookings are now closed, but if you were unable to make the reunion this year - don't panic! We will soon be announcing dates for 2018, and we look forward to meeting you then.

We have included the dinner menu for those attending this year. If you have any dietary requirements we are not aware of, please contact the college as soon as possible.

Contact us

TELEPHONE 0191-334-5900

EMAIL US grey.alumni@durham.ac.uk

REUNION DINNER MENU

PRE-DINNER DRINK (NON-ALCOHOLIC AVAILABLE)

STARTER

GOATS' CHEESE AND POTATO TERRINE (V)

MAIN

ROASTED LAMB RUMP

or

BEETROOT RAVIOLI (V)

DESSERT

DARK CHOCOLATE FONDANT

followed by

CHEESE, BISCUITS AND COFFEE

Annual College Reunion (continued)

THE GREY ASSOCIATION is entirely volunteer led, and the Exec work extremely hard all year round to support our Alumni network. Whether it's arranging the Grey Reunion, bringing people together in London, managing the website, looking after the purse-strings or supporting current students in their careers, we do everything we can to keep you all connected and making sure we can do what we can to give you the latest from Grey.

However, it hasn't been

easy over the past year as we have survived without the tremendous leadership of Tom Cliff, who stood down in April 2016 as President of the Grey Association.

Whilst the Executive Committee have worked tirelessly to keep things moving, we are in need of an extra pair of hands to help keep our

network thriving. So far, nobody has stood forward as our Association President, and we are on the lookout for someone who can help us keep things moving smoothly along.

We are looking for someone dedicated to Grey, someone who loves the college and wants to support it as it enters a new era. Someone passionate about our alumni network, and can volunteer

a few days a year to chair meetings, take direction when

the college has to make challenging decisions, and provide support and leadership.

Does this sound like you? If you are interested in standing for the position, please contact Steve Gregory as soon as possible for more information. Election hustings will take place at the AGM.

We really need your help.

Call for election of

Association President

THE ROLE OF Association President is voluntary, and only requires up to a week of your time. You will have the support of the Exec behind you, so don't worry if this sounds completely new to you. It's an opportunity to support the college, and be involved as Grey makes some challenging decisions about the future. There are five core parts of the role:

01

LIAISE BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE MASTER OF THE COLLEGE

02

ARRANGE THE ANNUAL DURHAM REUNION

03

HELP PULL TOGETHER GREY MATTERS MAGAZINE (WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IF REQUIRED)

04

CHAIR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

05

HELP COORDINATE AN INTERESTING PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR ALUMNI

For more information, please email our Secretary: stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

ROCKY BEGINNINGS FOR STUDENT MARIAMA DRYAK

Early mornings, navigating dangerous storms, and climbing the 'Twin Owls' - one fearless Grey student travels to the Rockies and takes on dizzying heights as she pursues a qualification in climbing. Mariama Dryak tells us about the trip of a lifetime.

MARIAMA DRYAK: I travelled to Rocky Mountain National Park to take a mountaineering course, in hopes of adding to my future skill-set when carrying out outdoor recreation and research in mountain environments. Day one of the course taught me the basics of mountaineering, and how to safely travel/navigate in the mountains on a shorter climb. Day two of the course put what I had previously learned into action on a much longer, more difficult climb.

Originally the course was due to take place in July 2016, however a vehicle breakdown prevented me from being able to make the course. The managers at the Colorado Mountain School were accommodating

▶ CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Report: Reaching New Heights (continued)

and allowed me to reschedule for the same course to be taking place later on in mid-August. Due to the lack in snow later in the summer, the emphasis of the course changed from snow safety to that of safe mountain navigation.

On the Thursday before the weekend of the 13th and 14th of August I travelled 15 hours southwest from Wisconsin to Estes Park, CO to the location of the Colorado Mountain School.

Upon arrival the next day, I checked into the lodging and met some awesome climbers in the lodge. The course started the next morning at 7am, where I met my climbing instructor Jake Gaventa. Due to the course rescheduling for August, I was the only person on it – resulting in one-on-one instruction and a weekend of mountaineering more personalized to my own ability.

The morning of the 13th began

with basic instruction in climbing equipment and gear knowledge, as well as the basics of how to execute a mountaineering expedition in a mountainous environment. The region of the Rockies in which we were located is well-known for its diurnal afternoon (2-4pm) storms above tree-line, so understanding how to best alleviate this risk is important to planning trips in the area. As a result of this daily storm pattern, we ensured that our hiking plans brought us below treeline when the risk was highest.

After going through the climbing instructional basics at the lodge, we headed to a local climbing formation the 'Twin Owls', located southeast of the Lumpy Ridge. The hike up to the rock formation base was about 4k.

Once at the base of Twin Owls, I was instructed on the basics of pitch climbing, short roping and

rappelling to the rock formation summit.

At the end of the day we planned the next day's hike, applying an algorithm created by a well-known climber for estimating the amount of time for the entire trip.

Overall, the day was informative, and being able to apply the skills that I had been lectured on was instrumental in gaining confidence in my climbing ability.

The next day we set off from the Colorado Mountain School office

at 6am. From there we commenced a two and a half hour hike to the base of the Hallett Peak, in Rocky Mountain National Park. Once at the base, we short-roped about an hour to the base of the First Buttress of Hallett. We climbed the standard route, taking around two hours to summit the peak. The view from the top was absolutely fantastic!

After eating lunch at the summit, we rappelled down a steep cliff face and hiked about 2 hours back

£500

**MARIAMA
DRYAK**

Mariama was awarded
£500 from the Association
to support her trip.

▼ DON'T LOOK DOWN! MARIAMA DRYAK CLIMBING HALLETT PEAK



▶ CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Report: Reaching New Heights (continued)

out of the park. The process of the climb was a really fantastic and a very new mental challenge. Whereas I am acclimated to the continuous physical challenge of pushing myself in endurance sports, climbing was a combination of a mental and whole-body physical challenge in which I was forced to overcome obstacle by obstacle in chunks - all whilst working towards an end-goal, the summit.

Some additional, totally unexpected, lessons that I learned from the weekend were 1) to take a step (or lean, in this case) away from a difficult situation to evaluate what possibilities are available to solve a problem (e.g. a tough manoeuvre) and 2) to break challenging tasks down into bite-sized chunks. This second lesson was learnt through climbing a mountain pitch by pitch, but can be applied to life through tackling big tasks bit by bit instead

of overwhelming one's self by trying to do something all at once.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to the Grey College Association for making this trip possible, for without your support I would not have been able to gain the plethora of skills I have taken away from the mountaineering class to apply to my adventures and research in the future.

▼ MARIAMA DRYAK SUCCESSFULLY REACHES THE SUMMIT OF HALLETT PEAK



© MARIAMA DRYAK

A New Addition

SAM AND EMILY Jones (Purfield) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Amelia Faith who was born on the 20th October 2016 and weighed

7lb 12oz. They are really enjoying being a family of three!

I'm sure you'll join us in congratulating them both and wishing them the best!

▼ THE ADORABLE AMELIA FATH JONES



© SAM JONES



FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND

REMEMBERING RABBI LIONEL BLUE, LONG-TIME FRIEND AND
SUPPORTER OF GREY COLLEGE

We say goodbye to a beloved college figure, journalist, broadcaster, author, producer, and warm-hearted friend to so many alumni.

Rabbi Lionel Blue, who died aged 86, was known and loved by millions for his early morning slot on Radio 4's Thought for the Day.

Blue was born in Hackney, East London, in 1930 to Harry and Hetty, a tailor and a legal secretary respectively. He was an outspoken critic of the growing Nazi party, claiming to have passed the tea round at a protest against the fascist British Black Shirts movement. He often said that it was at this time that he lost his faith in God, struggling to understand why fascism was allowed to take hold of society so quickly.

He had a tumultuous childhood. During the war, he was evacuated

16 times. He eventually gained a place at Balliol College, Oxford, to study History, but during his degree he was plagued with nervous breakdowns over his sexuality, undergoing psychoanalysis for many years. Having followed the works of Marx during his teens, he soon turned his attention to religion to understand more about himself. Beginning with his accidentally crashing a Quaker meeting, after taking shelter from the weather in what he thought was a farmhouse, he explored a number of faiths. This led to the study of semitics at London University, and later, his ordination as a Rabbi in 1960.

The role of religion in modern British society might be dwindling, but Rabbi Lionel Blue was the exception to this. In a poll in 2001 he was voted more respected than the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Part of this may have been his route to faith. His journey

▶ CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Obituary: Rabbi Lionel Blue

(continued)

had been tortuous. At times he considered himself a Marxist, an atheist, a Christian, before becoming part of the Reform brand of Judaism. He told an interviewer: "I went along with religion for many years not believing it, because after all a lot of it is not believable, but as I went on in life I began to trust it more and more and it reshaped me, made me a much nicer person."

Blue made his first radio broadcast in 1967, and was a regular contributor to Thought for the Day for 25 years. He made appearances on Radio 4, Radio 2 and produced a television programme, In Search of Holy England, in 1989. He published nearly a dozen autobiographical and religious books over thirty years and was awarded an OBE in 1994.

Blue's later years were plagued with illness. In 1987 he was diagnosed with epilepsy, which he took medicine for. An operation in 1997

revealed a malignant tumour, and he had radiotherapy and hormone treatment to stop any further growths. He also suffered from Parkinson's disease, and heart problems.

His ill health led to his increasingly rare appearances on the radio, which was a worry and disappointment for his regular radio listeners. His hilarious – and often somewhat pointed – jokes were well-loved by his BBC audience, often playing to Jewish stereotypes: "Nazi to Jew: 'You Jews are the cause of all the trouble,' Jew to Nazi: 'Yes, Jews and bicycle riders,' Nazi: 'Why bicycle riders?' Jew: 'Why Jews?'"

Grey College presented Lionel Blue with an Honorary Fellowship at the winter congregation in 2006. As so often, he delighted a full hall with characteristically amusing stories hiding thought-provoking messages underneath. Durham University

followed suit and the next year awarded him an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity in 2007.

Rabbi Lionel Blue was always generous to Grey. He donated a complete set of all his works to the college library and paid for the food for students at a formal in January 2006. In 2008 he took part in a series of seminars on the topic of belief for the college and was on hand for the College Feast to act as preacher – his speech was a highlight of the event and looked forward to by all. His seminars were so popular they returned in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

He was the first rabbi to come out publicly as homosexual, and publishing *Godly and Gay* in 1981. This had not been an easy decision and he had suffered a nervous breakdown previously, brought on by anxiety over his sexuality. After coming out, he supported numerous

LGBT charities including the Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group and Kairos in Soho. He met his long-term partner Jim Cummings in 1980, after Blue placed an advert in the *Gay Times*. They lived together in London until 2014, when Jim sadly passed away.

LIONEL BLUE - RABBI. AUTHOR. BROADCASTER. HONORARY FELLOW OF GREY COLLEGE. HONORARY DOCTOR OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY AND DURHAM UNIVERSITY. RECIPIENT OF AN ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE - WAS BORN 6 FEBRUARY 1930 AND DIED 19 DECEMBER 2016

I Didn't Know That!

What connects Sid Holgate and the M1?

WE ALL HAVE our favourite stories of our time in Grey, and the people we met there, including the various College Officers and members of staff. Although whether all of those stories would stand up to scrutiny is another question. I remember being told in the mid 1960s that the reason for Syd Holgate's legendary skills with a snooker cue was that his father ran a snooker club near Nottingham, where the young Sydney passed many hours of a misspent youth. Completely untrue, of course.

I was amazed and delighted to be contacted by a gentleman who actually gives guided heritage tours in Syd's birthplace, Hucknall in Nottinghamshire. He apparently tells visitors the following story outside the house where Syd lived:

"On Friday 29 November, 1935, the local newspaper, the Hucknall Dispatch, announced a competition for young readers to celebrate

the centenary of the setting up of town councils. The prizes were Swan fountain pens, valued at up to one pound, three shillings and six pence, (that is £1.17 and a half pence) The challenge was to write an essay about your own town."

Just before Christmas, the winners were announced. The first prize winner was a 17 year old student from Henry Mellish School. He lived at 64 Derbyshire Lane. He was one of the first to call for an inner relief road for Hucknall. His name? Sydney Holgate.

Syd wrote:

"I intend to be extraordinary. First of all, I would not only widen roads, but also redesign them. I would build a bypass road from Wighay Bridge down what is now Annesley Road and across Titchfield and Albert Streets, rejoining Portland Road near Bolsover Street".

That was in 1935. Eighty one years

later, that road is actually being built.

Syd was also concerned for the environment: "All factories should be on the leeward side of the town, so that the inhabitants would have pure air to breathe, and a hospital should be built on the Misk Hills where the air is pure and fresher than at any other place in the county".

Elsewhere in his essay, Syd correctly predicted the building of the M1 motorway, but he thought the Library should be demolished and a more modern one built instead, which never happened. Strangely comforting to know that even the revered Syd Holgate didn't get everything right!

I Didn't Know That!

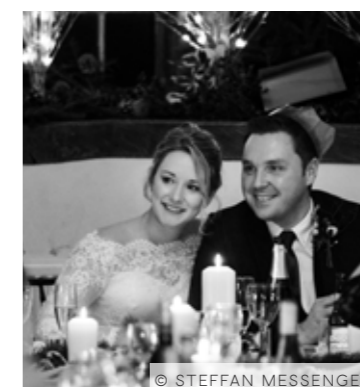
Monmouthshire, South Wales

Wedding Bells: Steffan and Becky

BECKY AND STEFFAN married on 17th December 2016 at Raglan Baptist Church in Monmouthshire, South Wales with plenty of old friends from their Durham years in attendance. They had their reception at nearby Treowen Hall – which was decked out with festive foliage. Becky fulfilled a childhood dream of decorating her very own 12ft Christmas tree!

References to their time at Grey featured heavily throughout the day. During the service, Grey alumni James Dowler read an extract from Sir Walter Scott's 'Harold the Dauntless' which talks of the "Grey Towers of Durham". And at the end of the wedding feast there was a rendition of the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' in true Christmas Formal style – with each of the twelve tables allocated a verse. Becky and Steff are really grateful to Grey for bringing them together – they met on Becky's first day ten and a bit years ago!

▼ FAMILIAR FACES AND A WONDERFULLY UNIQUE WEDDING CAKE
We're grateful to Becky and Steff for sharing these gorgeous photos with us



Steffan studied English Literature from 2005-2008 and was JCR President in 2008/09. Becky studied Politics and Sociology from 2006-2009 and then stayed on to do a Masters in Development Anthropology and was MCR President 2009/10. They now live in Cardiff.



Wedding Bells

Steffan and Becky

More photos from their beautiful wedding in South Wales.



© STEFFAN MESSENGER

◀ **STEFFAN AND BECKY**
We love how atmospheric it looks!

◀ **SMILES, HATS, AND APRONS**
Christmassy cheer on the day



© STEFFAN MESSENGER



© STEFFAN MESSENGER

▼
TO UPDATE YOUR PROFILE
 Email stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk

▲
REUNITE IN DURHAM
 Book your place - page 30

Careers update

Grey Business Angels

THE SCHEME HAS come a long way since it was launched with 45 volunteers in April 2005. With over 550 Angels now, current students can now tap into an amazing range of experience. As well as the 'usual' graduate careers like teaching, financial services, consulting and such like, we offer access to an interior designer, a town planner, a transport planner, an epidemiologist and a European patent examiner, to name but a few.

I am often asked if students use the scheme, since most Angels are not contacted regularly. Since Richard Hilton (thanks again, Richard, for your continuing support!) implemented the current version of the website in 2010, the individual profiles have been viewed 100,000 times. Eleven of our Angels have had their profiles viewed more than 300 times in the last seven years, with an individual working in the arts topping the list with over 500

'hits'. Even those who graduated in the last couple of years are having their profiles viewed every couple of weeks.

Between 2010 and 2015 an average of more than 10% of leavers have become Angels suggests the scheme continues to be useful and worth supporting. Which reminds me: if you aren't yet an Angel, please give some serious thought to signing up at <http://www.greyassociation.co.uk/angels/join> or by contacting me.

If you are an Angel, then please accept grateful thanks from all who have used the service or will use it in the future and please check your profile and let me have any changes, especially to your Company, job title/position and e-mail details.

I reported in last year's Grey Matters that the University planned to roll out a computer platform to support careers mentoring for

all Colleges - that roll-out is still progressing slowly, and Grey is not likely to be involved for a while yet.

For questions, to become an Angel if we've not caught up with you so far, to update your profile and/or contact details (or if you would consider taking over the management of the scheme at some point in the future when I need a break) please contact me via e-mail at: stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk.

STEVE GREGORY
 [ASSOCIATION SECRETARY]

stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk

▼
ENQUIRIES
 Telephone the college on 0191 334 5900

▼
ANY QUESTIONS?
 Email grey.alumni@durham.ac.uk

Grey College Trust

Gifts and Donations

THE GREY COLLEGE TRUST has charity status and was set up for the benefit of Grey College in the 1980s. It still plays an important role in offering financial support to Grey College and its students.

The Association President is an ex-officio Trustee, and other Alumni continue to serve as Trustees.

Various appeals have been undertaken under its auspices, including those for the Jubilee Development and for the Fountains Hall project.

If you are a UK taxpayer and wish to give money to the College, please bear in mind that donations made to the Trust can be handled under the Gift Aid scheme, allowing us to claim an extra £20 for every £100 you give.

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 knowing that Trustees will do their very best to honour your memory and your wishes. You may also give something in your own life time, specifying how you wish the money to be spent.

For further details please contact the Master, via the college office, or email us to find out more.

TO DONATE TO THE TRUST HEAD TO:
[HTTPS://WWW.DUNELM.ORG.UK/
 DONATIONS/COLLEGES/GREY](https://www.dunelm.org.uk/donations/colleges/grey)

OR SEND AN EMAIL TO:
GREY.ALUMNI@DURHAM.AC.UK

Contributions



We love hearing your stories and memories! If you have a good story, if you recently uncovered some pictures of your time at Durham, or you recently went back to visit, we'd love to hear from you. We welcome any contributions - features, or photographs past and present - anything that you think our alumni network might enjoy. Perhaps you recently started a new job and wanted to share the news? Just get in touch with our Association Secretary and we can include a feature - big or small - in the next copy of Grey Matters.

All contributions to: stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk

