



# Grey Matters

Grey College Association Magazine

• January 2008



*Millennium Phoenix, metal sculpture by Peter Sales. Commissioned and kindly given to Grey College by Victor and Elaine Watts in 2000. Situated on the Junior Common Room staircase.*

## *Letter from the President*

Dear Association Members,

Very best wishes to everyone for 2008.

It is a pleasure to inform you that the Association is in good shape. The special September Reunion for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University was well-attended and a most enjoyable experience. The Inter-Collegiate lunch held on the race-course brought old and new friends together and presented the University's latest successes in research, teaching and learning. Interesting displays clearly outlined the progress the University has made from very small before the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War to the present day with over 15,000 students. In the evening a dinner in College was well-attended and we were pleased to welcome the new Vice Chancellor Chris Higgins (a Grey man from the '70s) as guest of honour. The Colleges make all the difference to a Durham student's experience of academic life but membership of a College is for life and there are always opportunities to contribute to College life by offering time, money and resources to enrich and endow the resident community. Do get involved if you wish, your involvement, however modest, will be most welcome and much appreciated. The Association is not just for Reunions but acts as a valuable support for current students and staff. During the last year we have sponsored two Formal Meals, providing free food for students and a short presentation about the work of Association, the Business Angels Scheme continues to thrive and six Travel Bursaries were awarded to students to support learning and career development.

The London reunion held at Topo Gigio restaurant in April was also a well-attended success and one we hope to repeat. This year it is back to the usual pattern of College Reunion in April (11th, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13th) and London Reunion in September (Friday 19<sup>th</sup>).



*Earl Grey mug, from Reform! Reform! Reform!*

Grey's main contributions to the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events were an exhibition borrowed from the Reform Club in London in March and a Seminar 'Earl Grey, The Limits of Reform' 3<sup>rd</sup> March. This was a most challenging and stimulating event (see report on page 9).

Next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the College and I hope that as many people as possible will return to the College for the Grand Reunion in April. We are planning several events and activities to commemorate this important event and we hope you'll be part of it.

Hope to see you at this year's Reunion – stay in touch and please get involved!

*Henry Dyson, President*

## *The Garden Opera 2008*

This year the Garden Opera will be performing Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* on June 11th at 6pm. Tickets and details available from Julie Bushby: [grey.college@dur.ac.uk](mailto:grey.college@dur.ac.uk) or 0191 3345591.

For more information please visit the Garden Opera website: <http://www.gardenopera.co.uk>

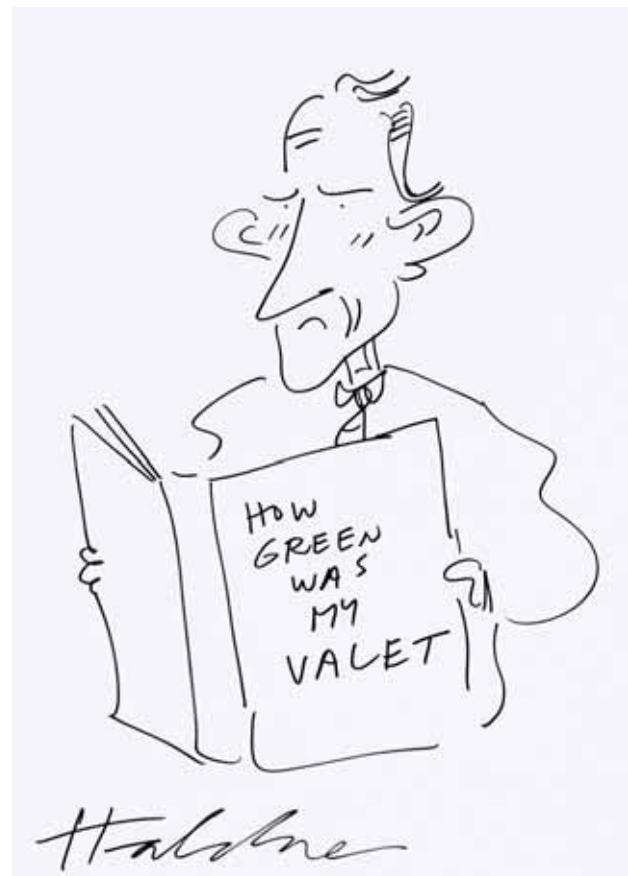
## *From the Master*

Dear Friends

One of the many pleasures of my work is that I often meet applicants, their parents and their teachers, when they visit or come for interview. A question that frequently arises is “how this College does differ from others in Durham?” Difficult to answer, that we are simply the best of course! But defining the difference is hard: Grey is not a ‘flashy’ college; neither is it over-bookish, over-sporty, over-political, over-enthusiastic or even over-aesthetic but it does have some distinctively unique features, noticeable by Freshers, visitors, and academics. There is an infectious friendliness; a cooperative spirit; a breadth of interests; a willingness to engage in new enterprises; tolerance; and a gentle, underlying commitment to serious academic endeavour. Such virtues are, in my opinion, of real significance in a world where enormous changes are taking place in the nature of work, the stability of relationships and families, and the demands on us as world-citizens. I would be interested to hear from previous generations of *Greymen* and *Greywomen* as to what, in their opinion, are College’s distinctive attributes!

In the past year we saw the celebration of the University’s 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Grey, for its part, made a unique double offering. Elsewhere in this edition, you will find an account of both the Seminar on Earl Grey and Political Reform and also of the Reform Club’s Exhibition, seen for the very first time outside London. Events such as these simply could not have taken place anywhere but in Grey: they were a marvellous blend of the informative, the informal, the entertaining and the exciting. The Seminar event was a packed house, and there was a follow-up TV broadcast on the *Politics Show* one week later. The Exhibition was curated by Henry Dyson who both assembled the display of artefacts; and undertook much background research and liaised with the media. My gratitude to him for ensuring that Grey’s contributions to the 175th Anniversary

were so original. It is, I think, activities of this nature that give further insight into the “Grey Difference” alluded to above.



*One of the David Haldane cartoons auctioned for the Grey College Trust.*

In sport, Grey has had some recent successes: Basketball was undefeated; the women’s hockey won the league and cup; the women of the boat club had a very successful time at the Head of the River race; and great success was enjoyed by squash and badminton teams. The Fountains Theatre Company put on really excellent performances of *Educating Rita* (Willy Russell) and the *Homecoming* (Pinter). On another level, we had an excellent Bar Festival which was a joint operation between the SCR and the JCR. There was a terrific Fireworks night and a great Phoenix Ball. And last, but not least, the JCR Charity committee continued its good work for children’s charities at home and abroad. The College has put on exhibitions of paintings, and public lectures have been given by a number of erudite and

entertaining visitors. In short, the College is flourishing!

Next year, 2009, sees the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of Grey, our collective minds are planning how this might best be celebrated. The plans for the Jubilee Development Extension are now advanced; a series of investigations have taken place on the technical feasibility of the work. Exciting aspirational designs were produced by the nominated architect and we await the final verdict on this project from Estates and

Buildings. The outcome will be put on the Association website.

Finally, may I say that I do hope you enjoy this edition of *Grey Matters*; and I would also like to thank you all very sincerely for your continuing and enthusiastic support of Grey College.

*Martyn Chamberlain  
Master of Grey College, Durham  
Epiphany Term 2008*

## ***London Reunion, 2008***

**The London Reunion will take place at Topo Gigio Restaurant, Brewer Street, London W1 (nearest underground Piccadilly Circus) on 19<sup>th</sup> September at Topo Gigio Restaurant.** There will be a drinks reception at 7pm followed by dinner at 8pm. The cost of the evening is £35.00 and includes welcome drinks and a three course a la carte Italian meal with coffee and a donation to the Grey College Trust. Please make cheques payable to Henry Dyson, who will make a final cheque to the Grey College Trust so we get 28% extra from Gift Aid. If you would like to attend please e-mail Henry Dyson on [henry@henrydyson.co.uk](mailto:henry@henrydyson.co.uk), or write to him at Newhill House, 129 Pepys Road, Telegraph Hill, London, SE14 5SE. Mobile: 0779 888 4638.

## ***The Meyers' Illustrations of British Birds***

One of the first students to attend Grey, Bill Hale, has recently completed this book, which is published by Maggs Bros. and Peregrine Books, and he has given a copy to the Victor Watts Library.

Professor Hale DSc. is an Honorary Fellow of Grey College and an Honorary Research Fellow of the University of Durham. He has served on committees of the Natural Environment Research Council and the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Wildfowl Trust. He has published extensively in the fields of ornithology and entomology. Author of *Waders*, *The Redshank*, Collins/Smithsonian *Dictionary of Biology* (with J.P. Margham and Venetia Saunders) and is co-editor of *Wildfowl and Waders in Winter*. He also contributed to

the *Handbook of Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa*.



*Bill Hale in 2007*

## *Grey College Accessories*



Scarf	£17.95
Tie/Polyester	£9.95
Tie/Silk	£20.95
Tie/Boat Club/polyester	£9.95
Bow Tie/Silk	£25.95
Cufflinks	£18.95
Shields	£28.50
Pewter Tankard	£23.50
Lapel Pin	£9.95

Prices shown exclude Postage & Packing.

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



### *New Association Treasurer*

Alan Richards is the new Association Treasurer. Alan was a Mathematics student in Grey 1977-80 and is now a qualified Actuary. He is Managing Director of West Hill Corporate Finance Limited, London. He can be contacted on: [adrichards@westhillcorpf.com](mailto:adrichards@westhillcorpf.com)

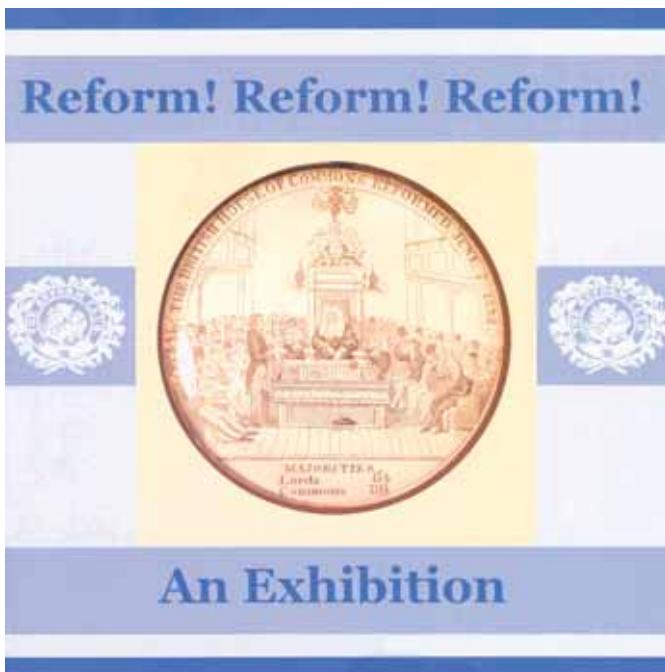
### *Three Tutors' Long Service*

Three Grey tutors have amassed a staggering 107 years loyal service between them:

- Derek Wilson (Maths) 38 years (from 1970)
- John Bolton (Maths) 36 years (from 1972)
- Phillip May (Education) 33 years (from 1975)

They are all still serving tutors and would be very pleased to hear from any of their former tutees and hope to see some of them at the Grand 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the College in 2009.

## *Reform! Reform! Reform!*



A 39 page illustrated, full-colour catalogue of the exhibition is available from the College for £5 with all money going to the Grey College Trust. Please contact: grey.college@dur.ac.uk

The exhibition featured artefacts and memorabilia relating to Earl Grey and the 19<sup>th</sup> century reformers, and many more items appear in this catalogue by Peter Urbach, which accompanied the exhibition originally held at the Reform Club, in London from 2005 to 2006 and at Grey during March 2007. The informative text outlines Parliamentary Reform from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the Suffragette movement.



*"The Voice of the People". A cannon reputedly fired during a Reform demonstration or celebration in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, in 1831 or 1832.*

## *The 'Business Angels' Scheme*

We now have more than 200 Angels registered. The number of recent graduates who have volunteered to become Angels confirms that the scheme is a valued one, and indicates that there are plenty of potential volunteers out there. If you haven't yet got round to signing up - PLEASE join us! Last term, six Angels again put on a workshop for JCR members, giving practical advice on job searches, CV writing and interview techniques. Others have been able to broker work experience or internship places, or to advertise jobs via the Careers section of the JCR website. If you'd like to get involved in any of those areas, or would like to know more, please contact: Tom Cliff (tomjhcliff@hotmail.com) or Steve Gregory (stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk).

*Steve Gregory (1965 – 1969)*

## ***Advance Notice for 2009***

The 50th Anniversary Grey College Reunion will be held in Grey on the 17th, 18th, 19th April, 2009. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come along!

## *From the JCR President*

Grey College JCR's academic year 2007/2008 started much as usual. I took over the role as JCR president in the summer as we readied ourselves for the arrival of the next generation of college members wondering what lay in store for the year ahead.

Fresher's week was again a roaring success. College Officers, Members of SCR, MCR and Association Members as well as the JCR helpers all spent the day welcoming the new intake and the atmosphere was fantastic. The Vice Chancellor popped in to his old digs to chat to students and parents as they arrived and commented on the immediate welcome he felt everyone created. Grey spirit at its finest!

Michaelmas term was hugely busy and College began to settle into its academic new year. This year's Freshers are as enthusiastic as ever and have made an active contribution to all of our sports teams and societies. We have been particularly lucky in our intake of musicians, thespians, photographers and students interested in all forms of art, as well as many keen sporty types!



*Women's Eight, Grey College Boat Club.*

Socially the term ran to formula starting with a fantastic army bop. The term's next big event was again the fireworks when close to two thousand people gathered on the hill to watch the fantastic display. With recorded music by many artists including a tribute to Pavarotti the sky was alight and looking back up the hill to see all the students, staff and local

residents watching I felt immensely proud that we put on the event and I would encourage anyone who has not attended one of our displays to come along next year! Huge thanks to Mike Hargreaves and the whole team. The last big event was the Informal ball where we saw the dining hall turned into a celebration of all things London, the hallway Paris (Eiffel Tower and all) all under the banner of the Eurotrash Ball! The night was a huge success.

So then the year must sound exactly like many that have gone before and in terms of events and atmosphere it is, but, 2008 is possibly going to be the most important year ever for the JCR since inception.



*Dave Williams receiving his Law degree in 2007 from the Chancellor, Bill Bryson.*

The Charities Act 2006 is slowly being brought into force and eventually the type of organization which we are currently operating will cease to exist. This leaves us with the absolute certainty of change. We are currently in negotiation with the University about our future JCR structures and so far they have been disappointing. Although not set in stone, it seems that the University hopes to take away the independent nature of the JCR's (currently enshrined in University Statute) and "bring us under their umbrella". This would mean JCR president as a member of university staff in the unique position of being responsible for representing students against his or her employer. It would also mean a loss to some of our charitable advantages and of course signing

all our assets, currently held and administered independently, over to the University. This course of action seems to be supported by both the Dean of Colleges and the Vice Chancellor.

There are several options available to the JCR as alternatives and we are keen to explore all options, including the proposals above, fully in order that the JCR can make an informed cost benefit analysis. These include becoming a full Charity, a Charitable Incorporated Organization, a Public Interest Company, or some kind of Company. Work to examine these options will go on with the help of the University, although there does seem to be a body of opinion with strong preconceptions and predetermination there.



Grey Day 2007.

The JCR's preferred option at this early stage is probably to become a Charitable Incorporated Organization, a new structure introduced under the 2006 Act. This would safeguard our independence and continue our charitable status, whilst at the same time introducing a board of trustees. Such structure would ensure even more scrutiny, and professional running of the JCR whilst leaving it essentially in student hands. The advantage of the CIO is that any trustees have only the same liability as the board in a company limited by guarantee not the more onerous duties owed by trustees in a full charity. The reason I mention all this is not only to draw you're attention to one of the greatest changes facing the JCR in its history, but also to ask for your support. It may be the case that in the future we will be asking for some trustees or will need to show we could get them if allowed to pursue independence so please if you have good business, accounting or legal experience consider if you could commit to three meetings per year for a great cause.

*Dave Williams, JCR President, 2007-08*

## *New Executive Position for the SCR*

SCR member Ed Waugh has been made SCR Press Officer, having already helped publicise and promote a number of events in College including the *Reform! Reform! Reform!* exhibition and seminar. Together with co-writer Trevor Wood, he last year experienced considerable international success with the comedies *Dirty Dusting* and *Waiting for Gateaux*. Their latest play, *Maggie's End*, opened at the Gala Theatre in Durham in October. This is a highly controversial dark comedy that starts with the death of Margaret Thatcher, and focuses on the tensions between Old and New Labour when Gordon Brown's government decides to give the former prime minister a state funeral.

## *A Wedding and Two Engagements! Congratulations!*

Jonny Tew JCR President 2002 married Stephanie Newark (2001-2004) in 2007.  
Edd Brunner (2002-2005) proposed to Alex Laycock (2001-2004) at the 175<sup>th</sup> Reunion weekend.  
Ben Whitley (1996-1999) and Sophie became engaged on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

## *Seminar - Earl Grey and the Limits of Reform*

Held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2007, Grey College's contribution to the university's 175 celebrations was this seminar which consisted of six speakers. John Derry, Emeritus Professor of History at Newcastle University and author of a number of works concerning Earl Grey and other contemporary 19<sup>th</sup> century figures, spoke on Earl Grey: Identity and Achievements. Miles Taylor, professor of Modern History at York, whose speciality includes 19<sup>th</sup> century Chartistism and radical politics, who is currently writing a book on the history of parliamentary representation in Britain, spoke on Liberalism, Radicalism and the 19<sup>th</sup> century culture of freedom and reform. Two prominent politicians, Alan Beith Liberal Democrat MP for Berwick upon Tweed (who spoke on The Liberal Party and Reform Today) and Kevan Jones Labour MP for Durham North (who spoke on New Labour, Modernisation and Reform), took part. Professor Jeremy Dibble from the Music Department of Durham University talked about Democratic Rights in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain, and Roger Billis, former Chairman of the Reform Club, London, discussed The Earl Grey Legacy and the part played by the Reform Club. Julia Stephenson from the Department of Politics discussed over-Reform and 'Nanny' Britain. The speakers compared and contrasted parliamentary reform in 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century Britain and the audience was encouraged to participate in discussion. Over 150 people attended this important event. Richard Moss, political editor and presenter of the Politics Show in the North East and Cumbria, Chaired.

## *Grey College Reunion, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

140 former students travelled from all over the country to attend the reunion at Grey to help celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Durham University. A drinks reception was followed by a buffet meal in the JCR, with a formal dinner on the Saturday evening. Among the guests was the Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, Professor Chris Higgins, himself a former Grey student. We are grateful to the *Durham Times* for their kind permission to reprint the photographs in our centre spread.

**Reform! Reform! Reform!**  
**Exhibition**

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Founding of Durham University



Tracing the History of Electoral Reform from Earl Grey's Great Reform Act of 1832 to the Granting of Women's Suffrage in 1918

Grey College: 3rd March - 31st March 2007

Open to the public at weekends 10am - 6pm  
and by appointment during the week  
(Joyce Dover Tel: 0191 334 4556 or Henry Dyson Tel: 07798 884 638)

On loan from the The Reform Club, London

Grey's other contribution to the 175 Anniversary was the hosting of an exhibition of artefacts and memorabilia related to Earl Grey and the Reformers up to the time of the Suffragettes in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was the first time the exhibition had been on public display outside London and some unique exhibits were included for example the first secret ballot box used in a parliamentary election in Britain (on loan from White's Club, St. James). The exhibition continued throughout the month of March and was given wide media coverage on television and in newspapers. The exhibition attracted people from the region and beyond and was very successful.



*John Hall (1959-63) and wife Joan*



*Andrew Smith (1972-75) and wife Pam*



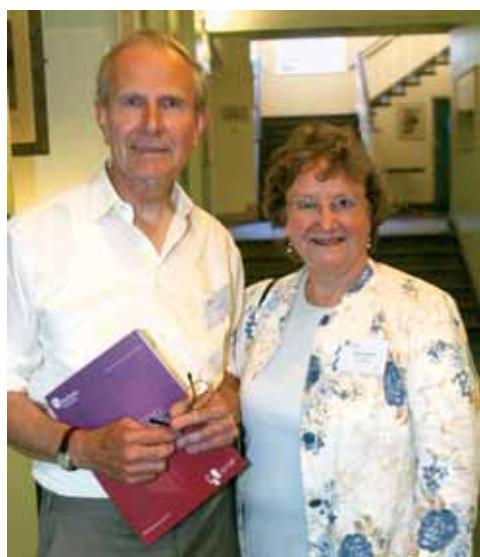
*Jenny and Dennis Hodgson (1967-70) and Bob Wyeth (1967-70)*



*Clive Threlfall (1964-67) and wife Peta*

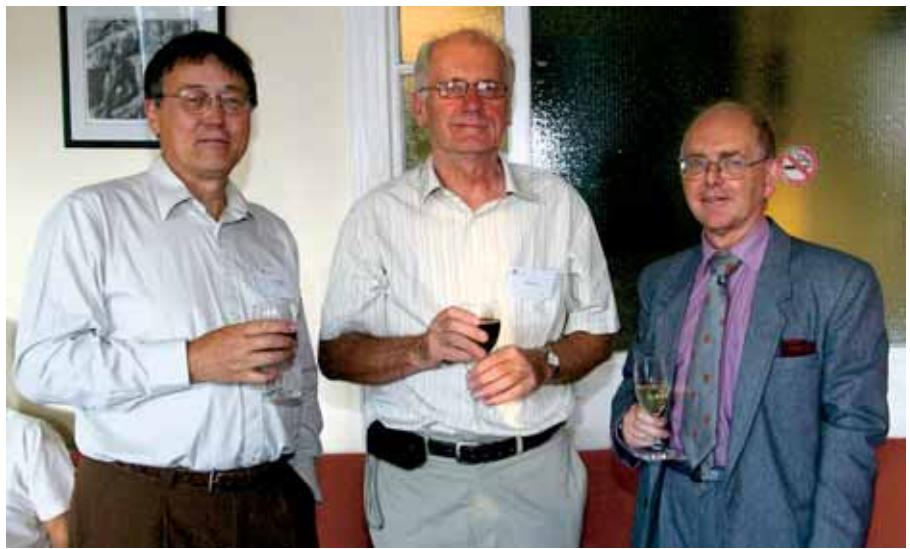


*Chris Farthing (1969-72) and Vicky Farthing*



*David Peckham (1959-63) and wife Veronica*

## Grey Veterans at the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



*Dr Len Anderson (1963-69), Mike Hall (1963-67) and Bill Best (Tutor)*



*Dr Mike Wrigley (1966-70) and wife Jitka*



*Dr Robert Buckley (1967-74) and Dr Helen Buckley*



*Stuart Booker and wife Wendy*



*Ian Douglas (1964-67), Mary Douglas and Roger Best (1964-68)*

## Reunion Weekend

## *Grey College Big Band 2007*



Grey Big Band has had a successful year, playing at many events and having a lot of fun. The year started with the band playing at 3 events in Epiphany term 2007, Van Mildert Jazz Festival, President's Guest Night and the

inaugural Bar Fest! At the end of the term Jon Foreman stepped down as band leader and handed the reigns over to Alex Howard and James Mercer. They set to work and spent a lot of money on new music hoping to raise the standard even higher.

In Easter Term the band continued to rehearse and finished the year by playing at Grey Day and St. John's Day, events where the audiences were clamouring for more.

This academic year and the band has been busier than ever, Michaelmas term 2007 saw us playing at John's November Ball, Grey Informal Ball and after the one of the Christmas Formal meals.

2008 promises to continue this with the band already down to play at President's Guest Night, Bar Fest 2 and the Van Mildert Jazz Festival.

*Alex Howard*

## *Alumni News*

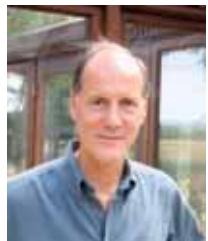
### *Grey Man Becomes High Court Judge*

The Queen has approved the appointment of His Honour Judge David George Maddison to be a Justice of the High Court. The Lord Chief Justice has assigned Judge Maddison to the Queen's Bench Division. The appointment is effective from 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

David Maddison graduated from Grey in 1968 with a degree in Law and Economics and was called to the Bar in 1970 and is an active member of the Business Angels Scheme.

### *Robert Christopher Halliwell*

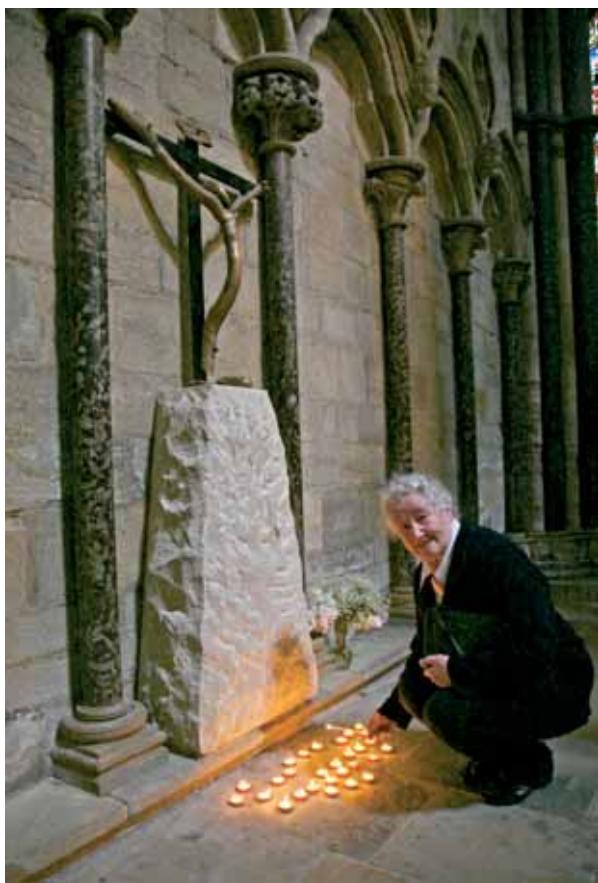
Robert Christopher Halliwell sadly died at his home in Cobham, Surrey, in January of this year. Known as Chris, he was a Physics student at Grey from 1965 – 1968. Donations in his memory may be sent to the Marie Curie Care Fund: <http://www.justgiving.com/chrishalliwell>. We send our sincere condolences to his wife and family.



### *Four Weddings*

In the summer of 2007 former Senior Man (1998-1999) Mark Creighton married Grey woman Georgina Whittle (1997-2000). Former Senior Man (1999-2000) Steve Baker married Anna Johnson. Tom Cliff (1997-2001) married Grey woman Kylie Sayers (1997-2001). Ed Croker (2000-2004) married Eleni Neoptolemos (2000-2003). **Congratulations!**

## *Art Uniting East and West*



*Dr. Sokolov lights a candle at the dedication.*

Following Sung Eucharist in Durham Cathedral on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2007, Kirill Sokolov's Crucifix *Lama Sabachtani* was dedicated by the Dean of Durham, the Very Reverend Michael Sadgrove, who described the gift of the crucifix, from the artist's widow Dr Avril Sokolov, as an "ecumenical gesture uniting East and West".

The bronze figure of Christ on the cross, set on a sandstone plinth was installed near the shrine to St. Cuthbert. Since Kirill Sokolov's death in 2004, exhibitions of his bronze sculptures and other work have been staged at Grey College, in 2006. His widow, Dr Avril Pyman Sokolov is Emeritus Reader in Russian Literature at the University of Durham and a member of Grey SCR. After the dedication a lunch for fifty people was provided in Grey College. Rabbi Lionel Blue spoke movingly about the Crucifix and compared it with the Tree of Life as a symbol of the Torah affirmed in Jewish liturgy. The Master and the Dean of Durham Cathedral also made short speeches of welcome and thanks.

## *Rabbi Lionel Blue Seminars*

A series of seminars on belief, will be held in the Easter Term when among the speakers taking part will be: Martyn Chamberlain, Master of Grey College, David Kennedy, Chaplain of Grey College, Henry Dyson, Fellow, Chris Higgins, Vice-Chancellor, Sam Hockey, 3<sup>rd</sup> year student, Michael Sadgrove, Dean of Durham Cathedral and Rabbi Lionel Blue.

The dates are as follows: 29<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> May. All seminars begin at 7.30pm and will take place in the Pennington Room, Grey College. All are welcome to attend, anyone wishing to have dinner beforehand at 6.30pm should contact Henry Dyson, [henry@henrydyson.co.uk](mailto:henry@henrydyson.co.uk).

*Rabbi Lionel Blue at the ceremony where he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity at the University of Durham.*



## *From the MCR President*

The MCR is enjoying another year of fun and socialising, bringing the postgraduates and 4<sup>th</sup> years together. The familiar events such as the Christmas Extravaganza, Chocolate and Croquet still form the basis of the almanac with new additions including a visit to watch the Newcastle Falcons and ‘Pancakes’.

We continue to increase membership numbers, meaning the MCR is a lively place for discussion or relaxation. The Rugby World Cup proved to be a popular reason to get together, seeing the Phoenix Room filled with almost 40 people for both the semi final and the final. Christmas was a success, and Santa again made an appearance, so we must have been good!

During the holidays the postgraduates have joint MCR events with the other postgraduate communities including film nights, music and a ball in the Castle. The postgraduate community in Durham is quickly integrating itself, thanks in part to the regular collaboration of MCR Presidents.

Within Grey, it is hoped that the croquet against the SCR will take place again this summer, as well as the football against the JCR and the inter-common room cricket, with the possibility of some archery being introduced. Here’s to another packed year!

*Dave Clark*

## *Grey College Chapel*

The Lattin Chapel in Fountain’s Hall, with its many fine works of art, is an essential feature of Grey College and its community, well used for worship but also for music practice and other activities. The Chaplaincy provides a weekly service every Thursday evening, a Sunday Holy Communion once every term, and various other events. A true highlight last term was the College Feast with Rabbi Lionel Blue as preacher and this term the College choir will sing Choral Evensong in Durham Cathedral.

I joined both the College and the Chapel in Michaelmas Term 2007 as a resident tutor and chaplaincy assistant, though in the latter capacity I am also attached to St Mary’s College. My work involves not only the pastoral care for my tutees but also the active participation and organization of worship in the Chapel.

I have made many good friends here in Grey and I feel immensely privileged and proud to be part of the caring, supportive and vibrant Grey family.

*Julia Rückert*

*Julia Rückert is a PhD student in Classics at Durham and has degrees from Durham and Reading Universities. She is originally from Germany.*



*The Lattin Chapel*

**We are pleased to announce that Professor Alan Martin, FRS, Fellow of Grey College and Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics is the new SCR President.**

## *Jean Heslington Retires after 22 years*

A popular member of staff, Jean will be sadly missed by staff and students.



*Jean with some of the Kitchen staff.*

A retirement party, organized by the Bursar, was held in the Pennington Room on October 17<sup>th</sup>.



*Karen Blundell, the Bursar, presents a bouquet.*



*Jean with her husband Chick.*

## *New SCR Treasurer*

Peter Swift, recently elected as Treasurer of the SCR, has a long association with Grey, as an undergraduate and a postgraduate student. Born in St. Helens, Merseyside in 1981, Peter attended local schools, and began his musical education as a chorister in the local Parish Church of St. Nicholas and took up the organ at 17.

‘Swifty’ came to Grey as a Mathematics and Physics student, played cricket for College, and successively sang, directed and then accompanied the College Choir. Within the University, Peter sang with the Choral Society, becoming President in his final year. He also undertook organ studies with the Cathedral Sub-Organist Keith Wright and served as organist within the Parish of St. John’s Neville’s Cross. Having graduated, Peter remained in Durham to study for an MSc in Theoretical Physics and then began a PhD in Terahertz Physics with the Master of Grey, work funded by Her Majesties Government Communication Centre and concerned with the development and subsequent testing of novel models to describe the propagation of Terahertz Radiation in materials that may be of interest as targets in security and surveillance. In 2004, along with Dave Clark, and a number of others, Peter revived the College MCR, serving as its Treasurer for two years. Peter is now working as a Research Associate within the department of Physics.

For the duration of his PhD, Peter has been involved in music: singing with the Choral Society and Palatinate Voices and studying under Clive Constance; whilst also becoming sub-organist at St. Chad’s College. At Chad’s, Peter assists with choir training and Choral Services and has toured to Dublin and New York with them.

Since becoming a postgraduate, Peter has been a College Tutor, playing a full and active role in the life of the SCR, Chapel and College and is happy in his new role as Treasurer.



The Treasurer’s email address is:  
[g.p.swift@durham.ac.uk](mailto:g.p.swift@durham.ac.uk)

## *Exciting New Initiative in Grey:*

Over the last eighteen months or so, a number of seminars, discussions and lectures have been held in Grey to look into the possibility of creating a new institute at Durham dealing with pure and applied research at the boundaries of the physical, mathematical and biological sciences. This has taken place in Grey College.

My professional scientific background lies in the broad area of semiconductor physics.

It could be argued that this field, now well over fifty years old, has created the instrumentation, mathematical models and other analytical methods that led to the communications and computer industries which have, manifestly, generated enormous wealth across the world. We are looking at the pressing problems of biological structure and function. The application of physics and mathematics to such problems as understanding cell growth yield important new science, but this will contribute,

hopefully, to health and wealth creation in the form of better metal treatments.

I am working on this together with colleagues from across the Science Faculty at Durham. In June of 2007, Senate approved the formation of our new Institute, known as the BSI, and I am Chairing its Steering Committee. The BSI has research excellence across the whole Natural Sciences spectrum and its aspirations are summarised by the Mission Statement:

*To solve key biological questions using tools and expertise drawn from the whole spectrum of natural sciences and engineering, including mathematics, and to design and engineer new technologies for application in medicine and biotechnology, that will drive future industrial and social development.*

Here in Durham we have world-class expertise in physics, chemistry, biological sciences, mathematics and engineering. The BSI will provide an experimental complement to its sister Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), established in Durham in 2006, which is a forum for identification and discussion of issues of major contemporary intellectual and policy interest, involving not only science, but also the humanities and social sciences. The vision for the BSI is to provide both a physical and intellectual focus for interdisciplinary activity, as evidenced by strong inter-faculty collaboration. The BSI is committed to experiment, theory and simulation in a completely integrated, multiscale approach to solve biological problems. These problems include many of the Grand Challenges of Biology, which may be summarised as:

- **Adaptation:** How can biology predict the effects of climate change so that beneficial genetic changes can be made ahead of the calamity?
- **Regeneration:** How can we develop new tools and technologies to grow new tissues, and organs?

- **Stress:** How can we understand the link between stress (which means not getting the right chemicals to the cell at the right time) and the causes of illnesses such as stroke?
- **Evolution:** How can we learn from evolution how biological systems have developed in complexity and efficiency and, if possible, how can we mimic them?

The Institute is assembling an amazing armoury of new types of equipment to peer into cells and other biological entities at unprecedented levels of resolution to understand not only their structure, but also their dynamical behaviour. In addition, the Institute is developing new and sophisticated mathematical models and analysis procedures that will allow such behaviour of proteins, viruses and cells to be modelled and understood at a deep physical level.

The University regards the BSI, along with developments in renewable energy research, as its number one scientific priority. At the time of writing this article, a new building is in the planning stage which will bring together colleagues from across the University to one site where there will be activity in the areas of public engagement of science, interactions with industry and academic partners in the region.

At the end of a long career as an experimental physicist, working with colleagues in many disciplines from across the University and beyond, has been immensely exciting and rewarding. This venture in Grey College is important, as I believe that our Colleges at Durham have a profoundly significant role to play in ensuring the University delivers on its research agenda over the next few years. In this, as in so many other ways, Grey leads the way again!

The website for the new BSI is:  
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/biophysical.sciences/>

Martyn Chamberlain, Master

## Senior Common Room News

The past year has been another successful one for the SCR, whether measured in terms of membership, activities and events, support for College activities, relationships with the wider University including other colleges, or financial performance.

During the course of 2007-08 links were developed with other colleges, including Teikyo University, St Mary's and Josephine Butler. Events included the now traditional MCR/SCR Formal evening, croquet matches (including the – also now traditional – contest against the MCR, which was narrowly won by the SCR), and a new members' Formal. The SCR continues to contribute to the life of the College. With new developments progress has been made on an initiative with the Law Department of great potential benefit to the University, Law and the College – thanks to an important degree to the SCR Executive member with responsibility for Projects & Developments, Kieran Hosty.



*Bill Best, SCR Host*

The College also benefited as a result of an auction of the cartoon drawings of David Haldane (*The Times* political cartoonist and new member of the SCR). David generously allowed the signed illustrations from his 2006 talk to the membership to be auctioned. A total of around £3000 was raised for the Grey College Trust. The SCR continues to participate

in many activities, including the splendid art exhibitions and talks, for example the fascinating talk given on 'Rock Art in the North East' by Derek Gunby. Rachel Orange, Secretary, supported by Webmaster Simon Smith, sent out information on all these activities, and others.



*Ian with his wife, Veronique. They married in Grey Chapel.*

Many new members have joined recently encouraged by the friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The new television and DVD player installed in the SCR together with the collection of classic film DVDs has been built up by Foster Neville and film nights enjoyed. New members include 25 or so academics, professionals and practitioners from all walks of life, who have an interest in collegiate life.

After four years as President, I am preparing to step down. I am grateful for the support of the Master and Sarah, and other College officers, and to all my SCR Executive colleagues during my term and for their companionship and collegiality over the time. I look forward to my continuing association with them and to supporting the SCR Executive and College in various ways in the future.

*Professor Ian Stone*



*A Formal Meal in October 1962. Can you identify anyone here? Please let us know!*

### *Association Executive*

Henry Dyson – President: [henry@henrydyson.co.uk](mailto:henry@henrydyson.co.uk)

Steven Baker – Vice President: [steven.baker@firstplus.co.uk](mailto:steven.baker@firstplus.co.uk)

Janet Gyllenspetz – Vice Present

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

Thomas Cliff – Secretary: [tomjhcliff@hotmail.com](mailto:tomjhcliff@hotmail.com)

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

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

The Agenda for the AGM of the Association 2008 are available online from Tom Cliff.

In view of the continued increase in postal rates we would like to hear from those members with e-mail access who would like to receive their copy of Grey Matters electronically. Please send you e-mail address to the secretary, Thomas Cliff, at: [tomjhcliff@hotmail.com](mailto:tomjhcliff@hotmail.com)

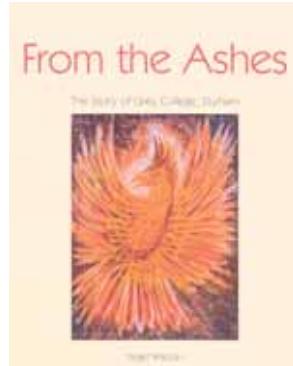
## *College Reunion 2008 booking form*

The college reunion will be held on the weekend of April 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Dinner is free for anyone graduating in 2007.

Accommodation (all prices include breakfast)	11th	12th	13th
Single standard room .....£26	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single standard en suite .....£34	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twin standard.....£41	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twin en suite .....£61	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday/Sunday Lunch .....£8.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grand Reunion Dinner £31 per person (excluding wine)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Friday night High Table supper.....£8.50	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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

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



### *From the Ashes*

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

### **ORDER FORM**

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

1. Name and Address (CAPITALS)

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

Postage & packing per copy at: £4.50 (UK), £5.50 (Europe)

£9.50 for the rest of the world (surface) £ .....

3. I enclose my cheque, payable to 'University of Durham (Grey College Trust)'  
for the total of: £ .....