

Grey Matters

Grey College Association Magazine

January 2006



Artist's impressions of proposed new College extension

Letter from the President

Dear Association Members

I am very pleased to send this, the second magazine I have been responsible for producing, to you. Thank you very much for all your e-mails and favourable responses to the last edition.

As you will have seen on the front cover there are exciting and ambitious plans to extend communal space in the main building in the hope of really improving facilities for staff and students at Grey.

In the last year the Association has sponsored a Formal Meal for undergraduates preceded by a short presentation about the Association and its work by Steve Baker.

Awards have been made for students needing assistance with traveling expenses for

Simon Mills, 'Eye & Camera', Exhibition, Grey, October 2005



My passion for photojournalism motivated me to dedicate a month of my Gap Year experience in India to undertaking a photographic study of the tribal communities impacted by hydroelectric schemes in the Narmada Valley. I travelled into this remote area of India and explored the valley, staying

field trips and for students suffering financial hardship.

The *Business Angels* scheme continues to offer important help and advice for student careers, extending inclusion and involvement between current undergraduates and alumni.

The London Reunion, held in September was a happy and successful occasion enjoyed by all who attended, and we look forward to the Annual Reunion in College on April 1st when the Vice Chancellor Sir Kenneth Calman and Lady Calman will join us for dinner.

I hope to see you at a reunion in the future and encourage you to keep in touch. I hope that you will join me in agreeing that Grey matters!

Henry Dyson

with tribal families and taking their photographs as they went about their daily lives. In order to achieve my desired photographic style I had to spend a great deal of time establishing a degree of trust with my subjects. This was especially hard because I had no knowledge of their language. Nevertheless, I managed to photograph them in a completely un-posed fashion.

My determination and commitment to completing the assignment resulted in me travelling thousands of kilometres, meeting some fascinating indigenous communities and coming home with a collection of photographs that surpassed my expectations.

A chance meeting with Henry Dyson in the early stages of my first year motivated me to share my experiences with others and to hold a photographic exhibition in Grey College. The culmination of our efforts resulted in a very well received professional exhibition, including fifty framed, hand printed black and white

photographs and open to the public for three weeks. The photographs covered a diverse range of subject matter, including images from visits to Croatia, Denmark and the Narmada Valley, India, as described above.

I am grateful for this fantastic opportunity Grey College has given me and I

would like to give special thanks to Henry Dyson for his support and vision for the project.

Simon Mills is currently a second year student at Grey College, reading Natural Sciences (Physics with Economics).

Garden Opera

The Garden Opera Company will perform *Così fan Tutti* by Mozart - on Wednesday 14th June, 2006 in Fountains Hall. There will be a champagne reception at 6pm in the Master's garden.

Tickets are £45 each, including champagne reception and dinner (black tie), and are available from the Conference Secretary Joyce Dover, Tel. 0191 334 5565, Fax. 0191 334 5901, Email: joyce.dover@durham.ac.uk

From the Master

Grey College is approaching its fiftieth anniversary, and during that time British society has been transformed almost beyond recognition. Mrs Thatcher, of course, famously said that "there is no such thing as society, only individuals". In that opinion I would beg to differ from Grantham's most famous daughter. Since coming here just over two years ago, I have been constantly impressed by the supportive nature of the society that is Grey College, and almost daily I am confronted by new examples of the concern that is shown amongst the present Members of the College for each other, and also for the wider community in Durham and beyond. This, I would argue, provides further proof (if it were needed) that societies can and do exist, and that - in the right circumstances - they can be tolerant, creative and sympathetic.

Since 1959, the nature (and, some might say, quality) of the student experience has also changed markedly from that enjoyed by many readers of this article. In many ways, student life has become much tougher as pressures to achieve and to succeed have increased. The

difficulties that beset undergraduate Members during their time at the University are many and varied: concerns about their academic courses and competencies; the need to find a career that is rewarding and satisfying; the inevitable tensions of friendships and relationships; and, alas, increasing worries about funding for the three or four years of a degree course.



The network of support that exists in Grey College is quite remarkable: a strong JCR Welfare Team to provide immediate and practical help, which is complemented (from within the College) by advice and guidance from a range of people. These include the

Student Support Officer (a new post, occupied by Miss Julie Bushby), College Tutors, the Senior Tutor, the Chaplain and other College Officers and staff. The result, I think, is that our community has become one where Junior Members can be assured that when they encounter trouble or difficulty, help is at hand and they are not alone. In these days of accounting for everything in monetary terms, this may all seem like “overkill”. However, Grey College in particular (and Durham in general) has almost the lowest drop-out rate from degree programmes in the UK. A monetary value can indeed be attached to this, and there is no doubt that a very strong contributory factor in the College’s enviable record is the joined up system of welfare, support and counselling provided by the Colleges and the University. Senior Members of the College will be interested to learn that they, too, can play a part in providing support and encouragement to Junior Members who are beginning to think about careers, and further details are given in the article by Steve Gregory on the *Business Angels* scheme.

The College community is, however, not only concerned about its domestic happiness but its interest reaches out far beyond

Exhibition of Photographic work by Professor Tom Willmore (1919 – 2005)

The exhibition was held in Grey College from 20th January – 5th February 2006. The Vice Chancellor Sir Kenneth Calman opened the exhibition at the Private View attended by around 200 people. Tom’s widow Dr Gillian Boughton (Vice Principal of St Mary’s College) and his daughter Helen were present.

Tom Willmore became professor of pure mathematics at Durham University in 1965 and held the post until his retirement in 1984.

the confines of South Road. Last year, the JCR raised almost ten thousand pounds for its charities, and this generosity has continued in the present session. Through the support of the Trust, two Members of the College will be going to Sri Lanka in the summer to take part in the work of reconstruction after last year’s disaster, and plans are now being prepared to assist a student from Sri Lanka to come to Durham for teacher training. In this, and in so many other ways, Grey College provides a superb example of a society that is successful, generous, creative and supportive.

I do hope that you will enjoy reading this edition of *Grey Matters*, and that you will keep in touch with Grey College and the Association. The College is in excellent heart, and has great plans for new initiatives and developments. Information on some of these may be found on our website, and of course in this magazine. Your continued support of Grey, in terms of your time, your donations and your interest is vital if we are to continue as the best, brightest and most supportive College in the University.

Martyn Chamberlain, Epiphany Term, 2006
martyn.chamberlain@durham.ac.uk



He was also a keen photographer who would take landscape picture studies on outdoor excursions with his wife of more than 50 years, Joyce, who would use the outings for material

for her watercolour paintings, some of which can be seen in Grey College.



Professor Willmore also used an innovative microscope camera technique to take pictures of tiny parts of insects, plants, seeds and minerals. He was awarded an associateship of the Royal Photographic Society for his microscopic work, which also created a special category for his studies, but his pictures have never been exhibited publicly until now.

His family wishes to donate any proceeds from sales of the photographs to the Durham University Willmore Pure Mathematics Postgraduate Awards, the first of three of which were awarded in October.

MCR President, Peter Calvert

This year the MCR has gone from strength to strength, with membership approaching seventy people, with a fairly even mix of postgraduates and fourth years. The MCR has developed as a close knit community of language students, fourth year scientists adding to a diverse range of postgraduate minds.

The social life of the MCR has been its focus this year, as well as having an MCR table at college formals with drinks before and afterwards in the much used Phoenix room which is also the MCR, the President hosts the annual President's Guest Night. We also host regular informal events such as a pizza evening, Christmas extravaganza and an evening of chocolate! These have enabled all the diverse members of the MCR to come together and share their passions.

Advertisements

If you wish to advertise in *Grey Matters* please contact us for further information.



Our aim for this year is to integrate ourselves into the fabric of college and university life. We have established events with the JCR and SCR and we look forward to beating the JCR at football and the SCR at Croquet this year. There are several events planned within the wider postgraduate community including the Postgraduate Ball which can only help to foster a sense of postgraduate community and scholarly exchange.

Dave Baldwin
Grey College JCR President 2005-06



Since the last addition of Grey Matters was produced the JCR has continued to progress and develop both in terms of achievement and physical changes to Grey.

Last June was the largest Phoenix Ball ever as approximately 900 members of Grey and their guests travelled to Tall Trees in Yarm to enjoy an unforgettable evening. Grey Day was its normal perennial success and the second annual 'Greybowl' American Football Tournament formed a major part of post-exam celebrations.



So far this academic year we have redecorated the bar, spent £2000 on improvements to the college gym and (with the help of the Friends of Grey College) have been

able to recover the snooker table and completely renovate the Syd Holgate Snooker Room. We have even set up a snooker ladder to find the best snooker talent in Grey who will then be awarded the Syd Holgate Snooker Trophy which has sat idly behind the bar for years. Thanks to college for support with these improvements. Meanwhile, in the digital world, we have unleashed 'on-line' karaoke after formals and the JCR website editors have produced an on-line booking system for Fountains Hall allowing sports, societies and individuals to secure regular practice times.



This year's annual fireworks display was a stunning success both in terms of its technical merit and the crowds it drew. It is becoming so popular that next year we are considering closing Hollingside Lane due to sheer volume of numbers! Once again, the social committee hosted an amazing informal ball which filled the college with music legends and formals continue to sell out within hours of ticket sales opening on the JCR website.

Fountains Theatre Company has produced *Breezblock Park* by Willy Russell as well as entertaining the college with their 'alternative' pantomime *Babes in 'da hood*. The charities committee has continued to support

both national and international charities including one which was founded by a current member of Grey called the Children of Maras aimed at helping street children in Central America.



Sports at Grey have continued to progress this year with the men's hockey so far unbeaten and the men's Rugby Club looking strong enough to retain the floodlit trophy. Many of the other sports teams including Netball, Darts, Ultimate Frisbee and the Boat Club continue to be strong contenders for

Have you Published a Book or Paper?

If so do consider giving a copy to the new Victor Watts library. We hope to build up a comprehensive collection to celebrate the intellectual achievements of all Grey alumni.

Fountains Theatre Company

Willy Russell's excellent comedy *Breezblock* Park kick-started Fountains Theatre Company's year. Directed by Peter Wright, the hugely entertaining show was a great success, with large audiences impressed by the cast's excellent acting and convincing scouse accents.

The controversial pantomime *Babes in da Hood* written by Henry Columbine, Phil O' Meare and Maanav Dev finished the

silverware in their respective competitions. The Grey Cheerleaders have already been crowned University cheer leading champions by seeing off the main University team. Grey is also making its presence felt on the international stage - Grey Ski Club has just returned from their trip to Italy while the Rugby Club travel to Bratislava at Easter at the same time the Football Club visit Krakow.

I am grateful for the *Business Angels* website and the introduction of 'intern' angels. I am also trying to establish an archive of old editions of the *Phoenix Magazine* and *Grey Matter* so if anyone has unwanted copies of either then I would be happy to receive any donations.

I still have my President's Guest Night to look forward to and after such an enjoyable start to the job I'm sure the next six months will be as equally challenging!

Dave Baldwin



Before the Show, 'Babes in Da Hood'

Michaelmas term with an unusual variation of the traditional tale of *Babes in the Wood*. The show featured a dominatrix schoolteacher, a lesbian wedding and even Ali G put in an appearance. The show proved so popular that the Saturday and Sunday night shows saw audience members sitting on the floor and standing at the back so as not to miss out on the festive fun.

The Epiphany and Easer terms promise to get more excitement with a £100 prize

Where are they now?

If you wish to contact/trace someone from Grey you have lost contact with we are happy to forward messages and bring people back in touch.

The 'Business Angels' Scheme

The *Business Angels* scheme was set up by the Grey Association in 2005, to make up-to-date and practical careers advice available to members of Grey JCR and MCR. Alumni were asked to provide information about their experiences in various careers, professions or business areas, which was then put onto an area of the Association website. Since e-mail details are included, to allow 'Angels' to be contacted for information or advice, care is taken to ensure that legal requirements are being met, and that only current or former members of Grey can access the site.

We've gone from 0 to 118 in less than 10 months, and although Ferrari or BMW might not find those figures impressive, as a measure of the growth of the Grey Association's *Business Angels* scheme, it makes pretty good reading, don't you think? At this time last year, we were trying to set up the scheme, and we currently have 118 Angels listed on the Association's website, ready and waiting to answer questions from JCR and MCR members. Between them, these Alumni or supporters cover 18 careers, professions or business areas, from The Armed Forces and

offered to the winner of the Drama Shorts Competition, the spring play *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, sure to be a success, and a cabaret featuring an array of comedy sketches providing some much needed post-exams entertainment.

As FTC goes from strength to strength, we are grateful to those who continue to support us in all our activities this year.

Henry Columbine

Aviation to Travel & Tourism, via such favourites as Education, Financial Services and the Law. Also represented are all generations of Grey-men and -women, from those who left in the 60s to those who have graduated since 2000.

While we're very grateful to all those of you who have joined the scheme so far, we still need volunteers to cover areas like the Arts, Journalism, Film/TV/Radio and Advertising where we have no Angels at present. We'd also like to find more Angels for those areas where coverage is limited, like the Chemical /Pharmaceutical industries, HR/Personnel, Marketing, and Public Relations. If any of these is YOUR special area, please think about joining the scheme by signing up on the Association website, or by contacting Tom Cliff (tcliff@deloitte.co.uk) or Steve Gregory (stephen.gregory@dur.ac.uk).

The latest request from the JCR is for 'Intern Angels' – we're looking for any Alumni who did an Internship whilst at Grey, who will share their experiences with current College members. If that Internship took place within the last 5 years, this would be ideal! So, how about it, all of you who graduated from Grey in the last few years?

The other possible development being considered has come after two Angels kindly offered Work Experience placements in the companies which they run. These offers have raised some interest, and it started us thinking – there are quite a number of Grey Alumni who run their own businesses, or work in senior positions with public or private organisations: surely some of them would be prepared to consider this as a way of helping Grey students explore various career paths, and of publicising their companies within Grey? If you might be

able to help with this, please contact Steve Gregory or any of the Association Exec.

And finally - you might like to know that the Grey Association's *Business Angels* scheme was up and running before a similar scheme now launched by the University Careers Service, and that ours is being pointed out to other Colleges as an example which they might like to follow. Grey leads again!

Steve Gregory (1965 – 1969)

The Friends of Grey College

This independent foundation raises and distributes funds for the benefit of Grey College students and seeks to encourage the creative, imaginative and extra curricular life of the College.

This year we have refurbished the snooker room in the name of Sidney Holgate and provided bursaries for student vacation activities. All the chairs at High Table have now been reupholstered, and College memorabilia restored and displayed.

The Formal Opening of the Victor Watts Library, Grey College, Durham, 17th June, 2005 by Professor Derek Brewer

Many of you knew Victor Watts as an outstanding university teacher, scholar, and administrator in the Humanities. I feel very privileged to be asked to join you on this occasion. His name will live in the memories of his family and the many in the university and beyond who will remember him, but there can be no doubt that one of the most suitable ways to commemorate him and his work here is in the dedication of this library to him. The admirable memoir by Professor Fuller is a splendid summary of an exemplary life rich in achievement of many kinds and I personally can add nothing to that save to express my admiration for so useful a life.

A library is a peculiarly suitable commemoration. It expresses in physical form

the core of intellectual achievement in a life of service to learning and education. Even the amazing electronic extensions of the internet are still a library of systematic knowledge. A library is the centre of a scholar's and a student's intellectual life. The vast extended library which is the internet, it still based on the structures of words that are the essence of humanistic knowledge. Words are more than mere signs. They are the symbols of the vast range of ideas, knowledge, feelings, compulsions, obligations, hopes, desires and fears that make up our mental and much of our physical lives.

Although language is more than words, names are peculiarly of its essence. Names are our first utterances. The names of places are our first homes and earliest directions. So it is especially fitting that Victor Watts's major scholarly achievement, his great study of English place names, the fruit of a life-time's labour, should be commemorated not only in the publication of his book but also in the naming of a library.

There is a special power in place names, a special richness in their construction and associations. A special combination of skills is needed to trace their meanings and elucidate their origins. A scholar of place names needs languages, history and philology, and also not least the power to organise, co-operate with, and benefit from the work of colleagues, beyond that other power to carry out the many other duties of a busy academic life.

Place names are the humanisation of our surroundings, the footprints of our communal history, the poetry of our everyday locations and avocations, a guarantee of stability, a statement of what has been and a promise that it will continue. There is a highly significant passage in Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* that expresses in extreme form the basic power of place names. The narrator writes:

I was always embarrassed by the words sacred, glorious and sacrifice and the expression in vain...I had seen nothing sacred and the things that were glorious had no glory and the sacrifices were like the stockyards of Chicago...finally only the names of places had dignity...Abstract words such as glory, honour, courage, or hallow were obscene beside the concrete names of villages, the numbers of roads, the names of rivers, the names of regiments and the dates.

(1929, ed. Penguin 1975, pp.143-4)

Despite the nihilistic entre-guerre cynicism and the once fashionable bogus contrast between concrete and abstract this is a passionate if limited statement of the basic importance of place names. It is a paradoxical tribute to their power. Of course place names are not always so dour, even in the dismal circumstances of war. They can still illustrate how names humanise even a horrible landscape. In my own experience in a later war, as an infantry officer in the Gothic line in the Apennines, in rain and situations not so very

different from those Hemingway describes, in the winter of 1944-5, we had to go by night along a most dismal track thigh deep in mud, with corpses not far off as a warning not to stray. The track passed between two low but distinctive hills, known to the soldiery, if you will excuse the expression, as Twin Tits, though not so marked on the war maps. It was a classic case of how names humanise a landscape.

More seriously names may have a mysterious charm. Most readers of English poetry will remember what resonance Edward Thomas drew from the strangely named village Adlestrop in Gloucestershire, where once a local train stopped for him as it still did in my youth, and the poet saw 'only the name', and 'willow, willow-herb and grass', and a bird sang and he heard 'all the birds of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire' – ancient place names evocative of the history of the country. Place name scholarship adds to the interest and charm of the name when it tells us that it derives from 'Tatel's thorp' or village. Who Tatel was of course we do not know but his name lives. The etymology is agreeably homely if not so apparently exotic. It is a memorial of one of our pioneering ancestors who faced the hard life of taming a piece of once wild anonymous country, where the wolf and the boar once roamed. Tatel gave that untamed place a local habitation and a name as poetic for him as any poet's ravings. So the land was humanised as in hundreds of thousands of other cases. A name is always more than just a word. It was never true that names denote only things, though that is an error that has persisted in English thought from Hobbes to Sir Freddie Ayer's famous book, *Language, Truth and Logic* (1936), limited in my view in all three respects.

Victor Watts and the team he led have conspicuously extended our knowledge of and pleasure in place names, I should like also to express my gratitude for his shorter book on the place names of Durham, the forerunner of the great dictionary. Here we can find the earliest traces of human habitation of the ground on

which we stand, or rather, of the rivers we enjoy. The earliest names are river names given by the earliest remote inhabitants of these parts, pre-Celtic, Indo-European, whose only memorials are those names, Deerness, Alwent, Don, Team, Tees, Tyne, and Wear – a poetic litany in themselves. They record our ultimate relationship with other peoples far away in time and place. Durham was most effectively colonised in Anglo-Saxon times, with an overlay of Latin and French. Most recently we can trace such names as Peterlee, founded in 1948, an ingenious combination of the forename and surname of a noted Durham miners' leader, with its faintly ominous echo of Peterloo.

The Clifford Stubbs Collection

Jean Stubbs, a graduate of Reading University, a resident of Saffron Walden and a former teacher of French and Latin at the Friends School there has given a fine collection of Chinese artifacts to the Grey College Trust for permanent display. Jean's father was Clifford Stubbs originally from New Zealand a graduate of Canterbury College and a DSc of Liverpool University went to China and co-founded the West China Union University (now the University of Sichuan at Chengdu) there in 1910, with the help of Ernest Rutherford then Professor of Physics at Manchester University. He was killed during an insurgence in 1930, her mother Margaret returned to England and settled in Saffron Walden. The collection is now on display in two specially constructed cabinets on the SCR concourse.

Obituary

John Featonby (1996 – 97) sadly died in January, aged 27. He is fondly remembered as a gifted musician and talented member of Fountains Theatre Company. Heartfelt

But it is not for me here to ride on the back of the learning of Victor Watts. It will be enough to conclude with our sense of value of all that he contributed. That cannot fully make up for our regret for his premature loss, but at least expresses our admiration and gratitude for all he did, and our enduring sense of his achievement.

It is a privilege and a pleasure for me formally to declare open the Victor Watts Library.

*Professor Derek Brewer
Emeritus Professor, the University of
Cambridge. Master of Emmanuel College,
Cambridge, 1977-90*

condolences to his family and friends.



The Jean Stubbs Fellowship

Jean has also given £45,000 to the Grey College Trust to establish a Jean Stubbs Fellowship at Grey College. This will be used to service and protect the Clifford Stubbs Collection and to provide funds for accommodation and Dining Rights for visiting scholars. We are very grateful for her kind generosity.

London Reunion, 2005

This was held at Topo Gigio Restaurant, London on 23rd September and was well attended by alumni and guests. The Master gave a well-received speech and £400 was raised for the Grey College Trust.

London Reunion, 2006

The London Reunion will take place at Topo Gigio Restaurant, Brewer Street, London W1 (nearest underground Piccadilly Circus) on Friday September 15th at 7pm.

There will be a drinks reception at 7pm followed by dinner at 8pm.

The cost of the evening is £35.00, which 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, or write to him at Newhill House, 129 Pepys Road, Telegraph Hill, London, SE14 5SE. Mobile: 0779 888 4638.

Address given by Dr Thetis Blacker, Honorary Fellow of Grey College at the Durham launch of 'Pearl'

This is a great occasion. Elaine, Mary, members of the Watts family, old friends, new friends, fellows, graduates, undergraduates and Master. We are all here to pay homage to Victor Watts and to celebrate his life, his work and his friendship. And we do so with a Pearl of Great Price.

Victor Watts was not just a very learned man. He was a wise man; a man of vision; a man of profound integrity. His knowledge was extensive, ranging throughout, it seemed, every educated realm. And he was a great human being – a superb Master of Grey College, where the students and staff, one and all, loved and respected him. He had, too, a great capacity for friendship. At my first meeting with him, he instantly endeared himself to me by saying how

glad he was that I pronounced my name correctly with an epsilon – *Thetis* – not with an eta, *Theetis*, like the submarine that sank.

His definitive book *The Cambridge Dictionary of Place Names*, which he finished just before his death in 2002, was published last year. Now we have *Pearl*. I came to be involved in this work because, not long before he died, Victor sent me, very diffidently, a typescript of this modernized version. He had made it, he explained, more or less for fun, and thought it wasn't up to much really. But perhaps I would cast an eye over it, and see if I thought it was worth publishing. I read it and was entranced. Unlike most of you here, I had never read *Pearl* before. In Victor's version I could read and understand it without difficulty. I replied to his letter ecstatically. I found the poetry scintillatingly beautiful, iridescent as some of Shakespeare's sonnets. I urged him to publish it. Apparently he had not sent the typescript to anyone but me. No one knew about it.

When he died, after his funeral, I suggested that it should be published in his honour, a tribute to his memory. Elaine welcomed the idea. All his friends and colleagues in Grey College thought this would be a perfect memorial. Then the hand of fate took over.

I was telephoned by Professor Fuller, whom I had not then met. He asked me to contribute a few reminiscences about Victor which he would like to include in an extended obituary tribute he was writing. I mentioned Victor's *Pearl* to him, and he at once agreed to take the work over, to do the glossing with Corrine Saunders, and make the poem into publishable shape. This, triumphantly, they both have done. It took them months, hundreds of hours of work, which they fitted into their hugely heavy teaching schedules. What they have achieved is truly astonishing, as you who buy the book will see. And they have done it all for love, for Victor.

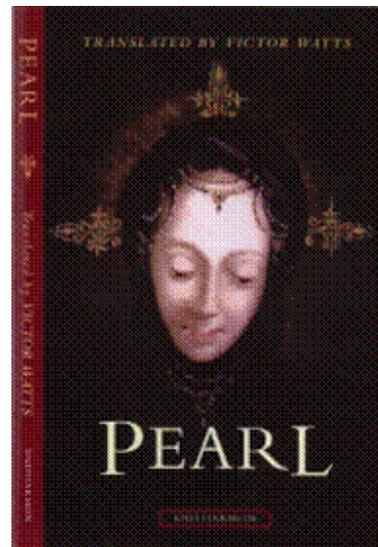
Each evening, unfailingly, they set aside the time to complete a stanza, and each week David sent me a freshly glossed chapter. I had all the fun. They had all the work. My role was that of an ordinary reader: to query anything that was not clear. But everything was always clear. I enjoyed my task so much, anticipating the arrival of the weekly long envelope, bearing David's handwriting, that when the 101 stanzas had been completed; I wished that the poem had 1,001 verses, like the Arabian Nights. Certainly though, even Scheherazade could not have surpassed the brilliant explanation of the poem which Corinne then contributed.

Pearl is published by Enitharmon Press, 26b Caversham Road, London, NW5 2DU. Phone: 020 7482 5967, Fax: 020 7284 1787, Web: www.enitharmon.co.uk. The book is in hardback only - the bulk of the edition is priced at £15, and the signed and slip-cased limited edition will be £35. The books will be sent postage free.

Both David and Corinne are of course, as you all know, immensely eminent, and it was therefore with great pride and joy that I was able to introduce them to Kathleen Raine, who had agreed to write an introduction to *Pearl*.

This she did as one of her last pieces of writing before she departed this world.

The finger of Fate then pointed at the Emetharmon Press, at Stephen Stuart-Smith. At first he demurred and then gave in to what was inevitably meant to be! He has published *Pearl*, making it an object of real beauty.



It is a book that will do more than grace our coffee-tables. It will lie upon our bedside tables, ready to transform the dark hours of night into translucent dreams wherein we can be encircled, adored and enriched by concatenations of visionary Pearls.

Visits

If you wish to visit the College at a time other than the reunion you would be very welcome to do so and the Master will be happy to meet you or arrange for you to be shown around.



Bequests and Benefactions

If you would like to leave something for the College in your will you may do so by a bequest to the Grey College Trust. You may specify how you would prefer the money to benefit the College and be assured that the Trustees will do their very best to honour your memory and your wishes. You may also give something in your own lifetime, specifying how you wish the money to be spent. For further details please contact the Master.

Senior Common Room

Professor Ian Stone, the SCR President, will be happy to receive any applications for SCR membership from alumni. Come and join us! Email: i.e.stone@durham.ac.uk

Kirill Sokolov (1930 – 2004)

An exhibition of his work will be held in October 2006 to mark the beginning of the academic year. Kirill was married to Dr Avril Pyman, former Reader in Russian Literature in the University.

Victor Watts: A Personal Memory

Given during dinner at the English Place-Name Society and the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, Autumn Day-Conference in Memory of Victor Watts, on Saturday 17th September 2005, at Grey College

Victor Watts was a Renaissance man with diverse interests and achievements. A Latinist providing an excellent translation of *Boethius* (the first in English), he also edited John of Trevisa's translation of *De proprietatibus rerum* by Bartholomaeus Anglicus. An historian, a medievalist and a philologist, he was an authority on the place names of County Durham and editor of the canonical *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*.

As well as substantial general scholarly responsibilities. He was Honorary Director the English Place-Name Survey from 1993, editor of the *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* from 1996, as well as general editor of the *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*. He was successively Vice-President and President from 1983 – 91 of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland. In addition, Dean of Faculty of Arts from 1987 - 90 and Dean of Colleges from 1999 – 2002 as well as Master of this Colleges from 1989 until his death, arguing vigorously for improved funding and greater autonomy for the Colleges. He was, thus, a senior academic administrator, contributing much to the policy and governance of Durham University. He was, furthermore, an FSA and FRHS.

He was a lecturer in English Language and Medieval Literature from 1962 – and from 1974 a Senior Lecturer and then Reader – and was an inspiring teacher and tutor, giving to generations of students and future scholars his own learning and enthusiasm.

A fine pianist and a lover and patron of the arts as well as a discriminating collector. In his youth he was a keen sportsman and gifted tennis player. A lover of literature, he read well, from Chaucer and Langland to Pound. He was a devoted family man with a wide circle of friends, colleagues and acquaintances. In the memory of his family and friends there is a living memorial to him as well as the more enduring memorials of his contributions to scholarship and other fields.

He was by nature a college man: committed to the community of scholarship and learning (in both senses), a community comprising both young and old. This was his vocation as well as his profession. To know him was to know the range and possibility of human life in all its fullness. What he did, he did well. He was not a jack of all trades and master of none. As his name suggests, he was successful, a victor, in all that he attempted.

On his appointment from UCL as a lecturer in 1962, he became a Tutor in Grey and briefly lived in College before his first marriage. He was then twenty-four and little older than his students or post-graduates. He became Senior Tutor and Vice-Master in 1984, assuming primary responsibility for admissions, and in 1989 became the third Master. He was well fitted for this post since, in addition to his academic qualifications, he had known the College almost since its foundation and had worked closely with both the first and second Masters, Syd Holgate (1958 – 1980) and Eric Halladay (1980 – 1988). His own undergraduate experience of Merton College at Oxford was also advantageous. To him it was clear that a college is not primarily a collection of buildings but a place of intellectual life and discovery. Nonetheless, the latter has to be

enabled and the material infrastructure is important.

He secured funding for substantial further accommodation for the College and a contract for a building with nearly a hundred student rooms, a new library, a common room, and conference facilities was signed in 1994. This was completed in late 1995 and, as Holgate House, officially opened 23rd March 1996 by the first Master Dr Syd Holgate. In addition he made provision for new showers and for some additional en suite rooms elsewhere in College as well as for on-line computer access in all rooms throughout the site. Funding for an enlarged and more modern bar was also secured and this was opened when he pulled the first pint in May 2002. He also did what he could to attract funding to the College. The Grey College Trust was created by him in 1990 and has brought valuable independent funding for Grey.



He secured a coat of arms for the College and this was granted, posthumously, in 2003. He transformed the inner appearance of the college by works of art in association with Henry Dyson Fine Art and built up a fine collection of antique furniture and artefacts for the SCR.

He engaged fully in the social life of the College, attending college functions such as formal dinners, balls and other events as well as informal events such as plays and concerts. Not

infrequently he propped up the bar and many have been entertained in his residence. He was a living and ubiquitous presence, always accessible to those in need. The College was for him an extended family, a wider self, and so it has been for its other members too. His own courteous, informal and relaxed behaviour has set a pattern and standard for the community at large.

In scholarship as in other fields, the Master led from the front. His own teaching and publications inspired and encouraged others. In 2001 the Alan Richards Fellowship in Mathematics was established by him and this supplemented the Holgate Fellowship established in 1982 in memory of the first Master. From 1992 onwards he established honorary fellowships to encourage links between Grey and distinguished alumni and benefactors such as Lord Howick and Bishop David Jenkins. During his Mastership several distinguished people were elected as Honorary Fellows of Grey College, most notably Rabbi Dr Lionel Blue, Sir Reresby Sitwell and Dr Thetis Blacker.

The academic appeal and performance of the College improved during his Mastership. In 2002 there were 2,300 applications for 250 places, more than for any other college except University College in Castle. In 2001, moreover, 70% of all degrees conferred to Grey students were first or upper seconds whereas a decade before the proportion had been 60%.

Above all, he gave of himself. There was a spring of deep compassion as well as a quick and instinctive empathy coupled with a strong sense of pastoral and civic responsibility and service. He understood well that to live fully we must not only live widely but also not for ourselves alone. In this he was also undoubtedly strengthened by his quiet but deep faith and it is fitting that the work dedicated to his memory by Mary Cookson in the College Chapel is entitled 'Faith'.

He was widely and deeply loved and the love which he gave was returned, for he was good company and one enjoyed and was enlivened by his wit, his fund of appropriate and crafted anecdote, and wise observations, as well as by his gregarious and sociable nature and goodwill. If his faith sustained him, in later years his second wife Elaine brought him a renewed deep happiness and fulfilment which transformed him and were manifest to all.

How should we remember him? We can treasure and cherish his sharp intelligence, his wide learning, his love of the arts, his energy, his essential gentle decency and his compassion, as well as his integrity and his commitment to the cause of precise, widely ranging and liberal learning.

Victor Watts died at the top of his bent, in the full possession and exercise of his faculties and in the plenitude of his powers and this is how we shall always remember him.

David Burnett, SCR

The Grey Association Reunion 2006, to be held in College

This will take place on 31st March, 1st and 2nd April, when it is hoped that Rabbi Lionel Blue, a Fellow of Grey College, will be the after dinner speaker on the 1st April. A separate booking form is included with this magazine.

SCR Tuted Vintage Port Tasting

A crisp November 30th saw 28 paying guests assemble in the Pennington Room. Their purpose? - to explore the rich and diverse world of Vintage Ports. This Event had been suggested by Grey's Senior Tutor – Tony Cleaver; and, in a somewhat unwise moment of enthusiasm, recently elected SCR Member, Kieran Hosty, volunteered to source the wines and lead the presentation. One notable and enjoyable aspect of the evening was that College hosted a dozen guests from outside the University. They added further levity, balance, wisdom and grace to the proceedings.

Kieran began by sharing some of the key historic, geographic, climatological, geological, economic, oenological and viticultural characteristics of these fortified wines. He explained that there are about 80,000 distinctive properties owned by about 20,000 wine growers. The annual *wine* production has averaged about 100,000,000 litres of which about only $\frac{1}{3}$ is converted into the *fortified port*

wine. Of the port wine only approximately 5.0% is classified as “vintage”. The evening's tasting concentrated on exploring the characteristics of wines from four vintages – 1960; 1977; 1983; and 2000.

There were 2x bottles of 1960 Dow, a magnum each of Dow 1977 and Rabello Valente 1977, 4x halves of Dow 1983, and 2x bottles of Delaforce 2000. This spectrum of years and bottle sizes allowed for some comparisons both vertically and horizontally (no, the wines – not the participants!). The five core ports were supplemented by Churchill *Dry White* Port and some delicious 1990 Neipoort Colheita (a vintage *Tawny* – barrel aged port).

In all, a stimulating and informative and enjoyable evening was had by all.

The Master, Professor Martyn Chamberlain, concluded that the event was by way of an experiment (well - a physicist would say that, wouldn't he?) and one which should in his view become a part of the regular occasional series of such “events” associated with Grey and its SCR.

Kieran Hosty, SCR Member & Tutor

Conference and Tourism Facilities at Grey

Grey College is the perfect backdrop for conferences, boasting fully equipped meeting and conference rooms for eight to one hundred and twenty delegates.



Holgate House - opened in 1996 by the first Master, Dr Syd Holgate - accommodates 93 single en-suite bedrooms and 4 twin en suite bedrooms with a conference room seating 120 theatre style. In vacation we can offer 200 single standard bedrooms and 30 twin standards each with a wash-hand basin in the room, bath and shower cubicles on each floor.

Holgate House seats 120 theatre style with 2 adjoining breakout rooms seating 120 theatre style. In addition to the purpose-built Conference Suite in Holgate House, there are 2 other rooms available for conferences. The Pennington Room seats 40 theatre style with a spectacular view of the Cathedral. The Old Library seats 60 theatre style. Art exhibitions are also held in this room. All rooms come with a choice of seating, tables, whiteboard, flipchart and overhead projector.

For any further information or availability for booking, please contact Joyce Dover, Conference Secretary on: 0191 334 5565, Email: joyce.dover@durham.ac.uk

*An American at Grey by Jamie
McMahon, Chaplaincy
Assistant at The Hill Colleges*



I joined the community of Grey College at the beginning of this academic year to take up my post and I am also a resident tutor at Grey. Although I have been living in England for several years, I had never spent any time in the North-East.

My role involves supporting and increasing the visibility of chaplaincy broadly among the hill colleges (Grey, St. Marys, Trevelyan, St. Aidans, Van Mildert and Collingwood) and working with a number of local churches and the university administration to raise the profile of chaplaincy in Durham. I work with students pastorally and help with

worship in the college chapels. As one of five resident tutors at Grey, my role here is to work with the College Officers (the Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar and Chaplain) by being available to help with student difficulties and ensuring that there is a responsible officer resident and on duty in college twenty-four hours a day. My overall impressions of Grey as a community have been extremely positive.

Firstly, for the last two years I have been a student at Cambridge University and although I eventually made a number of close friends there, initially I found adapting to the culture difficult. However, on my first evening at Grey, the Master and his wife invited me to their house for a drink and a chat with a number of other members of the College. Within a few weeks I had made some good friends of members of the SCR and the MCR. The College staff went out of their way to help with all of the little things that can make moving into a new community stressful and difficult, and my job was made easier by them.

Secondly, I have found the students here to be extremely friendly and outgoing, and have been astonished at the level of care and interest they take in the well-being of their colleagues. In particular, students who work in a welfare capacity offer help with all manner of problems have very much impressed me with their compassion and commitment, even while carrying on their own studies. In addition, the level of interest among students in college activities, outside their academic courses, never ceases to amaze me. They are involved in sports and societies, show a keen interest in the graphic and performing arts, are involved in charitable and voluntary work in the local

community, and frequently enjoy themselves in the JCR and the College bar.

These two elements have made Grey College an extraordinary place for me, where students learn about themselves and their world and make friendships that last a lifetime. From my perspective I can honestly say that those

who work here, those who teach here, and those who learn here have taught me a tremendous amount in the few months I have been resident. I consider it a great privilege to be a member of this College, and, although I am only here for one year, I certainly hope that I will be associated with it for many years to come.



Beach Scene by Margaret Shaw (1920 – 1982). Forthcoming exhibition: 3rd – 19th March, 2006 at Grey College. Margaret Shaw last exhibited in Grey in 1976. If anyone has any of her pictures and would be willing to loan them to the exhibition please contact Henry Dyson.

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

FROM THE ASHES

An illustrated history of Grey College

Opening with a brief account of the national context, the burgeoning demand for more university places in the United Kingdom, and the unique characteristics of the Durham Colleges, the narrative turns to the various themes in the history of the College - its genesis; buildings, masters, dons and fellows; and student life.

In his research Nigel Watson has interviewed many people - masters past and present, dons, fellows and administrative staff. Especially he interviewed students - some just starting, others looking back over four decades. The narrative is enlivened by their perspective on the story. The book also places emphasis throughout on the people who made the College and carry it forward today. It is about strong characters and difficult decisions in difficult times, as well as expansion and demonstrable confidence in the future.

From the Ashes will be enjoyed and treasured by everyone associated with the College, and for others it will be an absorbing case study of higher education over the past fifty years.

Specifications: 280mm x 210mm – approx. 120 pages, colour illustrations, hardback.

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