



Grey Matters

Grey College Association Magazine

• January 2009

Celebrating 50 years of Grey College!



Fire Phoenix, Batik Painting by Thetis Blacker

From the President

Dear Association Members,

My very best wishes to you all for 2009. This is a very special year for Grey College as we become fifty years old.

At the reunion in College on 17th/18th/19th April we shall commemorate our Jubilee with a Thanksgiving Service in the Chapel at 11am on the 18th. In the afternoon the Master will give a high-tech presentation about the college at 2pm. There will be a Grand Gala Jubilee Dinner (black tie and gowns) in Hall in the evening preceded by a Champagne Reception. The Vice-Chancellor will attend. Please book early for these events as places must necessarily be limited but we will endeavour not to disappoint.

On Sunday 19th April at 12.30 there will be a special Jubilee Luncheon. I do hope as many members and their partners and friends will attend all or some of these events.



Elvet almost destroyed in 1959

In our fiftieth year the Association is in good shape. We shall sponsor four Formal Meals so that every student and member of staff can celebrate our Jubilee. Generous travel bursaries and student support are awarded yearly. The Business Angels scheme continues to thrive and I refer you to the report by Tom Cliff on page 8. The Association is active in many aspects college life as a valuable support especially for the JCR.

The London Reunion continues to be popular; we met at Topo Gigio restaurant last September and were especially pleased to welcome the new Senior Tutor Ian Spencer, as well as the Master and Sarah Chamberlain. We shall meet there again on September 18th for the 50th anniversary dinner and look forward to a great night.



Elvet rebuilt in 1959

50 years of College life is a time for both reflection and anticipation. We remember with affection our founding Master Syd Holgate and his wife Belle; the positive foundations they laid remain to this day. Their optimism and enthusiasm continues. We are grateful for Eric and Margaret Halladay, to Victor, Mary and Elaine Watts and especially to Martyn and Sarah Chamberlain for their invaluable contribution to the College and continuing to develop a very special educational community laid down by their predecessors. I hope you will give generously to the Jubilee Appeal we are launching to improve College Facilities and realise the vision of our Masters and all who love this very special place so that it continues to thrive in the future.

All good wishes, Henry.

Henry Dyson, Association President.

From the Master

In 1959, Durham in particular and Britain in general were very different from today. Durham University was still a relatively small institution based on the two sites at Newcastle and Durham City. Grey College had been proposed as part of the plan to increase student numbers to 1500 at the Durham site. There was a need, it was argued, to broaden the academic base by the introduction of both teaching and research in Applied Science. Such well-trained people (all men, of course: in those days there were few women scientists) would contribute to the economic recovery of Britain following the Second World War. It was a time of hope and great expectation: nuclear energy would soon be delivering “power too cheap to meter” and British rockets would no doubt soon be on the moon (as all listeners of *Journey into Space* will remember). British Science and innovation would be leading industry to develop products that could be sold throughout the world; modern housing and cheaper cars would be available for all; and (as Harold Macmillan had famously said, “you’ve never had it so good”). How has the passage of fifty years changed the picture? There is still a need for more scientists and engineers to revive an economy that has for too long focused on service industry; but perhaps those hopes and aspirations have been dimmed a little, and the claim that “we never had it so good” is now about to be severely tested.



Grey’s contribution at that time to the life of the University was remarkably led by a most remarkable man, the founding Master of the College, Syd Holgate, was (to quote an early and now distinguished Greyman) “the heart of the College”. His energy, enthusiasm, strong intellect and remarkable administrative skills were all devoted to the development of Grey as a place of learning, awakening and self-development. Amongst his many legacies to the College, Syd provided a coat of arms, well known to all Grey men and women for fifty years. The motto (*Gradibus Ascendimus*) is itself a fine example of his wit and erudition. The heraldic symbols shown on the crest (the siege ladder and the Cuthbert’s cross; and the phoenix and motto finally officially added in 2003) are charged with meaning. They each have resonances of their own: effort, ambition and dedication, for the ladder; fortitude, reflection and awareness of the importance of non-material aspiration for St. Cuthbert’s cross; and, for the phoenix, renewal and re-creation that seem impossible after the worst appears to have happened. Grey’s heraldic emblems provide much food for thought and, in many ways, provide points of reference for progress along life’s path for us all, especially those of us living and working within the community of the College.

Syd Holgate retired in 1980 after 21 years in office having put a stamp on Grey that was reinforced by his two successors, Eric Halliday and Victor Watts. Generations of Greymen and women have had great cause to be grateful to them for admitting them to the College, ensuring their material needs were met, and reminding them that – amongst the many calls on their time - they should pay some attention, at least, to the process of obtaining a degree. Although there is conspicuously less freedom enjoyed by the present generation of Heads of Houses than was the case in 1959, or even 1999, it still remains a privilege to be closely involved in the development of undergraduate and graduate members of the College that characterizes the “Durham Difference”. Grey remains, in my opinion, much as how it was envisaged almost fifty years ago: as a community of well-rounded individuals, comfortable with themselves; where background and circumstance are irrelevant; where what is valued are the contributions made by its members to academic and non-academic pursuits; a tolerance and sympathy with those around them; and the personal attributes represented by the ladder, St. Cuthbert’s cross and the phoenix.



Grey College, 1961

A Jubilee, the year that follows the seventh cycle of seven years, is traditionally a time of great celebration. Originally on such an occasion: debts were forgiven; warmth and understanding extended to all; and the oppressed in society would be relieved of their burdens. This year, 2009, marks the fiftieth

anniversary of the foundation of the College and so this will be our own Jubilee. This period will be one of celebration and of friends re-united. It will also, I hope, be one in which (despite the difficult economic circumstances of the times) the generosity of Greymen and women will enable future members of the College to continue to enjoy their time here, to profit from and contribute to the common life of the College, and to leave as responsible, enlightened and creative world citizens.



Martyn Chamberlain, Master

I welcome you to the Jubilee edition of *Grey Matters* and to the celebrations of the year that lies ahead? The programme of events reflects the many and varied aspects of the life of Grey College which, like the phoenix, is successively reborn in each new generation of its members. I also hope that you will respond positively to the Appeal that we are launching in the Jubilee year, which will ensure that: the Trust can improve the physical estate of the College; address hardship when there are no other means to do so; and provide future generations with the opportunities to embark on new ventures in self-development and personal growth.

I look forward to seeing you at the College reunions in the year that lies ahead.

Martyn Chamberlain, Master of Grey College

A First Term at Grey, 2008

The prospect of meeting a young woman planning £16m under-heated marble driveways is quite intimidating when coming from Northern Ireland. To set the matter straight, Ireland is green. Very green. Essentially, it's one oversized field. It takes ten miles drive to get to the nearest shop, you know almost everyone in your local town (and the scandals of their lives) and you have a deep seated desire, as a teenager, to get away as fast as you can.



An Elvet Room in 1959

My arrival at Durham and Grey College last October was akin to stumbling out of the wilderness into the big city – more a reflection of Ireland's backwater status than Durham's Las Vegas-style city life. Emerging from an Irish village into English university life is quite a change. Luckily, Grey has provided a perfect stepping stone: a bridge into a new life. It quickly strikes you as a friendly, tolerant - and more importantly - safe environment. After hearing the tales from home of others' university experiences, you really begin to appreciate how lucky you are to be at Grey. Sure, there's a fair share of uppity Oxbridge rejects (the aforementioned driveway plans)

who feel hard done by, but occasionally some of them can be quite nice! I can happily say I never applied.

As most of you reading this will probably understand, one can quickly fall for the charm of Durham. The towering cathedral and beautiful streets make university life here very different from everywhere else in Britain.

If all goes well, fingers crossed, Fountains Theatre Company will prove to be one of the best aspects of Grey College life. Having written a play back home in Ireland, and had it performed at the University of Ulster in Coleraine, it's getting staged again as the Fresher's Play this year. What took six months to prepare previously will now have to be achieved in less than four weeks. If that is not a challenge, I genuinely don't know what is. Oh, wait – I do. Doing a play in four weeks on top of a Durham History degree. Still, if you can't laugh, what can you do?

Grey has proven to be a monumental change in my life, but so far, one for the better. I'm still ecstatic to be here, and I can't imagine being pleased to leave once my degree comes to a close.

Chris McQuillan, 1st year History

London Reunion, 2009

The London Reunion will take place at Topo Gigio Restaurant, Brewer Street, London W1 (nearest underground Piccadilly Circus) on 18th September at Topo Gigio Restaurant. There will be a drinks reception at 7pm followed by dinner at 8pm. The cost of the evening is £40.00 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 20% extra from Gift Aid. If you would like to attend 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 phone: 0779 888 4638.

College Tutoring

According to the University authorities, your personal tutor in College is the person to go to for help, advice, guidance and support. Tutors in Colleges cover a huge spectrum of knowledge and experience. Some are lecturers or researchers in the University and know how it and their departments function; others are employed in Industry, Commerce, Management or Administration and can offer their knowledge in these fields, some are now retired and have considerable 'life' experience. Others have recently graduated and can suggest their own tried and tested solutions to typical undergraduate concerns. Some have been tutoring for more years than their tutees have lived and have a wealth of experience to share.

I suggest that we provide a shoulder to cry on, an arm to lean on, and a boot up the backside when appropriate. We like to think that even though we don't know all the answers, we can find people who do, and so help our tutees.



Bill Best 2008, a charcoal drawing by David Venables, now hanging in the SCR.

How did I become a tutor? I'm still wondering. One of my colleagues had told the then Master, Victor Watts, that I would make a good tutor (!) I was asked and eventually accepted.

I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting Grey's talented, bright and lively young people and winning and dining them. It is said the secret of keeping young is to enjoy the company of the young, so I hope there are mutual benefits. Luckily most of my tutees over many years have been mature enough to sort out their own difficulties, but tutors are like the Fire Service – not often needed, but available in emergencies.

I do recall one tutee who made the mistake of being drunk in the City one Saturday and thumping the policeman who remonstrated with him. He spent the rest of the night in the cells, having accidentally 'fallen down a flight of stairs.' Rather than charging him, the police contacted me, and by protesting that he was normally quiet, well-behaved, polite and hardworking, persuaded them not to press charges. The next day he appeared to thank me – sporting a magnificent black eye and bruising.

Another learned Spanish in his gap year, then later took a year out, hired a helicopter to fly over rain forests and discovered two types of unknown orchids, took many superb photos and published two books about his discoveries. And all before his final year!

Another tutee met me in some distress after having been thrown out of his shared house by the others, and having nowhere to sleep that night. Luckily for him – and me – I was able to find him a room for the rest of term.

Some years ago I told some tutees that if they saw me on High Table they were welcome to join me for a coffee afterwards in the Senior Common Room. One Fresher looked surprised saying "my table daren't look at High Table in case they were struck down by the wrath of the Almighty."

How times have changed.

Bill Best (Tutor and SCR Host)

Grey College Accessories



Scarf	£18.00
Tie/Polyester	£10.00
Tie/Silk	£21.00
Tie/Boat Club/polyester	£10.00
Bow Tie/Silk	£26.00
Cufflinks	£19.00
Shields	£29.00
Pewter Tankard	£24.00
Lapel Pin	£10.00

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.



Dr Peter Swift



'An excellent College man'

Congratulations to Peter Swift (SCR Treasurer and College Tutor) on the successful completion of his PhD in Terahertz Physics, funded by Her Majesty's Government Development Centre, concerning the development and testing of models to describe the propagation of Terahertz Radiation in materials of interest as targets in security and surveillance. 'Swifty' is College choir master in Grey and also at St. Chad's College. He is an accomplished organist, singer and pianist, as well as a faithful Chapel member of eight years standing.

The 'Business Angels' Scheme

Grey College's Business Angels Scheme exists to provide friendly and supportive advice to Grey students who are entering the world of work and continues to go from strength to strength. The scheme is still attracting new members each week and is providing our undergraduates with support through the website, e-mail, personal contact, and good old story telling!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our Angels for their valued and continued contributions and involvement.

Grey's scheme has now been joined by similar schemes at other Colleges and by a University wide scheme; however Grey is still leading the way in all aspects of this invaluable service. The Scheme now has over 200 Angels from across 23 areas with more waiting to be up loaded once we have done a major overhaul of the site. This re-vamp will provide extra data security and additional search facilities that will further increase the usability of the site for both Angels and undergrads alike. So if you are still waiting for your profile to be uploaded or you can't quite find the info you're looking for please be patient, we're working on it.

If you've not signed up to the scheme but would like to put something back into College visit the website to find out more: http://www.greyassociation.com/Business_Angels.htm. As it is the College's Jubilee we would really like to try and double the number of Angels we have in the scheme and to try and get at least one graduate from every year contributing, if we achieved this target we would have approximately 500 Angels by the end of 2009, this would make a real difference to all of the College's undergraduates.

The Association held its third annual workshop dedicated at providing practical face to face help to those in their final year. On the first Saturday in November a handful of Angels from across a range of sectors travelled up to Grey to deliver a short seminar and a number of

short coaching sessions. Whilst 10am may have seemed like a rather ambitious time to start, George Whalley kicked off the presentation to approximately 70 finalists and a smattering of those in the other years shortly after our planned start time. After interactive session on a range of topics, including what really matters when starting your career, how to approach an interview/assessment centre and the impact of the recent financial downturn on the opportunities for graduates we joined the students for lunch in the dining hall before the breakout sessions. We were pleasantly surprised to find even more on our return from lunch. That said we all spent a thoroughly rewarding session working with the students, some who waited patiently for quite a while, helping groups and individuals with CV's, application forms, career advice and general chit chat. As I mentioned above, sometimes story telling is often the best way of helping an individual with the problems that they face and the decisions that they have to make.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steffan Messenger, Mark Creighton, Parik Chandra, Ben Whitley, George Whalley, Jonny Tew, Kylie Cliff and Steve Gregory for making the day the success it was.

Even after the session a number of us have continued to coach and support the students we met on the day, adding a truly new dynamic and personal touch to Grey's Business Angels offering another service that Grey College Association is proud to provide for the College's undergraduates.

Thomas Cliff

Where are they now?

If you want to be put in touch with someone in the Association contact Henry Dyson. John D. N. Bardolph, Diploma in Education 1961-62 would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers him.

From the JCR President

Another year since the last edition of Grey Matters, another cycle of the old favourite events, another intake of exceptional Freshers, another record-breaking fireworks display. The JCR never seems to grow old! And yet, this year it seems to me that the JCR we all know and love has had to grow up a little. As my predecessor, Dave Williams, discussed in last year's JCR article, changes in Charities Law have brought huge challenges for us, meaning we now have to register as a full-blown charity with the Charities Commission. As I write, plans are well underway; the University are (finally!) on our side and are helping us draft a new constitution and providing us with training in more effective accounting practices. Next year will, arguably, be one of the most important in JCR history, as we prepare to run a full dummy year as if we were a charity before registering in October 2011. Despite the fact that the JCR will take on a new official status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with a board of trustees to scrutinise its actions, and the Charities Commission insisting it satisfy its core objectives, I am confident that the essence of our organisation will stay the same. No matter what these changes may enforce we will ensure the student experience at Grey College is the best it can possibly be, that all our students are supported and made to feel at home.



Grey Day 2008

From one challenge to the next, Michaelmas '08 saw close to 80 of our Freshers displaced to Van Mildert College, as work to renovate the Elvet block began. This move involved changing the traditional Freshers' Week programme to ensure that all of our Freshers living away from the homeland felt included. We held joint events between Mildert and Grey, including a Formal for all Freshers from both colleges. I am glad to say that our efforts proved successful and the Grey Freshers at Mildert are now, arguably, some of the most spirited and involved members of our JCR community. The Elvet renovation is finished and looks spectacular with larger kitchens and communal dining spaces, modern bathrooms, and smart furniture and fittings in every room. It's a real plus for College as it enters its 50th year.



Charlotte Tregunna, James Dowler, Toby Stevens & Steffan Messenger

The JCR will, of course, have a part to play in the Jubilee celebrations. Fountains Theatre Company staged an excellent production of the musical *Grease*, which is set in 1959, at the end of Michaelmas Term. The show ran for three nights and Fountains was at full capacity with people being turned away at the door. As well as this, at the end of Epiphany term we are holding a JCR Jubilee Jamboree, a fun-filled concert to showcase Grey's performance-related talent. If you are a

singer/dancer/actor or think you could contribute in anyway to this event then please get in touch! It would be great to have a few performances from alumni! Likewise, if you'd like to come along and watch then let me know. Other Jubilee plans include a special range of Jubilee leisurewear, available to current students and alumni, celebratory bops, balls and Formals.



A harpist greets guests as they arrive for the Phoenix Ball 2008

Events this year have been as great as ever. The Phoenix Ball took over 500 JCR members to Wonderland for a Mad Hatter's Tea Party themed night at Gosforth Park Hotel in Gateshead. Grey Day was bigger and better than ever before with the JCR turned into an ice-cream parlour, a home-made beach built on the grass next to Grey Hill and a programme of live music that featured such eminent acts as Neon Kicks and ISK, of Radio 1 renown. The Informal Ball took us back in time to a medieval banquet with hog roasts, freshly baked bread and mutton soup as well as a Wild-West bar and Ancient Egyptian hallway. There were trips to Alton Towers, Bamburgh and to

York and Formal food that varied from the good old favourite fried camembert to Indian, Mexican and Japanese cuisine. Our charitable events raised well over £2000 and our new outreach projects are putting JCR members in local schools to help raise aspirations and tell pupils all about university life. Our sports teams remain triumphant, topping the league in Badminton, Table Tennis and Ultimate Frisbee and scoring highly in Basketball, Rugby and Rowing.



Adam Ruddock, Leigh Haworth & Harry Waller perform Grease in Fountains Hall.

Where else would you get such a variety of events and opportunities, organised with such enthusiasm and hard work by friends who feel more like family? The Grey College cliché, "get involved", is alive and well, helping students help each other as it has for the last 50 years. Long may it continue.

*Steffan Messenger
Grey College JCR President 2008-09*

50th Anniversary Leisurewear

Is your College polo getting tatty? Does your jumper have too many holes? Grey 50th Anniversary Leisurewear is available at: www.phoenixprint.co.uk/greyjubilee. Orders termly until June 2010.

Gordon Duffy: the First Senior Man, by Bill Hale

I chose an empty compartment the window of which was wide open. The train drew out of Durham Station, a future viewing point from the high table of the yet-to-be-conceived Grey College. A bag flew in through the window followed by a body; I was to establish quickly that both belonged to one Thomas Gordon Duffy! A striking and unusual introduction, but that was Gordon! I established that he was reading Geography – very occasionally! We subsequently played a lot of soccer and cricket together and it was the latter which eventually brought us into contact with Syd Holgate, then Secretary of the Durham Colleges. Inevitably, we met on the Racecourse.

Gordon was an excellent batsman and played for the Combined Services during his National Service days. He was also a very good goalkeeper for the Durham Colleges though in his days at Grey he was too good an outfield player to be between the posts. However, the next cricket season could never come quickly enough for him.



JCR Executive Committee, 1960-61

In his undergraduate days the Geography Department saw little of him. One friend remarked that if he graduated in Geography he would be the only person ever to do so having used the Daily Express (and only the sports pages at that) as the sole source of his

reading. He was not one to waste time; you could say that he was always late but he usually presented himself a minute or two before his presence was required! His numerous girl friends insisted that he was always late, but they always waited for him!



Grey College, 1960

The Waterloo (now long demolished) was our main watering hole and it was there, after our finals exams (and the inevitable cricket match) that Gordon mentioned to me that Syd was looking for post-graduate students to help start Grey College. Gordon was to stay on to do a Dip.Ed., in those days regarded as not requiring much work, and Ray Taylor (another exceptional cricketer) and I were to do research. I don't remember clearly how things developed – but it was inevitably on the Racecourse – and Syd quickly signed the three of us on! No transfer fees were involved! Three of us did not constitute a cricket team but it was a good start towards the five-a-Side!

There were seven post-graduates in Grey in 1959 and Syd made it clear to us that he wanted a Senior Man from amongst us. Inevitably it was again in the Waterloo (what history was created there!) that we threatened Gordon with the job. Initially, accompanied by much hilarity, this was not a serious proposal but gradually it became so. He was certainly the best batsman amongst the Senior Men of the Durham Colleges and he was to become an excellent Senior Man. Syd knew Gordon well as a man capable of applying himself to get a big score and the Master was delighted with our nomination. Gordon even surprised his close friends as he threw himself into the job with an enthusiasm previously reserved only for cricket.

June 1960 came quickly and Syd was delighted with all that had been accomplished. Though everyone had put in a tremendous effort in all the sports activities we could hardly expect to win trophies in our first year, with so few students to choose from. But we won the five-a-side cricket which was the icing on the cake for Gordon's year! Gordon got his Dip.Ed. and a teaching job at Ormskirk Grammar School. In 1963 I left Durham for Liverpool and after being married bought a house near Ormskirk. Tragically Gordon died in 1966 as a result of a traffic accident. Later my children went to Ormskirk Grammar School and I became a Governor. Gordon was (and is) still remembered there through the cricket trophy which bears his name.



Grey College, 1961

He was my friend and perhaps he is still playing on some Elysium cricket field with a few female angels round the boundary waiting for his innings to close! I do so hope that he is!

Bill Hale, Second Senior Man & Hon. Fellow

Senior Men & JCR Presidents

1959-60	Gordon Duffy	1983-84	Nick J Christodoulou
1960-61	Bill Hale	1984-85	David R Carrie
1961-62	Mervyn T Taylor	1985-86	Richard G C Smith
1962-63	Alan D Burnet	1986-87	Debbie Hicks
1963-64	Dennis Casson	1987-88	Mark R S Beadle
1964-65	Peter Gibson	1988-89	Justin T H Weisweiller
1965-66	Walter J Herriot	1989-90	Philip N P Howard
1966-67	Richard E G Barrett	1990-91	Tim J Hirst
1967-68	John A D Wesley	1991-92	Sian McLean
1968-69	Steve Gregory	1992-93	Peter L Bristow
1969-70	Andrew J Briscoe	1993-94	Simon Evenson
1970-71	David Budgen	1994-95	Keith Berry
1971-72	Malcolm P Whalley	1995-96	Keith Herring
1972-73	Davie E Cowell	1996-97	Christopher Tock
1973-74	Alan J Frith	1997-98	Felicity Fisher
1974-75	Bernard Diaz	1998-99	Mark Creighton
1975-76	Robert Whewell	1999-00	Steve Baker
1976-77	Gavin Chalmers	2000-01	Chris Turner
1977-78	Alan Jones	2001-02	Faris Aranki
1978-79	Richard Butler	2002-03	Jonny Tew
1979-80	Derek Hopkinson	2003-04	Mike Reid
1980-81	Philip Cantwell	2004-05	George Whalley
1981-82	Charles Lupton	2005-06	Dave Baldwin
1982-83	Andrew L Greenwood	2006-07	Lee Speakman
		2007-08	Dave Williams
		2008-09	Steffan Messenger

Grey College Timeline

1958 New College named Grey College. Sydney Holgate appointed first Master in July. In selecting candidates he looked above all for integrity “That is a strength of character, an individuality, a genuine interest in the subject a candidate was going to read.” He described Durham Colleges as “educational communities”

1959 On 6th March 1959 a fire devastated and almost completely destroyed the first building, Elvet. Grey College opened, despite fire, with 39 (22 Science, 17 Arts) undergraduates and 8 graduates. Cedric Lowe appointed Bursar. The first intake of freshers achieved a balance of 22 science students and 17 arts students. In the Elvet block the kitchen occupied rooms 1 and 3, the dining hall rooms 17 to 25, the library 29 to 30, and the JCR 26 to 28. The Holgates lived in what is now flat 43. The first meeting of the JCR took place 12th October 1959.



The foundation stone, originally laid on the 4th November by Sir James Duff in Elvet, was later removed to the main buildings in 1961.

1960 Grey College granted coat of arms. First boat acquired. The first College day, now known as Grey Day, was held on the 17th June 1960. Ben Hartop appointed first Tutor.

1961 Formal opening by Earl Grey on 25 October. Foundation stone moved to Hollingside. Arthur Pennington appointed

first Senior Tutor of Grey College. In 1961 Grey was the first College to become self accounting and operate its own bank account a privilege removed in the 1980s. 25th October 1961 on the completion of Hollingside, the 5th Earl Grey opened the College.



Snooker table installed 1961

1962 Master’s House completed. Frank Lattin appointed Bursar. Henry Huddart and J. P. Hunt become first Grey men to achieve first class honours. The Master’s house (now the Rectory) was built.

1963 First Phoenix Ball at Grey College. Grey’s third accommodation block Oswald completed.

1964 Eric Halladay appointed Senior Tutor. Grey College has 358 students.

1965 Grey College Boat Club win Head of the River for first time.



Senior Crew, 1965

1966 Grey College hosts USSR football team during World Cup.

1967 The property High Close (now the Master's House) was purchased for the College by the University and was converted into accommodation for students and the Senior Tutor.



Aerial view, 1967

1968 John McCartney appointed Bursar.

1969 Andrew Briscoe becomes first Senior Man to become member of Governing Body with Mervyn Taylor of Greymen's Association also included. Washbasins installed in all Elvet bedrooms.

1971 Fountains Hall completed. The silver chalice and patten engraved with the college crest for use at the celebration of Holy Communion given to the college.

1972 The statue of Charles Earl Grey given to the College by his direct descendent Lady Mary Howick of Glendale. Washbasins installed in Oswald.



1973 The Bishop of Durham Dr John Habgood (later Archbishop of York) officially consecrated the chapel on 18th November and named the Lattin Chapel after Frank Lattin.

1975 Grey College Boat Club become Northern Universities Rowing Champions.



Senior Man Bernard Diaz, Prof Ron Girdler, Lady Margaret Dunham, Lady Frances Christopherson & Sir Kingsley Dunham

1976 Gavin Chalmers requests Henry Dyson to form the first JCR Arts Committee, encouraged by Syd Holgate.



JCR Executive, 1976 – 77 Senior Man Gavin Chalmers in centre (Gavin sadly died in 2000)

1978 Pennington Room, named after Arthur Pennington – the first Senior Tutor, built on top of the SCR. Completed in 1979. Girvan Parton appointed Bursar.



JCR Executive 1977 – 78, Senior Man Alan Jones centre

1980 Sydney Holgate succeeded by Eric Halladay as Master.



Sir Derman Christopherson, Lady Holliday, Syd, Belle, Lady Christopherson, Professor Sir Frederick Holliday, Vice-Chancellor

1981 Geoffrey Duffay appointed Bursar.

1982 Sydney Holgate Fellowship established.

1984 Grey College goes mixed. Mike Weston retires as Senior Tutor. Victor Watts succeeded Mike Weston.

1988 Valerie Hamilton appointed Bursar.

1989 Eric Halladay succeeded by Victor Watts as Master. Eric Halladay becomes Rector.

1990 Grey College Trust established.

1991 David Hillary becomes Senior Tutor.

1992 James Kirkup and Sir Bhinod Bacha become the College's first Honorary Fellows. Grey College has 493 students. Scheme to build new block announced. Mike Weston dies.

1994 Sue Wroe appointed Bursar.

1995 Holgate House completed and Sydney Holgate created Honorary Fellow.



Building Holgate House

1996 Holgate House opened on March 26th.



Eric Halladay, Syd Holgate & Victor Watts at the opening of Holgate House

1997 Death of Eric Halladay.

1999 Julie Bushby appointed as Master's Secretary. David Hillary retires. Henry Dyson organises John Piper Retrospective exhibition in celebration of College's 40th anniversary, the success of which leads to a series of further critically acclaimed exhibitions. Tony Cleaver becomes Senior Tutor.

2000 Grey College has 745 students. Karen Blundell Bursar. Alan Richards Fellowship in Mathematics established.



After the Association Memorial Service for Gavin Chalmers in 2000

- 2002 Victor Watts dies suddenly. Highest numbers/applications after Castle.
- 2003 Martyn Chamberlain appointed Master in March. (Martyn meets Syd who dies a few days later on May 17th).
- 2005 Victor Watts Memorial Library opened.
- 2008 Ian Spencer appointed Senior Tutor.
- 2007 Exhibition and seminar on 19th century Reform held.
- 2009 50th Anniversary Celebration. Major Retrospective of the West's pre-eminent batik painter Thetis Blacker in October.

Recent Exhibitions in Grey

- 1998 Terence Bennett
- 1999 Colin Halladay
John Piper, Retrospective*
Chris Mouncey
- 2000 Neville Crowson
Peter Sales, metal sculpture
John Tunnard, Retrospective*
Dave Barden, Art in Sport
Mike Allard, Landscapes
- 2001 20th Century British Art: Henry Moore,
Graham Sutherland, Barbara Hepworth
Karen Kulyk (Canadian Colourist)
Hazel Titherley
- 2002 Barrie Rawcliffe, Landscapes
Theodore Major, Retrospective*
Charles Mozley, Retrospective
Ranjitsingh Gaekwad (Indian artist)
- 2003 Mogens Bay Esbensen (Danish) textiles
Mary Cookson, Northern Scenes
Edwin La Dell, Lithographer
Elizabeth Burt, Landscapes
Simon Mills, Photographs
- 2004 Anne Julie (Danish, figurative)
Batu (African)
Birtley Airis
- 2005 Roar Kjaernstad (Norwegian) portraits
Rory McCann & Howard Gray
Tom Willmore, Photography

- 2006 Margaret Shaw, Sheffield artist, Retrospective
Linda Birch, Illustrator & Painter
Kirill Sokolov (Russian), Retrospective*
- 2007 Mick Oxley, Seascapes of Northumberland
Reform! Reform! Reform! Artefacts relating to Earl Grey and Reform borrowed from the Reform Club
- 2008 Images of Durham.
David Venables, Durham Scenes.



Sleeping Miner, David Venables

- 2009 Sue Kirk, Harrogate Artist
George Rackus (Canadian)
Thetis Blacker, a Retrospective of the West's pre-eminent Batik Painter*

** Catalogue available from College*

From the Middle Common Room President

The MCR continues to thrive, and has a healthy membership of around 60 postgraduate and 4th year undergraduate members of College. Over the past year, MCR members have enjoyed taking part in many Grey College events including the Bar Festival, the Informal Ball, the Phoenix Ball and of course Grey Day. Members particularly enjoyed an evening of delicious food, fine wine and great company as we joined representatives from all parts of College at the hugely successful College Guest Night.



MCR at the College Feast 2008

Grey College Chapel

Fenwick Lawson, 76, born and living in Durham, was awarded an honorary degree last year.

His carved work *Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension*, was dedicated to the Chapel last June to commemorate the visionary Chaplaincy of the Reverend Canon Dr David Kennedy. Christ carved in Ash, Angel in Elm each 28" high, 21" span.

(image featured right)

Michaelmas Term 2008 has been an unusual one for the MCR as we were without the Common Room as a result of the refurbishments taking place in Elvet, but now we're enjoying a fully redecorated MCR Phoenix Room, extended with a fully-fitted kitchen and high-tech entertainment facilities.

The refurbishment hasn't stopped MCR members having an active social schedule. We've regularly had tables at College Formals, with our own wine reception and followed by port and cheese. The future looks extremely bright: with an enthusiastic executive committee and our new home, we have potential for many more exciting occasions as well as the traditional 'Chocolate Night', film showings and keg nights that we have enjoyed for the past few years. Also, as numbers of postgraduates across the University increases, inter-collegiate MCR activities are becoming more popular. We look forward, not only to visiting other colleges to represent Grey, but to extending a warm welcome as we host other MCRs.

Rob Lee



The Master, Professor Martyn Chamberlain

Martyn read Physics at Oxford, and has previously worked at Nottingham and Leeds universities. His research interests are in semiconductor physics, and the applicable science and technology of the Terahertz frequency region. He is particularly interested in medical and biological applications of this novel technology, which he has pioneered throughout Europe. Martyn lives in High Close (now the Master's house) with his wife, Sarah.

New SCR Secretary

Sarah Chamberlain has been elected SCR Secretary. A graduate of Oxford in History she has worked as a teacher for many years and is a College Tutor. Sarah has worked quietly behind the scenes since Martyn's appointment as Master, arranging flowers, cleaning the College silver, and in her quiet, diplomatic way ensuring that the College functions in an apparently effortless way.



*Sarah Chamberlain & Foster Neville
(SCR Executive & College Tutors)*

Ian Spencer, Senior Tutor

Ian started working life as a nurse before reading Sociology and Political Economy at City University, London. After post graduate studies at the University of Glasgow he taught at The Queen's University, Belfast and Staffordshire University. Ian's research interests are in mental health and medical technology. Ian is also a long distance runner, cyclist and Territorial Army officer. He is married to Alex, an academic librarian, and has two children, Sarah and Michael. He lives in The Rectory (formerly the Master's House).



Karen Blundell, Bursar

Karen happily shares her 9 dogs with the College community, originally trained in Durham, Karen worked in Senior Hotel Management and training for 15 years. Karen has been at Grey for the last 8 years and as well as being Bursar also holds a Divisional Executive role with responsibility for staff training and development across the Colleges' Division. She is responsible, through the Heads of Section, for the day to day non-academic operation of Grey. Karen lives in Garden Cottage. She owns and trains 9 dogs – 6 Border Collies and 3 Shelties. They have just had their most successful season ever. During August bank holiday they won 3 separate agility classes – an average class has 100-150 dogs – and the fastest clear round wins.

Senior Common Room News

The SCR has had another lively year, and continues to support the many College activities. A particularly noteworthy feature is the weekly Formal Dinners held on Wednesday evenings, which are very well attended by both students and SCR members. Three of these deserve special mention: first, in March, the College Guest Night at which members of the Junior, Middle and Senior Common Rooms sat together and enjoyed a sumptuous four course dinner; second, in May, the Floreat formal when prizes were awarded for extra-curricular activities; and finally, in November, the SCR Guest Night at which we were royally entertained by the Cathedral Scholars singing both religious and secular songs.



Alan & Robin Martin

SCR members have also benefited from classic film nights drawn from Foster Neville's collection. Moreover, the SCR has been pleased to welcome several visiting College Fellows to events during the periods of their stay in Durham.

It is with sadness I report the death of Girvan Parton in August. He was a past President of the SCR; in fact, the first SCR President of any Durham College who was not a head of house.



SCR Executive. Left to right: John Street, Sarah Chamberlain, Henry Dyson, Paula Martin, Alan Martin (no relation), Peter Swift, Ian Spencer, Bill Best, Stewart Clark & Foster Neville

Three retiring members of the Executive, Professor Ian Stone, Rachel Orange and Kieran Hosty, deserve special thanks for their valuable contributions to the smooth running of the SCR. Peter Swift deserves special thanks for his remarkable efforts as Treasurer, acting Secretary for a while, together with his duties with the College choir, the College SCR cricket team and acting as a College Tutor. The SCR website is being considerably improved by John Street and can be viewed via: www.durham.ac.uk/grey.scr.

Many new members from Town, Gown and Alumni have joined the SCR in the past year, encouraged by the warm and friendly atmosphere. There is a move in the University for the College SCR's to attract new and young academic staff. Here Grey is more than playing its part. Indeed, we welcome new members from all walks of life who have an interest in, or may contribute to, collegiate activities. Alumni from near, and far, who wish to join the SCR are especially welcome.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the tremendous support to the SCR (and to the College) given by your President. There is a saying in Durham that every College needs a "Henry Dyson". Fortunately Grey has the original. *Professor Alan Martin, FRS*

Eric Halladay, Master 1980-1989; Rector 1989-1991

Eric Halladay was the defining figure of Durham University rowing for a generation and a half. From 1982 until 1988 he was chairman of the Durham Regatta.

The son of a vicar in Sheffield, Eric was educated at Durham School and St John's College, Cambridge. After a year of theology at Ripon Hall, an Anglican College in Oxford, he taught history at Exeter School.

In 1960 he moved to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to teach military history and to coach the Boat Club, with which he won his first Henley prize, the Ladies' Plate, in 1963. A year later he was at Durham lecturing in history and beginning his thirty years of devotion to the Boat Club.

He specialised in African history, especially the slave trade, and published *The Building of Modern Africa* (with D.D.Rooney, 1966) and *The Emergent Continent: in the Nineteenth Century* (1972).

In 1980 he became Master of Grey College and was effectively a part-time academic, but he remained a key member of the department.



He was elected a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta in 1993. This was, perhaps, the honour he most enjoyed.

Although in retirement from 1994, he brought his thorough historical method to a series of short biographies of the men (mostly) who had shaped English rowing; much of it arising from his research for *Rowing in England*, published in 1990.

In the boathouse, as well as in College, Halladay had the art of deftly absorbing the locker room coarseness and other excesses of the roaring men and keeping the club on an even keel. He was much too clever at working with people ever to let them come to blows and Halladay achieved a Corinthian excellence most by the example of his own discipline and charm.

Hugh Matheson

Rabbi Lionel Blue Seminars, 2009

After the success of the seminars last year another series of seminars on Belief will again take place in the Easter Term. The dates for *Personal Spiritual Experience – its problems, possibilities and professional consequences*, *An Investigation* are: 28th April, 5th May, 12th May, 19th May. All seminars begin at 7.30pm and will take place in the Holgate Suite, Grey College. All are welcome to attend; anyone wishing to have diner beforehand at 6.30pm should contact Henry Dyson, henry@henrydyson.co.uk.

Thetis Blacker (1927 – 2006) Retrospective Exhibition

There will be a major Thetis Blacker retrospective in College in October 2009. The Private View will be on the 9th October. The exhibition will be open to the public until Saturday 31st October. Thetis died in December 2006 and was a College Fellow and Honorary Doctor of Durham.

Extracts from 'A Grey Dawn Breaking', by Syd Holgate

I was brought up to believe that if you were going to make a speech to a sophisticated audience always make sure that you stand - it gives you the advantage, at least in the first instance - until they discover that they know more than you do. Now I can't stand and talk at the same time; so you don't get a speech today - which would be in line with the agreement I always had with the Senior Man about formal lunches in term time - I propose instead to read a 'prepared statement'.

NEW POST FOR DR. S. HOLGATE



Dr. Sidney Holgate, son of Mr. Harry Holgate, of Derbyshire Lane, Hucknall, and the late Mrs. Annie Holgate, has been appointed Master of Grey College, a new college which is being built at Durham University. The appointment takes effect from August next year, when the first wing will be occupied. The new college will accommodate 300 men students.

How a Hucknall newspaper announced the appointment of a new Master

Some years ago the SCR asked me to talk to them about the College's origins and the history of its birth, as well as its place in the development and reshaping of the Durham Division of the University. What I said was recorded by a far-seeing Bursar and subsequently typed. Notice carefully therefore that this is not what I intended to say, or not necessarily what I intended to say, but what I actually said. I had reached the summer of 1959, the point where the builders suddenly

said we could have the buildings in about two weeks (it was the middle of September) and I quote –



"I could have argued at length with them about various inconvenient aspects of their timing, but there really was no time for recrimination; there were students knocking at the door, and I must say they turned out to be quite magnificent.

"Their impression of what a University is like must have been very oddly coloured. They must have- thought that freshers and graduates alone was a typical College pattern (yes, I'd kept the graduates), although I thought the freshers could stand on their own feet. Actually, some of them told me afterwards that they'd been a bit surprised to discover half way through the term, from freshmen in other Colleges, that there were JCR rules and practices that they had to bow to; and that they were very glad that Grey had no such strait jacket.



Grey JCR, 1961, in Elvet

“One of them did rather surprise me when he told me that he thought that this place was a dictatorship, albeit a benevolent one. He smiled as he said this, however. One of them told me that the Bishop didn't know anything about canon law, which I must confess was not one of the contentions I had expected to debate at the beginning.

"I suspect, in fact, that they probably realised that I was as new to the game as they were, and so they shouldered their fair share of responsibility, and did so willingly, even taking it in turns to hold a door key so that we could lock up as required by the University regulations - and never letting anyone in after 12 midnight!, - I never saw anyone admitted after midnight, but then I wasn't looking.”



Cross Country Club, 1961 – 62

Incidentally, that was a practice, (letting a student have a key), which aroused some accusations about libertarianism in traditional parts of the University, but we survived them, and they were trifling at the side of the fluttering in the groves of academe when much later on everyone in this College was given a key to the outer door as well as his own room. I thought I would never hear the end of the complaints from some of my colleagues at that stage. 'What will that man up the hill do next?'

"Yes the students were quite remarkable. I had an uneasy feeling that they were missing something as a result of all the setbacks, but if they noticed it, they were charmingly reticent about it, never said anything, at least nothing that I could have

heard. They were tolerant of all the shortcomings. They were tolerant of all the new-found freedoms of the heating system, which seemed to go berserk at the drop of a hat. Yes, they behaved very well. They made the whole thing seem worthwhile perhaps after all.



"Durham before the war was small and cosy, and after the war at first was a little less cosy and a little larger, but not fundamentally different, and it had to decide whether to remain so, with gentle growth, or whether to move more quickly towards separation from Newcastle and extensive diversification with faster and greater growth. The crucial decision, which would change both the size and the nature of the University, was when it was decided to build a College that would ultimately house three hundred men - in other words, we were one of the first critical steps in the re-formation (and I choose the pronunciation carefully) of the Durham Division, which is now so different. It didn't look much like it in the variety of temporary rooms in the Elvet building which were to be 'converted into so many student rooms when the main building is ready in two years time', but were blazing a trail, and it might have gone

wrong if our first students had been less understanding than they were and still I quote -

"In our early days the students were superb - they took part in everything - they welded themselves into a close-knit community and started to evolve their own traditions. They had come to an institution that had no roots, no history and a host of teething problems. They tolerated the gremlins with gentle amusement when they could have been forgiven for angry irritation; and most important of all they concurred readily in the process of government - they gave willing consent, which you will all know very well is essential. You govern an institution of this kind by consent and you need then only one other thing and that's luck. The day we began in 1959 at the first assembly the count revealed that we were one short and I was extremely lucky. I had previously needed to discuss one man's course because it had cross-faculty implications, and so I had seen him more frequently than the rest (twice rather than once), and I was able to say 'I don't see Mr Nelson'."

Obituaries

Dr Girvan Parton, Bursar of Grey 1978 – 80, died in 2008.



Girvan Parton in 1980

That was sheer luck and you need that kind of luck in our line of business, if I may so describe it; and then you need only one other thing and I suppose, now that you're older, I might reveal it to you. You have only to find a way of persuading the Junior Common Room to mistake your serendipity for omnipotence.



Syd Holgate opening Holgate House in 1996

Thank you all for everything.

Syd Holgate

We are also sorry to report the death of Peter Sansam, a student at Grey from 1972 until 1976. Peter died on April 15 2008, shortly after his 53rd birthday. He had been suffering from cancer.

Peter went to High Pavement School, Nottingham, and obtained a 2-1 in Modern Languages (Spanish and French).

He worked in HM Customs and Excise in a number of posts at Nottingham, Derby and Leicester since leaving College.

Peter was a regular attendee at College reunions and was particularly thrilled to meet the new Chancellor, Bill Bryson, at the University's 175th anniversary celebrations in September 2007.

The Association sends its condolences to Peter's mother.

Alex Rae

Eric Halladay 1930-1997

In the summer of 1964, five years after its first students were admitted, Grey College awaited a successor to Arthur Pennington, the first Senior Tutor, who had moved to Bristol. I was Tutor to Science Students (and recently married) and the new Senior Tutor's family would be our neighbours: so we were keenly interested, both on professional and personal grounds.

But any apprehension was instantly dispelled, for Eric Halladay proved to be a splendid appointment. He and his family (including Beezee the cat, Eric loved cats) quickly became, and have remained, our close friends and the College prospered under what I and many others considered to be the ideal partnership of Syd Holgate, as Master, and Eric, as Senior Tutor and later the first Vice-Master.

Together and with the help of other staff who were treated by them as part of a family, Syd and Eric established the College and promoted a harmony between scholarly achievement and all those other activities that go to build up the common life of a College, in which individuals mattered above all else and which has remained my ideal, as learnt from them.

Eric had been at Durham School, he was Commissioned in the Royal Horse Artillery, he read for the Historical Tripos at St. John's College, Cambridge (and of course at the Lady Margaret Boat Club) and where he met Margaret - and he taught at Exeter School before being appointed to Sandhurst, where he brought together all his experience, his gifts and his interests, which were now to be shared with Durham, at Grey College, in the Department of History and, of course on the River.

Our gardens shared a common fence, with the nettles and docks' on my side - a constant reproach to my gardening skills, if not to ecological correctness. Eric saw himself as my answer to Gardeners' Question Time. Clare was more sympathetic, more ready to accept my shortcomings as a gardener.

During one of many meetings by the garden fence like Pyramus and Thisbe, she asked about nettles and the curative powers of dock leaves; after some thought she said: 'sting yourself and rub on the dock leaves - and let me see!'



Eric & Margaret Haliday in 1981

When Syd Holgate retired in 1980, Eric was the natural choice to succeed him as Master and we rejoiced when he did so. In his time as Master, the traditions established were enhanced and much was preserved against a background of change, such as the College going mixed. The Old Students' Association developed considerably in his time and new buildings permitted the fostering of a strong drama tradition - and sport and of course rowing in particular flourished.

Above all Eric and Margaret built up the College extended family nurtured by kindness and caring, by strong support for students in times of difficulty: his students knew they could depend on him.

In the early eighties there was talk of reduction in student numbers, with the likelihood that the freedom afforded to second and third year undergraduates to allow them to choose to 'live out' would be denied. Other financial pressures faced Colleges with change too. By the end of the decade we were faced

with the opposite problem: a declining unit of resource was creating severe financial problems and an over-rapid expansion of student numbers made it necessary now to require them to 'live out!' There was a further deterioration in the financial position of Colleges in other respects and those combined to put a squeeze on Colleges that made fund-raising essential if the system was to survive and Eric was one of the first to recognise that. So he quickly addressed the problem and at the same time urged wise caution on those who, like me sought more dramatic solutions, (like all the Colleges becoming independent).

With characteristic generosity and loyalty to his College, he proposed to stand-

1966 World Cup

The Association Football World Cup competition in 1966 was held in England, and one of the Groups played its matches in Sunderland and Middlesbrough.

One of the organizers visited the College well in advance seeking to reserve block accommodation for supporters, potentially a source of significant income; but the Master refused, fearful of damage to the College building; and commented that housing supporters was very different from providing a base for a team under managerial control.

This apparent 'offer' was accepted with alacrity, and the College was visited by representatives from nine or ten different countries in the ensuing weeks, before the final draw was made. When the draw came, it allocated to the North-East Chile, Italy and North Korea; and the USSR, who came to stay in Grey. Italy chose the School of Agriculture at Houghall, thinking they could train at Maiden Castle, but this had already been booked by Grey for whichever team stayed with us. The USSR did in practice share the facilities with Italy.

They did light training early each morning in the Oswald quadrangle – they were given the Oswald building to themselves.

down as Master in favour of Victor Watts, by then the Vice-Master, and then as 'Rector' of the College to devote himself to fund-raising.

Being made a Steward at Henley gave him the greatest pleasure and Durham oarsmen cheered him at Henley to acknowledge the honour and almost brought the Regatta to a standstill. When he told me of the honour he also told me that he had given directions in his will for his ashes to be scattered on his beloved Tyne. I little realised how quickly the summons would come.

Professor Vernon Armitage, Fellow of Grey

They moved around quite freely in the College grounds, and not one single policeman was seen here throughout their stay.



They won the North-East group, and defeated Hungary at Roker Park in the quarter-final before leaving unexpectedly and at very short notice. They had expected to play their semi-final match at Wembley, but before they had returned from the Hungary match, a telephone message was received instructing them to move into a Cheshire Hotel vacated by the defeated Brazilians.

It was a unique experience for the College, and apparently a pleasant one for the visitors. At the post-competition reception in London, they were reported to have said that had they been allowed to remain in Durham, they thought they would have won.

Victor Watts, 1938 – 2002

Victor was chairman of the Department of English in the 1970s, Dean of the Faculty of Arts in the 1980s, and, from 1999 to 2002, Dean of the University's fifteen Colleges: there can be very few people in the British university system who have served one institution for so long in so many important roles, over such crucial periods of development.



Victor did a great deal to maintain and where possible improve the humane organisation of the university, and particularly its collegiate system – reforming its committee structure, and, with understated but clear-sighted leadership, initiating much that has put college organisation on its current sound footing.

Victor developed his identity as a university teacher in an ethos different from that which now prevails – in a context of smaller student numbers, of less specialization in teaching, and a more informal and less elaborate bureaucracy. He tried to maintain the virtues of that earlier ethos in the periods of expansion in student numbers and the changes this brought in teaching and research. In College life traditional virtues meant an emphasis on community; in teaching, on relationships with individual tutees, whom one taught over a wide range of whatever they studied; and in research, on giving greater and more leisurely attention to the contexts and connections of specialized knowledge, with publication seen not as an activity separate from one's life as a member of a local as well

as a wider community – teaching and learning, therefore, through activities with which one came into direct contact.

Victor joined the staff of the University in 1962 as a lecturer in English Language but from the very beginning he was also associated with Grey College, living in College for two years and becoming a college tutor when Dr Holgate was Master.

He was a learned man, with a command of several ancient languages – Greek, Latin, Old English, Old French, and the immense historical and dialectal range of Middle English. Alongside formal teaching, Victor provided expert and enthusiastic guidance on visits to medieval sites, and organised reading parties at which he encouraged reading aloud, for which he himself had a particular gift, exercised over the years for small groups and large audiences on poetry from Chaucer to Browning to Pound. Many will recall Victor as the heroic Beowulf and the courtly and courteous Sir Gawain (wearing a pentangle he had made for the occasion – the symbol in the poem of Gawain's virtues) in readings organised by the Principal of St John's College.



Pulling the first pint in the refurbished College Bar in 2001

Victor's accomplishments as a Latinist are evinced by his beautifully clear and eloquent translation of Boethius's *On the Consolation of Philosophy* (Penguin), and by his edition of the book on plants in John of Trevisa's translation of Bartholomaeus

Anglicus, *On the Properties of Things* (Oxford). It is indicative that he should have translated Boethius, whose *Consolation*, written in prison under sentence of death, is about what wisdom learning can bring when it is put to that extreme test of helping somebody to think about what in knowledge and understanding is really of value.

He was a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was chairman of the Bow Trust, which is responsible for the Durham Heritage Centre and museum, St Mary-le-Bow. He was in succession Vice-President and President (1983-91) of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland ('Arch. and Arch'), members of which recall with intense pleasure Victor's care in the preparation of its excursions and his learned enthusiasm as a guide.



Victor Watts & Foster Neville in 2002

Victor's main research, however, was the study of English place names. On this subject he was one of the country's leading authorities. He was honorary director of the English Place-Name Survey (from 1993), general editor of its survey volumes (from 1994), and editor of the *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* (from 1996). His own work involved a particular study of the origin

and history of the place-names of County Durham, and he published (with contributions by John Insley) *A Dictionary of Country Durham Place-Names* (2002), the fruit of more than thirty years of research. His *magnum opus* is the *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Of enormous scope, and the culmination of many, many years work, final proofs of this were completed only a few weeks before Victor's death.

In the 1980s Victor transferred much of his attention to Grey College, first as Vice-Master (1984), and from 1989 as Master. Victor valued highly the personal contact the University's collegiate system of organisation makes possible – between academic staff in different disciplines, and between academic staff and students outside teaching situations and beyond subject boundaries. By his own constant manner of thoughtful care he embodied the idea that college was not simply a place of residence but a community of all those who lived and worked in it. Amongst the many developments he brought about in Grey, perhaps the most notable was an expression of his love for the visual arts: he invited Henry Dyson to develop the college as a venue for a number of memorable exhibitions, most notably a Retrospective of John Piper for the 40th Anniversary which achieved national acclaim.

Henry, encouraged by Victor, brought to Grey practising artists, one of the most notable of whom, Thetis Blacker, recalled Victor as an 'incomparable host. His learning was prodigious, and his knowledge flowered in wisdom. I will always remember those happy evenings spent with Victor and the Fellows at Grey. Looking over Durham to the Cathedral, we talked about Life and Death, Humanity and Inhumanity, Religion and Fanaticism. As the sun sank and the stars appeared we raised our glasses and drank a toast to Truth, Goodness and Beauty'.

Victor is sadly missed but his work continues.

Professor David Fuller

Syd Holgate (1918-2003)

- 1918 Born. Attended Henry Melish Grammar School, Nottingham.
- 1937 Hatfield to read Mathematics. Played cricket, rugby and was President of the Union Society, secretary of the Student Representative Council, Senior Man of Hatfield.
- 1940 Gained a first in Mathematics.
- 1941 Teaching Diploma, spending a year at Nottingham High School.
- 1942 Returned to Durham as temporary lecturer. Married Durham farmer's daughter and teacher Isabel Armorey.
- 1945 Gained PhD in the elasticity of surfaces.
- 1946 Became Secretary of the Durham Colleges (Registrar).

- 1958 Appointed Master of Grey.
- 1960s Pro-Vice Chancellor.
- 1980 Retired.
- 1981 Awarded CBE.



Syd Holgate displays his CBE in 1981

The Garden Opera 2009

This year the Garden Opera Company will be performing Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* on Wednesday 17th June at 6pm. Tickets and details available from Julie Bushby: grey.college@dur.ac.uk or 0191 3345591. For more information please visit the Garden Opera website: <http://www.gardenopera.co.uk>

Conference Facilities



Peter Dunn fixes the commemorative plaque in Holgate House, 1996

We have a wide range of conference facilities available for day meetings during term time and residential meetings during the vacation. The Dining Hall is also available during vacation periods for Dinners and Weddings.

We have en-suite rooms in Holgate house and standard rooms in Elvet which has recently been refurbished to an excellent standard. If you would like more details please contact: Karen.Blundell@durham.ac.uk

The Grey College Trust's Permanent Collection of Art

The promotion of graphic art has become a distinguishing feature of Grey College during the last ten years. Henry Dyson has built up a collection of over 400 original works of art and prints with the generosity of artists and collectors donations. Indeed art now hangs in nearly every area of the College, adorning and enhancing the space for residents and visitors alike.

Grey students from the past may be surprised to learn that Grey College is now regarded as the principal art centre in the University. There are at least 3 exhibitions a year and the policy is to offer challenging, exciting and affordable art. Over the past 10 years there have been around 40 exhibitions open to the general public and reflecting figurative, representational and abstract painting in most mediums. We have been pleased to welcome contemporary artists from Canada, Denmark, India and Russia, as well as around Britain.



*Derek & Rachel Wilson
(College Tutors) in 1981*

All exhibitions have works for sale that are within the price range of a prudent student. Many visitors from around the University, the city and the region visit the exhibitions on a regular basis and further our mission of outreach, accessibility and inclusion.

A detailed, illustrated description of the permanent collection of art in Grey by Henry Dyson and Foster Neville will be available in January 2010.

New Look for Elvet

We have just completed a major refurbishment of Elvet. This included a new heating system, a complete bedroom refit, double glazing, an increase in the self catering and pantry facilities which our students have highlighted as being of major importance to them. The old baths have all been replaced with showers and the bathrooms and toilets have been redecorated.

We are delighted with the refurbishment which has been the result of outstanding teamwork. The contractors Atkins and Surgo together with Sean Kelly from Estates and buildings have matched our own passion and enthusiasm and together we have produced a truly excellent accommodation block for our students.

Karen Blundell

Martyn Chamberlain, Master of Grey 2003 -

Martyn Chamberlain became the fourth Master of Grey College in the Michaelmas Term of 2003. Martyn was born in Leicester and attended Alderman Newton's School in the town, before going up to Oxford to read Physics. After completion of his undergraduate studies, he remained in Oxford and worked for a D.Phil in the field of Semiconductor Physics. Martyn moved to Nottingham University to a lectureship and was eventually promoted to Reader in Experimental Physics. Martyn's scientific interests were, by that stage, becoming much more focussed on applications of the technology he was developing and so he moved, in 1999, to a Chair at Leeds University in Electronic Engineering. At Leeds, he became Director of the Institute of Microwaves and Photonics, where he developed the applicable science of the so-called terahertz region of the spectrum, which lies "between radio and light", with particular reference to medical imaging applications. After his move to Durham, he continued working in this general field, showing how the technology was of great value for security uses. Much of this work was accomplished within a large international grouping of academics and industrialists that he had brought together with substantial funding from the European Commission. Over the past eighteen months, he has also led Durham University's Biophysical Science Institute. This Institute aims to solve key biological questions using tools and expertise drawn from the whole spectrum of natural sciences, including mathematics. The work of the Institute will enable scientists at Durham to design and engineer new technologies for application in medicine and biotechnology leading to a better understanding of disease processes and biological function.



Vice Master Mike & Mary Weston in 1981.

Martyn believes strongly in the importance of Colleges as academic communities, where students can develop as individuals within a generous, tolerant and inclusive atmosphere. With good management, the Durham Colleges have immense potential to deliver something very different to their undergraduate and graduate student members. The original vision for this College, so well set out by Syd Holgate, must continue so that Grey men and women are able to lead satisfying and rewarding lives and become great citizens of the world.

Martyn met his wife, Sarah, whilst at Oxford and they have two sons and two grandchildren. Sarah read History at University and taught for many years before retiring recently. She is a well-know figure in Grey as a Tutor and SCR secretary; she also works tirelessly to keep the silver candlesticks in good order and the College stocked with flowers. Martyn and Sarah live at High Close and at Craster, in Northumberland.

Grey College Jubilee Events

17 th , 18 th , 19 th April	Grey College Association Reunion in College.
Saturday 18 th April 11am	Thanksgiving Service in College Chapel led by the Reverend Malcolm Peach in the Lattin Chapel.
Saturday 18 th April 2pm	High Tech Presentation 50 Years of Grey College in Holgate House.
Saturday 18 th April 7pm	Champagne Reception in the JCR.
Saturday 18 th April 8pm	Grand Gala Jubilee Dinner in Hall (Black tie & gowns). The Vice-Chancellor will propose a toast to Grey College.
Sunday 19 th April 12.30pm	Drinks Reception in SCR. Jubilee Luncheon in Hall.
28 th April, 5 th May, 12 th May,	Rabbi Lionel Blue Seminars on Religious
19 th May 7.30pm	Experience – this phenomena will be examined in the light of science, psychology and faith. In the Holgate Suite.
5 th June 7pm-9pm	Private View (all welcome) of the Canadian abstract artists George Rackus. Exhibition in the Old Library and Dining Hall. Exhibition continues until 27 th June.
6 th June	Jubilee Grey Day.
10 th June	Phoenix Jubilee Ball.
12 th June 7.30pm	Jubilee Debate: “This House believes you’ve never had it so good”.
Holgate House.	Chaired by Richard Moss (BBC Newcastle’s <i>Politics Show</i>). Speakers: Jonathon Porritt, Ed Waugh & Mihir Bose (BBC Sports Correspondent and President of the Reform Club).
17 th June 6pm	The Garden Opera will perform Rossini’s <i>The Barber of Seville</i> .
18 th September	Topo Gigio Restaurant, Brewer Street, London. Jubilee Reunion Dinner. 7pm for drinks, dinner at 8pm. The Master will propose a toast to Grey.
9 th October	Private View of the Thetis Blacker (1927-2006) Retrospective. Exhibition continues until October 31 st .

In addition to this Jubilee edition of Grey Matters there will be two other publications: *The Best of Grey College Papers 1959-2009* (available in October) and *The Grey College Trust Art Collection* (available in January 2010). Contact Julie Bushby for further details on any of these: j.e.bushby@durham.ac.uk



*Geraldine Dickie
College Secretary for 30 years*



Syd & Belle are congratulated at their retirement dinner by Fred Holliday, the then newly appointed Vice-Chancellor (1980-1990)

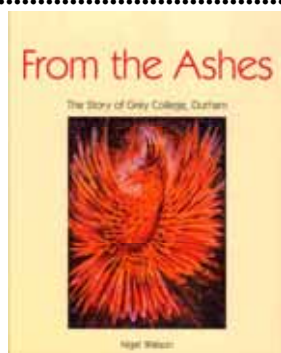
College Reunion 2009 booking form

The college reunion will be held on the weekend of April 17th, 18th and 19th. Dinner is free for anyone graduating in 2008.

Accommodation (all prices include breakfast)		17th	18th	19th
Single standard room	£28	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single standard en suite	£36	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twin standard.....	£45	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twin en suite	£65	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday/Sunday Lunch	£20		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grand Reunion Dinner (per person, excluding wine).....	£50		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Friday night High Table supper.....	£20	<input type="checkbox"/>		

You can also book online at 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



From the Ashes

From the Ashes by Nigel Watson is the illustrated history of Grey College, its genesis, buildings, masters, dons, fellows and students, and will be enjoyed and treasured by anyone associated with Grey College. It is available from the College by completing the order form below or by e-mailing Kellie Stephenson, College Secretary, on 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)

.....

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: £



Association Executive

Henry Dyson – President: henry@henrydyson.co.uk

Ben Whitley – Vice President: bwhitley@jdwetherspoon.co.uk

Janet Gyllenspetz – Vice Present

Alan Richards – Treasurer: adrichards@westhillcorpfin.com

Thomas Cliff – Secretary: tomjhcliff@hotmail.com

Editors of *Grey Matters*: Henry Dyson and Foster Neville (foster.neville@durham.ac.uk)

www.dur.ac.uk/grey.college & www.greyassociation.co.uk

The Agenda for the AGM of the Association 2009 is available 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