

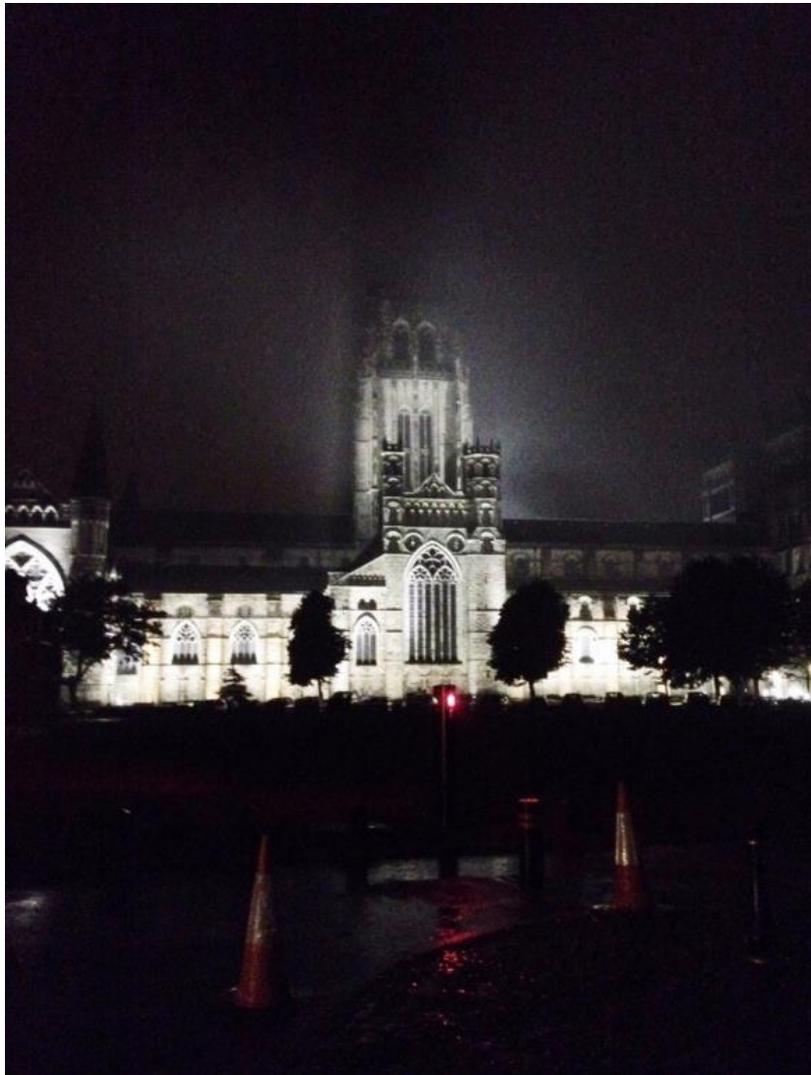


Grey Matters

The Magazine of Grey College Association



February 2015



ABOVE: A stormy night at Palace Green results in this eerie image of Durham Cathedral captured in October 2014. (Photograph: Thomas Cliff)



A note from the Association President

DEAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS,

Grey College is growing and getting stronger than ever. Grey College continues to be one of the strongest colleges in the University. It is a thriving network of likeminded individuals who are contributing to a remarkable community that is delivering fantastic academic results year on year and developing outstanding young people.

Grey College Association remains at the heart of community, calling on our combined expertise to support the College's events and activities. We make use of our members' expertise, time and energy to work with the students, staff and University employees to further the College in any way we can. Every year new individuals come forward to help and contribute to our activities; in the last year alone we have recruited another 100 business angels, people who give their time to help students with careers advice and a number of individuals who have volunteered to come and support our careers events which are expanding not just in participation, but also in scope and the expectation of those who attend. This year Andy Sparrow, our careers and development Vice President, has also introduced a series of careers webinars to further strengthen our activities and open up another communication channel with the student population, these have proven very popular with attendees and are certainly something we will be continuing in the future.

The Junior Common Room continues to be phenomenally successful, continuing to amaze and delight by setting up new events and societies, driven onward by it's members who demonstrate a passion for their patch of Durham unrivalled by any others, especially if the current sports league tables are an applicable measure.



ABOVE: *Thomas Cliff, Association President*

And whilst there is a lot to do it is worth noting that my time as President is drawing to a close. I know that a fantastic successor with fresh ideas and renewed energy will more than fill my shoes, but the Association is more than just it's Executive. I want more and more of our members to come forward and continue to develop the Association by working with our younger alumni and the current members of the JCR to make our events even more appealing whilst maintaining the traditions that continue to make our association one of the most active and engaging in the University. I would encourage all of you to use social media to stay in touch with the Association, where we will keep you up to date with goings on and events during the year. The links are:

- ❖ [Facebook](#)
- ❖ [Linked in](#)

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

THOMAS CLIFF

Association President

A Year in Grey College

PROFESSOR TOM ALLEN MASTER OF COLLEGE

This has been another busy year at Grey, with a constant stream of activities from the common rooms, alumni and staff and a number of awards. First, I would like to congratulate all the students who graduated in the July and January ceremonies: in the last year, well over three hundred students from Grey finished their studies. We are still growing as a University, as we welcomed over 400 new undergraduates, postgraduates and exchange students in September. We now have around 460 students from across the globe living in the College, and even more living out. Special thanks go to Alice Ashwell and her team for running a great induction programme for our new freshers, and Craig Fisher and James Collinson and their team for doing the same for the postgrads. Our new sabbaticals, Nick Klein and Will Hockedy, and the new MCR President, Andrew Plygawko, are working hard to keep things going.

Congratulations to the Chair of our Senior Common Room, Alan Martin, Professor Emeritus of Physics, who will be awarded the Chancellor's Medal in May. The Medal is awarded to long-serving former members of academic staff who made outstanding contributions to the University during their career and continue to do so after retirement. Alan's nomination was put forward by the Departments of Physics and Mathematical Sciences, the Institute of Particle Physics, and of course, Grey College. Alan follows Henry Dyson and Steve Gregory in receiving special acknowledgement from the University of the contribution of alumni and friends of the College. Steve also received the CASE European Volunteer of the Year award for all his work in supporting Grey and other colleges in Durham. The staff in Grey are also receiving recognition for the high quality of



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

their work. In November, Nicola Gittins, our Food Service Manager, went to Parliament to receive the Green Apple Awards Gold Green Apple Environment Award, in the national campaign to find Britain's greenest companies, councils and communities. She followed this up in January, by receiving Durham's Special Recognition Catering Award.

In Michaelmas, the College hosted Professor Mohamed Babiker and Dr Mohamed Bakhit as visiting scholars. Both were involved in workshops and a conference on 'Justice in the Sudans', a programme of events organised by the College. Professor Babiker recently set up the University of Khartoum's Centre for Human Rights, and is now in discussions with Durham's Human Rights Centre on developing lasting links between the two centres.

We were very sad to lose one of our freshers, George Palmer, last April. The students organised a very moving memorial service for George in the College. The students also initiated the 'George Palmer Sevens' tournament; George was a lover of rugby and it is good to see him remembered in this way.

PROFESSOR TOM ALLEN

Master, Grey College

Senior Common Room News

PROFESSOR ALAN MARTIN

It is a pleasure to write a short article for "Grey Matters" about the SCR. At the time of writing you may be surprised to learn that the SCR have placed an article in the local press entitled "Dark Matters at Grey College". Do not worry, the College is safe; it is simply an announcement of our next Sunday (February 1st) afternoon public talk in Holgate House by Pete Edwards. The talk is all about the outstanding problem in astrophysics -- the puzzling existence of the enormous amount of Dark Matter in the Universe. Matter we know is there, but which we cannot see. In fact, the following public talk on February 22nd is about "Graphene - the new wonder material" by Karl Coleman. These are both talks where no scientific knowledge will be assumed, but are on very topical subjects that members of the SCR wish to learn about.

Although these two talks are both scientifically orientated, the public talks in the previous term compensated the bias. Seif El Rashidi talked on the "Magna Carta: should we still care?". Sadly, Seif who was a loyal member of the SCR, left his position as an extremely successful coordinator of the World Heritage site in Durham, to go to Salisbury to organize the Salisbury exhibition of the 800 year anniversary of their original 1215 Magna Carta, of which only four copies still exist. However, Durham has the only copy of the 1216 version, so hopefully Seif may be persuaded to return then. Another fascinating talk was given by Gary Bankhead. He told us about the 3500 "Treasures in the River Wear" that he has found during his diving explorations. These included some of the special gifts that Michael Ramsey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, had acquired on his visits to other religious leaders around the world. Towards the end of his life he retired back to Durham and had decided to

drop these treasures in the River Wear from Prebends Bridge.

Early in the summer members of the SCR had a day out to visit Wallington Hall and its beautiful walled garden. Lloyd Langley, the curator of this extensive National Trust site, is a member of the SCR. He looked after us extremely well, and guided us to the many attractions in this former home of the Trevelyan family. He arranged a special tea for us and ensured that we had a most enjoyable day.



ABOVE: Grey College SCR, Chris Phillips

Each year around the beginning of December we have a Whisky tasting event, since one of our members, Stewart Clark, has unsurpassed knowledge about all aspects of this special drink. We also have a Croquet event on the Master's lawn in June which has proved very popular. The termly Art Exhibitions are another type of event which has enriched the College life and fostered interactions beyond College boundaries. We are very grateful to Henry Dyson for putting these on. You are most welcome to come to these exhibitions and to join the artist at a preview (but please notify Henry@henrydyson.co.uk).



ABOVE: *Grey College SCR, Chris Phillips*

The liveliness and success of the SCR of your College is due to a truly remarkable executive committee, who have managed to create a wonderful family atmosphere which extends an especially warm welcome to all those who wish to come. It goes without saying that we

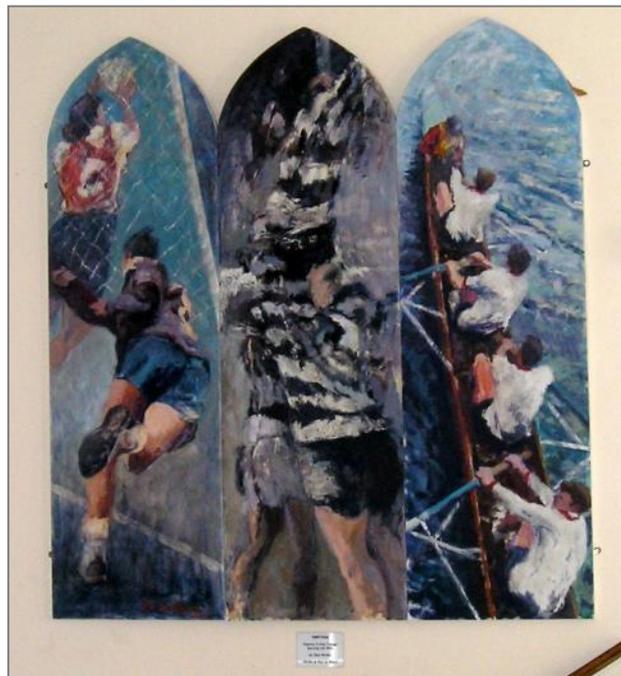
would particularly welcome Grey Association members who would like to join the SCR. Membership of the SCR entitles you to the use of the comfortable Senior Common Room itself, where you can call in for coffee etc. You are also able to sign in for one, or more, of the weekly formal meals (the dates are given on the events list on the Grey SCR website www.greyscr.co.uk), and to book in for other meals at the College. Also, accommodation in the College may be booked, subject to availability. The annual subscription is £20 for single, and £30 for joint, membership. To join, or to seek more information, please visit our website. Alternatively, you may join by contacting Peter Swift, the SCR Treasurer and Members Secretary (treasurer@greyscr.co.uk).

ALAN MARTIN

President, Senior Common Room

Contributions

If you would like to contribute to Grey Matters, perhaps with memories of your time in Durham, pictures past and present or anything else that may be relevant to our alumni, please contact the Secretary and archivist, [Steve Gregory](#).



Grey College Trust

The Grey College Trust was set up for the benefit of Grey College in the 1980s and plays an important role in supporting Grey College, its students, its fabric and its development. various appeals have been launched and developed under its auspices. currently we have The Jubilee Development Appeal.

If you wish to give money to the College and you do so through the Trust then for every £100 you give we can claim an extra £20 in the Gift Aid scheme if you are a UK taxpayer. If you would like to leave something



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

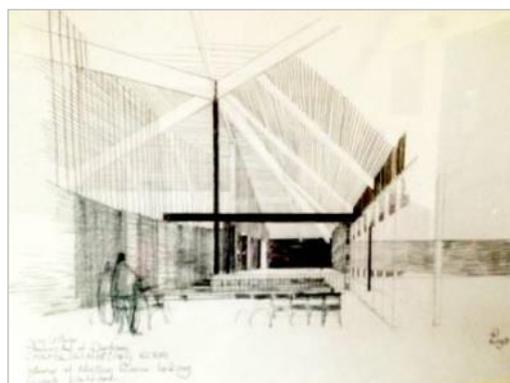
Plans commissioned for Fountains Hall

GREY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF THE COLLEGE

In 2012 Grey College Association made an initial donation of £10,000 to the Grey Trust to kick start fundraising and we will continue to work with the College to deliver this project over the coming years.



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



The project is now starting to take shape, and in Jan 2015 Architects Drawings were commissioned. A working party comprising the key stakeholder groups from across the University has also been formed and it is currently planned to start works over the Summer vacation in 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENT: It is with great sadness that I must inform members of the Association of the death of Ellie de Freitas. Ellie was a Fresher at Grey in 2008-09, but withdrew from the University at the end of her first year. She will be remembered with great fondness by all who knew her.

Junior Common Room News

NICK KLEIN REPORTS ON PROGRESS FROM THE JUNIOR COMMON ROOM

2014 has very much been a year of new opportunities for the Junior Common Room. Marking three years since the founding of Grey JCR as a charity, and with many students who experienced the initial change now graduated, the past year has shown that Grey JCR really has spread its wings and is flourishing under its own governance. With a marked increase in new societies, continued exceptionally high standard of events, and the first steps into welcoming Grey's postgraduate students into the JCR, it has been a year that has really shown off the ability for students to take control of their Grey experience.

Epiphany term highlighted the high calibre of events on offer at Grey, including Barfest, President's Guest Night and the Charity Fashion Show. Barfest 2014 was the Bar Committee's opportunity to showcase a wide selection of beers and ales, local ciders and cocktails, workshops in wine tasting and cocktail making, live music and entertainment throughout the day (not to mention a full Grey Bar of spectators watching the 6 Nations). The following week brought President's Guest Night, a celebration of students dedication and passion within the JCR's wide range of sports, societies and committees. JCR President John Oliver used the occasion to recognise influential ex-Grey students who originally set up the sports and societies that are still thriving today. Awards were presented to Badminton, Grey in the Community, and Tech Committee (who have contributed massively to the success and professionalism of JCR events), as well as Naomi Tansey for the Unsung Hero Award and Mim Smith for the Leadership Award for her dedication to the Women's Rugby team. The final event to top off February was the



ABOVE: Nick Kelin, JCR President

Grey College Charity Fashion Show, where Grey's students took to the cat walk in clothing from local designers and at points (too) much fake tan, to raise money for charity.

Amongst the all the commotion of the busy social calendar, February 2014 also marked the three year anniversary of the JCR becoming a charity, bringing with it the referendum for the JCR to decide whether to remain functioning as a charity or to change governing structure and become a Durham Student Organisation (DSO). Despite some benefits suggested about the DSO model including cohesion with the rest of Durham's colleges and access to University financial systems, JCR members decided that independence was indispensable and the vote was a resounding 'Yes' to continue operating the JCR as a charity – roll on 2017 and the next referendum! The JCR's finances were kept firmly accurate throughout the year thanks to the expertise of the Finance and Commercial Services Officer, Andy Lucas, the role which has become fundamental in the sustainability of the JCR as a charity.

Throughout the year various societies have sprung up to cater to a whole range of

interests: some niche; some unexpected. Reading, Languages, Feminism, and Disney societies emerged in the Easter Term, with Michaelmas term seeing the formation of Yoga, Stormwalking, Cooking and Food Appreciation, and Random Acts of Kindness societies. These societies have provided regular collaboration between students with similar interests, and if the trend in ingenuity continues, it is surely only a matter of time until the Brian Blessed and Bristol Temple Meads Appreciation society is revived.

Easter term ended with an enormous Summer social calendar, with established events such as Grey Day (dampened by rain, but miraculously saved thanks to careful planning and pragmatism by Grey Day Supremo, Jess Leech) and Phoenix Ball (held for the first time at the stunning Hardwick Hall) drawing record numbers of guests as Grey continues to grow in student numbers.

Michaelmas term brought a whole new influx of Grey men and women to Durham for the first time as Freshers' Week events inducted 300 new students. The induction was as strong as ever thanks to the time and tireless dedication from the Freshers' Reps,

particularly the welcome for international students to Grey in what was for many their first time in the UK. Inclusivity was also key throughout Michaelmas term during the negotiations between the JCR and MCR for the inclusion of Grey's postgraduate students into the JCR's governing structure. The 'JCR/MCR merger' sustained by the Student Trustee, Rob Haggart, was agreed at the end of 2014, giving postgraduate students access to the same opportunities as JCR members in what was a previously underutilised relationship. This will be continued into 2015 with postgraduates paying the same JCR levy as undergraduate students at the start of the academic year and having full entitlement to JCR facilities, services, and democratic rights.

2014 was brought to a close with the Grey College Fireworks show, run by a committee of students volunteers deftly led by Fireworks Guru Dan Gosselin, and a West End and Broadway themed Informal Ball featuring impromptu musical performances, which has been praised as the best Informal Ball in recent memory.

In the coming year there are potential risks to the JCR as we know it, most troubling is the



ABOVE Freshers Representatives, use their cheerleading skills to welcome the next generation of Grey Students

rising cost of living in College accommodation, which is likely to affect the demographic of students choosing to live in Grey during the course of their degree. That said, the future of the JCR is looking exciting: with the effects of the JCR/MCR merger, the commissioning of a new JCR website, and continued hopes for the Fountains Hall project bringing a whole range of artistic and

cultural opportunities to students. With the next few years of independence secured, I look forward to seeing the JCR continue to thrive and opportunities grow for students to both benefit from, and have control over, their own JCR experience.

NICK KLEIN

President, Junior Common Room



ABOVE: *Students processing to the Cathedral during Graduation 2014 (Photograph: William Hockedy)*

ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations to two Grey alumni who received OBE awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours List: Paul Hawkins (1996), for services to technology and sport (inventor of the Hawkeye system), and Andrew Spurr (1975) for services to the Energy Industry and the UK economy

Association Executive

Thomas Cliff, President

tomjhcliff@hotmail.com

Dave Baldwin, Vice President

david.baldwin@standardbank.com

Andy Sparrow, Vice President, Careers

andysparrow@live.co.uk

Richard Hilton, Website Editor

r.j.hilton@durham.ac.uk

Charles Jewkes, Treasurer

charlie_J21@yahoo.com

Steve Gregory, Secretary

stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk



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

Business Angels

STEVE GREGORY - YOUR COLLEGE NEEDS YOU

2014 was another tremendous year for the 'Business Angels' scheme, as the number of Angels passed the 500 mark - not bad progress in under ten years! The scheme was the first in Durham and it is still the biggest. Advice and support on starting/ managing such schemes has now been given to three other Universities as well as to 14 out of the other 15 Colleges, suggesting that Grey continues to lead the way in this field .

Thanks are again due to Richard Hilton for continuing to take care of the technical stuff which keeps the system running , and to the JCR's Career's Reps in the last 2 years (Jess Walker/ Caroline Small in 2013-4 and Jess Ng/ Lorna Sokolowski in 2014-5) for making sure that our 'customers' are aware of this brilliant resource and are encouraged to make the most of the practical and up-to-date advice available.

Alumni continue to organise and present the annual Careers Workshop in November, another valuable and much appreciated service for students, and it would be great to

Grey Matters

hear from anyone who would consider joining the ranks of the volunteer presenters. Offers from Alumni who are prepared to review and polish CVs submitted by current would also be appreciated. The more recently introduced (and very realistic !) mock Assessment Centre is also seen as a way for Grey students to get that extra edge over the competition when it comes to attending those challenging days for real. Offers of work experience, internships or summer placements are also much sought-after , so please get in touch with Steve or the Vice - Master (g.p.swift@durham.ac.uk) if you can help in this way.

If you are an Angel, thanks again for your support , and PLEASE don't forget to keep Steve Gregory notified of any changes to your profile (Company, position , etc) and contact details. If you are not yet part of this celebrated band of Grey supporters, we would love to have you on board . We particularly need Alumni who work in areas we don't yet fully cover , especially the less usual professions/ business areas and those who live// work outside the UK, but any and all





volunteers will be welcomed! Retirement is no excuse to back off - our retired Angels can offer the benefit of experience of working in a number of roles and/or a range of companies as well as the special challenges which come from the rise to senior management.

Moving into the Digital Age – Grey Association Careers

ANDY SPARROW - GREY ASSOCIATION VICE-PRESIDENT (CAREERS)

“The future depends on what you do today”
Mahatma Gandhi

To say that during our time in Durham, our future career path was the number one priority in our thoughts and actions would probably be stretching the truth.

But by default, the choice to follow a path into further education and especially at the University of Durham, where in 2014, 22,948 applicants applied for only 3,320 places is a clear indicator of the determination and drive of a Grey College Student to gain a head-start in their career after their time within the Elvet Courtyard has come to an end.

Since 2005, the Grey Association has worked alongside the Junior Common Room to provide a series of career events that have been held with the sole intention of giving Grey Students an advantage when applying to Graduate Roles.

More recent graduates can also make an important contribution, especially by providing up-to-date information on current company training schemes and recruitment procedures. Twenty of the 2014 leavers have so far agreed to be Angels, which is a bit down on previous years, and it would be great to hear YOU if you graduated last year and now feel able to share your experience!!

For more details, please contact me via e-mail at: stephen.gregory@durham.ac.uk

STEVE GREGORY

Association Secretary

Although attracting around 70 – 100 students each year, the constant challenge is to ensure that as many students as possible are able to benefit from the first-hand experience and knowledge that returning Alumni are able to share.

During the past year, the Association, with help from a number of Grey Alumni held the Careers Workshop in the Michaelmas Term that covered a wide range of topics, including CV Layout & Presentation, Interview Technique and the importance of Social Media within the Recruitment Process.

This tried and tested event has always proved to be an invaluable part of the JCR Calendar and once again, feedback and on-going communication with the student body after the event has only helped to further strengthen the relationship between the Association and the Junior Common Room.

Looking forward into 2015, the Association will once again be running the Assessment Centre Workshop that will take place in the Easter Term.

After it's very successful debut in 2014, the workshop will once again look to replicate the environment, exercises and pressures that are experienced during an Assessment Centre that often can be very daunting, with a view to giving Grey Students a real advantage over other candidates applying for these roles.

Before this, the Association will be taking a leap into the Digital Age and at the time of writing this article, have a series of Webinars planned for February 2015 that will help the Association interact with Grey Students in a completely new way to attempt to overcome traditional obstacles of a busy student lifestyle that may have prevented their interaction and attendance previously.

The first series of webinars have been put together with feedback from the Junior Common Room and will be focused around specific elements within an Assessment Centre. They will act as great preparation for the Workshop being held in the Easter Term alongside any assessments that students may be facing over the next couple of months.

Depending on the success of these initial webinar sessions, there would be the opportunity to extend this programme out to run throughout the academic year and this could prove an exciting and interactive way in which to help maintain the strong ties and relationship that the Association has with the Junior Common Room.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Alumni Community who have been involved with the Association Careers Event this year; without your hard-work and support, the successes that we have achieved to this point would not have been possible.

Although we may not have realised it at the time, our time at Durham ultimately helped to shape our careers and where we all are now. By getting involved with the Association, we can ensure that Grey Students will continue to benefit from the wealth of advice and experience that exists within the Grey Alumni Community for many years to come.

If you would like to be part of the upcoming events, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Association via Thomas Cliff or myself.

ANDY SPARROW

Association Vice President



ABOVE: Pre-dinner drinks on the dining room balcony at the 2014 Grey College Association – Durham Reunion

Grey Award Report – 2014 Music Tour

ROSIE BURNS REPORTS ON HE EUROPEAN ESCAPADES PART FUNDED BY GREY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION



ABOVE: DUPO group photo in Sint-Baafs Cathedral, Ghent

Spending Easter weekend singing with the Northern Spirit Singers in Barcelona has to be one of my best musical experiences and certainly one I will never forget. After months of rehearsals we set off on April 16th in search of some much needed sunny weather and large, enthusiastic audiences.

I began my stay with a city bike tour, which explored all the nooks and crannies Barcelona had to offer whilst describing many aspects of the city's history. I particularly enjoyed discovering that the beach is completely fake, built for the 1992 summer Olympics in an attempt to attract more tourists and has to be 'topped up' every year with sand from Egypt! During our stay we performed two open air concerts, one in the beautiful medieval town of Poble Espanyol and one at Montjuïc Castle where the views were outstanding. However, my favourite performance was a rather spontaneous one just outside the Cathedral walls where we decided to do some busking. The reception was fantastic, the audience particularly liked our choral version of Britney Spear's 'hit me baby one more time' – we must be on Grey Matters

hundred's of holiday videos! That night we treated ourselves to traditional Spanish cuisine of paella and sangria. The next day we had a chance to explore the Parc de la Ciutadella, taking full advantage of the sunny weather and letting our competitive side get the better of us in a row boat race on the lake. To end our trip we performed in the Palau de la Musica concert hall along with two brass bands, which certainly made for a varied concert programme and was an excellent way to round up what had been a wonderful musical week.



ABOVE: The choir on the rooftop of Montjuïc Castle



My second music tour of the year was with Durham University Palatinate Orchestra (DUPO). With exams finished and rehearsals complete we set off for Belgium. The first part of this journey was rather hectic- with Phoenix Ball ending about an hour before the bus left it was a rather quick change and sprint to make it but luckily I did and with pillow in hand I had a much needed bus nap. Belgium itself was charming, there were lots of pretty shops on every street including a very interesting music shop where there was a CD to suit everyone. I managed to buy a CD of the unique Jew's Harp Concerto, the only one ever written and recorded! Our two concerts were in outstanding venues, the first in Brussel's Cathedral and the second in Sint-Baafs Cathedral, Ghent. The acoustic greatly enhanced our performances of the challenging Scheherazade by Rimsky-Korsakov and Vaughan William's Songs of

Travel and proved to be very popular with the audiences. DUPO has come on leaps and bounds since I first joined in 2011 and having had such a brilliant experience whilst in Belgium I'm very much looking forward to performing with them in my final year.

Both tours were incredibly fun and rewarding in that I was able to perform music to such a high standard in great locations, become better acquainted with the choir and DUPO members and enjoy new cultural experiences.



ABOVE: Fun on the lake at Parc de la Ciutadella

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

Association AGM

The AGM of Grey College Association will be held on Saturday 21st March 2015 in The Pennington Room at Grey College.

Notice of forthcoming election - Association President

The term of the current President, Thomas Cliff, will conclude at the 2016 AGM, after six years in the post. The Secretary, Steve Gregory, would like to hear from any Association member who is interested in standing for election. The duties include the following:-

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

Full details and the agenda are available from our Secretary, Steve Gregory



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

