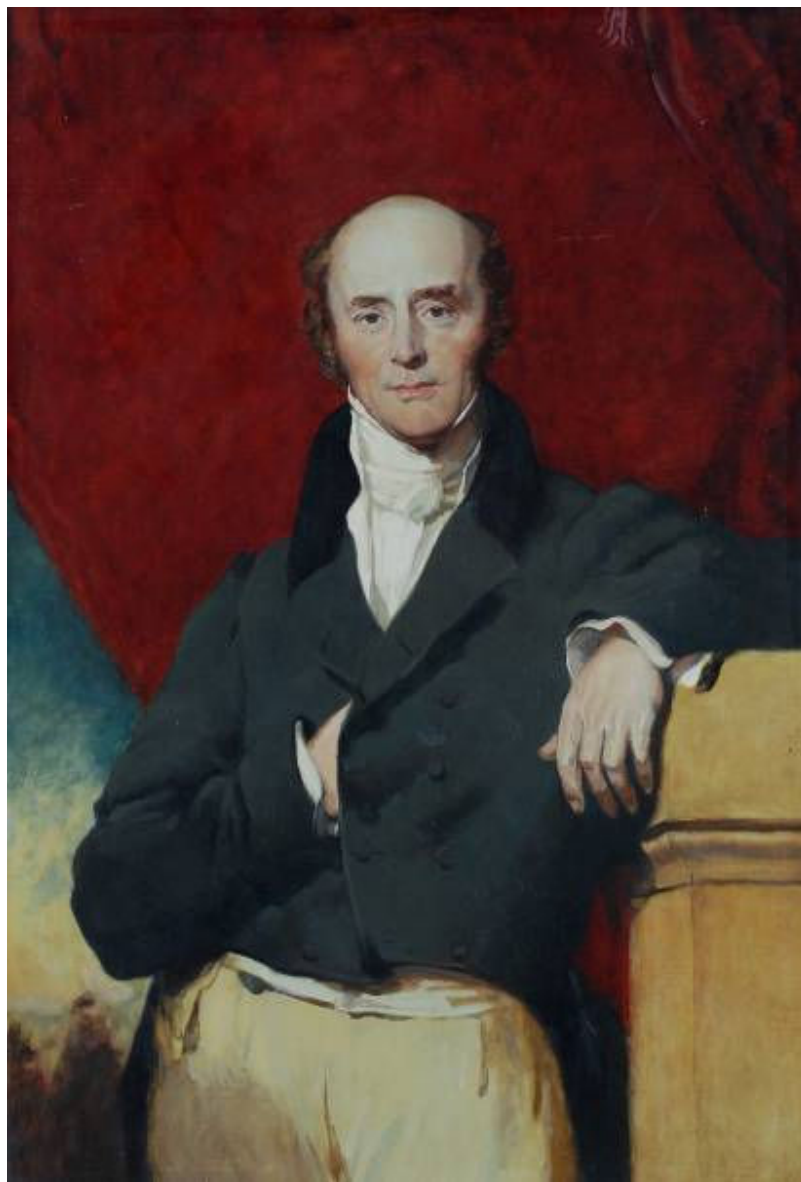




Grey Matters

Grey College Association Magazine

• January 2007



*Charles, Earl Grey 1764 – 1845 (Prime Minister 1831 – 1834)
Architect of the Great Reform Bill 1832 & Prime Minister when
Durham University was founded in the same year*

Letter from the President

Dear Association Members

I am pleased to report that the Association goes from strength to strength. The annual reunion last March attended by the Vice Chancellor and Lady Calman and the Dean of Durham Cathedral was a great success with over 140 attendees at the dinner. The Vice Chancellor stepped in as a speaker at the last moment when Rabbi Lionel Blue had to cancel through ill health. “The Colleges are the Durham difference”, said Sir Kenneth, “and Grey College is a great example of a community supported by past and present students looking to the future”. There was also a successful London reunion in September when we were delighted to renew our acquaintance with the Grey man Chris Higgins who is to become the Vice Chancellor of Durham University in April. I am sure we all wish him every success.

This year the dates of the reunions are different. At the AGM we agreed to change the annual reunion date to September 7th, 8th and 9th rather than an April date so that we would fit in with the celebrations for the 175th anniversary of the founding of Durham University (you can book and pay at www.durham.ac.uk/175 or see page 17 for more details.). The London reunion will be held on April 27th at Topo Gigio restaurant (see details on page 4). Next year however we shall return to the usual pattern.

I am pleased to mention that the Business Angels scheme goes well. Awards have been made to current undergraduates. The Association has sponsored the cost of food for current students at two formal meals, one in November – where a short presentation about

the work of the Association was given by Tom



One of the exhibits on loan from the Reform Club for the exhibition Reform! Reform! Reform! at Grey in March 2007

Cliff – and one in May where finalists were encouraged to keep in touch with the College through the Association and to get involved. This recent development of active involvement in the College’s corporate and current life reinforces the importance of the Association. As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2009 our numbers have grown to almost seven thousand members and still growing. Because of this we are in a stronger position than ever to support the Master and the College in continuing to make Grey great.

All good wishes

Henry Dyson

Professor Alan Martin FRS Fellow of Grey College and Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics has been awarded the *Max Born* Prize of the Institute of Physics for his promotion of Anglo German cooperation in Physics. Congratulations from all your friends and former students at Grey!

Painting on cover by L.A. Wilcox, 1964 after Sir Thomas Lawrence and situated in the Dining Hall.

From the Master

As I am sure all readers of *Grey Matters* are aware, Durham University was re-founded 175 years ago at the time of the Great Reform Bill going through parliament. Christopher Hill, the famous historian writing in the 1960's, commented with surprise that Durham had declined to name its new College after the original founder of the University (Oliver Cromwell), but had chosen instead that of the *Reforming Earl*, Charles, Earl Grey. Perhaps (and with all due respect to the memory of that famous historian), Hill did not appreciate the importance of Grey in the life of the country, and of the region, at a very dangerous time. Grey's formation of a *Society of Friends of the People*, which sought to promote the rights of the ordinary citizen marked him out as an enlightened leader when there was a genuine possibility of a bloody revolution in Britain. When his work on Catholic emancipation, and on the abolition of the slave trade, are also taken into account, it is clear that Grey was an excellent choice for the name of this College; furthermore, we are right to continue to uphold those same principles of tolerance, lack of bigotry and broad understanding that were shown by him. For this reason, too, we have decided to mark the 175th Anniversary of the University by holding a seminar and debate on *Earl Grey and the Limits of Reform* in early March. College will also be hosting, for the first time out of London, an exhibition from the *Reform Club* entitled *Reform! Reform! Reform!* Details are given in this edition of *Grey Matters* and all *Grey*men and *Grey*women are very welcome to attend.

We have had our sad times, of course, and *Grey Matters* notes, with great regret, the death of our Honorary Fellow Dr Thetis Blacker in late 2006. Dr Blacker was a gifted artist who gave a number of fine works, including the famous *Phoenix* above High Table. We shall miss her great personality and warmth very much. On a happier note, another Honorary Fellow, Rabbi Lionel Blue (known to millions from his early morning radio slot) was



On the statue by Thomas Campbell, sculptor (1838) the inscription reads: "This statue of Charles, Earl Grey was presented to his friends to Mary Elizabeth Countess Grey in Testimony and admiration of his public and private virtues MDCCCXXXVIII". Generously given to the College by his descendents in 1965.

presented by the College for an Honorary Degree at the winter congregation. Lionel delighted a full Hall a few days later with some characteristically amusing stories with a thought-provoking message just below the surface.

Many *Greymen* and *Greywomen* will remember the familiar faces of Jean Heslington and John Bennett. Jean steps down as Dining Room Supervisor this year, and John retired as Porter in 2006. Grey, along with all of the Durham Colleges, relies enormously on colleagues such as Jean and John who give so much – over and above the call of duty – to this community of scholars of all ages.

Our present system encourages immense loyalty amongst people who work here and who provide such friendly and personal support to everyone. I would like to record my gratitude to them all, and to say that I will do everything I can to ensure that the

University does nothing to erode these arrangements, allegedly in the cause of efficiency, in the coming year

I do hope that you will enjoy reading our 2007 magazine. You will find many items of interest and will see that Grey continues to be a very lively and interesting place to live and work. We have so much going on, from our expanding and successful Fellowships programme, through MCR and JCR activities, to our arts, music and sports. We are immensely grateful too, to you, the Senior Members of the College for all your continuing interest which is demonstrated, for example, in the flourishing *Business Angels* scheme. Please remember that you are always welcome back in Grey, and we look forward to seeing you here again soon.

Martyn Chamberlain
Master of Grey College, Durham.
Epiphany Term, 2007

London Reunion, 2007

The London Reunion will take place at Topo Gigio Restaurant, Brewer Street, London W1 (nearest underground Piccadilly Circus) on Friday 27th April at 7pm.

There will be a drinks reception at 7pm followed by dinner at 8pm. The cost of the evening is £35.00 and includes welcome drinks and a three course a la carte Italian meal with coffee and a donation to the Grey College Trust. Please make cheques payable to Henry Dyson, who will make a final cheque to the Grey College Trust so we get 28% extra from Gift Aid. Last year we raised £500 for the Grey College Trust. If you would like to attend please e-mail Henry Dyson on henry@henrydyson.co.uk, or write to him at Newhill House, 129 Pepys Road, Telegraph Hill, London, SE14 5SE. Mobile: 0779 888 4638.

Have you Published a Book or Paper?

If so do consider giving a copy to the new Victor Watts library. We hope to build up a comprehensive collection to celebrate the intellectual achievements of all Grey alumni. Recent contributions include a complete set of all Rabbi Lionel Blue's work and a History of Russian Symbolism by Dr Avril Pyman, Emeritus Reader in Russian Literature in Durham.

Dr Euan Ross Tutor of Grey College and (just retired!) Departmental Administrator in the Chemistry Department was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. Congratulations from us all!

Reform! Reform! Reform!

Throughout March there will be an exhibition of artefacts and memorabilia relating to Earl Grey and the 19th century reformers. This has been borrowed from the Reform club in London and has never been open to the general public before. Exhibition open on Saturday and Sunday throughout March, 10am – 6pm or by special appointment on weekdays. Contact Jan Pearson on 0191 334 5557 or Henry Dyson on 07798 884638.



The School of Reform. Grey teaches Tory pupils to conjugate the verb 'to Reform'. Wellington the dunce, says "I can't Reform".

The College is very grateful to the Reform Club and especially thanks His Honour Judge Bing (Club Chairman) and Dr Peter Urbach (Club Archivist) for their invaluable help in making this exhibition possible.

Seminar - Earl Grey and the Limits of Reform

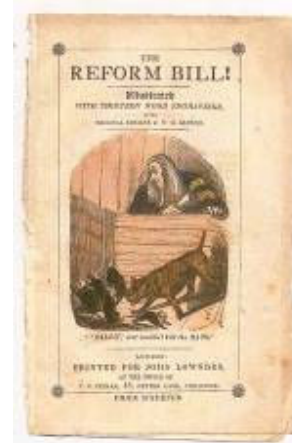
3 March 2007, 5.30pm at Grey College

As a contribution to 175th Anniversary of the University's founding its founding, we are holding an event to reflect the College's history and also its belief in broad academic commitment and excellence.



"What! Sell my Liberty", artist unknown. John Bull (r.) holding the Reform Bill looks on as the rotten boroughs go up in flames, through which a charred Duke of Wellington (?) is rising. Britannia carries a cap of liberty and pennant.

The event will debate the impact of the 1832 reforms on today's society. Richard Moss, Political Editor and Presenter of the Politics Show from the North East and Cumbria, will chair the panel of six speakers, drawn from the academic, political and media communities. Contact Jan Pearson on 0191 334 5557 or j.e.pearson@durham.ac.uk for more information about this event.



Artist W.H. Brewer, 1832 Watched by Brougham, the dog, 'Billy', hesitates to kill the Tory rats. King William was reluctant to create sufficient new peers to drive the Bill through the Lords.

*Lee Speakman
Grey College JCR President
2006-07*



Left to right: Dave Williams, Lee Speakman, Ellie Xiardakis, Sarah Hare and Rebekah Summerton. Freshers' Week 06

Well, we're only one term into the year, and already so much has happened within the JCR! In October we welcomed 230 freshers into the fold. The Fireworks display this year was the best yet and continues to draw in families and students from across the city and other colleges. The Informal Ball (theme: *Heroes and Villains*) was a great success, and transformed the college into a Metropolis for an evening. Plans are under way for President's Guest Night, the inaugural Grey Bar Festival, and the Burns' Night Formal, complete with piper, haggis and ceilidh.

Grey continues to make its presence felt on (and off!) the sports fields. The Men's Rugby team are through to the quarterfinals of the Floodlit Cup against St. Aidan's, having trounced Hatfield in the league. Their female counterparts remain unbeaten all season, and sit at the top of the women's premiership with an 102 point goal difference.

Grey's ladies have had a flying start to the year; in football and squash they remain top of the premiership tables, unbeaten all year. The gents meanwhile are through to the semi-finals in squash against Hild Bede and the Men's Badminton team are joint top of the

premiership. Sporting news would be incomplete without an Ultimate Frisbee update. The Bs are second in the table, their only defeat this season coming from Grey As, after beating Hild Bede 10-0 and not 14-0 (the game gets stopped at 14 before egos are irreparably damaged).

It's been a challenging year so far. The residence charge has gone up again, prompting the threat of student action, and we are currently in the middle of a campaign to increase the university's financial contribution to JCRs. In the long term, we hope to renovate our two IT rooms, and we've been working with the Senior Tutor to provide a better deal for tutors and tutees.



Fireworks Display 2006

My thanks go to all those who help to make the college community vibrant. Thanks to Lionel Blue and Jim Cummings for paying for the food for students at the formal on January 15th, 2006. Thanks to the Association for sponsoring two formals this year, and for sponsoring students taking on extra-curricular projects through the Awards scheme. Thanks to Henry Dyson and Kieran Hosty for their continuing support of the JCR and to Steven Gregory and his volunteers for setting up a Job Applications Workshop to give practical advice to current students, and finally to all those who have given me so much support and guidance this year. I hope to see you all very soon at the next reunion!

Lee Speakman
President of the JCR 2006-07

Fountains Theatre, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, 2006

Pantomime is the saviour of British professional theatre. Without its much-needed revenue most theatres would close and we'd be left with a minimal selection of choice for live stage entertainment. The irony is pantomime, with its long-established storylines, knock-about humour and corny jokes, looks easy but the opposite is true. Get it right and it's great, get it wrong and it's just downright embarrassing. I've lost count of the professional and amateur productions during which I've made my excuses and left at the interval. This cracking production, however, fell into the first category. Well written and well acted, it was a joy from start to finish. With lots of laugh-out-loud moments and melodramatic performances that demanded forceful boos and hisses, it was excellent fun. Subplots that saw one dwarf as an outsider and the Prince's sidekick who could melt the heart - and resistance - of any fair maiden with a mere glance were nice touches. A particularly funny double-entendre about wood still brings a chuckle and the ignoble downfall of the wicked step-mother always warms the cockles of one's heart. With live musicians, dedicated backstage support and a cast of dozens it would be remiss to single out any individuals for particular praise. It was a top-notch ensemble piece that fully deserved the thundering ovation it received.

Ed Waugh, SCR member and author of such plays as Dirty Dusting and Good to Firm

David Clark

MCR President 2006-07

Over the last 2 years, the MCR has matured into a community of 70 postgraduates and fourth year undergraduates from a wide range of disciplines and levels of study. This interaction has added to the ethos of both sets of students and has aided individuals in their chosen fields.

The MCR has sought further camaraderie with the other common rooms by maintaining a presence at formals, as well as arranging extra mealtime gatherings to allow MCR and SCR members to network and get a feeling for the work and role of their counterparts within the college. Last summer, the MCR played various sports against other common rooms, with the highlights being a croquet showdown against the SCR and a joint cricket match with the SCR against the JCR. These events will continue to hold a place in the almanac as well as including other sporting and social ventures.

Christmas was again celebrated with an 'Extravaganza', including the decorating of the Christmas tree and MCR, mulled wine, mince pies and traditional German gingerbread, and a

visit from Santa. The regular 'Chocolate', MCR Presidents Guest Night and pizza evenings are due to occur before the end of the academic year.



Anthropologist Gareth Hamilton discovers that there really is a Father Christmas (Dave Clark)

Through the continuation of traditional events and the introduction of new ideas this year, the MCR will continue to grow together and further embed itself into the life and soul of the college as a whole.

Dave Clark 2007

The Yoke

Richard Holloway, Former Bishop of Edinburgh, gave the following sermon at Evensong held in the College Chapel before the Master's Feast in November 2006

Matthew 11.30: 'My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Some years ago I used to take a long midsummer hike with a group of friends. The trek took several days and we slept outside, so we had to pack a lot into our bags. First I had an old fashioned rucksack, really only a large canvas bag with outside pockets and thin shoulder straps. When packed with clothes, food and a tent it was a baggy monster that was agony to carry. I enviously noticed that some of the other men had new ergonomically designed rucksacks, with padded straps and harnesses that made them light and easy to carry. Trudging up a mountain I used to remember the invitation of Jesus: 'Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' Well, maybe I never really came to Jesus, but I did buy a new rucksack and it made all the difference. We all have to carry burdens in life but we can make it easier or harder by the way we do it. The secret is to find the right fit, the most comfortable way to handle our character, as well as our duties and responsibilities. When asked to summarise the righteous way to live, Jesus gave the traditional answer of the rabbis: Love God and your neighbour as you love yourself. Good as it is, that answer is too general to be much use in trying to figure out how to negotiate the competing pressures in the average life. The supplementary question that occurs to me is, "What is the right way to love myself?" Or, to put it into modern jargon, "what is the best system of self-management?" In tonight's gospel reading Jesus gives us more to go on. He uses the metaphor of the yoke to talk about the way religion can make life's burden easier or harder to carry. The phrase 'yoke of religion' was a traditional way of describing a faith or value system. The image

of the yoke comes from early methods of agriculture, where oxen were used to plough fields and pull heavy loads.

Jesus was using the yoke as a metaphor to get us thinking about practical religion, its uses and abuses. The practical aspect of religion is meant to help us manage our humanity, its temptations and difficulties. Speaking very broadly, we can divide religions into two types, those that like to say "Yes", and those that prefer to say "No". The really difficult thing about being human is getting our desires and longings into some kind of balance and it is far from being an exact science. Like the letter to the Romans Paul expressed the human predicament with anguished eloquence: 'I do not understand myself,' he says, 'the good that I would I do not, while the evil that I would not that I practise.' The human predicament is that we usually know the right thing to do but don't always seem able to do it; or we know the thing we ought not to do, but we often stumble into it. And in trying to manage this dilemma humanity has stuttered between extremes of permissiveness and over-correction. Tonight's gospel puts it very well. It begins with the parable of the children in the market place calling to their friends: 'We piped to you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' Some systems of human self-management are affirmative; they want us to enjoy life, to get the most out of it, to dance to the music of the pipes. Jesus seemed to follow this approach, which is why he was dismissed by ascetics as a wine bibber and a sinner. Other systems of human self-management are based on control and self-denial, because they are aware of how pleasure can take us over and dominate our lives; so they want us to discipline our appetites and to mourn over the way they can trap us in misery and addiction. That was the approach of John the Baptist, who lived in the desert on locust and wild honey. But there is an ironic twist in all of this: so complex are we, that either approach can become tyrannous and obsessive, so that the cure becomes a more subtle form of disease. Self-denial can become pathological and obsessive and dry up the juices of joy and

compassion in us, turning us into mourners at life's feast; but enjoying life to the full can trap us in addiction or incessant discontent. Of the two, I have to confess that I prefer the dangers of excess to the dangers of over-control.

So, how are we deal with all this? What is the best kind of yoke to submit to, affirmation or denial, celebration or restraint? Well, I do not think a general answer can be given. I do not think there is an abstract mean or balance we can recommend for everyone. The yoke has to be crafted to the individual. People's characters vary enormously, usually because of factors not under their control. Some people have highly addictive temperaments and find it difficult to do anything in moderation; while others are so naturally repressed and controlled that they find it impossible to unzip their corsets and enjoy themselves. That's why the only universally essential element in fashioning the right yoke for ourselves is honest self-knowledge: know thyself: know what your tendencies are, the direction your temperament is likely to take you in, whether to over-indulgence or to over- control, and fine-tune your life accordingly. The secret is to work out a pattern that is tuned to your own personality and not try to fit yourself onto a standard blueprint or universal template. As ever, God is in the detail. That is why I'll leave you with a poem by Olav Hauge:

There will be a Memorial Service for Thetis Blacker on Tuesday June 12th 2007 in Durham Cathedral at 7.30pm

Don't give me the whole truth
Don't give me the sea for my thirst
Don't give me the sky when I ask for light
But give me a glint, a dewy wisp, a mote
As the birds bear water drops from their
Bathing and the wind a grain of sand.

Richard Holloway



Fire Phoenix, batik by Thetis Blacker, 2000

This painting hangs above high table. It depicts the College symbol and is dedicated in loving memory of Syd and Bel Holgate, founders of Grey College, who generously commissioned and sponsored the work.

Annie Holgate Scholar 2007

Sajini Pathiraja is the first Annie Holgate Scholar of Grey College. This Award is named after the mother of the founding Master, who championed women's education in Nottingham in the last century. This Award has been made through the generosity of the *Friends of Grey College*. Ms Pathiraja is studying for an MA in the School of Education at Durham. She studied agriculture at the University of Ruhuna in Sri Lanka and subsequently worked as a Project Manager for *Sarvodya*, an ecological group which has built the first eco-friendly village in Sri Lanka, specifically for families affected by the recent Tsunami.

Honorary Doctor of Divinity for Rabbi Lionel Blue OBE



Back row from left to right: Alan Richards, Fellow; Henry Dyson, Fellow and Association President; John Barclay, Professor of Theology; Bill Bryson, Chancellor; David Fuller, Public Orator; Tony Cleaver, Vice Master; Ian Stone, SCR President. Front row: Martyn Chamberlain, Master, Lionel Blue, Honorary Doctor of Divinity & Fellow of Grey College; Jim Cummings (Rabbi Blue's partner)

Lionel was born in the East End of London in 1930, and studied History at Baliol College Oxford and subsequently Hebrew semantics at London University. He trained for the Rabbinate at Leo Baeck College (Reform and Liberal Jewish Seminary). He has written over 30 books (he is donating a complete set to the library) and has contributed to the Roman Catholic *The Tablet* for over 30 years. He has broadcast Thought for the Day on BBC radio for over 20 years. His autobiography *Hitchhiking to Heaven* mentions his involvement with Grey College where he has been a fellow since 2002. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by the Chancellor Bill Bryson on January 12th 2007 in Durham Cathedral.

At a Formal on the evening of January 15th Lionel and Jim paid for the food for all the students able to be present. Lionel addressed a full hall and offering advice said: "Your successes make you clever but your failures make you wise. Do not be afraid of failure". He thanked Grey College for being so welcoming to Jim and himself and making them feel very much part of the extended family which is Grey College. *Lionel and Jim will return to Grey for the Easter term 2007 as resident Fellows.*

The 'Business Angels' Scheme

The *Business Angels* scheme has now been in operation for almost two years, making up-to-date and practical careers advice available to members of Grey JCR and MCR. Alumni provide information about their experiences in various careers, professions or business areas, which are then put onto an area of the Association website. E-mail details are included, to allow 'Angels' to be contacted for information or advice.

There are now 160 Angels, representing all generations of *Grey*men and *Grey*women. Between them, these Alumni or supporters cover more than 20 careers, professions or business areas, from The Armed Forces and Aviation to Travel & Tourism, via such favourites as Education, Financial Services and the Law.

While we're very grateful to all those of you who have joined the scheme so far, we still need volunteers to cover areas like the Arts where we have no Angels at present. We'd also like to find more Angels for those areas where

coverage is limited, like the Chemical /Pharmaceutical industries, Journalism and TV, HR/Personnel, Marketing, and Public Relations. If any of these is *your* special area, please think about joining the scheme by signing up on the Association website, or by contacting Tom Cliff (tcliff@deloitte.co.uk) or Steve Gregory (stephen.gregory@dur.ac.uk).

The main focus in 2006 was the search for Internships or Work Experience placements, and we were able to offer more than a dozen opportunities. Can anyone else please help in this area? If so, please contact Steve Gregory or any of the Association Exec.

Virtually all the Angels agreed to offer their help to students at Durham's 16th College (Josephine Butler College) which opened in September 2006. A 'Butler' version of the site will be available before Easter, to support them until they can get enough Alumni of their own to help themselves.

A final request – please let us know if your e-mail or other contact details change!

Steve Gregory (1965 – 1969)

John Bennett Retirement Party

An engraved crystal plate was presented to John thanking him for his 10 years loyal service from all his friends at Grey, as well as money raised in a collection. A special cake was made and enjoyed by all present. A bouquet of flowers was presented to John's wife, Maureen (who for a number of years worked in the College dining room). We wish them both a long and happy retirement.



John Bennett, Day Porter, with his wife Maureen at his surprise retirement party organised by the Bursar, Karen Blundell, in December 2006

Appeal for E-mail Addresses

In view of the recent 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 in the future. Please send your e-mail address to the secretary, Thomas Cliff, at: tcliff@deloitte.co.uk

Kirill Sokolov (1930 – 2004)

A major retrospective of Sokolov's art was held in Grey during October. Although born in Moscow Sokolov settled in Durham in 1974 with his wife, Dr Avril Pyman – Reader in Russian Literature in the University. A fully illustrated monograph of his work is available from the College at a cost of £6.50 (including p&p).



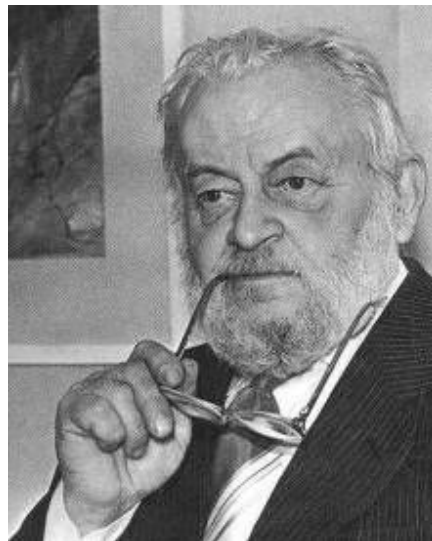
Monastery at Panteleimon: Three Monks, Mount Athos, 1997, oil on canvas, 200 x 190cm

Sokolov's widow and daughter have generously given this picture to the Grey College Trust permanent collection.

Kirill Sokolov was born in Moscow in 1930 and attended the Special School for Art before he enrolled at the Surikov Institute, Moscow, in 1950 where he studied the work of Picasso, the abstract expressionists and 20th century Russian avant-garde. After graduating he met Avril Pyman (whom he later married), a British PhD student from Cambridge University who was on a British Council Scholarship to study the work of Russian Symbolist Alexander Blok. In 1974 they left Russia to live in England where he exhibited extensively over the next 30 years. He became co-editor of the international art journal Leonardo in 1976, becoming a member of the Society of Fine Arts Graphic Artists in 1980. In 1990 he exhibited at the Academy of Arts, Riga, Latvia and had several exhibitions in Russia in the following decade including at the house of the artist Moscow in 1996 and the state art gallery Perm, Russia. In 2002 he exhibited at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Art, Moscow and in 2004 at the Block Museum St. Petersburg. After his death in 2004 there was an exhibition of bronze sculptures at Grey College in the Senior Common Room and in 2006 a major retrospective of his work there.

There will be a major retrospective of his work at Gallery 47, London in September 2007 and the same exhibition in 2008 in Denmark in July and August. His work is represented in public and private collections around the world.

As an artist he produced hundreds of works of art in oils, acrylics, watercolours, gouache, lino cuts, screen prints, dry points, mixed media, collages, drawings, etchings, woodcuts and sculptures. His work reflects the artistic developments of the second half of the 20th century. He was influenced by the writings of Dostoevsky, Goethe's Faust and Franz Kafka. In spite of his long sojourn in England his work remains essentially Russian.



“Art communicates more than the intention of the artist, it has a life of its own and is experienced intuitively by the observer.” - Kirill Sokolov.

On Sunday May 20th at the Holy Communion Service at 11.15am in Durham Cathedral, Kirill Sokolov's work the bronze, metal and granite crucifix entitled *Lama Sabachthani?* will be dedicated and added to the permanent collection of art. It will be set into a stone plinth and placed in the Norman arcade on the north side of the Cathedral below the steps to the Feretory where St. Cuthbert's and St. Oswald's bones are enshrined behind the High Altar, where Thetis Blacker's banners of Cuthbert and Oswald hang. The work has generously been given to the Cathedral by his widow Dr Avril Pyman and their daughter Irina Sokolova Snegir. After the service, to which all are invited, there will be a special lunch held in the Dining Hall at Grey College where Avril is a member of the Senior Common Room.

Garden Opera

The Garden Opera Company ("The small touring opera company without equal in Britain" - *Opera Now*) will perform *La Boheme* by Puccini - on Wednesday 13th June, 2007 in Fountains Hall. There will be a champagne reception at 6pm in the Master's garden.

Tickets are £45 each, including champagne reception and dinner (black tie), and are available from Amy Cooper, Tel. 0191 334 5638, Fax. 0191 334 5901, Email: a.l.cooper@durham.ac.uk

Croquet

When the idea for an inter-common room croquet match was first broached with both the MCR and SCR, it was immediately going to be a hotly contested match. The SCR got straight down to practicing on the safety of the college croquet lawn, having secured the set from the JCR.

As the practice progressed, it was decided that as a member of both common rooms, it was fair that I judge the competition, and so I duly went and found some official rules by which to play, to the concern of some SCR members who were under some misapprehensions about some of the nuances of the game.

The day the match was due could not have been better. The evening found us all in the very sunny back garden of David Kennedy, College Chaplain, eating a pleasant BBQ supplied, cooked and hosted by Kieran Hosty and Anne Hubbard, with the chosen players fighting closely for the title, and an enthralled audience looking on. After two long rounds of expert play, the score was unfortunately tied. It remains to be seen whether a winter break and a further stint of practice will result in a clear winner in this year's tournament.

Dave Clark

Bequests and Benefactions

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

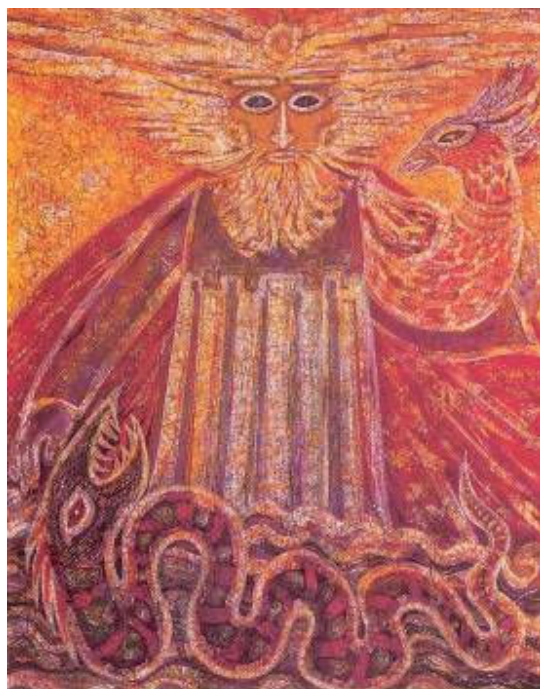
Generous Benefaction for Grey College from the Clifford Stubbs Foundation

The Trustees of the Clifford Stubbs Foundation have generously donated over £30,000 of its remaining funds to the Grey College Trust. This money will be used to fund fellowships and scholarships from China and also fellowships in Chemistry. A publication about the life of Clifford Stubbs will also be produced.

Senior Common Room

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

Obituary, Thetis Blacker



The Bird of Light and The Serpent of Darkness, batik by Thetis Blacker, 1975. Situated in Grey College Chapel and generously given to the Grey College Trust Art Collection by the artist in 2000, the banner is to be dedicated in her memory. This banner was the prototype for the 16 banners of the Creation commissioned for Winchester Cathedral in the 1970s and now exhibited in their nave.

Thetis Blacker was born in England in 1927 and studied drawing with Edgar Lander and Brenda Campbell-Taylor. At the same time she trained as an opera singer with Elena Gerhardt and sang at Glyndebourne.

In 1959 she had her first exhibition of watercolour and ink drawings at the Bear Lane Gallery in Oxford. In 1960 she went to Peru, having been offered an exhibition by the British Council in Lima. Thetis travelled in the Andes and in the jungle, and while in Peru, she was so impressed by the ancient textiles that, on returning to England, she spent the three subsequent years at Chelsea School of Art working on fabrics. There she began to develop her specialized method of batik painting.

Her designs and paintings have been sold all over the world. The BBC made a film of her work for television.

In 1970 Thetis received a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowship Award, on which she visited Singapore, Malaysia, Java, Bali, Thailand, India, Iran and Greece, studying the art and fabrics of those countries. In Java she worked at the Batik Research Institute of Jogjakarta. There she devised experiments for new techniques of dyeing, the successful results of which were incorporated into her major works which are to be found in Winchester Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Durham Cathedral, Aberdeen Cathedral and the Royal Chapel in Windsor. She was made an honorary fellow of Grey College in 2000 and awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters in 2002. There are nine of her works in college including four in the chapel and the phoenix above high table.

“When the artist sees beyond inanimate matter, beyond what William Blake called the Vegetative world and perceives a living realm, a world infused by spirit, he is a True artist, a man, or woman, of imagination, of Vision”. *Thetis Blacker, Grey College Chapel, 8th October 2000 at the dedication service for her batik paintings now hanging there.*



Thetis Blacker receiving her Honorary Doctor of Letters from Durham University in 2002.



*Charles Robert Grey, 5th Earl Grey (1879 – 1963).
Painting by L.A. Wilson in 1964, after Philip de Laszlo.*

Grey College & the Grey Family

Grey College was named after Charles, second Earl Grey, the Whig Parliamentary Reformer who was responsible, as Prime Minister, for the famous 1832 Reform Act and also for the Act of Parliament that established Durham University in the same year. Charles Robert, the Fifth Earl Grey (seen on the left), opened the main College building on 19th October 1961 and the present Lord Howick, a Fellow of the College, is also a descendant of Earl Grey and three of his four children have studied and graduated from Grey in recent years.

How Grey Got its Name

Dr Syd Holgate, founding Master of Grey, told the inside story:

“I was Secretary of the Durham Colleges (in today’s language Registrar) when the University Council decided to build a new college. Members of the University were asked to submit suggestions for names of the new College. Four were eventually submitted:

- 1) Fountains –the field on which the College is built. An area of natural springs and a source of fresh water in mediaeval times.
- 2) Carileph – William de St. Carileph, the Bishop of Durham when the present Cathedral was built. I commented that this would have been like calling St. Pancras station ‘Pancras’.
- 3) Cromwell - Oliver Cromwell had founded Durham University in the 17th century – a very short-lived venture but the Charter and Seals are still to be found in the University Library.
- 4) Grey – Charles, Earl Grey, Prime Minister in 1832 when the University was successfully founded.

Although Cromwell was popular there was some opposition from High Churchmen who said “Why not blessed King Charles the martyr!” Eventually Grey was chosen and a few weeks later I was very surprised when I was asked to be Master.”

When asked what his first choice would have been, Syd gave an enigmatic smile and diplomatically said: “Cromwell but I think Grey was absolutely right. After all, Earl Grey himself said in the Durham University Bill Debate in the House of Commons in 1832: ‘The proposed university would be open to all classes, whether being members of the Church of England or Dissenters.’”

Exhibition by Mick Oxley



Elements, Dunstanburgh, Acrylic on canvas, 122cm x 91cm

Mick Oxley has been painting now for seven years and is based in the Northumbrian sea-side village of Craster, a location which serves as inspiration for much of his work. Mick's current body of work covers two main themes: watercolour seascapes depicting the dark brooding seas of a Northumbrian winter, which over the years have become looser, more intuitive and emotive representations of the elements portrayed. Secondly there are the canvases portraying the rock pools of summer. Brilliant jewels of light and texture alive with shimmering shades and colours. For these, Mick applies a strong textural base of gesso before painting with multiple layers of acrylic paint and ink to capture the ephemeral drama of light on water and rock.

Mick Oxley will exhibit in Grey College during June 2007, opening times Saturday and Sunday 10am – 6pm, weekdays by appointment. Contact Joyce Dover 0191 3345565 or Henry Dyson 07798 884638. To access more images of Mick Oxley's work visit www.mickoxley.com

The Grey Association Reunion 2007, to be held in College

This will take place on 7th, 8th & 9th September. There will be the AGM of the Grey Association in the afternoon at 4.30pm and a dinner in hall as usual for 7.30pm. Activities organized by the university for all the colleges are advertised at www.durham.ac.uk/175 where the booking form can be found. To book dinner on Saturday evening contact Henry Dyson on 07798 884638 or henry@henrydyson.co.uk

Loyal Service to Grey College, Durham University



The Vice Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Calman, presents Julie Bushby with a cut glass decanter for 25 years loyal service at a ceremony in December 2006.

Julie Bushby was Grey College Secretary for 7 years and last year was promoted to Grey's Student Administrator and Support Officer. Sir Kenneth retires as Vice Chancellor in April to become Chancellor of Glasgow University. We thank him for his support for Grey College and wish him every success for the future.



Between them these popular members of staff have completed almost 80 years of loyal service to Grey. Left to right: Shiela Simpson (30 years), Jean Hebdon (28 years) and Jean Heslington (21 years).

Jean Heslington will retire as Dining Hall Supervisor in October 2007. Held in great affection by many generations of students she will be sadly missed but we wish her and her husband Chick a long and happy retirement.



Aerial view of Grey College before 1967.

Spot the missing bits!

Association Executive

Henry Dyson – President, henry@henrydyson.co.uk
Steven Baker - Vice President, steven.baker@Lloydstsb.co.uk
Janet Gyllenspetz - Vice President
Abhishek Sachdev - Treasurer, abhisheksachdev@yahoo.co.uk
Thomas Cliff - Secretary, tcliff@deloitte.co.uk

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

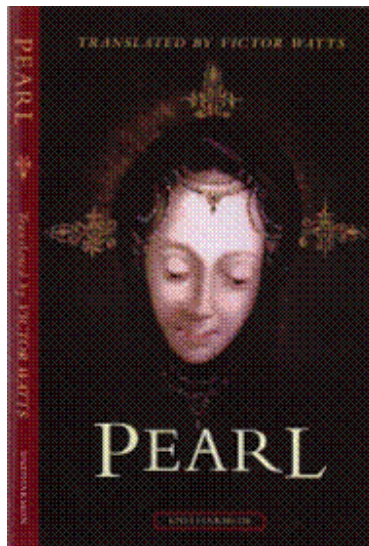
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/grey.college/>, <http://www.greyassociation.co.uk/>

Grey Related Publications:

Pearl

Pearl, translated by Victor Watts with a foreword by Kathleen Raine and edited by David Fuller and Corrine Saunders, is available from:

Enitharmon Press,
26b Caversham Road,
London,
NW5 2DU
Phone: 020 7482 5967
Fax: 020 7284 1787
Web: www.enitharmon.co.uk



From the Ashes

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

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ORDER FORM

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

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