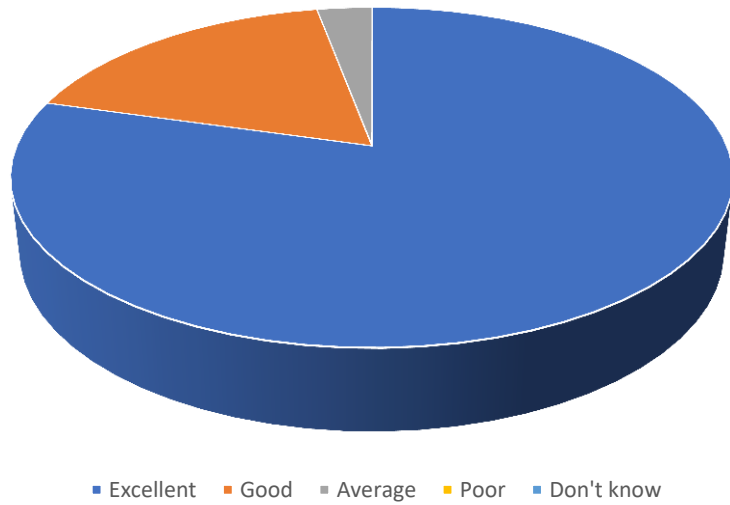


Feedback on the Survey of The Graham Greene International Festival 2018

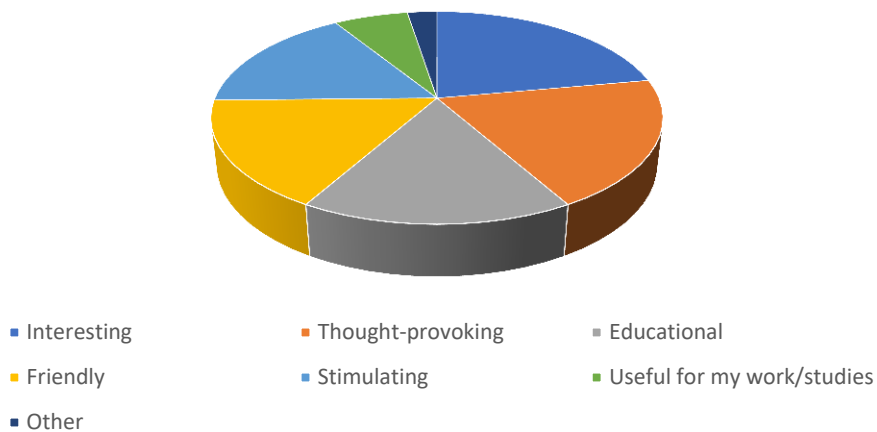
Thank you for your generous feedback to the questionnaire that was circulated at the Graham Greene International Festival 2018. We received forty-eight responses, and have carefully considered each of them. Firstly, please find below several pie charts that describe some of the quantitative results of the questionnaire.



How would you rate: The general organisation



Please circle the description(s) that best apply to your experience of the Festival or else add your own:



We are pleased that the majority of individuals felt that their expectations were exceeded and that they believed that the Festival was well organised. We are also glad there was a diverse range of reasons for coming to the Festival. Variety is the spice of life and addressing a spectrum of interests is our objective each year.

Individuals heard about the Festival in a range of ways. Some received recommendations from friends and colleagues. Others were drawn to the programme that was advertised on the website and in *Your Berkhamsted*. Some

come every year, or have meant to come for some time and finally decided to attend. The specific attractions of the Festival were of several kinds. We are, of course, an organisation of Friends, therefore many individuals came, in part, to catch up. Obviously, many are experts, fans and enthusiasts of Greene, the main pull. We attract guests of world-leading expertise from all parts of the globe, as well as other interested parties from Berkhamsted and the surrounding areas. One respondent had "Admiration of [Greene's] authorship." Another wished to find "out more about Graham Greene after reading his novels." Some respondents wished to listen to particular speakers including, for example, the broadcaster Robin Lustig, the esteemed critic Fr. Mark Bosco, S.J., and the iconic film personality Angela Allen MBE. The musical performance by Matt Saxton and colleagues was cited as a particular highlight.

In terms of the themes and topics that you would like to see presented at future Festivals, there were common strands. One was to address the biographical dimensions of Greene's life by either inviting or discussing key personalities. In response, the Festival talks for 2019 will open with a session by Lucinda Cummings-Kilmer, research assistant to Norman Sherry, Greene's first authorised biographer. There were requests for plenty of different scholars and speakers, some of whom could be young. Many of our speakers this year are visiting for the first time and some are at the start of their critical and creative ventures. There were also requests for detailed critiques of Greene's novels and short stories, particularly by way of themes such as espionage and international influences. Most, if not all of the talks and presentations will touch on these dimensions of Greene, to a greater or lesser degree.

Screenings of different films were requested. *Twenty-One Days* (1940) is being shown for the first time. There was a showing of *Our Man in Havana* (1959), whose digital remastering the Trust sponsored in 2006. The screening then included pauses that resulted from the production, all of which are excerpted for our showing. There was a request for insights into Greene's role as film auteur. Dr Chris Hull and Dr James Clifford-Kent are set to address elements of this topic. Additionally, in response to your responses: A: we are addressing Greene's role as critic and journalist and focusing on Greene in the context of literary diversity. B: all of our speakers shall pursue original threads and interests. C: there will be plenty of opportunity for students from around the area to engage with the Festival, in part, by branching off from Roger's session. D: there are more female speakers, with half of the talks being, either in full or in part, by women.

A respondent requested content on Agatha Christie. On Saturday, Helen Boden will repeat her print sale that featured in the Festivals of 2017 and 2018, when she will sell original prints inspired by both Greene and Christie. More news will follow. Further to Greene's course of treatment as a schoolboy with the Jungian psychoanalyst, Kenneth Richmond, another respondent requested exploration of Greene, dreams and psychotherapy. We do not plan to deliver a talk on this topic directly, though speakers may choose to touch on elements of Greene's schooldays.

Many respondents left "any other comments". The work of our brilliant audio-visual technician, Paul Chambers, was noted, and we would like to say a massive thank-you to Paul for his stalwart support year-on-year. It was observed that the food for all meals was delicious, and that the variety of "check-points", like bookstalls and displays, was excellent. Thank you to all who worked so hard to put together these elements of our delivery, especially Lucy Hill and Richard Frost, who ran the

bookstalls. Thanks, also, to Jenny Sherwood, Bill Willett and Roger Watkins, who made displays. Several respondents were grateful for the time-keeping, and the rhythm of the Festival programme. A number of you wished for more refreshments. In response, this year we plan to open the bar in the Civic Centre on the Friday evening. The sound quality for the screening of the film in the Town Hall in 2018 was cited as an issue. We are therefore showing here the shorter of our two films, *Twenty-One Days*. The quality of the sound in the venues appeared several times in your feedback. This will be addressed at our 2019 Festival. The signage will also be improved, following a complete reworking of the visual identity of the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust and International Festival earlier this year.

Thank you to all who recognise and value the hard work that goes into running our event, a true team effort. We hope all of you, whether *aficionados* or first-timers will feel both welcomed and able to enjoy this year's programme. Please feel free introduce yourself to anyone who may be visiting for the first time. Whatever your interest in the Festival is, we sincerely hope that you find anew and discover afresh the joys, pleasures and wonders of Greene.