A Sort of NEWSLETTER

Winter 2004

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRAHAM GREENE BIRTHPLACE TRUST

£1.50
Free to Friends

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial

Preview
Festivals 2004
Greene Exhibition

The Quiz
Annual mind gymnastics

Miscellany
Words on the Wall in Weimar

Correspondence
Requests for information

In the Press
Reports and cuttings

Dates for your Diary
Spring Festival
Saturday 24 - Sunday 25 April 2004

Centenary Exhibition
Monday 27 September - Saturday 2 October 2004

7th Festival Centenary
Wednesday 29 September - Sunday 3 October 2004

WEB SITE

Do not forget to visit the web site of the Trust which is on

www.grahamgreenebt.org

Editorial

After something of a false start in the garden, with the snowdrops and crocuses ignoring the calendar to show their beautiful heads, winter arrived in Berkhamsted. Snow ground the traffic to a halt but made the children happy.

Meanwhile the trustees are busy with a multitude of tasks, all intended to ensure that the two Festivals this year are all that we hope for. As you know this is a special year for Greene fans and we want everyone to be aware of the centenary and not least of our Festivals that will celebrate it. A former trustee, Lindy Foster Weinreb, has undertaken the job of PR. It is her professional field but she has offered her services on a voluntary basis, for which the Trust is truly grateful.

You too can help to spread the word. We hope this year to increase substantially the number of Friends of the Trust that contribute the modest annual amount which gives them a subscription to this Newsletter as well as Festival discounts. Tell your friends!

In order that you should have something to tell them, you will find inside a preview of the Centenary Festival as well as information about the Spring Festival to which we welcome members of the Alliance of Literary Societies.

Yan Christensen

Newslettereditor@grahamgreenebt.org

Your comments and letters are always welcome.

No responsibility will be accepted for any errors or omissions, or comments made by writers or interviewees. Views expressed are not necessarily the views of The Graham Greene Birthplace Trust

PREVIEW

SPRING CENTENARY FESTIVAL
Graham Greene of Berkhamsted

During the weekend of 24-25 April we shall have a Spring Festival to which we are particularly inviting the members of the Alliance of Literary Societies, who in accordance with custom has its AGM on Saturday morning. The weekend will include talks by Roger Watkins and David Pearce, the past and present Festival Directors; two films and a further performance of *Yours Etc.*, originally presented at the 1988 Festival as *May I Suggest...* the dramatisation of some of Greene's letters, as well as a talk by Neil Sinyard on his new book *Graham Greene a Literary Life.*

The full programme is enclosed with this issue together with an application form for those intending to be there.

THE CENTENARY FESTIVAL 2004

Now sits Expectation in the air

We are now into the Centenary Year of Graham Greene's birth, and readers of his novels and those who knew him are planning, throughout the world, to meet up to celebrate the life of one who spoke and wrote with honesty and individuality.



ALS Secretary Rosemary Culley

Berkhamsted, the home of the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust, will be holding its Seventh Annual Festival, with a whole busy week of films, talks, a concert, a play production, discussions and social gatherings to mark this special occcasion.

Eminent writers and thinkers have been kind enough to say that they would like, this year, to be associated with our Birthday activities, and the Trust can promise its Friends and all who visit the town between 27 September and 3 October plenty to entertain and interest them.

Throughout the week there will be an Exhibition in the Civic Centre. This will cover Greene's life and the honours bestowed on him in this country and abroad. Much of the material will be brought together and put on display for the first time. The Exhibition will also include a display brought from Vienna by Dr. Brigitte Timmermann, featuring the filming of, and background to *The Third Man*, the film that is regarded as Greene's major success, and which will be shown on two evenings at the Elgiva in Chesham.

There will be other films and several performances of *Travels with My Aunt* at the Court Theatre, Pendley in addition to many speakers of both general and academic interest.

Saturday will present audiences with an opportunity to meet those who knew Graham Greene, both family and friends. I, as Festival Director, am ever happy to record my debt to the family. On the question of which friends and family will be present on the Saturday, the actual day of the Hundredth Birthday, I shall for the moment, and with smug satisfaction, be silent. I can say only that you should ensure that you obtain your Festival Brochure.

The Festival finishes on Sunday with a service in the School Chapel where the boy Graham sat on many a Sunday. This will be followed by an illustrated lecture by Neil Sinyard.

It is my hope that you should be there at the end, as at the beginning, and that you will share something of the same delight that accompanied a certain happening at St John's, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted on 2 October 1904.

David Pearce

CENTENARY EXHIBITION

This centenary year, there will be a Graham Greene Exhibition throughout the week of the Festival (September 27 to October 2) in the Berkhamsted Civic Centre. It will include a major exhibition about the film *The Third Man*. There will be many stills from the film, not seen before, as well as historic photos and documents of Allied-occupied post-war Vienna. This exhibit has already been seen in a number of major cities and is coming to Berkhamsted from Vienna where, of course, it originates. Brought to us by the Austrian Cultural Forum, it will be introduced by Dr Brigitte Timmermann. *The Third Man* is being shown during the festival at The Elgiva cinema in Chesham.

Medals and awards from many countries made to Graham Greene will be shown. These are kindly being lent to the Trust by Caroline Bourget, Greene's daughter, who we hope will be attending the Festival. A booklet giving the background to each award will be on sale.

We are also hoping to be able to display books, photographs and other documents which will give an insight into the young Graham Greene in Berkhamsted. Much of the material will have been brought together and put on display for the first time and may not be seen again. We shall be grateful to the Berkhamsted Collegiate School if they are able to make this part of the exhibition possible. As most of you will know, Charles Greene was headmaster of the school when Graham was a boy, and there will be plenty to interest the Festival goer seeking information about both the father and the famous son.

Finally the Trust's collection of Graham Greene cartoons will be displayed. The collection has been made by Mark Bryant, who won a Trust Award towards his project of assembling a wealth of cartoons featuring Graham Greene.

John Partridge

The Exhibition is being organised by John Partridge. He is going to need a lot of help with manning the Exhibition during the Festival week. Please give as much time as you can when he contacts you.

FUTURE REVIEWS

Several new books with a Greene theme are in the pipeline, and we hope to bring reviews of at least some of them in the next issue. We refer in particular to Neil Sinyard's *Graham Greene: A Literary Life* and *In Search of a Beginning: My Life with Graham Greene* by Yvonne Cloetta.



Neil Sinyard and Ken Sherwood in the wings at the Elgiva

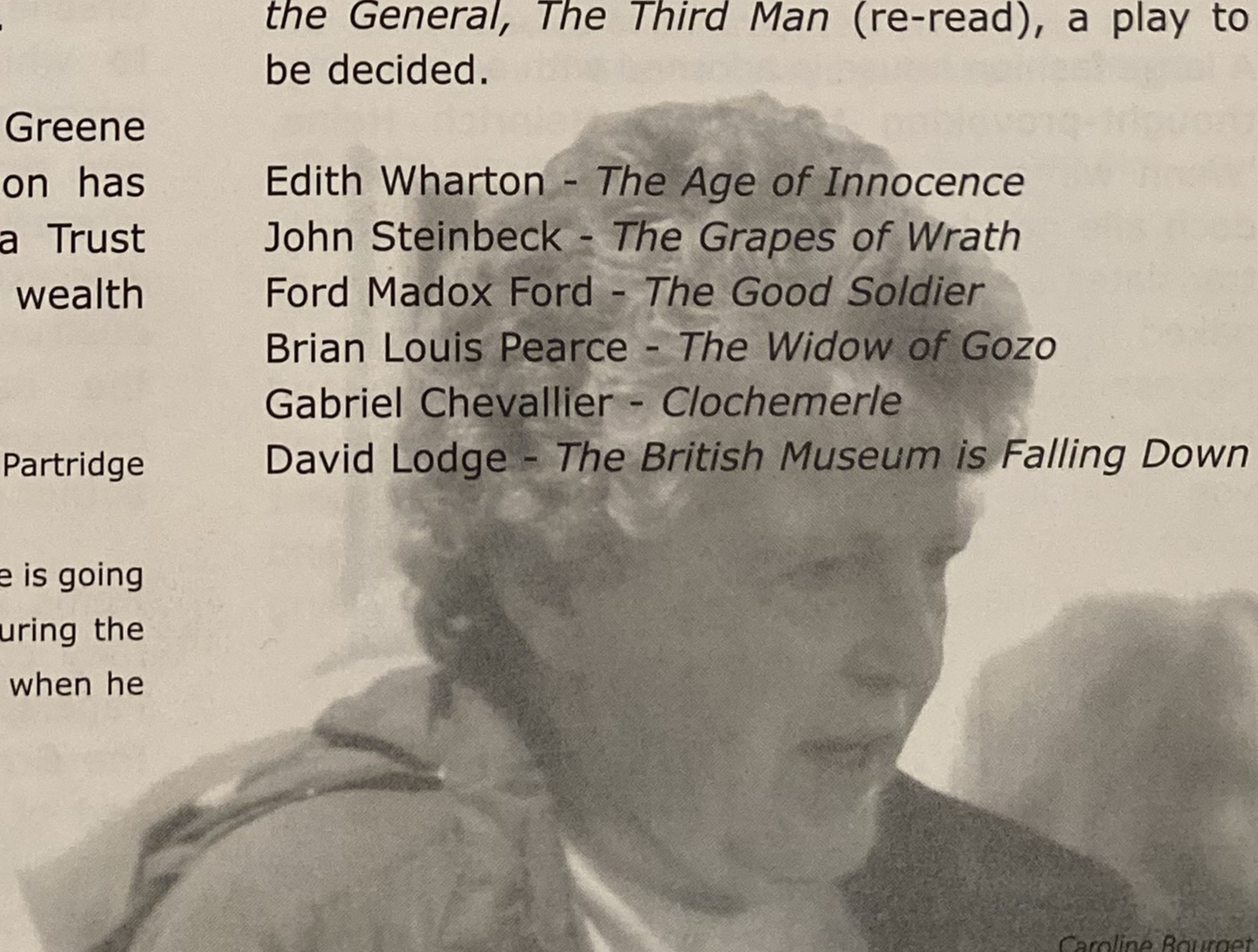
MISCELLANY

THE READING CIRCLE

As always, the list of books we want to read is determined for the year ahead and this is for 2004:

Graham Greene *The Man Within, Getting to Know the General, The Third Man* (re-read), a play to be decided.

Edith Wharton - *The Age of Innocence*
John Steinbeck - *The Grapes of Wrath*
Ford Madox Ford - *The Good Soldier*
Brian Louis Pearce - *The Widow of Gozo*
Gabriel Chevallier - *Clochemerle*
David Lodge - *The British Museum is Falling Down*

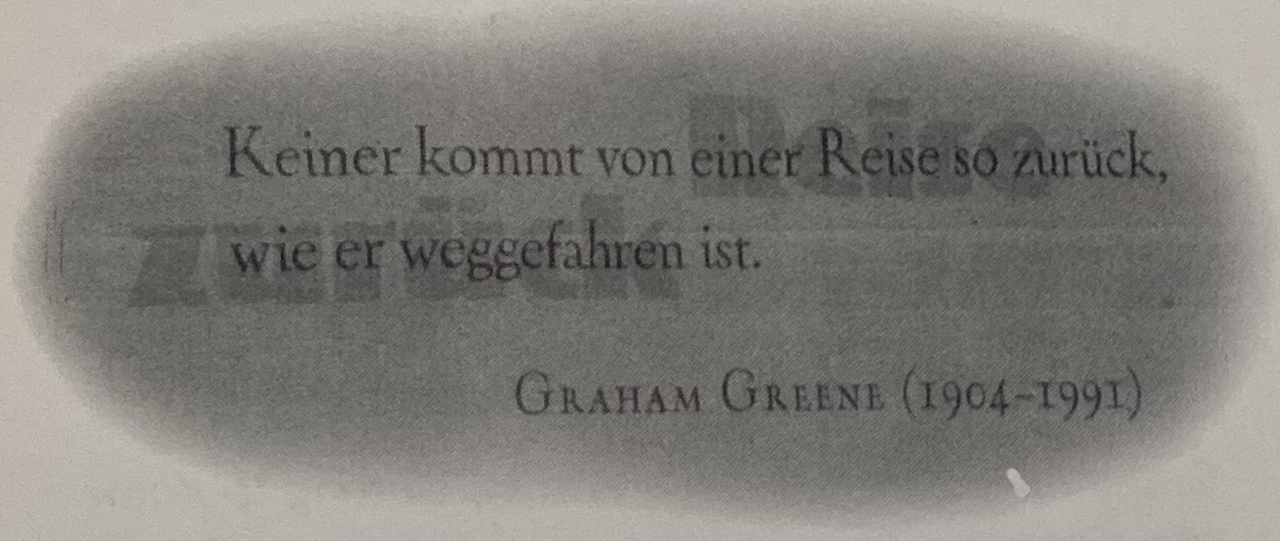


Caroline Bourget

WORDS ON THE WALL

We are indebted to James Mackay, a Friend from Warwick, for drawing our attention to Graham Greene's 'Words on the Wall', which he discovered on a visit to Weimar last summer. He also sent us accompanying details of the project, the purpose of which was to use walls to convey thought provoking quotations, to provide amusement to visitors or anyone walking through the city, to inform, to educate. This was following in the tradition of prehistoric cave drawings, signs and paintings, later political and commercial advertisements and even of the 'graffiti artists' of today.

Quotations have been chosen carefully, appropriate to the site on which they are to be placed. Some are humorous, either in their content or their association. All, however, have a message to convey in the best tradition of Germany, 'das Land der Pädagogen'. Quotations are taken from writers, philosophers and artists, mostly German. All quotations are in German. The oldest is from Martin Luther, which appears appropriately on the Lutherhof, with his words, 'The world is full of everyday wonder'. Goethe is well represented, as one would expect given his associations with Weimar.



A large fashion house is adorned with an amusing, thought-provoking text from Heinrich Heine, 'Wenn wir es recht überdenken, so stecken wir doch alle nackt in unsern Kleidern', which loosely translates as 'If we really think about it we are all naked in our clothes'. The eighteenth century is represented also by Novalis, Lichtenberg and Herder and the twentieth century by Sigismund von Radecki, who, although born in Latvia, spent most of his life in Germany, Kurt Tucholsky and Botho Strauss, the last being the only living representative among these Words on the Wall.

There are only a few from overseas. Jules Renard, the French humorous poet, Octavio Paz from Mexico, Barbara Stanwyck, the American film star, and last, but certainly not least, our own Graham Greene! His quotation appears on the north wall in the car park of the Hotel Amalienhof in the Humboldtstraße and reads as follows, 'Keiner kommt von einer Reise so zurück, wie er weggefahren ist'. ('nobody returns from a journey as he was when he set out'). This is an appropriate quotation from Graham Greene, for whom travel was so important, and who always visited places where he was to set his stories.

Some of these quotations are to be permanent. Some of them are of a temporary nature. Into which category Greene's comes, I do not know. I hope it remains at least for his centenary year.

Jenny Sherwood

Does anyone know where the Greene quotation comes from? Please let us know.

DOLL'S HOUSE AT AUCTION

Vivien Greene left an antique doll's house in her will to the Calibre cassette library, based in Weston Turville. The charity records audio versions of books for visually impaired people, and auctioned the heirloom at Bonham's where it fetched more than £4000.

BOOK CATALOGUE

Catalogue 12 of the Gloucester Road Bookshop is dated 'New Year 2004' and contains 480 mouthwatering items for the reader and collector. Authors range from Acton to Zola and there are 57 items relating in one way or another to Graham Greene. There are books by and about him, books to which he contributed or which have an introduction by him, and some that were owned and signed by him. Among the items of most interest to the collector are a signed copy of *J'Accuse*, the document written to publicise the obstructions of justice suffered by Martine Cloetta, the daughter of Yvonne Cloetta; and his correspondence with Christopher Hawtree the author of *Yours etc*.

Items 207 and 224 are of particular interest as they consist of copies of the Trust's Occasional Papers, one by John Davison *(Graham Greene and the Berkhamsted Connection)* and the other the text of the Inaugural Lecture by Bill West. Both are still available from the Trust office and at less than the catalogue price!

THE QUIZ

Once again we have Mike Hill to thank for an interesting quiz. You have all read quite a lot by Graham Greene and you know something of his life. Here is your chance to put it to good use. Just have a go; do not be discouraged if you do not know all the answers; even if there is no complete solution, the best will win. And it might be you! The prize is a season ticket to the 2004 Centenary Festival. Please send your answers to Mike Hill whose address appears below.

1 On what date in 1904 was Graham Greene born?

2 Who was the Headmaster of Berkhamsted School when Greene entered the Preparatory School in 1912?

3 *In A Sort of Life* Greene recalls reading as a boy *King Solomon's Mines, The Brethren, The Wanderer's Necklace, She, Ayesha and Montezuma's Daughter*. Who wrote these novels?

4 Of which political party was Greene briefly a member while at Oxford University?

5 In which year did Greene become a Roman Catholic?

6 An epigraph by Sir Thomas Browne gave Greene the title of his first published novel, *The Man Within*. What is the epigraph?

7 Which novel ends: 'He wondered whether Mr. Stein had the contract in his pocket'?

8 In which experimental tale in 1935 did Greene write of Anthony Farrell attempting a solo flight across the Atlantic?

9 For which publication did Greene write film reviews between 1935 and 1940?

10 In which novel does a character adopt the name Kolley Kibber?

11 Which novel begins with Mr. Tench in 'The Port'?

12 Who directed the 1943 film version of *The Ministry of Fear?*

13 What was the first of Greene's story-books for children, published in 1946?

14 In which novel does a character pray to God: I'll give him up for ever, only let him be alive'?

15 Which Greene short story ends with Mr. and Mrs. Carter having sex?

16 Which novel begins, 'I suppose the small greenish statue of a man in a wig on a horse is one of the famous statues in the world'?

17 Which Greene play was first produced in London in February 1958?

18 Which novel is prefaced by a letter from Greene to Docteur Michel Lechat?

19 Which novel has the characters Brown, Jones and Magiot?

20 In which 1968 essay does Greene write about revisiting Freetown in Sierra Leone?

21 Which novel is 'For H.H.K. who helped me more than I can tell'?

22 Which 1972 film of a Graham Greene novel starred Peter Finch, Michael York, Hildegarde Neil and Michael Horden?

23 Which Greene novel was first published in 1973?

24 Where did Maurice Castle habitually take his lunch in London in *The Human Factor?*

25 What is the alternative title of *Doctor Fischer of Geneva?*

26 Who is the rich lawyer who is *The Tenth Man?*

27 Which 1988 short story features a conversation between The General and the last Pope?

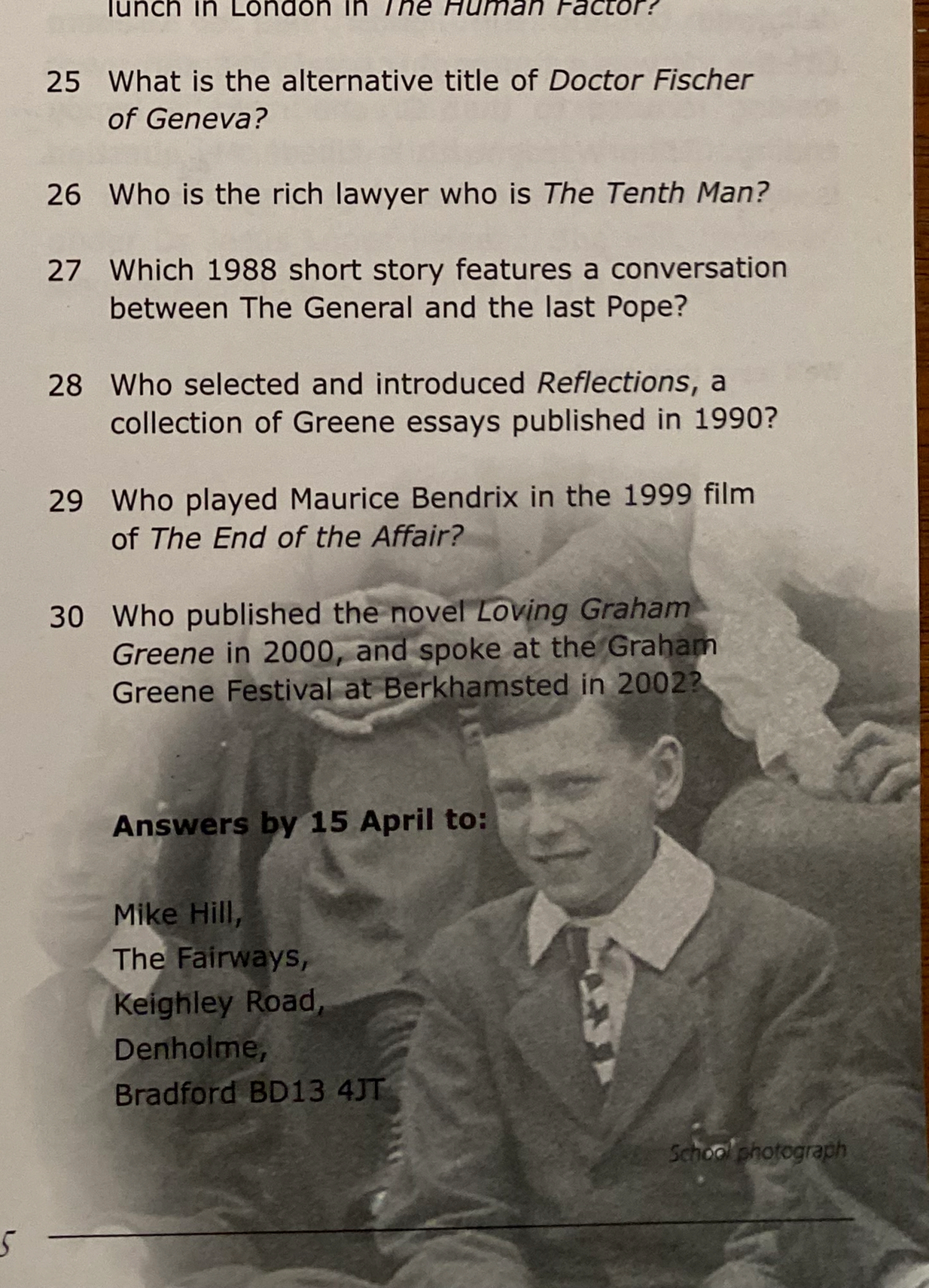
28 Who selected and introduced *Reflections*, a collection of Greene essays published in 1990?

29 Who played Maurice Bendrix in the 1999 film of *The End of the Affair?*

30 Who published the novel *Loving Graham Greene* in 2000, and spoke at the Graham Greene Festival at Berkhamsted in 2002?

Answers by 15 April to:

Mike Hill,
The Fairways,
Keighley Road,
Denholme,
Bradford BD13 4JT



School photograph

CORRESPONDENCE

Please use these columns to express views, discuss themes, comment on the news and views of others, or simply to tell us you are there.

I have a question which you may be able to answer. I am the fortunate owner of a signed copy of *The Third Man* in Danish. It is signed in Copenhagen in September 1950. Have you any possibility of finding out in what connection he was in town? As far as I can see, it was not in connection with the opening of the film ... which was in October 1949.

Claus Kjær

With the help of Norman Sherry's biography we were able to establish that Greene went to Copenhagen on 22 October 1950 to sort a delicate matter concerning his flirtation with his publisher's daughter. It seemed to have blown over and he was subsequently to become great friends with the initially outraged father. Unfortunately there were no details of a visit in September 1950. ed

I have recently read *Travels with my Aunt* and was delighted to find the lighter side of Graham Greene. It was a thoroughly good read and I was looking forward to that Greene rarity a happy ending. Then Wordsworth is killed! My question is why did he have to die? Any suggestions?

Angela Fox

We'll leave that one for erudite readers to solve. ed



IN THE PRESS

The editor cannot keep up with the entire International Press, so please help by sending any press cuttings you would like to see reported. An English précis in the case of the more exotic languages would be appreciated. **Please always indicate publication and date.** Should you want further details of anything mentioned here, please contact the editor.

A cutting has come our way from the Newsletter of *105 Club Austria*, the association of post WW II military police in Vienna. A veteran reminisces that he was paid 400 schillings for a couple of brief appearances in *The Third Man*, but unfortunately they ended on the cutting room floor. However Ken Sheridan, the veteran, is able to relate that he later arrested Orson Welles for disruptive behaviour in the Casanova Bar!

Some stories never die. *The Times* published in December 2003 a piece on child victims of pushy parents including exploitation of child stars, and referred to the famous court case in the thirties when MGM sued Graham Greene.

In its 175th Anniversary issue published in September 2003 *The Spectator* re-published the winning entries in its Greeneland competition from 3 May 1980, and was able to reveal that, under pseudonyms, Hugh Greene and Elisabeth Dennys, Graham Greene's brother and sister, had won first and third prize respectively. The author had himself entered but had not been shortlisted. His entry was eventually used as the opening paragraph of *The Captain and the Enemy* published in 1988. *The Spectator* commented that 'as a parody, the real thing never works'.

The Tablet of 3 January 2004 carries a long article by Mark Lawson. Inspired by this year's centenary the article compares Greene to some of his catholic comtemporaries such as Waugh and Muriel Spark, and refers to him as a novelist of religious doubt whose major characters were nevertheless believers. Lawson says that 'Greene's religion seems to have taken the form of playing a truculent toddler to God the Father, forever cheeking, and testing and challenging'. Although he did not lead a very godly life,

Catholicism was often the idea behind his books. Lawson goes on to list some contemporary authors influenced by or following the spirit of Graham Greene. Among those mentioned are Piers Paul Read, David Lodge, John Le Carré. Brian Moore, John Updike, and Damon Galgut whose book *The Good Doctor* was recently short listed for the Booker Prize

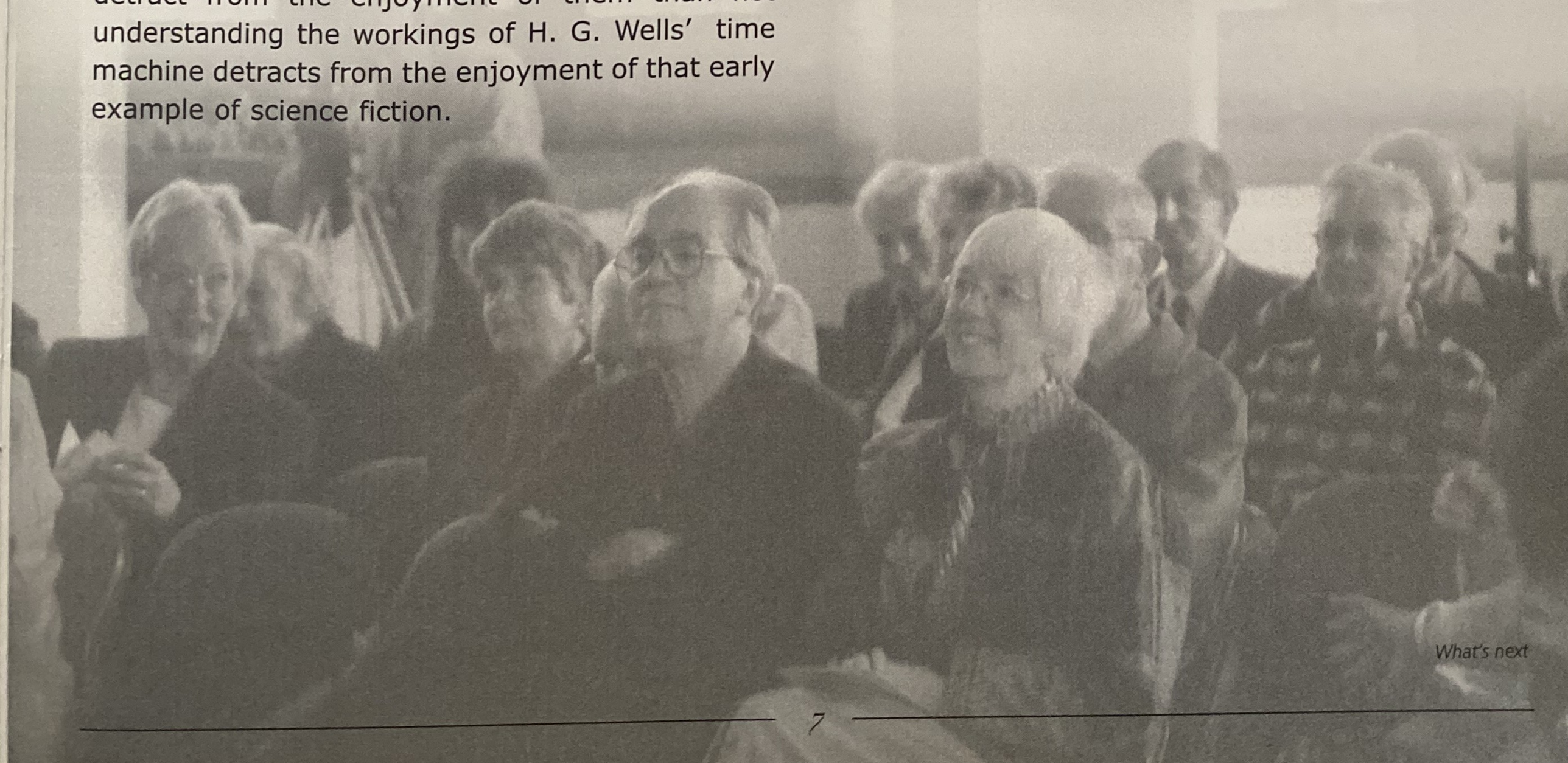
An earlier issue of *The Tablet* refers to Norman Sherry's dread of Greene's comment that Sherry would not live to see the final volume published. The article, *In Greene's Shadow*, reveals that Sherry will be using left-over material for another book after the biography is finished. The new book will be called *The Mind of Greene*.

An article in *The Telegraph* of 17 January 2004 combines a review of the above-mentioned Mark Lawson article with a reference to *The Catholic Revival in English Literature 1845-1961* (Gracewing, £14.99) by Ian Ker. The book includes a chapter on Greene. The reviewer, Christopher Howse, says that the 'dilemmas' in the novels were contrived rather than real. He refers in particular to *The Heart of the Matter* and draws a parallel between Scobie's taking communion without having been to confession with an occasion when Greene asked for a biscuit during a visit to Waugh in order to have an excuse for not taking communion that Sunday. Howse points out that as his friends in any case knew about his affairs, this seemed entirely unnecessary. Howse then goes on to say that, if the reader cannot quite follow the theological confusions in the novels, it need no more detract from the enjoyment of them than not understanding the workings of H. G. Wells' time machine detracts from the enjoyment of that early example of science fiction.

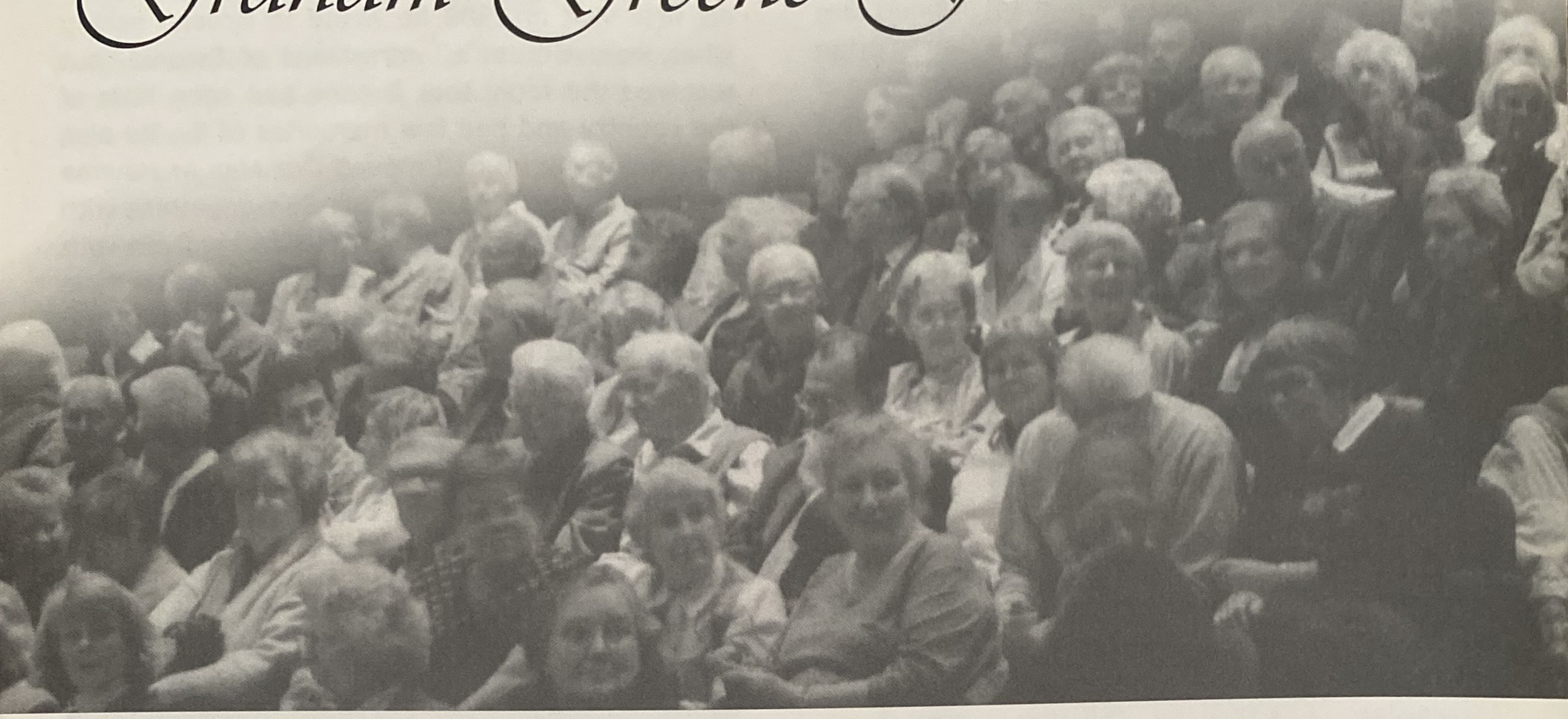
The *Times Magazine* of 31 January 2004 carried an article by Ian Thomson, who had visited Tallinn, Estonia in search of his mother's roots. Prior to his first visit in 1988 he wrote to Greene asking what were Greene's impressions of Estonia, but received the reply that Greene had seen little of the country and had few memories of it. He also explained why he had moved *Our Man in Havana* to Cuba, saying 'One could hardly sympathise with the main character if he was to be involved with the Hitler war'. Following Ian Thomson's article was an additional piece about Greene's friendship with Peter Leslie whom he had met on a flight to Tallinn and who became British Consul there. Many years later Peter Leslie gave Greene a set of Henry James' novels, the love of which had first brought the two men together.

THE TRUST

This year's Award has been made to Beatriz Valverde who is working on a project that involves research into Graham Greene and Søren Kierkegaard. She intends the thesis to compare the underlying philosophy of the two writers, to examine the two themes of politics and religion in the writings of Graham Greene and to consider his place in twentieth century literature. Beatriz Valverde is currently studying at the Department of English Philology, University of Jaén, Spain under Dr Jesús López-Peláez. She will, however, also be spending some time in the UK for further research.



Graham Greene Festival 2003



Happy Cinema Goers, The Mayor of Berkhamsted, Words on the Wall, Festival Audience



Festival Audience



The Mayor of Berkhamsted

We have been asked to draw attention to a literary conference entitled Arnold Bennett "New Perspectives". It is on Saturday 12 June 2004 at Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent. The cost is £55 (concessions £45) which includes Lunch, Dinner and a Film. Key note speaker is Roy Hattersley.

For further details contact Lennie Ashwell, Faculty of Arts, Media and Design, Staffordshire University, Flaxman Building, College Road, Stone-on-Trent ST4 2XW. Tel: 01782 294828. Fax: 01782 294760
e-mail: l.ashwell@staffs.ac.uk <mailto:l.ashwell@staffs.ac.uk>

We have also been asked to note the SPIT-LIT Festival, Celebrating Woman's Writing. 7 - 14 March 2004. Booking 0207 247 2584

The Graham Greene Birthplace Trust is a member of the Berkhamsted Arts Trust which is financially supported by Dacorum Borough Council
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We are very gratefull to Jenny Thomas for permission to use her original drawings.
Produced by Daryl Latham at D&A Design 01442 878006 and printed by Strongs Printing Services 01442 878592