

St Mary's College Society

Newsletter

2009



St Mary's College Society
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CONTENTS

President's Report	4
Treasurer's Report	6
St Mary's College Trust	7
Recognising Diversity - St Mary's College Grace	10
Principal's Report	12
Vice-Principal's Report	14
JCR President's Report	15
MCR President's Report	17
Destination of 2008 Graduates	17
Degree Results June 2008	17
Travel Bursaries	19
Gemma Avery – Bolivia & Peru	20
London Alumni Reunion	21
Reunion Weekend 25 th – 27 th September 2009	22
AGM 2009	23
Situation Vacant – Secretary	23
St Mary's College Society Committee 2008-09	24
Committee Members	24
Annual General Meeting of St Mary's College Society 2008	25
Reunion September 2008 – A Personal Account	26
News	27
Births	27
Deaths	27
Other News	28
Graduate Spotlight – Jennifer Cawthorne 1994-97	29
Feedback	31

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



So I am well into my second year as President of the Society, and feel as though I am beginning to get my feet under the table...

Since I last wrote, the Committee has several new members, and while I am delighted that all the long-serving members are still as committed as ever, we have a number of younger members now. I realised pretty soon that the Society needs to meet the expectations of all generations of graduates, and each generation is different. (We now have a Society Facebook for those of you who like to share your personal details with the world!) Watch out, too, for the newly launched Society website which is currently under construction. We're aiming for it to be interactive, so look out the photos of your time at Mary's to share with your old friends. We would also like to contact former students by email – it makes sense in this new electronic era. We give you an opportunity inside to give us your email address if you haven't already done so.

One of the challenges has been to raise awareness about the Society and its activities among current students. It doesn't seem right to expect first year students to commit to a life membership of something they don't know anything about. I have been invited to a meeting of the JCR (that took me back!); we have had a Society notice board in College and attended JCR social events, but most importantly applicants for travel bursaries now apply direct to the Society. The latter committee is one of the most enjoyable of tasks as you will see from the range of trips we have supported – with your help.

This Newsletter announces the important launch of the St Mary's College Trust, with which the Society is going to be closely associated. We very much support Phil Gilmartin's ambitions for the College, and the Society itself is likely to be helped by the Trust in achieving our own ambitions.

You will read inside about the annual Reunion in September, which, although a small event after previous significant anniversary events, was very enjoyable. We'd love to increase the numbers this year, so do see if your diary is free for the last weekend in September 2009. For more recent graduates, an informal reunion is taking place in London on the 22nd April. Please see p. 20 for more information.



Finally, I'd like to thank Helen Andrews who retired as Society Treasurer after nearly 20 years and to welcome Georg Nüchtern who, as a new graduate, was elected in her place last Autumn.

(Here they are together after the AGM in September 2008)

I haven't got the space to thank all the Committee members who give me continued support, but I would like to make a special mention of Sylvia Graham who takes on a lion's share of the running of the Society and without whom I couldn't function. Sylvia will not be standing for election again which means we are looking for a new Secretary. I would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking on this role....

Liz Manning (née Locke, 1965-71)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello,

I took on the role as Society Treasurer after I graduated from Mary's in 2008, as I realised that the Society was a fantastic way to remain involved with the College. At Durham, I read history, and was actively involved in the JCR, being both Social Secretary and Livers Out Rep. Currently, I live in Nottingham and work for Mars on their graduate scheme.

For the next year, my main aim will be to bring the finances of the Society on a sound footing. Currently, our expenditure exceeds significantly the income received from membership subscriptions, due to the large cost of printing and mailing the newsletter to all alumni. Sending the newsletter electronically will significantly reduce this cost, so if you would be happy to receive it by email, please let us know. You will find more details on p31.

You will have seen that the College is launching a Trust. The Society will be working together with the Trust to fundraise for College activities and development. If you would like to make a donation through the Trust specifically to the Society and the work we do to bring former students together through this newsletter and reunions as well as supporting current students, please fill out the donation form included with this newsletter.

Georg Nüchtern (2004-07)
SMCS Treasurer



ST MARY'S COLLEGE TRUST

The launch of the College Trust and an appeal for support

What is a Trust?

A Trust is a legal arrangement that provides for the management of money or property by Trustees, for the benefit of others. Donations to a Trust are then owned by the Trust and administered by the Trustees in line with the purpose of the Trust on behalf of the Beneficiaries.

Purpose of the St Mary's College Trust

To provide a dedicated, secure and long term structure within which to hold and manage money and property donated to the College for the exclusive benefit of St Mary's College and its students.

What can the Trust do for St Mary's College?

St Mary's has a strong and sustained tradition of alumni support. The establishment of a St Mary's College Trust recognises not only the generous history of giving, but provides an opportunity for focusing current requests for donations as well as providing secure long term opportunities to establish a wealthy foundation for St Mary's College over the next century.

The Trust has four aims, all focused on supporting St Mary's and its students:

- To raise funds to for sustained support of sporting, social cultural and academic activities of current students as well as to improve the College environment.
- To raise funds for specific on off projects. For example a boat house, creation of a Centre for Visual and performing Arts, or redevelopment of the bar into an enhanced social space.
- To establish a substantial long term investment Fund that will grow over time and yield an income to support student activities and create long term financial stability at St Mary's.
- To attract and hold specific items and articles such as paintings, sculptures or antiques which will be held in perpetuity for the benefit of the College and its students.

Who administers the Trust?

The Trust currently five ex officio Trustees (two further nominated Trustees to be appointed):

- Professor Philip M. Gilmartin (Principal)
- Dr Gillian E Boughton (Vice Principal and Senior Tutor)
- Professor Michael C. Petty (Chair of St Mary's College Council)
- Mr John Wright (Bursar)
- Dr Elizabeth Manning (President of the St Mary's College Society)

What can you do to support the Trust?

The ways in which you can support the College Trust include:

- A one off lump sum or regular staged donations, small or large
- Bequests also provide an opportunity to support current and future students at St Mary's
- Gifts can be assigned to a specific project or fund, or unrestricted
- By giving through Gift Aid the tax refund will also go into the Trust
- Donated pictures or antiques will have a long term secure home, and enhance the College

Current fund raising priorities:

The foundation of a Trust has enabled us to focus our priorities through specific named funds. St Mary's Alumnae have traditionally contributed generously to student hardship funds. Although some students still experience financial hardship, central government funding is now available for this purpose for UK undergraduates. We therefore have a much reduced need for College hardship funds and see a greater opportunity for more broadly applicable funds to enhance the St Mary's student experience. The College Development Fund will fulfil this remit. A hardship fund will continue to be maintained using existing dedicated donations to support hardship cases should the need arise. The Trust will also hold highly focused Funds to support specific themes and to enable donors to target their gifts to specific current priorities which include:

St Mary's Development Fund - to provide flexible funds for projects that enhance opportunity, promote engagement and support personal and academic development.

Open for donations

St Mary's Sport Fund - to support kit and equipment, pitch hire, coaching, and scholarships following transition to a mixed college.

Open for donations

St Mary's Art Fund - to support the embellishment of college with paintings, to facilitate the development of a sculpture park, and support music and drama in College.

Open for donations

St Mary's Travel Fund - to provide funds to support individual travel, either as part of an academic program, to engage in voluntary work or in support of personal development.

Open for donations

With the launch of the Trust we are starting an appeal for the Heritage Fund which will be devoted to the long term accumulation of assets into a substantial financial reserve for St Mary's College.

St Mary's Heritage Fund - to grow into a substantial endowed fund to support the long term financial stability of the College, our initial target of £1M will rise as the fund grows.

Open for donations

The Trust will also seek funds for specific one off projects to enhance facilities for St Mary's students. Planning for current projects is at an early stage, but the Trust can hold gifts that donors would wish to align to specific projects. Planned future appeals, and predicted targets include:

St Mary's Bar (£100,000) - To support the redevelopment of St Mary's College bar to create a quality social space including café and lounge facilities.

St Mary's Rowing (£30,000) - For a targeted investment in new boats to support St Mary's Rowers. We are also exploring opportunities to develop a College boat house.

St Mary's Centre for Performing and Visual Arts (£2-3 Million)- Development of a new-build theatre and music facility with new music practice rooms and exhibition space.

The Trust will also hold a fund dedicated to supporting St Mary's College Society:

St Mary's College Society Fund - to generate funds to supplement the one-off lifelong membership fee to support, for example, the newsletter and a wider range of reunions.

I hope that the establishment of the Trust will clarify the opportunities for giving and our fund raising priorities to support current and future students at St Mary's College. Thank you for your continued and generous support.

RECOGNISING DIVERSITY - ST MARY'S COLLEGE GRACE

When I arrived at St Mary's College just over a year ago I was struck by the number of customs and traditions that have contributed to the strong identity of the College. I very much recognise in taking the College forward that we need to build on such foundations. However, as times change and progress is made, there are some things that must evolve. One area where I felt we needed to adapt was in relation to the traditional Christian Latin grace. Many of you I am sure will recall this by heart.

*Benedictus benedicat, per Jesum
Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.*

May that which is blessed be
blessed, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. So be it.

with the closing grace:

Benedicto benedicatur, Amen

May blessing be given to that which
is blessed. So be it.

Although I recognise the strong historical Christian traditions of the College, we are now supporting students from all cultural backgrounds from all faiths and none. A Christian grace is therefore no longer uniformly appropriate.

The founding principle of St Mary's of equality of opportunity is as important today as it was when the College was founded in 1899. Times have changed in many ways, and the Shepherd wing continues to provide that equality to women from cultural and religious backgrounds where living in a mixed environment would not otherwise be possible. The Shepherd wing forms a corner stone of our commitment to women's education, and the strong belief in equality of opportunity irrespective of differences in gender, background and faith.

Although I personally do not have or follow any faith or religion. I recognise the importance of religion and faith for so many of our community, Christian, Muslim, Jewish and more. I therefore felt that rather than maintain a religious grace that could convey a lack of understanding for our diversity, we should review the College grace to become more embracing, while still reflecting our traditional foundations.

I therefore proposed the following words as a secular and more inclusive grace:

Let us pause, and each give thanks in accordance with our own beliefs

With the assistance of current scholars at St Mary's we now have a new Latin grace:

Pausam faciamus, et quisque secundum suum morem gratias agat, benedictus benedicat, Amen.

with the same closing grace as before: *Benedicto benedicatur, Amen*

I recognise that some of you may regret this change in tradition, but I do hope that you will understand why this is important to me. I firmly believe that the new Latin grace maintains tradition, but is also forward looking and fully embraces the St Mary's principle of equality of opportunity.

Professor Philip M. Gilmartin
Principal



Graduates of 1968 at lunch with Professor Phillip Gilmartin and Mrs Jenny Gilmartin

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since I arrived to take up my new position as Principal of St Mary's College, but what a year it has been!

Last summer's graduation ceremony saw our first men receive degrees alongside the last of the all women's year. The event was covered in the regional press and featured a photo of Rachel Hogley, the last of the all women year, and Aaron Kotler, the first male graduates, together with the Chancellor Bill Bryson. We celebrated with a St Mary's College Garden Party last June and took advantage of the huge marquee that filled the SCR lawn and had played host to the fantastic St Mary's College Summer Ball just a few days earlier. The garden party was a relaxing occasion with cream teas and sandwiches, singing from Mary's Mixed Voices, stalls, tombola and raffles, a ladies hat competition judged by the Men's first XV Rugby team who had just been promoted to the premiership, as well as a Fund Raising auction. Our auctioneer, Mr Mike Daly, an SCR member, and wizard with the hammer, managed to achieve top dollar for a range of donated items including: a Stephen Gerard Liverpool shirt; a bottle of vintage port from the College Cellar; the mystery item (a wheel barrow hidden under a blanket); and most impressively, a hammer price of £20 for a £10 Amazon gift voucher! All proceeds went to the St Mary's College Art Fund. We will be repeating the event this summer, please contact College for details if you would like to join us, or you wish to donate an item to go under the hammer.

One of the things that struck me when I arrived at St Mary's was the lack of a tradition for portraits of former Principals. Portraits of Miss Donaldson and Miss Fergusson were locked in the basement strong room, and there were no portraits of Mrs Holdsworth, Miss Calvert or Miss Kenworthy. I therefore commissioned Roar Kjernstad, a Norwegian Portrait artist, to complete the portrait history of the College. Mrs Holdsworth and Miss Calvert were painted from photographs; two students, Jessica Breen and Amanda Glover, acted as models. Miss Kenworthy sat for her portrait. The three portraits were unveiled at the Garden Party by the Vice Chancellor, and now hang in the Principal's Gallery in the Dining Hall. I hope you will take advantage of future reunions to return to college to see the portraits.

In January 2008 we re-opened the refurbished Williamson building, following a £1.5M makeover. We also planted two *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* trees, a species that produces distinct male and female plants, outside the Williamson building to

commemorate the first mixed graduation. This year we will renew the Williamson roof and replace the boilers: we also have ambitions, and are lobbying, to install solar water heating to reduce costs and make a clear statement about our environmental commitment. We are actively promoting recycling in College and recently installed Toilet Hippos which reduce the volume of each flush by 1 litre. With 318 residents, this equates to a daily saving of 1200 Litres (250 gallons) of water a day. We are currently bidding for University funding to refurbish the bathrooms and pantries in the Fergusson Building to bring them up to the standard of those in the newly refitted Williamson Building.

This year saw our resident postgraduate community grow to forty, and we have welcomed fifty new members to our Senior Common Room. Academic links in College have been strengthened by involvement with the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) which supports Fellows for research visits. This year we hosted four Fellows and are using the opportunity to encourage greater engagement between Common Rooms. We also initiated an Artist in Residence scheme, and used the opportunity for the Principals portraits. We are also hosting Chris Gollon as an IAS Fellow and Artist in Residence. Following a recent University catering review, we have seen great improvements in College food and formal dining, and eagerly await the arrival of our new College Head Chef at Easter. Many of you will remember Margaret who is still with us working in the kitchen and dining room after 49 years at St Mary's.

As you can see, it has been quite a year, and we have a number of other initiatives on the boil. We established a College Trust to coordinate and focus fundraising activities for St Mary's; more information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. We will be establishing a student-alumni network to put current students in touch with former Mary's graduates for careers advice. We will be launching this initiative later this year and I hope that you will get involved. There has not been space to tell you about all the exciting developments in College, such as the new Gym and Mouseman chapel choir stalls, both supported by your generosity, or our plans through the Trust to enhance support for Sport and the Arts in College. I do hope that having read this newsletter you will continue to support your College, or if you have lost touch with St Mary's that you will re-establish links and become part of our exciting future.

With every best wish

Philip M. Gilmartin
Principal

VICE-PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2008-09

JCR PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008-09

It's certainly been a busy year for St Mary's JCR since the last newsletter. The theme at the moment seems to be "change", and all of it for the better. June saw the graduation of the last all-female intake and the first male graduate of St Mary's college, marking the official moment of the college being entirely "mixed". With the new Principal, Prof. Phil Gilmartin, starting his first full academic year at the college, his presence has certainly made an impressive impact on the students, and there seems to be a new sense of drive and direction for both the college and the JCR, showing that St Mary's is a college to be reckoned with!

The foundation of St Mary's College Arts Society has created a great push towards improving the arts in Mary's: at the end of last year the JCR put on the highly successful musical "The Goodbye Girl" and saw the joint choir and college tour to Malta. In this new academic year, we have seen the traditional Mary's Panto "Aladdin" and the purchase of a new drum kit for the music rooms. The arts are continuing to thrive and flourish with the creation of new societies such as the JCR Dance Group, the JCR Orchestra and the highly anticipated Arts Week in Epiphany term, which is set to include art displays, drama, dance and song workshops, musical concerts and to top it all off, a Masquerade Ball. It's not only the arts that are improving, but sport in Mary's continues to go from strength to strength, with last years novice men's IV's winning the Lady Herschel Plate, and with this years fresher's novice men's team getting to the final in the Royal County Plate at the Novice Cup. Our sports teams are strengthening and growing, with teams also being set up in Lacrosse and Skiing, the latter culminating in a college trip after the new year to the ski resort of Saint Sorlin D'Arves in the French Alps.

The bar and toastie bar continue to do well- this year there were even queues of fresher's waiting for a toastie before it even opened! The social side of the JCR has been as lively as ever. A new distinction between "Formals", with formal dress and behaviour, and "Informals" run by the JCR with fancy dress and a more relaxed atmosphere has been made, and gives the JCR a taste of both traditional formal dining in college and the great events our social committee can put on. Michaelmas term this year saw the big events of Michaelmas Dinner, the Christmas Formal (including a Night in Klute for Free...) and the Informal Ball, the

stuff of “Myths and Legends”. As usual, the entire college went all out when it came to costumes.

The future for the JCR is looking bright, though changes in charity laws mean the difficult process of the JCR having to change its charitable status and register as a Charity. However, we continue to improve and grow and the atmosphere amongst the JCR is highly optimistic for our future and position as the best college in Durham!

Robyn Lavey
JCR President 2008-9

MCR PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear All,

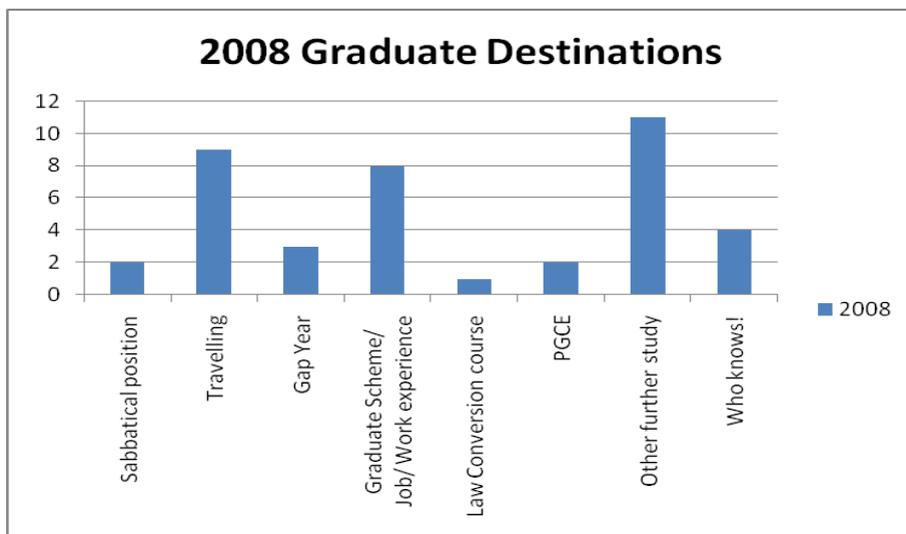
I am delighted to report that 2008 has marked another year of active and sustained development for the MCR (Middle Common Room). We now enjoy our strongest position in terms of membership – seeing a substantial growth in numbers in 2008 - with 39 ‘fresh’ postgraduates bringing the common room to a total of 74 members; resulting in the MCR being an established presence within the college community. The increase in size has necessitated the moving of the MCR to a more adequate space, which enjoys frequent usage and serves as a social hub for our members. Furthermore, the growth has facilitated a lively social atmosphere with a series of formal and informal events – the highlights including the Christmas party and an excursion to York races and an MCR formal dinner planned for the spring – adding to a sizeable social calendar. Beyond our social activities the MCR continues to hold academic speaking evenings, attracting Dr. Charles Fernyhough – an eminent psychologist and fellow of Durham’s Institute of Advanced Study – to the Michaelmas event, that are attended by an ample crowd.

In 2009 we aim to continue to develop the facilities and activities offered to our members, as well as advancing the presence of the MCR within the college and the university.

Sean D Knox
MCR President 2008-09

DESTINATION OF 2008 GRADUATES

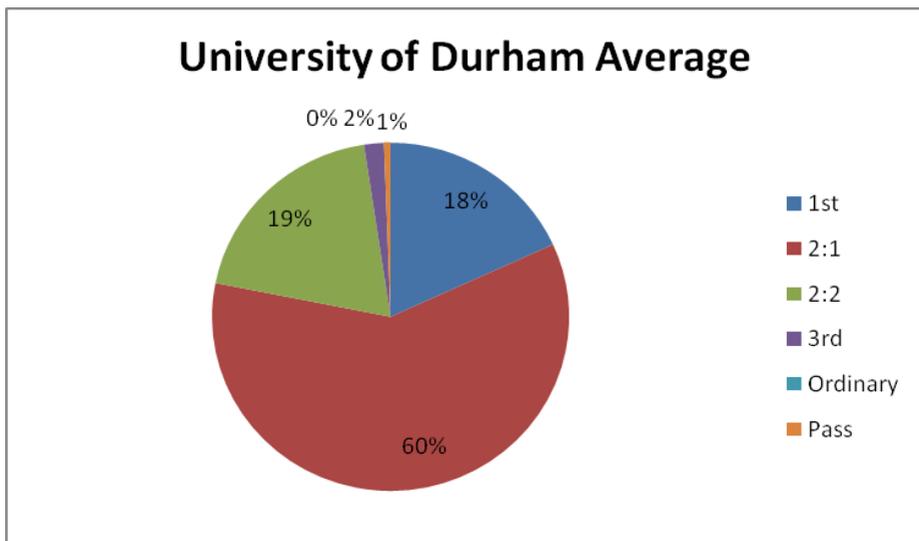
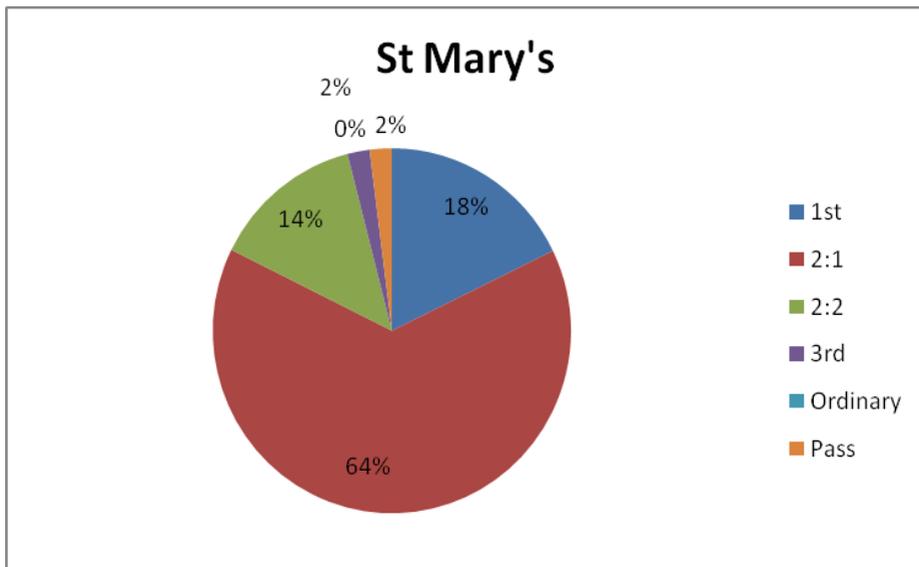
Information of future plans was collected from 40 of last summer's graduates. Thank you to everyone who contributed, and was involved in the collection of this information. In future years we hope to collate more and more. If any readers feel they would like to be mentors to recent graduates, in any profession, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at smc.society@dur.ac.uk. Here is a summary of last year's graduate destinations:



DEGREE RESULTS JUNE 2008

Classification	St Marys' degrees (%)	University Average (%)
1 st	17.8	18.2
2:1	64.5	59.9
2:2	13.7	19.5
3rd	2.0	1.8
Ordinary	0.0	0.0
Pass	2.0	0.6

In Summer 2008 82.3% of St Mary's students attained a first class or upper second class degree against a University average of 78.1%.



TRAVEL BURSARIES

Travel bursaries were given to the following people, for the last academic year: We are delighted to list below those students who have benefitted from the College's Travel Bursary scheme, which is financed by contributions of former students. All the students made great use of the financial support we were able to give them and we would have liked to have cited all of their experiences in detail. We hope you will enjoy reading the account of just one student, Gemma Avery, about her exciting trip to Bolivia and Peru.

Cicely Alice Campbell Awards

Gemma Avery	Bolivia/Peru	Jessica Kenny	USA
Jessie Beham	Jordan	Helen Laurent	India
Heidi Boyes	Indonesia	Christopher Lindle	England
Shaun Chande	Isle of Rum	Helen Pate	Belize
Thomas Dessain	London	Joanna Staszewska	Poland
Jennifer Grant	South Africa	Greg Thompson	India/Malaysia
James Haythornthwaite	Isle of Rum	Elizabeth Wilkes	United Kingdom
Dianne Marcos	Belgium		

Irene Calvert Travel Bursary

Gemma Avery	Bolivia/Peru
Alexander Baker	Scotland
William Cheyne	Malta
Charlotte Henderson	USA
Tom Laxton	Nepal
Elisabetta Pusceddu	Chicago
Sam Williams	South Africa

Margaret Fergusson Scholarship

Sonia Jordan	Paris
Hannah Stokes	Spain

Mary Holdsworth Travelling Scholarship

Jennifer Grant

South Africa

St Mary's College Society Bursary

Heidi Boyes

Indonesia

GEMMA AVERY – BOLIVIA & PERU

Objective of trip: To travel from Lima to Santa Cruz and make a significant contribution to the local people. In the process, I hope to physically challenge myself and gain an appreciation of Peruvian and Bolivian cultures and history.



Here I have finally arrived at Macchu Picchu ruins after an arduous 5 day mountain trek. The day before I was due to start helping for 4 weeks at Aldea Yanapay, I became very ill with Giardiasis for 2 weeks. Sadly by the time I was better, the Aldea had filled my place, so I contacted an organisation in Bolivia.

In the meantime I trekked 5 days to Macchu Picchu, ascending over 2000m to the Salkaltay mountain pass at nearly 5000m and then through the hot Amazon jungle. After exploring some more Inca ruins around Cuzco, I headed towards the Bolivian border to the Amantani Island community on Lake Titicaca, finding out how it is to live simply, without electricity, running water, and sleeping on a bed of reeds in a mud hut, and then visting the Uros Indians floating reed islands. I spent a week learning about life in the Bolivian Amazon, 3 days in Uyuni salt flats and 2 weeks near Santa Cruz contributing to the Bella Vista community by helping to set up a sustainable tourism project with English, planning a refuge and helping to make paths through the rainforests and mountains so that the rural community will get revenue from ecotourism trekking instead of cowherding and timber.

Funding for the trip was mainly through saving my wages from teaching English, fundraising and gifts from family. I chose Peru and Bolivia because they have fascinating rich and diverse cultures and I knew that I could make a positive contribution in the local communities.



This is me wearing traditional women's dress in the Amantani village hall where the whole village congregates most evenings to knit, chat and dance in the only place on the island with artificial lighting (ingeniously powered by a car battery!).

During my trip, I have improved my skills in planning, organising, teamwork and communication, as well as gaining intellectually with a deeper understanding of and respect for the Peruvian and Bolivian cultures and history. I am proud to have promoted sustainability and overcome many challenges on the way. I have become more appreciative, whilst admiring the community spirit and love people can show when faced with deprivation.

LONDON ALUMNI REUNION

St Mary's College Society is organising after work drinks for recent graduates ('01-'05 entry) who are living/ working in and around London. Drinks will be held on Wednesday 22nd April at The Langley (Covent Garden) from 6.30pm. This catches the end of Happy Hour so offers a recession friendly way for you to catch up with London based Mary's graduates! Please email smcslondonevents@hotmail.co.uk for more information, or by 6th April to ensure your name is placed on the door. The event will be an informal affair so you are free to drop in for as long or short a time as you wish.

Liz Manning SMCS President

Sophie Wooller (2004-2007)

REUNION WEEKEND 25TH - 27TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Why not spend a weekend in Durham, catch up on old friends, make new ones and revisit old haunts. Many things have changed in Durham since many of us were undergraduates!

Perhaps 2009 is a special year for you. Get a group of friends together and all come to the reunion.

As usual the weekend will begin with supper on Friday evening and end with lunch on Sunday. The highlight will be the Reunion Dinner on Saturday evening. Husbands, partners, friends are welcome. A detailed programme will be available upon arrival, but see separate notice about the AGM.

As last year, bookings are being dealt with centrally by the University. Please use the enclosed booking form and note closing date and who to contact if necessary. Bookings can be made on line at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/conference.booking/>

You are all very welcome. Please come and make the reunion a success!



1968 Graduates at the 2008 Reunion Lunch

AGM 2009

The Annual General Meeting of St Mary's College Society will take place in St Mary's College on Saturday, 26th September 2009 at 10.30 a.m. Papers for the AGM will be available on arrival.

At this meeting a new Secretary and members of the committee will be elected in accordance with the constitution ratified at the AGM in 2007. Nominations in writing for the post of Secretary are invited and must be received by the current Secretary of the Society at St Mary's College BY 14th SEPTEMBER 2009. A job description appears on page 23 and enquiries are welcomed to: smc.society@durham.ac.uk

Nominations for committee representatives, stating willingness to serve for up to 1, 2, or 3 years, will be accepted up to the start of the AGM. All nominations, for officers and committee members, must include: Name and address of nominee; names of one proposer and one seconder. All named must give name when in college and years in college.

SITUATION VACANT - SECRETARY

At the AGM in September the current secretary is due to retire and we are seeking nominations for her successor, who would serve for 4 years with the opportunity to be re-elected after this time.

What does the Secretary do?

- Prepare for and minute 3 committee meetings a year (1 in each term) and the AGM in September.
- Deal with correspondence, much of which is via e-mail.
- Coordinate the Reunion organisation with much help from the committee.

That is a brief idea of the duties, but the plus side is the contact with other members, the friendship and support of the committee, the opportunity to meet younger members of College and to be part of Mary's again.

Your Society needs you. It's a worthwhile job. Apply now! Email smc.society@durham.ac.uk for more information or to put your name forward.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2008-2009

Hon. President and College Council Rep	Dr. Liz Manning (Locke, 1965-68)
Vice-President	Rev Dorothy Wilson (Parker, 1954-58)
Secretary	Mrs Sylvia Graham (Bruce, 1958-62)
Treasurer	Mr Georg Nüchtern (2005-2008)
Newsletter Editors	Miss Laura Betteridge (2000-3, 2004-5) Miss Catherine Ross (2000-08)
Archivist	VACANT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1952-57	Mrs Elizabeth Boyd (Burrell)
1961-64	Dr. Joan Suddes (Wilkinson)
1964-67	Dr. Dorothy Middleton (Wooff)
1964-68	Mrs Shelagh Jones (Buchanan)
1965-68	Dr. Margaret Collins (Purnell)
1966-70	Miss Anne Elliott
1991-94	Mrs Claire Rollo Gardner (Rollo)
1994-97	Mrs Jennifer Cawthorne (Jack)
2001-05	Miss Emmie Spring
2004-08	Miss Vicky Lorimer
2005-09	Mr Steven Spencer
Principal, St. Mary's College	Professor Philip Gilmartin
Vice-Principal, St. Mary's College	Dr. Gillian Boughton
MCR	Mr Sean Knox (President)
JCR	Miss Robyn Lavey (2004-07)(President) Miss Helen Pate (3 rd year) Mr Rikesh Chotai (2 nd year)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST MARY'S COLLEGE SOCIETY 2008

27 members attended the Society's AGM on September 27th 2008, which was chaired by Dr Liz Manning, who introduced herself to members, having been elected to office the previous year. In her report she stated that an important aim being pursued by the committee was to raise the visibility of the Society with the JCR and to improve communication with members. An improved website was being planned and it was hoped to hold informal reunions elsewhere in the country and in particular in London.

The Treasurer reported on the financial situation, reserves being low, especially due to the cost of the newsletter, our main point of contact with members. It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously that the life subscription be raised to £20, which will ease the situation considerably.

The Newsletter editors had sent a written report. There were favourable comments from the floor about the 2008 edition and constructive suggestions about format and producing an electronic version were noted for discussion in committee. The editors were congratulated upon fulfilling a very difficult task. The Principal introduced himself as a new face and spoke of the various initiatives he was starting in College, amongst which is the foundation of the St Mary's College Trust. He was due to meet members informally later in the day.

The retiring JCR and MCR Presidents each reported on a successful year. The JCR President for 2008-9 was then introduced to members.

Elections were held and Georg Nüchtern was elected to serve as Treasurer of the Society. Other members were elected or re-elected to the committee. These included the retiring MCR and JCR Presidents.

After the official business a presentation was made to Helen Andrews as a token of our appreciation for her 19 years as Treasurer.

REUNION SEPTEMBER 2008 – A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

Since leaving Durham in 1969, I have returned to St Mary's College a total of 4 times. The first was in 1975 when I came with a boyfriend who was also a Durham graduate and I stayed the night with a friend of his in Mary's (and they all had their own keys for the doors!!) and the last 3 were to reunions. I came to St Mary's 100th year celebrations in 1999, the University's 175th year celebrations in 2007 and attended the 2008 reunion because I had met up with old friends at the previous two reunions and I wanted to keep in touch.

It is really great to see that the college looks have changed very little: the main doors and surroundings are exactly the same as in the sixties where the Janitor would be standing outside at midnight trying the break up the couples hanging round the doors trying to get in at the last minute before the doors were locked; the wonderful views of the Cathedral from the main building; the grounds where we used to sunbathe while swotting for exams in the summer, and so on. We even used to climb out on to the parapets of the top floor rooms to sunbathe - I wonder what health and safety would have to say about now - but we all survived.

There have been some radical changes, however, since we were there. I was a Mary's girl and it was an all female college. Men had to be out of rooms by 6pm during the week and 9pm at weekends. Rooms did not have locks on the doors and nothing was ever stolen - although I suppose we didn't have any electronic gadgets of value in those days.

We often worked until about 10pm and then went round to someone's room for coffee and a chat, until sometimes as late as 5am, and then I had to be up for a 9am lecture (obviously very wide awake). Unfortunately I had 6 9 o'clock starts in my first year (including Saturday morning) and as I was the only girl in the class I had to be there otherwise it was obvious. Toilets and baths (no showers) were all communal as they are now and we had we had no sinks in our rooms, and the water was brown (peat we were told). We would run round the corridors half dressed and ready for bed secure in the knowledge that we wouldn't be meeting any stray men. We had to sign ourselves out if we were going out after 8pm and sign back in when returning. We had to sign for a key and give a good reason if we

wanted to be out after midnight, because the college was in loco parentis (??) as the age of majority then was 21 - so we were really still big kids.

I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Mary's in Durham and attending the reunions has brought back many happy memories. It has also been good to meet up with old friends and I intend to continue this tradition if I can.

Maggie Pollock, nee Twigg (1965-69)
First woman to study Engineering in Durham

NEWS OF FORMER STUDENTS

BIRTHS

William Rufus born 18th December 2008 to Claire Rollo Gardener, committee member.

DEATHS

Alice Wood (1928-32) died 24th September 2008, aged 99. She is believed to be our oldest graduate. She studied French, which she went on to teach in the St Helens area. Former pupils, some of whom followed her to her old College, visited her every year, and she always recognised them and enquired after their families. She was very deaf at the end, and had little memory for recent events. Her funeral was well-attended, which witnesses to the deep affection in which she was held.

Stella Mary (Molly) Jenkins (Peet. 1946-49) died 30th September 2008, aged 80. Wife of Bishop David Jenkins

Nancy Parker (1952-56) died in the Autumn of 2007. She was one of the intake of 50 or so students who were the first first-years in the new Fergusson building. 50 was considered an enormous number in those days, the intake outnumbering the other years.

Nancy was very quiet and shy, but maintained contact with a few close friends after going down. Her reflective nature was evidenced by the publication of a book of poems in the 1990s.

She was a biologist and a staunch conservationist, and worked in a voluntary capacity in primary schools in the Haltwhistle area for several years after her retirement. At Reunion in 2007 she declared her final retirement, saying she wanted to spend more time walking in the Northumberland countryside with her friends. This is what she was doing only a few weeks later when she suffered a fatal heart attack.

Pat Nightingale (1965-68) died in May 2007.

A contemporary of Pat remembers her during her time at St. Marys:

“Come to Mary’s Informal “. These were the first words I remember from the lips of Pat Nightingale. Blonde, willowy and good-looking, Pat was a vivacious and outgoing character. Intellectually sharp, witty and a compelling debater, she was studying English in her second year at St Mary’s College. Pat was determined to enter fully into the social, academic, cultural and political life of Durham University. She successfully marked her academic year 1967 –68 by attending Informal and Formal Balls at St Mary’s and University Colleges; this culminated in her dancing extravagantly to “The Who” on 21 June at the University’s June Ball.

I found her to be the most knowledgeable student of English and American Literature with enthusiasm for a broad canvas of authors from Chaucer through Shakespeare to Ogden Nash. Similarly, her keen interest in the theatre and cinema ranged from Danton’s Death to Lawrence of Arabia. A dedicated fan and follower of Lancashire Cricket Club she showed an extensive knowledge of the game.

It was not surprising that she was selected as one of the four team members to represent Durham University on “University Challenge”. Everyone who knew her was pleased by her inclusion and achievement in this most testing of competitive arenas.

OTHER NEWS

Nils Chittenden, former College chaplain, our newest honorary member was due to start working early this year for the Diocese of North Carolina as Diocesan Missioner/Advisor for Young Adult and Campus Ministry and will be living in Raleigh, the state capital.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT - JENNIFER CAWTHORNE 1994-1997

Jennifer Cawthorne (née Jack) was at St Marys College from 1994 – 1997. She studied for a Law Degree at Durham University and graduated in 1997. She then left Durham to study the Legal Practice Course at York College of Law which she completed in June 1998.

Jennifer began her legal training at a high street firm and then moved to a large national firm in Sheffield in January 2001 where she completed her training and qualified as a solicitor in April 2001. Jennifer works in the medical negligence team and represents children who have suffered birth injuries resulting in brain damage, oncology cases and claims arising from failures to diagnose and treat illnesses.

Jennifer successfully took a case to the Court of Appeal in 2007 which resulted in a ruling that changed the law regarding the way some compensation payments are paid. The decision ensured that seriously injured people who rely on compensation payments for their long term care no longer face critical funding shortfalls when paying for care staff.

Jennifer is on the Law Society Clinical Negligence Panel for the work she has done in representing clients injured through medical treatment and won the Proclaim Personal Injury Award for Outstanding Case of the Year in November 2008 for her work on the case mentioned above.

After getting married Jennifer moved back to Durham following 11 years away in June 2008 after transferring from Sheffield to work in Newcastle earlier that year. Jennifer now passes St Marys College every day on her journey to work!

Jennifer joined the SMCS Committee in September 2008.

Outside work Jennifer and her husband particularly enjoy travelling and have travelled to the Far East and Australia on a number of occasions. This year Jennifer fulfilled an ambition to spend New Year in Sydney, Australia watching the fireworks over Sydney Harbour Bridge. When not travelling or planning her next trip Jennifer enjoys cooking for family and friends and going to the gym to try to keep fit!



Committee Members after the January 2009 Committee Meeting

The Society is in the process of working with the College to review the arrangements for managing its large amounts of fascinating and varied archives. While some of those archives are official College records, there are obviously substantial collections of materials you periodically send in about your time in Durham which we would like to share, with your agreement, with others who were at college at the same time as you. Since the retirement last year of Val Clark as our Archivist we have been looking for someone to sift through this material. In future editions we also hope to be able to include more updates about graduates.

Therefore, if you have any news that you would like included in future editions of this newsletter, please let us know at:

smc.society@durham.ac.uk

New Society Website!

Watch out for the new all-singing, all-dancing Society website which is to be launched very soon. We hope to be able to keep you up to date with events on a more regular basis.

Just log onto the St Mary's College site (www.durham.ac.uk/stmarys) and follow the link for the Society.

FEEDBACK

As regular readers will realise, the Newsletter has seen quite a few changes in recent years. We obviously hope that you will have enjoyed reading this edition and will look forward to receiving it in future years. If you have any feedback that you would like passed the editors, please email: smc.society@dur.ac.uk. We are particularly interested in any items or reports that you would like to read in future editions, and we will do our best to put that in place for you.

In his report the Treasurer, George Nüchtern mentioned an option of receiving future newsletters electronically. If this is something you would be interested in, please could you email, using the same address as above to let us know.

Finally, the University is trying to update its database with the email addresses of all its graduates. It's very quick and easy to do, please just visit <http://www.dur.ac.uk> and enter your address.

Thankyou for reading and Happy Easter

With best wishes

Newsletter Editors 2008-9
Miss Catherine Ross & Miss Laura Betteridge

