

Epiphany Term 2019

The Epiphany term is too often known for the summative and dissertation deadlines, and the hours spent in the Library. Despite this, our hardworking Mary's community has managed to produce a fantastic term, full of events, arts and sports successes. From the first time Mary's rugby had ever got into a floodlit semi-final, to International week and WAM Consent week, to Masquerade Ball, there was always something going on to help you relax. Thank you to those who made the events this term happen, and well done to everyone for making it through the deadlines!

In the last week of this term, the university released plans proposing to restructure the way colleges are run. It is important for every student, past and present, to learn about these plans and have their say during the student consultation period. These proposed restructures have the potential to damage the college experience which staff, current students and alumni know and love.

Humans of Mary's, run by members of St Mary's Journalism Society, [interviewed John Carr](#) this term, a much loved member of the Mary's community. He answered questions about his role as a porter, and his life.

As ever, Mary's has produced another outstanding term here in Durham. As we go into the Easter holidays, I hope everyone has a chance to relax and reflect on the impact Mary's has made on you, and the impact you have made on Mary's. Happy Easter everyone, see you next term!

By President: Susie Bradley

Arts

It has been a busy term for many, filled with summative stress and late nights, but in the midst of that, Mary's has still found time to enjoy some artistic relaxation.

The Masquerade Ball was a highlight of the term for many, with impressive decorations and the usual entertainment, including some lively new numbers from Basement Jazz and another exciting performance by Mary's Dance.

In honour of World Book Day, the College library team encouraged everyone to write about a book which 'changed their life'. This proved popular and led to the whiteboard being covered with new interesting and varied reading suggestions. In honour of World Book Day, [I compiled a list of 10 of your favourite Netflix shows as books.](#)

Last weekend, 'Foot of the Hill' theatre group put on yet another great production, 'Harlequinade', which was hilarious and even more popular than last term's play. If you would like to read my review, click [here](#).

If you are still around at the end of term, there will also be a live lounge to look forward to, which is always great fun whether you are a performer or a spectator. It is on Friday the 22nd of March, and will proceed the Friends and Family formal, and so will be a great way to impress your guests with Mary's talent!

By Arts Editor: Isabel Carmichael-Davis

Sports

Well, we have come to the end of another term. But what a term it was for sport. So many floodlit runs in so many sports, with off the top of my head five different teams making the semi-finals (men's and women's hockey, basketball, rugby and mixed lacrosse). Not bad for a small college. The lacrosse team even making it to the final before losing 7-3 to Grey, a flattering score line considering how close a game it was. But still, representing Mary's in what some say is the first ever floodlit final we have been in as a College. It is certainly a personal highlight of my university experience.

Given that success in the cup, you would be forgiven thinking that we prioritised that over the league. But no! Both hockey teams retained their premiership status, 2 of the 3 football teams achieved promotion, the table tennis A team finished 2nd place in the premiership, and the cheerleading team won the intercollegiate cup. And that's only a limited selection of the sports that Mary's competes in. We really do punch above our weight in sports, and every time we achieve something, the great thing is that we will always have a crowd and support each other as a College. I think the men's hockey run proves this: we consistently had far more people down to support us than some numerically far larger colleges, and that is surely a part of our success this year. Hopefully we can keep this sporting momentum going next term!

By Sports Editor: Rob Birch

Events

Term 2 kicked off by celebrating Burns Night with a Full Hall Formal and the 'Address to the Haggis'. It was continued by the incredible work of the international committee as they organised a very successful International Week to celebrate diversity and culture throughout our Mary's and Durham community. The week showcased different activities such as salsa, arts and craft as well as our first varsity debate against Trev's which was titled: "This house believes that culture appropriation is more contested than it should be". These events culminated with the traditional international food festival with dishes from around the world.

Social Committee led an excellent term of events and implemented our very own first beach BOP (big open party!). Everyone arrived as extra as they could with their beach outfits, Hawaiian shirts and sunglasses to party the night away with a live DJ, inflatable ball pit and the treasured chocolate fountain we all love. You can still find some balls in our Dining Hall as proof... It was a great night to celebrate and socialise in College in a more laid back atmosphere; it was like having a freshers' week event for everyone in College!

This was a busy time for the Arts Committee as Arts Week is one of their main events. The week started with a life drawing session, followed by a biscuit decoration collaboration with beekeeping society, as well as a music-themed pub quiz. Masquerade Ball was one of the highlights of this term and the pinnacle to end Arts Week. The Ball followed the legend & myth theme, transforming the College into the lands of the Greek Gods with performances from Basement Jazz, Chronotic Brass and Mary's Dance.

WAM launched their incredible consent week campaign to raise awareness and debunk myths surrounding the meaning and understanding of this issue in our community. The week started with a Yoga sesh, followed by the mattress outside the Dining Hall as well as the screening of "Sex Education", ending in an open discussion evening to open up the floor for questions and ways of getting involved. Wellness Wednesdays provided a great chance to relax during all our summative stress!

LGBT+ Association celebrated their history month with a series of events and posters around College as well as initiatives like the flag quiz outside the Dining Hall to increase familiarity with LGBT+ history. With the screening of "Pride" as well as a university-wide LGBT+ pub quiz with a huge turnout, an incredible amount was raised for charity.

To end the term, we saw the return of alumni from all ages to our Old Boy's weekend; a battle between the old and the new, from rugby to badminton. It was a way of celebrating sport and reconnecting with familiar faces through matches, team meals and a formal. A tradition that always brings back those big names, JCR presidents, life members and people that have been a massive part of our College!

By Events editor: Helen Paton

Lifestyle

This term has been full of exciting elections, Team Mary's making history, and wholesome College events. It's been a quick but full ten weeks, so here's a recap to enjoy as we head into the final term of the year!

WAM officer Naomi Clarke was elected, and has already launched a very successful Consent Matters campaign, including but not limited to a hilarious Couples Yoga session. Joe Castledine was elected as Post-Offer Visit Day Head Rep, and has been organising a wonderful few days for the offer holders alongside the rep team. Those who took part in the Beach Party Bop would concede it was a blast with lots of heat and fruity cocktails, as promised. Masquerade Ball was produced with flair, and despite the not having a large general committee to help with the decoration and set-up, the event was a masterpiece. Congratulations are in order for Alex Overton and Nuriya Shoro for pulling off such a wonderful Ball!

President-extraordinaire Ellie Ng held an Open Forum for the College to gain insight into the proposed restructuring the University is trying to push through. Its effects, if implemented, could be detrimental to our college experience. The student consultation period is currently underway, and I would urge all Marians to voice their opinion while we still have the opportunity. You can send emails to the university detailing your opinions of the proposed changes at wseservices.consultation@durham.ac.uk.

Have a wonderful, not too stressful Easter break, and Mary's will be waiting for you all in a month.

By Politics and Lifestyle Editor: Katrina Scotford