

Epiphany Term Round-up – St Mary's College Stories and Events

Library fundraising – Last term the Library collaborated with DUCK (Durham University Charities Kommittee) by having a small book sale outside St Mary's dining hall at lunchtime. The books were donations which were surplus to the requirements of the students, and they managed to raise a total of £86 for Mental Health North East. A very kind and thoughtful gesture from our librarian, Jackie!

Winter Congregation, College Meal (10th January) – The Principal invited honorary guests who were celebrating their 50th anniversary of graduating (1969) from St Mary's College back for a meal with our current graduating students and their families. The alumni were all delighted to return and a pleasant evening ensued with many moments of recollecting their precious time at St Mary's. Most importantly it was a time to celebrate the successes and hard work of our graduating students and thank the families for their supportive roles throughout the years of their son/daughters studying!



London Alumni Drinks Evening (11th January) – This annual meet up was a huge success held at The Admiralty in Trafalgar Square. There was an overwhelming number of familiar faces of Mary's alumni that turned up to rekindle old college friendships or people whom made this event another excuse to see those friends that they had never lost touch with (which is so often the case after a life at St Mary's College). We cannot thank you all enough for such an enchanting evening that all of your presences created in such a special atmosphere. We were especially proud to see more members of our alumni community that had not graduated so recently in comparison to others, yet were equally as happy to mingle and have a joyful evening catching up with their friends and meeting new graduates! This was another special occasion that allowed past students to see Simon Hackett as he stepped down from his Principal role at the start of the New Year to become the Associate Provost

for Durham University to congratulate his enormous success and celebrate his memorable time as Principal.



Mary's at parkrun 🏃 (19th January) – It has become a tradition of many of St Mary's staff to compete in Durham's free Saturday morning parkrun, and so over the years the College has built up a squad of runners both staff and students alike. However, the 19th January was no ordinary 5k run or jog. This Mary's at parkrun event, which started at Maiden Castle and ended at the bandstand on the riverbanks, was Simon Hackett's 250th Parkrun! This is a significant achievement; with him being awarded a parkrun t-shirt and he also volunteered to be the 25 minute pace maker on this occasion. Many congratulations to Simon! Celebrations were made in the usual fashion of a coffee meetup after the run. We hope to continue to build this interest of running in the college and see more Mary's stash colours fly past on the track.

If you haven't registered with parkrun (you only need to do this once and you are registered for all park runs around the world) you can do it at <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/>. Print off your barcode and run with it!



Burns' Night Formal (24th January) – A traditional event in the Mary's Calendar, this formal was both an enjoyable evening meal with friends from across all year groups in the college and also an insight into Scottish tradition. It was hosted with priority for second year students who signed up as a kind token and celebration of their halfway mile stone through their 3 year Durham University degrees! We had a talented piper that played to the amazement of the students, whilst they were all seated as he processed around the dining hall and in the usual fashion the 'Address to the Haggis' was a big focus.

Chinese New Year Celebration – Students and staff from Durham University and the Durham Chinese School worked with the County Council's international relations team, a few local schools and Durham Markets, to create a programme to welcome the new lunar year which began on 5th February.

The start of 'the Year of the Pig' was marked by a number of events in the City Centre on 9th February. It was a packed day of events and highlights included dance, signing, language taster sessions, fashion costumes and the famous lion dance performances were acted out across the city. Despite the windy conditions, the atmosphere was never dampened with around 3300 people in attendance. However, the reason of this inclusion was even more special for St Mary's College as we got involved with a new initiative. Nine St Mary's Chinese students volunteered and taught at three local primary schools in groups of three to varying age groups (5-11yrs old). These students were an asset to our College, engaging with new responsibilities, whilst simultaneously creating a positive outlook to the local community. Through this process our pupils gained valuable experience in the teaching sector and the school pupils gained a new insight about china first-hand. The types of learning that the children got up to included: Chinese geography, climate, mythology and food culture. Additionally the pupils were taught on different occasions to make Chinese lanterns, sing songs and poems, learn the alphabet and count in Chinese characters and finally learn their own name in Chinese; all in a fun environment of games.



International Week (week of 28th Jan) – Mary’s International Week 2019 took place between 28th January and 3rd February. There were cultural events taking place in Mary’s every day of the week. The week kicked off with a Salsa Lesson by Rob and Mimi, who teach at the University’s Latin SoDa Society. Before running the class of students through the moves, Rob explained the different styles of Salsa, the history behind the dance, as well as its cultural significance. The arts and crafts session, ran in collaboration with SMCAS (Arts) was equally exciting, with participants making a giant globe piñata. The wholesome international movie night comprised a relaxed screening of ‘La Vita e Bella’ and lots of snacks were provided as a nice incentive. The International Pub Quiz, held in collaboration with the Mary’s Pub Quiz Society, was one of the most well-attended events of the week. All the spaces within the bar were taken. The quiz featured a round for every continent and the winners received exciting prizes ranging from Vennels vouchers to travel discounts. Friday night’s event was the first ever Trevs vs Mary’s debate ‘THBT Cultural Appropriation Is More Contentious Than It Should Be’. Both College teams put up a great persuasive fight with their thought-provoking arguments, but Trevs got the audience’s vote in the end. The weekend’s activities were centered on International food. Following last year’s success, dumpling-making took place once again on Saturday as an early celebration for Chinese New Year. The International Food Event also featured beverages, mains and desserts from countries such as Greece, India, China, Spain, Australia, Argentina, France. The bursting of the piñata made at the start of this inspirational event marked the end of a fun but tiring week.



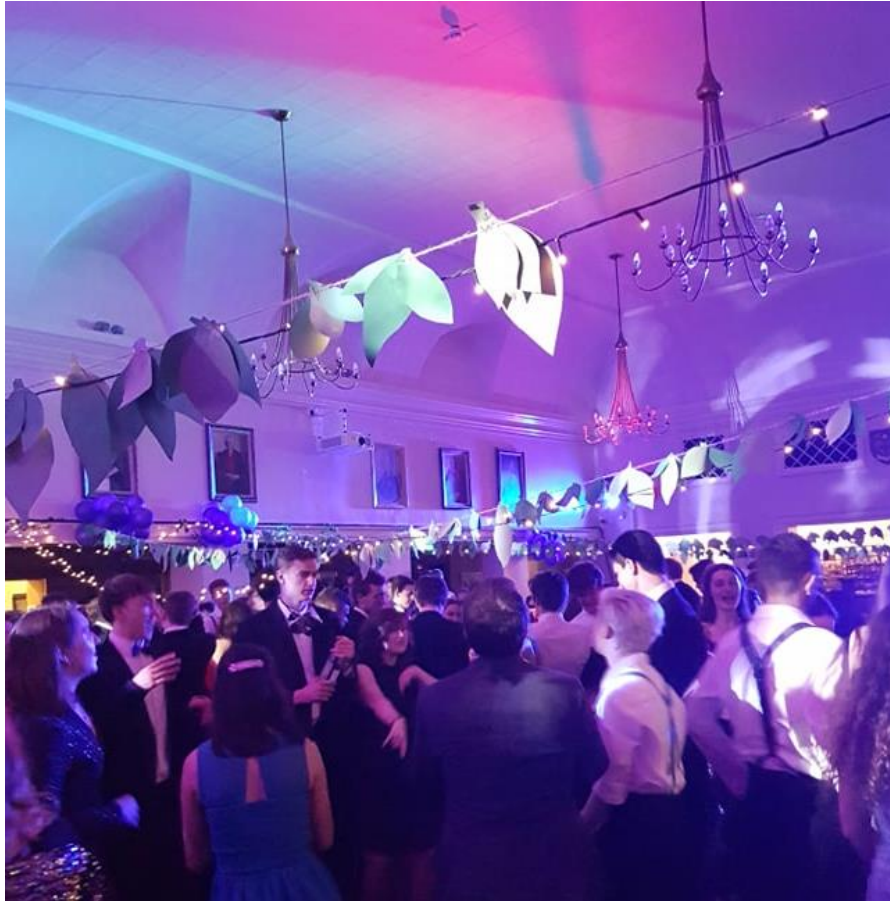
Mary's Bop (8th Feb) – Soc Com presented the first ever Mary's Bop! For an evening during the winter months, Mary's forgot the harsh weather and partied in an imaginary world of sun and warmth. Ready to dismiss the coldness of outside and take off their thick coats, Mary's students adorned themselves with Hawaiian shirts instead, as they brought the heat to college in enthusiastic dance moves. As expected summery cocktails, entertainments, a chocolate fountain, DJ and silent disco were all present to mark this event as a memorable and activity-filled night. The evening ensured your thoughts never phased from Summer. The dress theme was 'beach party', so many hula skirts, swimming gear outfits and shades were worn for a truly aesthetic feel.



Arts Week (week of 18th Feb) – Arts Week, which happens annually during Epiphany term, is always the busiest and simultaneously the most rewarding week for the Arts Society. From Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February, the Arts Executive Committee worked incredibly hard to host an array of events for students at Mary's using a variety of the facilities from Kenworthy Hall and JCR to Mary's Bar. The Vice President, Sophia Rahim, took charge of organising a free life drawing event on the first day, in which we had a range of students attending the event, from those who had experienced life drawing before, to those who wanted to try something different. On Tuesday, the societies Secretary and Treasurer, Charly Robson, worked alongside Beekeeping Society to organise a biscuit decorating session. Rachel and Sarah (the Beekeeping Society Co-Presidents), made delicious homemade honey biscuits and so Arts Soc whipped up some yellow and black icing, allowing people to create their own delicious bees or beekeepers whilst learning about why bees are so important in sustaining our environment. On Thursday, the Music Rep, Hannah Ambrose, worked alongside the newly formed Pub Quiz Society to organise a musical pub quiz, which was a fun way of gaining musical knowledge whilst being able to showcase a more social side to the Arts Society and raise money for charity.

The annual Masquerade Ball was the grand finale of Arts Week and the second Ball of the academic year, with the Ball Chair, Alex Overton, working tirelessly for a number of months alongside the Ball's Executive and General Committee to put on a fantastic event and evening. The theme this year was Myths and Legends, which gave the team a lot to work with in terms of decorations, entertainment, food and publicity; for example all being tied to Greek pottery/art, epics and stories of mythical beasts and tales of heroic endeavours. The ball was enjoyed by all, with the option to partake in the formal and/or the entertainment, which was the perfect way to end an exhausting but superb Arts Week. The events included

pillow wars, photo booth, chocolate fountain, sweet table, casino tables and live performances from Mary's Dance, Basement Jazz, DJ Brett Gray and Chronotic Brass. The Publicity Officer, Helen Paton, managed to spread the word over the entire week and worked incredibly hard to do so; the hosting of this event would not have worked without her, or her passion and dedication to the project and society.



Mary's Sporting Successes – Considering our moderate size for a College, we have acquired so many highlights for our sporting teams across this year, with for example hockey, rugby and lacrosse all making it to a floodlit cup match. Lacrosse even made it to a final, the first-time accomplishment for our College! Rugby managed to overcome Van Mildert to get into the semi-finals which was a monumental achievement for the club as they have been up and down in the past 4 years and now have gained confidence from a newly stable team, with veterans holding it together and keeping everyone in-check. Though this newfound optimism boosted the team's confidence, they couldn't quite beat the battle hardened team of Hatfield on the day.



Lacrosse attempted (and succeeded) to make history for Mary's by getting to the floodlit cup final. Having already beaten Trevs 14-0 in the first round, they continued to overcome further opponents like John's and snatched a comfortable 5-2 win against Hatfield. As put by the captain before the matches: 'Expect dodgy passing, filthy footwork, questionable refereeing and rules so confusing not even the players know what is going on... and the boys and girls in purple to give everything'. But the dreams came to end in the final with a 7-3 defeat to Grey College.



Hockey seemed to take a while to find their feet in the first few matches, but they pressed hard and in strong belief, beat Butler College to get to the quarter-finals. Mary's sustained pressure against Butler granted them a goal, and this momentum carried them to the net once more. But this was no clean sweep with a tied score (3 – 3) at the end of regular time; a shoot-out was needed to clench the match for Mary's! But sadly their cup run ended after.



But it is not to say that our other sports did not perform in their respective College leagues! Below are a select few of note:

- Men's Badminton A Team finished in the top 3 / Women's came top of their league being undefeated!
- Women's football A Team coming second in their league

- Men's Rugby A Team managing to win 2 of 4 games in their highly competitive Premiership league.
- Table Tennis A Team finished 2nd in the Premiership league, only dropping one game all year!

Overall, St Mary's is holding on to 9th position in the College League table, but is 7th for the amount of points scored per person!

BCT Aspire Project (3rd March) – A group of St Mary's students volunteered to take part in a new project, with the purpose to introduce a range of students to the idea and possibility of University as a pathway into future careers. This involved giving a tour of Mary's College and the wider campus to an age group ranging from 11-17 years old from the local area of Billingham. These students were provided with a personalised tour including first-hand experiences that were explained throughout, with our Marians giving speeches about the University at key locations both around college and around the City Centre. The group managed to explore Durham and the vicinity of the University set within the backdrop of the Cathedral and gained invaluable information for which we hope informs them for their futures! A tour of the college showed insights into student life at Mary's and a clarification of how the college system worked, including a college lunch experience. Finally, they had the chance to see the facilities of what the University has to offer through departmental building and the sports centre at Maiden Castle, but also what Mary's can offer individually with our library, societies and the events that the JCR hold throughout the year.

We hope they all had an amazing time at this event and a huge thank you to our student volunteers!



Zurbarán Fellowship – Termly Lecture (5th March) – Professor André Luiz Tavares, History of Art Department / School of Philosophy, Languages and Social Sciences (EFLCH) - Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil.

This presentation offered an overview of the history of the exchanges between the UK and Brazil, particularly in relation to their respective industrialisation processes, as understood from the analysis of the visual material that has resulted from that shared history. Approaching this subject from a comparative perspective, Professor Tavares identified specific agents moving between the UK, the Iberian Peninsula and South America and discussed the role of British tradespersons, entrepreneurs, scientists, artists - both professional or amateur, men and women - on conveying their impressions of Brazil through text and image, which provided a detailed evidence-based interpretation that also enlightened the audience through this fascinating insight.

Primarily, but not exclusively, André focused on the turn of the 18th to 19th centuries. His present investigation aimed to expand the comprehension of the arts and visual culture that emerged from the industrial revolution and how the industrial landscape or related activities such as coal and iron ore mining modified the notion of the landscape in Brazil, particularly in the case of the Minas Gerais state. Furthermore, Professor Tavares discussed the eventual connections between Europe and South America, revealing the common traits between the different industrialisation processes and its visual and environmental impact in places like Andalusia, North East England and Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina states in Brazil. Professor Tavares' central interest and main question was summarised as "what is the result of a clash between industrial revolution and traditional cultures and how has it been visually represented".



Sports Alumni Weekend (8th – 10th March) – The 3rd of its kind, this event saw its new peak for participation of sporting clubs (9) from St Mary's College, competing against their alumni counterparts for the glory of the club and to decide which era of students was the best! A day of sporting activities was organised for this to occur throughout the 9th March which saw clubs like rugby and hockey playing at Maiden Castle, whilst other clubs such as Mary's Dance and Netball arranged to play and perform within the college. Mary's basketball had to make the trek to Hild Bede College gym, but it made for a reminiscing walk for all alumni and another chance to get to know the students simultaneously. Another mention should go to the boat club who even managed to enter a race with a boat for current students and a boat of alumni on Sunday 10th. A formal followed the sports on the 9th where each club sat together and dined with joy of the friendly atmosphere, with both new and familiar faces. It was obvious the day had brought enjoyment to all, if not a little tiring!



Epiphany Term Play (16th and 17th March) – Foot of the Hill Theatre Company (FHTC) became center spotlight again, and this time they were the proud presenters of Harlequinade! No experience was needed which created for not only more laughter but a safe platform for anyone who wanted to get involved with Mary's drama, and for everyone to have a good time; actors and audience alike!

Harlequinade was an entertaining 'Romeo and Juliet' spin off with ample witty remarks and quick replies. The production consisted of a touring theatre company who attempted to recreate the Shakespearean tragedy 'Romeo and Juliet'. Set in a Midlands town, husband and wife Arthur and Edna Gosport, were unsuited to their role as teenage lovers and so become the leads in the touring theatre company, producing waves of amusement. Not to mention the usual drama backstage that occurs with any Mary's play! This satirical play was

a joy to watch and everyone involved made it look easy compared to how much preparation went into it!

The succinct script fell easily to our students to put in their best performances showing true character and emotion whilst undoubtedly providing humour. Not only were parts over exaggerated for comical effect and parts readjusted to within the Durham setting, but many issues that were brought to light showed societal views that have been challenged.

We are all already excited for their next performance which will be next term. FHTC have just teased their next venture, and they will be performing their own take on 'High School Musical'.



Friends' and Family Formal (22nd March) – Jointly hosted by Simon and Catherine this formal event aimed to bring the families and friends of current students closer to the College and let them experience a traditional full-hall 3 course meal with a drinks reception beforehand and tea and coffee afterwards. It was a pleasant evening to introduce so many new people to the College and an excellent way to end Epiphany term with many students leaving that evening or the next day for the Easter break. This event was also another chance for Mary's to show off their musical talents in a live lounge, yet this time to a wider audience. Students sang, played the guitar, saxophone, and piano all to our amazement, yet it was finished in a different format with an SCR member spontaneously volunteering to end the night with a fun and really upbeat rendition of 'Every little thing will be alright'. Live lounges never cease to surprise, even for the veterans of Mary's and its staff!

