



# SimmarianOnline



## St Mary's University Appoints Leading Academic as Head of School

St Mary's has appointed **Prof John Brewer** as Head of its School of Sport, Health and Applied Science (SHAS).

As Head of Sport and Exercise Science and Director of Sport at the University of Bedfordshire, Prof Brewer will bring a wealth of experience to St Mary's.

Prof Brewer began his career as Head of Human Performance for the Football Association, where he formed part of the support team for the 1990 Italian World Cup, before running his own sports science and sports injury business at Lilleshall National Sports Centre for 15 years. John then went on to work at GlaxoSmithKline Plc as a member of the leadership team in the Nutritional Healthcare Business where he was responsible for research and sport science education for Lucozade Sport.

Subsequently, Prof Brewer entered academia, undertaking senior leadership roles within the University of Bedfordshire. He has also held a number of significant board level roles including Chair of the London Regional Sports Board, a Government appointed Non-Executive Director of UK Anti-Doping, Non-Executive Director of British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS), and Chair of British Ski and Snowboard.

John, who is a keen runner and skier, specialises in research areas including fitness standards in the Police Service, sports nutrition, hydration, fitness testing and relative age effect in sport. He said, "I am delighted and honoured to join St Mary's as head of SHAS, which has a strong heritage in sport science and health.

"This is an exciting time for the University and I am pleased to be leading a team, which I am certain will provide high calibre teaching and research for students."

The University's School of Sport, Health and Applied Science is an internationally recognised centre offering a range of undergraduate, postgraduate and short courses. It has undergone rapid expansion in recent years with new facilities to support the programmes, including a new Strength and Conditioning Suite, which opened in September 2014.

## St Mary's Alumna Awarded MBE

A former student at St Mary's has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2014 Birthday Honours for her services to disadvantaged people in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**Jill Campbell**, a History and Religious Studies graduate, has dedicated much of her life to helping those with limited access to education. She has worked as a teacher at the Sandford International School in Ethiopia for 20 years while also working with vulnerable groups outside of the school. With the help of volunteers, Jill was able to set up Addis Ababa Food Run, an unregistered charity that delivers meals to 400 disadvantaged people in the area. The charity also helps those in need of medical attention, providing temporary accommodation for residents receiving outpatient care or surgery, and has extended its services to include non-food items such as clothes. St Mary's lecturer **Karen Tulloch** has also been involved with the charity and took part in many of the food runs.

Prior to working in Ethiopia, Jill has also worked in Sierra Leone, Sudan and Bangladesh.

## St Mary's Student Wins Four Gold Medals in Invictus Games

**Joseph Townsend**, a third year Strength and Conditioning student at St Mary's recently won six medals in the 2014 Invictus Games. Joseph, a former Royal Marine was injured in 2008 when he stood on an anti-tank mine in Afghanistan and lost the use of both his legs. However, on Wednesday 11th September he was branded a "medal machine" by Prince Harry after claiming four Gold medals on the track in the 100m, 200m, 400m and 1,500m.

A further two medals were won by Joseph making it six overall. In the Men's Hand Bike Circuit Race (IHB2) he gained a silver medal and a bronze medal in the Men's Hand Bike Time Trial 3 (IHB2). Joseph also competed in the Men's Lightweight Powerlifting where he narrowly missed another medal finishing forth.

Richard Blagrove, Programme Director at St Mary's said, "Joe is a remarkable individual and an inspiration to so many students and fellow athletes. This collection of medals he's won is a fantastic achievement and will hopefully be a big stepping stone towards his ultimate goal of competing in the Paralympic Games in 2016."

## St Mary's News

### St Mary's Academic Coaches Celebrity for new BBC Show



An academic from St Mary's recently featured in a new fast paced BBC television series, *Tumble*, which was a collaboration between the BBC, British Gymnastics and the National Centre of Circus Arts.

The first episode aired on BBC One, Saturday 9 August and involved 10 celebrities who were put through their paces by professional coaches who worked together to create a new gymnastics routine each week.

St Mary's Sport Coaching lecturer, **Katie Richards**, who is also a Level 4 Artistic and Aerobic Gymnastics Coach, was selected earlier this year to coach Lucy Mecklenburgh from ITV's *The Only Way is Essex*, who made it to the final and finished within the top 6 competitors.

### St Mary's Athletes Achieve Success at Commonwealth Games

The recent Commonwealth Games, which ran from 23 July to 3 August in Glasgow, Scotland, was a success for athletes at St Mary's. A total of 21 athletes from St Mary's Endurance, Performance and Coaching Centre (EPACC) competed for England, Scotland, Isle of Man and Jersey at the Games, with England topping the overall medal table.

Six time Paralympic Gold medallist, **David Weir**, who trains at The St Mary's Clinic, took Gold in the T54 1500m race whilst current EPACC athlete **Jo Pavey** secured Bronze in the Women's 5,000m race.

Current student, **Charlie Grice** finished in 7th place in the Men's 1500m event following his recent win in the same distance at the Sainsbury's British Athletics Championships.

EPACC athletes, **Emelia Gorecka**, **Beth Potter** and **Steph Twell** all competed in the Women's 5,000m race with Emelia, who was 2013 European Junior Cross Country Champion, finishing in 8th place, closely followed by Beth Potter in 9th and Steph Twell in 14th.

Finally, **Beth Potter**, who is a current EPACC athlete and 2011 British Championship Bronze medallist took 5th place in the 10,000m event.

### St Mary's Staff and Alumni Win Drama Award

Former and current staff and students from St Mary's recently won a Swan Award for their performance of Dermot Bolger's *From These Green Heights*. The Swan Awards are organised by the Arts Richmond Council for Drama and Musical Productions across the borough.

During the 2014 ceremony, *From These Green Heights* picked up 'Best production of a Play' award.

Irish author Dermot Bolger's *From These Green Heights* is based on true events and tells the story of two families living in a tower block in Dublin between the 1960s and 2004. It won the Irish Times ESB Prize for 'Best New Irish Play' in 2004 and was nominated in six categories of the Swan Awards this year for this adaptation. As well as winning 'Best Production of a Play', **Dorothy Duffy** won an award for 'Best Actress' in the role of Carmal.

The judges said of the show, "It is not an easy play to stage and covering so many difficult subjects, the direction brought out faultless performances from all the actors combing pathos, comedy and warmth, giving the audience a disturbing and memorable evening."

The play was performed for the first time outside of Ireland in June, staged in association with the Richmond Shakespeare Society (RSS) at the Mary Wallace Theatre. The production was choreographed by recent St Mary's Physical Theatre graduate, **Ben Hansell**, while former Drama student, **Lee Akram** acted as the Assistant Stage Manager and **Linda Sirker**, the Director.

St Mary's Multimedia and Learning Support Specialist, **Lisette Barlow**, who played one of the lead roles, said, "During the run we knew we had a special show as we frequently had the audience in fits of laughter followed shortly by them sobbing their eyes out. We even had the mayor of Richmond in one night and she insisted on coming onto the stage to kiss us all whilst sobbing.

"We sold out by the end and concluded the run with a standing ovation from the audience. We were so proud of our production and delighted when Dorothy and Linda won the Swan Awards. It was a joy to work for Linda on this brilliantly written piece and I hope to work on other projects with her and the RSS in the future."

### St Mary's Professor Wins Academy Grant for Research in New York

Professorial Research Fellow **Mary Hickman** of the Centre for Irish Studies (CIS) has been awarded a British Academy grant to support her latest research on the Irish diaspora. Prof Hickman, a leading figure in the sociology of the Irish in Britain who teaches on St Mary's MA Irish Studies programme, will spend part of the coming semester working in the Ireland House Oral History archives at New York University. Collected since 2005, these interviews by Irish migrants and multi-generational Irish Americans will be systematically analysed to yield valuable information about changing diasporic identities.

Prof Hickman said, "I'm delighted to receive this award because it allows me access to some untapped archives that I want to feed into my next project which compares the changing formation of diasporic Irishness at crucial moments in the history of the USA and Britain."

Well known for her academic publications and public advocacy on the political rights of the Irish diaspora, Prof Hickman's latest co-edited book, *Women and Irish Diaspora Identities* is published this month by Manchester University Press.

## Alumna Represents Ireland in Rugby World Cup

A former student from St Mary's was selected to represent Team Ireland in the 2014 Women's Rugby World Cup, which was held in Paris during August.

**Jenny Murphy**, who graduated from St Mary's last year and represented the University in the student Rugby and Gaelic Football teams, was selected as Centre for the Irish team.

Ireland won their first three matches against the USA, New Zealand and Kazakhstan but unfortunately lost the third place play off 18-5 to France.

## Congratulations to the Class of 2014



On Thursday 24 July more than 4,000 students, staff and guests from St Mary's celebrated their academic achievements during the Summer Graduation ceremonies at Westminster Cathedral in London.

Graduation is one of the highlights of the academic year and during the three ceremonies held over the course of the day, students were presented with a range of undergraduate and postgraduate awards. Guests were then invited to a garden party at St Mary's Strawberry Hill campus, giving them a chance to celebrate their achievements, as well as thanking friends and family for their support.

St Mary's Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dr Claire Taylor said, "Graduation is always a great event and a day to remember for our students and their families. Our graduating students will continue to be part of the St Mary's community as alumni and we look forward to keeping in touch with them as they start the next phase in their lives."

## Competition Winner

The winner of the Summer Graduation Alumni Competition was **Ryan Murphy** (Physical and Sport Education) who takes home £100 worth of Love2Shop vouchers.

## Rest in Peace

St Mary's has been informed of the passing of the following Simmarians, may they rest in peace.

Michael Naughton (1951)  
David Finningan (1960)  
Jack Griffiths (1947)  
Brian Healey (1948)  
Antony Kenney (1956)  
Sally Harrison

## Simmarian Postbox

Patrick Walsh and Patricia Walsh (nee Cunningham) 1968-1971 would like to get in touch with the following three Simmarians, all from the same years:

Patricia (Patti) Ferrari  
Grazyna Zeimniak  
Carole-ann Davies

If you know or are still in touch any of the above Simmarians then please contact the Alumni Relations Office to help put them back in touch with Patrick and Patricia.

Are you trying to trace an old school friend? If so, get in touch to see if we can help.

Host your next event at St Mary's

We offer a wide range of venues and facilities, residential accommodation (summer months only) and catering options for events including

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- private parties
- meetings
- reunions

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Email: [conferences@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:conferences@smuc.ac.uk)  
[www.smuc.ac.uk/conferences](http://www.smuc.ac.uk/conferences)



## 40th Reunion for the 1974 to 1977 year group



### *Oh what a night, late September back in '74 What a very special time for me As I remember what a night!*

Amazingly, 79 of us gathered at St Mary's, 40 years after we started our studies as fresh faced Simmarians ... what a joyous occasion it was. We had the whole weekend ahead of us – a full programme of Golf; Friday night social; visits to Walpole House, to Twickenham, Richmond or Teddington: our old hunting grounds; the Sports Afternoon with table-tennis, badminton, basketball and five-a-side; the Dinner and Dance that resembled one of the Balls we attended 40 years before; Mass on Sunday and lunch at the Pope's.

After collecting keys for our rooms in Cronin Hall, instead of going to settle in, most of us began the reunion spontaneously sitting around chitchatting in the Students' Union, delighting and exclaiming loudly each time someone arrived and was recognised – too much to say, so many questions to ask. Only Friday afternoon, some already had sore throats and the official programme hadn't even begun. As 7pm approached we trooped over to the rooms amazed that, these days, students can opt for ensuite bathrooms. How times have changed!

Back at the Students' Union with the Bar open, the Friday night social got going as we all mingled, excitedly catching up in what now seems like a daze. The tone was set and we knew this was going to be a weekend to remember. So much chat and so, so many smiles, all immersed back in the atmosphere of '74. As the evening wore on, the golfers arrived with their elaborate stories. Small groups broke away finally to eat. A happy, happy bunch reeling from being reconnected.

Saturday morning saw us gathering for breakfast in the Ref and not budging ... reminiscent of days back at SIMMS ... skipping lectures and drinking coffee like there was no tomorrow. We finally managed to prise ourselves from the chairs and tour Walpole House; take a walk down the Teddington tow path or for some, simply carry on nattering.

Then those 'can't sit still PE' types took to the Sports Hall only to realise that, yes, 40 years on meant all sorts of things for our egos and joints, but this did not affect our enjoyment one iota. What fun we had and thankfully, we're still alive to tell the tale – quite remarkable. Even the spectators had a laugh, evidently at the expense of the highly tuned performers who couldn't have cared less. Thank you, supporters and team players.

After the Sports Afternoon we put the Cronin Hall showers to the test as more than 50 of us were showering at the same time and rushing around to fit into DJs and posh frocks. We made a handsome bunch.

The Waldegrave Drawing Room looked magnificent as we took our places for a delicious supper of fine food and wines. Good looking chappies everywhere and beautiful women too, all ready to party, and party we did. Memories of past Balls were conjured up oh so easily.

To help us walk through our nostalgia were two guest speakers: Dave Sugden and Bob Pearton, both former lecturers at St Mary's and now both retired Professors. They led us through their recollections and told us how important our camaraderie was back then and still is today. Thank you both for your heartfelt contributions to our reunion. We toasted St Mary's and felt so much a part of its past and so at ease in each other's company.

Thanks to Bob Granelli and his band, The Billionaires, a surprise awaited us. Bob decided to offer us an acoustic retro Simms folk night, right there in the Ballroom, from our époque. And what a flash of brilliance that was! It has to be one of the most magical moments from the weekend as we all sang along to the folk songs we had intoned 40 years ago. The rendition of James Taylor's 'You've got a friend' brought a tear to many an eye. The Waldegrave Ballroom was alive with song and smiles and the feeling that this was what this reunion was all about.

The night continued with The Billionaires as our dance band, followed by the disco. The natter, chatter, laughing and smiling continued late into the night. For some it even continued until 4.30am back at Cronin Hall! Incroyable!

And were we 'finished' after all of our Saturday celebrations? No, of course not. A sizeable crew met for breakfast in the Ref Sunday morning, some looking the worse for wear, it must be said, and from there we went to the 11am Sunday Mass in our very own chapel. A quiet time for reflection, undoubtedly a time to realise how fortunate we are to have attended St Mary's, made so many friends and for being able to rekindle those friendships within seconds of seeing each other after such a long time apart. What a testimony to the involvement of one and all of our participants.

For those able and willing, the weekend drew to a close at the Pope's where we said our goodbyes and, of course, talked about the date for our next reunion.

Charmaine and I have lots of people to thank for the success of this reunion: our photo presentation experts, Jan and Ann; our Sports 'Red Coats', Andy, Phil, John, Eamonn and Lar; our very own Emcée and music man, Bob Granelli; our Mass coordinators, John and Mike; Jack and Madeleine who helped us find many of the participants; and of course the Simms Alumni Office headed by Sarah Hood who smoothed the way and helped us enormously to bring this reunion to fruition. Thank you all. See you at the next reunion!

**Helen Soucie, née Wright and Charmaine McHale, née Bartlett-Barfoot**

## Upcoming Alumni Events

### 2014

9 November	Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's
8 December	University Feast Day
12 December	St Mary's Christmas Party

### 2015

20 February	Alumni and Friends Film Evening
1 April	Alumni Focus Group
5 June	Alumni, Staff and Friends Pub Quiz
21-23 August	Alumni Reunion Weekend

## Alumni and Friends Film Evening

For our third alumni film screening in 2015 we want you pick the film! We've compiled a short list of classic films on the topic of education and will screen the one receiving the most votes at our next event on Friday 20 February.

And the nominees are ...

### Dead Poet's Society (1989)

Robin Williams stars as an English teacher who inspires his students to a love of poetry and to "seize the day".

### Educating Rita (1983)

Frank Bryant is a professor of literature and Rita is his newest student. A hairdresser who thinks Macbeth runs the local pub and Hamlet is a plate of eggs with cheese. He's a failed writer who has given up on his life. She's determined to change hers by getting an education, and the more she loves to learn, the more he learns how to love. Starring Michael Cane and Julie Walters.

### Good Will Hunting (1997)

Will Hunting, a janitor at M.I.T., has a gift for mathematics, but needs help from a psychologist to find direction in his life. Starring Matt Damon and Robin Williams.

### Mona Lisa Smile (2003)

Julia Roberts stars as a free-thinking art professor who teaches conservative 1950s Wellesley girls to question their traditional social roles.

You can cast your vote by emailing us or voting [online](#). Poll closes Friday 28 November.

## '50 Not Out' Reunion 2014



A cohort group of 1964-1967 Simmarians met on the weekend of 29-31 August for the seventh time since our inaugural 1992 reunion, which was our Silver Jubilee year. About 35 members of the group attended, and we were joined by 10 members of the Liverpool Simmarian Club, who were celebrating the 110th anniversary of the foundation of the oldest Simmarian club, which still meets today.

The festivities began on Friday evening with a drinks social in the Students' Union bar, and Saturday's activities involved a guided tour of the splendid Strawberry Hill House of Horace Walpole in the morning, followed by a pleasant round trip river boat cruise from Richmond to Kingston in the afternoon.

On Saturday evening the reunion dinner was held in the sumptuous surroundings of the Long Gallery of Walpole's Gothic House, and was attended by two special guests; Dudley Cooper, one of our former staff members of the college from the 1960s, and Claire McLoughlin, a current staff member of St Mary's, who represented her late father, William McLoughlin, another of our former staff members.

A mass of remembrance was held in the chapel for our deceased colleagues on Sunday morning, followed by our farewell lunch, before departures were conducted with the consensus that good memories and lasting relationships were the hallmark of the college's impact on our lives, and a promise to meet again in future. To this end, a Golden Jubilee reunion event is now planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our leaving college in September, 2017 – Deo Volente!

John A. White, Reunion Coordinator

## Calling all Super Sleuths ...



Tickets have been released for Strawberry Hill's first Murder Mystery night, 'Murder at the Manor' on Saturday 25 October. Launching a week of Halloween activities, this unique event offers amateur detectives the opportunity to interview the suspects in the atmospheric surroundings of Horace Walpole's gothic castle. Guests will then move to the beautiful Waldegrave Suite for a delicious three course dinner where the questioning continues between courses. The murderer will then be revealed in a gruesome finale at the end of the evening.

With a 1920/30s or black tie dress code there is opportunity to don your gladrags, flapperware or bring your violin case...

Tickets are priced £75 per person. To find out more and book tickets visit [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/murder-mystery.php](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/murder-mystery.php) or call 020 8744 1241. This event is kindly sponsored by Milestone & Collis.

## Invitation to the Inaugural Lecture of Professor Lance Pettitt

### *Irish Cinema: Memoir, Nation and Self-Narration*

In this lecture Prof Lance Pettitt will explore how autobiographical writing by filmmakers can be mined as a resource for re-thinking the contours of cinema history. Putting the 'self' into the story of cinematic nations, his lecture will focus on the Belfast-born filmmaker, Brian Desmond Hurst and draws on research published in a new critical edition of his *Travelling the Road: Memoir of Life in Cinema* (Lagan Press, 2014) co-edited by Pettitt with a preface by the former Observer film critic, Philip French.

Hurst, born as cinema was inaugurated in 1895, fought in WWI, then studied fine art in Toronto and Paris, worked with John Ford in Hollywood, and went on to make over thirty films between 1934-62, including *Dangerous Moonlight* (1941), *Theirs is the Glory* (1947), *Scrooge* (1951) and many Irish-themed films, including adaptations of Synge's work. He died in Belgravia in 1986 having completed his memoir in the mid-1970s. The evening's lecture is illustrated with stills and memoir abstracts, and the book will be available.

**Venue:** Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU  
**Date:** 20 November 2014  
**Time:** 6.15pm for drinks, lecture starts at 7pm, finishes at 8pm

Tickets are free, but booking is essential. Book your place online: [www.smuc.ac.uk/irish-studies/inaugural-lecture.htm](http://www.smuc.ac.uk/irish-studies/inaugural-lecture.htm), by phone: 020 8240 8228 or email: [Hannah.bowyer@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:Hannah.bowyer@smuc.ac.uk).

## SHOCC and the Summer of 2014

It has been a very busy summer for SHOCC and its Trustees. We received the wonderful news of a large legacy from the estate of past geography lecturer Amy Hemmings who many alumni will remember from her support and encouragement during their teaching practices.

We were delighted to learn, therefore in early 2014, that Amy had chosen SHOCC as one of ten charities to be supported in her will. We have received nearly £50,000; the largest single donation SHOCC has ever received and we now have to decide how to allocate this money. It is likely that we will invest around half of it to allow us to finance the new SHOCC volunteering programme that starts in October this year. We should have no difficulty allocating the remainder to education projects dear to Amy's heart and have several projects waiting for funding.

We were also most kindly chosen by the Kenney family as their charity of choice for donations in memory of Antony (past Vice-Principal at St Mary's). Several Trustees were able to attend Antony Kenney's funeral in late August. The Church of Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge, was packed and we had the chance, after the Funeral Mass to chat with Carol and the family and to thank them for remembering SHOCC. We are hoping to allocate donations to the renovation of the science laboratories at a Catholic girls' secondary school in Kenya; a project we feel Antony, with his science background, would have appreciated.



During the summer Trustees Elizabeth Byrne Hill and Kevin Cook visited projects in Tanzania and Kenya. Elizabeth represented SHOCC at the official opening of St. Marie Eugenie Girls' Secondary School, Moshi Tanzania on July 5th. SHOCC has been associated with this school from the very start and we provided funding to help purchase the land. We also raised funds for classrooms and the water tower. A full report of the school opening entitled 'A School is Born' may be found on the SHOCC website. Elizabeth also visited another of our school projects at Orkillili, between Moshi and Arusha.

Elizabeth then joined Kevin in Kenya and together they visited SHOCC projects at Marigat in the Rift Valley. They discussed progress at St Kevin's School with the new Parish Priest and considered its future needs. They met pupils at St Paul's School and encouraged the first cohort of Form Four students who will be taking their national examinations in November 2014. A tour of the school grounds indicated that a small infusion of cash would allow the kitchen block to be completed and classroom floors to receive a further coating of cement. The Parish Priest, in conjunction with the Headteacher, were asked to submit a funding proposal for consideration by the SHOCC Trustees.

Whilst in Kenya, Kevin was invited to visit two other potential projects. One, at Muthetheni Catholic Girls' Secondary School, would enable the three science laboratories to receive much needed renovation. If agreed, approximately £30,000 would be required to carry out this work, making it, after the Proyecto Vida hospice in Guatemala, SHOCC's largest project in terms of funding provided. The other project, at Kusiomumi Secondary School, Machakos' received SHOCC funding in 2013 to construct the roof of its hall. This building is now serving as a girls' dormitory and the Headteacher spoke about the changes in the lives of the girls that SHOCC's funding has brought about. He mentioned the significant reduction in pregnancies amongst the pupils and stressed the marked improvements in learning and examination results. The school had installed a well in the valley below the school and a donation by a SHOCC supporter has allowed the well to be extended during this year's dry season.

In September Trustee Kevin Cook visited Manchester and met with Sister Dee Smith who was visiting the UK. Earlier in the year Betsy Keating (pictured back left), a reflexologist and long-term friend of Dee, has visited Proyecto Vida and trained staff in massage and reflexology. There is now a need for a fully-equipped reflexology room at the hospice and Betsy has costed this at £2,500. Dee spoke at Masses in Tottington and donations have already exceeded £1,100. Betsy has applied on Dee's behalf to SHOCC for funding and a proposal will be presented to the Trustees. Kevin will be visiting Proyecto Vida at Christmas and will report back on progress. *Continued page 7 >*

Text SIMM14 £3 to 70070 to support our students in need and make a donation to the Alumni Hardship Fund, providing essential support for students in need.



One final SHOCC development that can be reported is the introduction of a volunteering scheme for students at St Mary's University. We are now in a position to offer placements at two of our projects, one in Tanzania and the other in Zimbabwe. SHOCC will provide funding to help meet travel costs whilst the projects will provide accommodation and support. Students will work alongside project staff and will contribute to SHOCC's work on their return to the UK. We hope the scheme will be popular with students and, if it goes well, we intend to expand it to other SHOCC projects.

For further information have a look at our website  
<http://www.smuc.ac.uk/shocc/>

Kevin Cook SHOCC Chair of Trustees September 2014

## Are Top Jobs About What You Know, or Who You Know?

A recent report from the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission examines who is in charge of our country. Looking specifically at who holds the top jobs that influence society, such as in politics, the media and business, the research highlights the dramatic over-representation of those educated at independent schools and Oxbridge. It essentially suggests that Britain is deeply elitist.

### A snapshot of the statistics presented:

- 71% of senior judges, 53% of senior diplomats, 43% of newspaper columnists, 35% of the national rugby team, and 33% of MPs, attended independent schools – compared to 7% of the public as a whole.
- 59% of the Cabinet, 57% of Permanent Secretaries, 44% of public body chairs, 38% Members of the House of Lords, and 33% of BBC executives attended Oxbridge – compared to less than 1% of the public as a whole.



But what are the reasons behind this? Is it that jobs are gained through a wide web of contacts? Are these candidates more able to take on unpaid internships, gaining vital experience, or are they raised in an environment where information about graduate schemes and top careers is readily available and often a hot topic over the dinner table?

If you feel that lack of social mobility is a barrier that you are facing and are struggling to find employment or progress further in your career then take a look at <http://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/equality-and-diversity/324273-social-and-class-issues-diversity-matters>. There is some useful information about identifying employers, disclosing your social and class status when marketing yourself to employers and your rights around social class issues.

Whilst all of this can paint a dismal picture there are stories of success from wider than the Oxbridge pool. The survey also includes some inspirational stories from those in positions of power who have had a less privileged upbringing and who, in some cases, believe it is getting easier to enter these kinds of professions due to diversity schemes and social mobility initiatives.

Take a look at these stories along with the full report [here](#):  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/347915/Elitist\\_Britain\\_-\\_Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/347915/Elitist_Britain_-_Final.pdf)

Article extracted from 'The Reach Blog' 28/08/14 – a service from The Careers Group, University of London of which St Mary's Careers Service is a member.



Sport St Mary's


## St Mary's Badminton Club

### Looking to join a Badminton Club?



Then come along to a session Thursday evening, 7-10pm, at St Mary's University.

Come and join us for fun and fitness or, for the more competitive, we will also be playing a number of fixtures against local clubs of varying abilities. We extend a warm welcome to all adult badminton players of all abilities. Annual memberships available. Visitors welcome.

Starting 11th September 2014, 7-10pm



For more information on becoming a member of the club, please contact Tegan Pickles on [Sportsvillage@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:Sportsvillage@smuc.ac.uk) or 020 8240 4334



## Where Are They Now?

**Edward Morgan** (1952) Since 10 years in Zimbabwe (4 teaching at St. George's Jesuit College, Harare and 6 in Govt. School Chaplin High, Gweru) and 27 years in Johannesburg, teaching 3 years with Marist Brothers and then in Commerce, am now in Ireland 19 years, heavily involved in older people's rights in County Wexford locally and representing the County on the National Seniors Parliament Executive in Dublin, the only such lobbying body in the EU.

**Robert Massey** (1956) London external degrees: MA. BSc. Dip.Ed. Taught in schools in London, Norfolk and Suffolk. Tutor-Librarian at West Suffolk College of FE. Principal Lecturer at Eaton Hall College of Education. Returned to classroom after 1980 closure and taught at Comp. in Worktop. Worked for Open University. Retired nineteen years, married.

**Michael Dooling MBE** (1971) Still very involved in athletics; track referee, coach, administrator and event organiser. Olympic torchbearer and official at both the Olympics and Paralympics. Member of the English Schools Executive since 1980 – ESAA Team Manager, Former Chairman and currently ESAA T&F Championship Secretary. Jan 2014 – Gained an MBE for services to athletics in Merseyside and beyond.

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## Where Are They Now?

**Patrick Parsons (1978)** After graduating from St Mary's, I gained a PhD in Chemistry from Bedford College, London in 1983. I went to the US in 1984 as a Visiting Fellow to the National Institutes of Health. Two years later I was appointed to the New York State Dept of Health's Wadsworth Laboratories, Albany NY as Director of the state's Lead Poisoning Lab. I was also appointed an Assistant Professor in the University at Albany's School of Public Health. Today, 30 years after leaving the UK, I am Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Albany, and Deputy Director of Environmental Health Sciences at Wadsworth. I have been so lucky to have had the opportunity to teach, conduct research and make a contribution to environmental health. Of course it all began at St Mary's way back in 1974 – 40 years ago this year. What an amazing journey!

**William (Bill) Nuttycombe (1983)** I am teaching at a girls' grammar school and love the work ethic! I have been abroad – in USA and Kenya, taught for long service and done supply work. I hope to be a success again at AHS. I am married and happy, and we have a great Jack Russell.

**Anne Marie Rogers nee Jackson (1985)** Have 2 children. Moved to Canada 13 years ago, went back to university and got my post graduate teaching degree.

**Mark Pentecost (1988)** Now a solicitor in Berwick upon Tweed being admitted to the roll in February 2014. Before that I worked as a professional actor for over 10 years having attended Guildford School of Acting and Dance after leaving St Mary's. I have also spent over 10 years in the insurance industry in claims, audit and management.

**Calie Hanrahan-Gray (1990)** Calie and son Francis are very happy living and working in Brum.

**Anne Buckle (1995)** I recently moved from the North East of England, and my post as Acting Manager of an interdisciplinary research institute at Newcastle University, to the North East of Scotland, to take up the post of Head of Strategic Planning at the University of Aberdeen.

**David Overton (1997)** After graduation, I returned to Anglican ministry and had two posts, one in the south of England and one in the north, before being made redundant in 2007. I also studied part time and gained an MA in Theology. I have provided interregnum cover at a church on a few occasions since then, but have been unable to secure a stipendiary position. I currently have three part time jobs delivering newspapers and pizzas.

**Sarah-Louise Cooper (2004)** I am an Independent Singer-Songwriter, recording my début album, as well as writing my first novel.

**Lizzie Taylor (2009)** I am Strategic Services Associate and Patient Advocacy Executive for Idis Ltd, the global leader and specialists in Managed Access Programs. Idis develops ethical and regulatory compliant strategic solutions for pharmaceutical and biotech companies enabling a fast and efficient response to patient demand outside of traditional access routes. This means patients get the lifeline they need, and other stakeholders gain the reassurance and trusted partner that they require. In my spare time, I run every day as part of a personal charity project, #RunningStreak for Ochre, the oesophageal cancer charity.

**Steve Randall (2010)** Gained a PGCE (Secondary) in 2010, finished my NQT in 2011. Promoted to Head of ICT in 2012 and then Head of ICT and Business in 2013.

**Laura Blaauw (2012)** I've just been offered a placement at an international school in Pretoria, South Africa to teach students Drama.

**Katie Giannotta nee Golding (2012)** Got married in July 2012, currently teaching in reception, starting my third year in September. How time flies! I am also taking on the role of RE Coordinator next year.

**Dennis Jenkins (2012)** Since graduating from St Mary's, I have completed an MA in Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool. At present I have started a PhD in Liverpool. The thesis will examine the pro-life movement in Britain and Ireland. Outside of my studies, I attained a CELTA qualification in 2012 and have been teaching English to foreign students in Liverpool and Spain which I have thoroughly enjoyed doing thus far.

**Richard Lewis (2012)** After leaving St Mary's I immediately joined Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar providing maternity cover for just under a year and completing two of my three NQT terms. I really liked the school – lovely staff, very collegiate – but decided I wanted to have a go at teaching A-level. I then went to Christ The King Sixth Form College in Sidcup, starting Autumn 2013, where I taught two Year 12 classes and one Year 13 class. I absolutely loved the teaching and the students, but opted to leave at the end of the Autumn term. I almost gave up teaching at that point, but my ex-boss who was very supportive at CtK said it would be a great shame if I did. I eventually found and took up a part-time post, again teaching A-level, at the London Academy of Excellence and have found it a very inclusive and supportive environment. I will be going either 0.8 or 1.0 FTE starting in the autumn – I quite like having more time to myself each week, especially at my old age!

**Jonathan Loftus (2012)** I am currently working for the YMCA with one of their homeless charities for young people, split between three of their hostels in Sussex. Through my work with the masters programme, especially the support of Dr Peter Tyler, it really helped me see this is the sector where I want to be working.

**Barry Mellish (2012)** I have retired from IBM and am 'amusing' myself as a Permanent Deacon in the RC Church!

**Caroline Waldron (2012)** Since leaving St Mary's I secured a local job working as a surveyor within the west London agency discipline. Two years on I was headhunted by one of the biggest global property firms and asked to join the national office agency team. I am extremely proud of my achievements and look forward to a long, prosperous and successful career as a result of hard work and a fantastic foundation.

**Ben Watt (2012)** I left St Mary's already hired to be a teacher at The Queen's School in Kew. I am just about to move back down to Poole as I'm becoming a father in October and getting married the following August. I have kept in touch with Simms by singing in the choir.

**Stephanie Woods (2012)** I am currently working in the local Council's library system as an assistant. I run a successful blog, World of Blyton, and have started a blog with a friend displaying our photos (we're both amateur photographers).

**Richard Zsirai (2012)** I am employed by University of the Arts London within their estates and facilities department. I am a resident in Teddington.

**Aaron Evans (2013)** Since graduating at St Mary's I've set up a music school for young people and adults with learning disabilities. I have achieved a partnership with a major London theatre company, and an up-coming dance company, and we work together with government youth services to provide arts programs for people living in the area of Barnet. This includes workshops, short courses and theatrical performances. Having worked together for over a year now, we are looking at taking our ventures overseas in the coming years, and setting up further partner schools in underprivileged areas of the UK, Ireland and parts of India.

**Fr Anthony Wood (2013)** Appointed Administrator of the Missions in Arisaig and Glenfinnan in 2013. In addition, appointed Administrator of the Mission in Mingarry (Acharacle) in 2014.

How did we do? Your views on this edition are important to us – Please email [alumni@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@smuc.ac.uk)