

# Simmarian

The Alumni Magazine of St Mary's, Strawberry Hill

Issue 8 Spring/Summer 1999

## Welcome . . .

Welcome to this issue of the Simmarian. Many of you will know that Katrina Giles left St Mary's last year and I have now taken over as Alumni Officer. Like Katrina, I am a Simmarian (1994-97) having come to St Mary's as a mature student to read Single Honours English. After completing my degree, I spent an enjoyable year as Secondary Schools' Partnership Officer in the Department of Education.

Whilst I have only been in position for a few weeks, I have spoken to many Simmarians and have been touched by their genuine fondness for the college. St Mary's is a very special institution which retains a place in the hearts of Simmarians many years after leaving campus. This is what makes our Alumni activities so successful. Reunions, clubs and associations combine to recreate the feeling of community known to all Simmarians.

If you would like to contribute to the Simmarian in any way, perhaps to share your memories or photographs of your time at St Mary's, please contact me. Your comments are always welcome and if you return the reader survey form enclosed with this issue, you will be entered into our prize draw.

A new collection of alumni merchandise should be available next year, so it is your last chance to order most items from the current collection. Please note that some items are limited in stock - so order soon! I hope that if you have not done so already you will consider taking advantage of the St Mary's MasterCard as each card issued provides valuable resources for the library.

Finally, an alumni reply form has been enclosed with this issue. Please complete this if your address or employment details have changed in any way. You may also use the form to inform me of any Simmarians who are not currently receiving the magazine.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue of the Simmarian.

Karen Smith  
Alumni Officer

## Honorary Fellows

Three leading academics, one of whom is a former student of St Mary's, a distinguished journalist and a prominent local man were the recipients of Honorary Fellowships from St Mary's on January 22.



Honorary Fellowships are conferred on people eminent in their chosen field or on those who have made an outstanding contribution to society.

The new Fellows are Professor George Brown, Professor Charles Handy, Mr Clifford Longley, Rev Professor Jack Mahoney SJ and Mr Mike Phelps. They were presented to the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Rt. Rev Patrick O'Donoghue.

Professor Brown, a prominent educational psychologist, is a former student of St Mary's (1956-8). Professor Handy is a writer and broadcaster and a former professor of the London Business School. The distinguished journalist, Clifford Longley currently writes for **The Telegraph** and **The Tablet**. The Rev Professor Mahoney SJ, a prolific author of publications on business ethics, is a former professor at the London Business School. Mr Phelps is a former Chairperson of the Friends of Radnor Gardens in Twickenham and is Vice-Chairman of the local Metropolitan Police Consultative Committee.

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## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We enter 1999 at St Mary's with a sense of anticipation for the year 2000 in which, after we have welcomed the new millennium, we will also celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebrations will start in March 2000 and run through the summer and autumn ending with the Feast Day Mass in December. Details of a wide-ranging programme will be given in the next issue of the Simmarian.

I am very pleased to welcome Karen Smith, our new alumni officer. Karen is a distinguished former student who graduated with First Class Honours in English in 1997. I know that Karen will build on the work of Katrina Giles who did so much to extend the database of information so that contacts among alumni could be maintained and developed.

In recent months I have had the opportunity to meet many former students visiting the college either as individuals or by way of example while they were attending the Remembrance Mass in November. A particular highlight was the Irish Simmarian reunion at Carrickmacross last October when Fr Desmond Beirne CM, former Principal and Fr Sam Clyne CM, Principal of St Patrick's, Drumcondra were present maintaining the Vincentian link with St Mary's. Events of this kind depend on the hard work of those who, through the Simmarian Association, organise the clubs and societies in this country and overseas. I would wish to take this opportunity to thank them for all that they do for the Association and the College.

With best wishes,  
Yours sincerely,



Dr Arthur Naylor  
Principal

## NAME CHANGE

Due to government legislation regarding the use of the title 'University College' we have changed our institutional title to St Mary's, Strawberry Hill. We continue to be accredited by the University of Surrey.

## English Language Teacher Training

The Trinity College London Certificate in TESOL is now being offered at St Mary's. This intensive four week course is designed to prepare participants in the basic skills of English language teaching to speakers of other languages. The course, which is a challenging mixture of theory and practice, offers the possibility of a new career to successful trainees. Course numbers are limited to fifteen to ensure personal attention for all participants.

An information pack and further details can be obtained from Kathy Grant, Secretary to the Department of Language and Literature on 0181 240 4346 or email [grantk@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:grantk@smuc.ac.uk).

## CONTACT SERVICE

**If you have lost touch with a fellow Simmarian, the Alumni Office may be able to help.**

All information is held under the Data Protection Act. We do not give out individual's details without their prior consent. The Alumni Office will forward stamped mail or contact an individual on your behalf. Please inform us of any change of address and if you have details of a Simmarian who may not be on our records, please let us know.

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The Simmarian is published twice a year. All correspondence should be addressed to Karen Smith, Alumni Officer. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the permission of the editor. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of St Mary's, Strawberry Hill.

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## FORTHCOMING REUNIONS

1944-46

Reunion. Taking place on September 7,8,9, 1999 at Strawberry Hill.

1947-49

Easter Reunion. A residential reunion running from Thursday 1st April until Saturday 4th April in conjunction with the Simmarian Association's Easter Retreat and Reunion Dinner.

1949-51

Reunion on Friday 3 September at Strawberry Hill.

1962-65

35th Anniversary Reunion taking place in September 2000 at Strawberry Hill.

1969-72

Reunion at Strawberry Hill on September 4, 1999.

1972-75

25th Anniversary Reunion taking place on April 29th, 2000 at Strawberry Hill.

1988-91

Reunion at Strawberry Hill on September 11, 1999

Thank you to Tony Smith (1947-49), Alan Scanalon (1949-51), Angela Holmes (1969-72), John Tasker (1944-46), Ije Akigwe (1988-91) Tom Clapperton (1962-65) and John Booth (1972-75) for organising these events.

If you would like to attend any of these reunions, or would like assistance in organising a reunion please contact the Alumni Office.

## 150 YEARS ON

In 2000, St Mary's will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary. There will be many exciting events occurring throughout the anniversary year and further details will appear in the next issue of the Simmarian. If you have any interesting anecdotes, photographs or documentation from your part in our 150 years' history please contact the Alumni Office.

Today St Mary's has some 2600 students and 200 staff, somewhat more than the staff and students featured in this photograph taken at our original Hammersmith site one hundred years ago in 1899.



## School Experience

(Teaching Practice) - Training  
Future Simmarians

Barbara Wallace (nee Gillespie - 1974-78) writes: Many of you will remember the excitement of Teaching Practice. The journey, the lesson plans and the Banda machine! Student teachers today have sophisticated technology to assist them but the anticipation, the teaching of the first lesson and the sharing of stories at the end of the day is still the same. St Mary's Secondary trainee teachers have placements in schools in Woodford, Basingstoke, Hackney, Croydon and all points in between.

It is always a great pleasure for trainees and tutors to meet Simmarians who are training teachers in schools. If you would like to get involved please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at St Mary's.

### 1930's

Romeo Micallef (1938-40) lives in Malta where he is a retired head teacher. He has been broadcasting programmes on classical music for Radio Malta for the last fifty years and occasionally writes as a music critic for the 'Times of Malta.'

### 1940's

James (Jim) Carus (1943-45) is a retired head teacher from Warrington. He became active in the Mother Teresa Co-Workers Movement after retirement.

Mick Lyonette (1944-1946) lives in Hightown, Merseyside and is a retired head teacher. He was awarded the Pro Ecclesiae et Pontificice medal for his outstanding contribution to Catholic education on Merseyside.

Gerard Murphy (1945-47) lives in Canada and is a retired Professor of Memorial University, Newfoundland. He is married with three children.

### 1950's

David Finnigan (1957-60) is a retired teacher. He is the Diocesan Master of Ceremonies and the Vice-Chairman of the Liturgy Commission for Brentwood Diocese.

Peter Hennessy (1958-60) is the head teacher at an RC primary school in Ebbw Vale. He lives in Merthyr Tydfil.

Percy Mañasco (1953-55) is a retired Head of History living in Gibraltar. He now writes history articles for the Gibraltar Chronicle.

Patrick O'Brien (1959-61) is a registered OFSTED Inspector. He lives in Market Harborough and would like to contact anyone from his year group via the Alumni Contact Service.

### 1960's

Joseph Barr (1969-72) lives in Sunderland. He is Head Teacher at a primary school in Southwick.

## Where are they now?

Des Broderick (1961-64) is a Senior Lecturer in Health and PE at a College of Education in Dublin. He is a former president of the St Mary's Irish Union.

Paul Grey (1965-68) is an Education Recruitment Consultant. He is a former teacher and lives in East Boldon, Tyne and Wear.

Robert Hill (1967-70) is a teacher in Middlesbrough. He started playing hockey at college and is the President of the North Premier Indoor Hockey League and President of the NASUWT Middlesbrough Association.

Francis McMahon (1966-69) is the head teacher of a school in Kempson. He lives in Bedford.

Timothy O'Connell (1963-66) is the head teacher at a Catholic school in Oshawa, Canada.

Josephine Siedlecka (1969-72) is a journalist. She specialises in travel writing and in human rights issues and writes for national newspapers and for the Catholic Press.

### 1970's

Andrew Barrett (1974-77) is Head of Lower School at a Catholic comprehensive school in Guildford where he teaches Biology and PE. He lives in Twickenham.

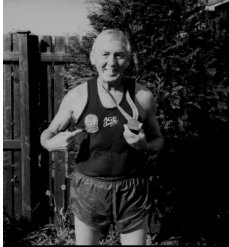
Paul Batley (1973-76) is a teacher at a secondary school in Canada. He would like to hear from anyone who wishes to contact him via the Alumni Contact Service.

Alan Clement (1973-77) married Mary (nee Crummy) (1975-78). They are both teachers in London.

Michael Darmody (1970-73) is a Senior School Inspector at the Department of Education and Science in Dublin. He lives in County Cork.

## alumni profiles

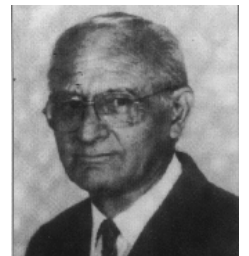
### Marathon Jack



Jack McCabe (1956-59) ran in the 1998 Flora London Marathon to raise funds for Age Concern. Jack ran wearing his St Mary's PE badge which he has had since 1958. In October Jack ran in the Great North Run. Jack is a Ranger for the North Yorkshire moors and visits the gym daily, wearing his St Mary's badge. A retired Deputy Head Teacher, Jack is clearly enjoying an extremely active retirement.

### Simmarian Magic

Bernard Williams (1954-56) retired from his post as Head Teacher of Hartmann House, St George's College in Zimbabwe. He remembers his time at St Mary's as 'the happiest two years of my life'. He is presently making others happy as a stage magician and is President of the Zimbabwe Magic Circle.



### Guatemalan Health Programme



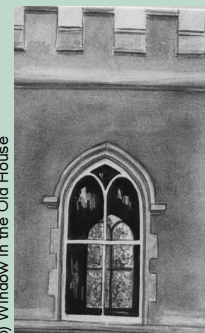
A Maryknoll Sister, Dee Smith (1972-75), recently visited St Mary's to talk about her work as an educator for the Catholic National Health Commission in Guatemala. Sister Dee develops education programmes as part of a project designed to address the imminent HIV/AIDS crisis in Guatemala. She also helps a group of 90 HIV positive patients. If you would like to contribute towards Sister Dee's work, cheques made payable to St Mary's, Strawberry Hill, can be sent to Dr Kevin Cook, SHOC, at the usual St Mary's address.

Please send cheques payable to  
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Tel: 01327 843160

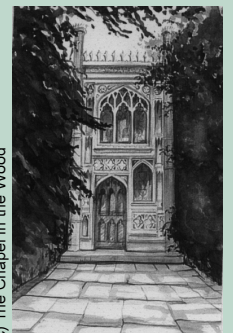
Nora O'Keeffe (1968-71) has produced these signed and mounted colour prints of Strawberry Hill. The prints measure 10' by 8' and are mounted on a cream background. They are priced at £8.00 each to include UK package and posting.



a) Waldegrave Drawing Room



b) Window in the Old House



c) The Chapel in the Wood



## reunions

### 1952 - 1954

Jim Toner writes: the reunion of our year group in September 1998 was a function to leave a permanent glow in the memory.

Dennis Etienne managed to make it with his bride from the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. Vince McDermott only learnt of the event on the Saturday morning and took off in a cloud of dust from Pontefract in order to join us for dinner in College that night. Actually our third since we had sat down together on the previous two evenings - by which time we well and truly recognised each other. Only 20 present out of 150 students on the roll. No matter, it was a happy few.

Those present were: Ted and Darlene Balmer, Brian Battagel, Rae and Mrs Carter, Harry Chick, Pete Cooper, Frank Ellis, Dennis and Maureen Etienne, Terry and Molly Larkin, Joe and Pat Mahoney, Gerry and Mrs Mason, Jim McNicholas, Tom Moreland, Gervase Stringer, Kev Tanney, Austin and Margaret Tipping, Jim Toner, Denis Tunstall, Harry Watson, Gerry Wright and Austin Moffatt (1951-53). Ted Balmer organised the reunion.

Vivienne Moran (1974-77) is an Assistant Curator at the Queensland Museum in Australia. She would like to hear from anyone in her year group via the Alumni Contact Service.

Eamonn Quinn (1977-80) is the Head of PE at an RC Upper School in Bedford. He is married to Alison, who teaches English at the same school.

Thomas Percy (1972-76) is the head teacher at an upper school in Northampton. He is married to Kathleen (nee Moran) from the same year group.

### 1944-1946

'Ná beidh ár leithéidi arís ann' - our like will not be seen again.

Mick Lyonette writes: The highlight of our Liverpool reunion (September 1998) was undoubtedly our reunion Mass in the Cathedral of Christ the King which was extremely well attended.

We met in the Park Hotel, Netherton and partook of a delicious dinner there. On Saturday, the coach took our party to the Cathedral for the reunion Mass. Father Alex Fleming celebrated, assisted by the Rev. Gerald Marsh and others. John Tasker and Ged Hanbury led the singing including the 'Missa cum Jubilo' - it was a Mass of Joy, was it not. We then took a tour of the Cathedral and lunched at the Cathedral 'Bistro'.

We later visited the Liverpool Cathedral, the Albert Docks and took a trip on the ferry before returning to the hotel for dinner. After dinner we entertained ourselves with a repertoire of songs.

A good reunion was thoroughly enjoyed by all. John Tasker was the organiser.

#### 1980's

Diane Brereton (1984-88) is the deputy head teacher of an infant school. She lives in Chadwell Heath.

Jane Bleasdale (1989-92) is a Theatre Director for the Freeport Player's Guild in the Bahamas. She has also taught Drama.

Adele Deasy (nee Reynolds) (1985-88) married Adrian (1987-91) in 1994. They have three young daughters. Adrian is a PE teacher.

Lisa Jackson (1987-90) is a Personal Assistant for a theatre production company. She lives in London.

Lisa Marks (nee Bullivant) (1989-92) is a teacher at a primary school in Hanwell. She married Adrian (1991-94) in 1998. She would like to contact other Simmarians in her year group via the Alumni Contact Service.

Andy Murphy (1982-85) is an airline account manager and has travelled extensively. He is married and has three children.

Vicki Oakley (1989-93) is a PE teacher in Rochester, USA.

Ciara O'Shea (1989-92) lives in Greenford. She is a Personal Assistant at the Walt Disney Company.

### 1968 Freshers

As always at our reunions, there were friends that we expected to meet, friends we had hoped to meet, those who had arranged to get together, and those who came by chance. As Saturday progressed more and more of us arrived on the scene. Saturday night was wonderful.

Great friends, great company, great night! Far too many to mention, yet some caught the eye, such as Theresa Lord, Gill McErlean, Trish Pidgeon, Mary Grocott and Bernadette Devlin looking even better than they did last time I saw them in 1971.

Friday evening saw the beginning of a wonderful weekend. The afternoon arrival, I am sure for all of us, brought back a lovely warm feeling of nostalgia, memories of friendships everlasting. Memories of happiness; and sadness for those no longer with us.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit

## Simmarian Association

The AGM will take place on April 3, 1999 at 11.30 am in the Waldegrave Drawing Room, Strawberry Hill

The Annual Remembrance Mass will take place in the Chapel at Strawberry Hill on Sunday November 14, 1999 at 11.00 am.

## Simmarians on the Rock

Clive Beltran writes: The Gibraltar Simmarians were joined at the last Annual Dinner by an English Simmarian, Gervaise Stringer (1952-54) and his wife. Gervaise contributed to the after dinner anecdotes that have now become and permanent feature of the evenings' proceedings followed by one or two traditional Simmarian songs. Any Simmarian wishing to join us at future dinners, held on the Friday nearest to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception may contact the Gibraltar Simmarian Society, c/o Bayside School, Bayside Road, Gibraltar (tel. 350 74500).

Besides the Annual Dinner our Society organises various activities in the course of the year which have included talks by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar and by the Leader of the Opposition. Recently Leslie Linares (1969-73) gave a most interesting talk on Gibraltar's flora.



'The Young Generation of Rock Simmarians  
at the Annual Dinner

## Irish Simmarian Association

Frances Jordan writes: At the recent reunion of the Irish Simmarian Association Dr Naylor made a presentation to three octogenarians; Francis O'Brien, Paddy Hill and Liam O'Connor who attended St Mary's in 1934-37.



Dr Naylor, Mssrs O'Brien, Hill, O'Connor

The 49th Irish Simmarians Reunion will take place in Monaghan on October 9th, 1999. Mass will be celebrated at St Macartan's College at 11.00 and will be followed by the AGM at 12.20 and by dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel at 4.30. There will also be a trip to Armagh. The cost of Bed and Breakfast is £36.00 per person sharing. For further information, please contact Frances Jordan, Secretary to the Association, on 01868 767713.

## The Simmarians from Malta

Joseph Zammit Mangion writes: The link of students from the Island of Malta with Simmaries goes back as far as 1881. In 1880, the then Colonial Government of Malta took the decision to start training primary school head teachers in the UK and the first male teachers selected were sent to St Mary's. The female teachers were sent to other Catholic teacher training colleges. Over 150 Maltese teachers were trained at the college until 1971 so one can see what great influence the training given at St Mary's had on Maltese education as a whole and the training of individual teachers in particular.

Most of the Maltese head teachers trained at St Mary's reached posts of high position in education in Malta. Perhaps the best known Maltese Simmarian is Mr Francis Ebejer, the writer of many Maltese and English novels, plays and broadcasts. Born in 1925, he trained at St Mary's in the years 1948-1950. He is undoubtedly the foremost modern writer of Maltese, he was equally well versed in the English language and produced a number of novels and short stories written in English. Francis Ebejer died on June 10, 1993 and a monument has been erected in his memory in Dingli.

*Autum Issue*

Please send any contributions for the next issue to the Alumni Office by September 30th 1999

### Liverpool Simmarian Club

Frank Harris, Honorary Secretary, writes: The Annual Mass for deceased members of the Club was held on November 28th, 1998, celebrated by Father Alec Fleming (1944-46). The Mass is offered up for the souls of all departed members and especially those who had died during the past year. These were John Bryce, Tom Fleming, Bill McCormack and Henry Saunders. Prayers were also said for Fred Wusterman and Peter Harris who had died in recent years but of whose passing we had heard only recently.

On the Thursday before the Mass some twenty five members attended a most enjoyable Christmas lunch organised for us by Mick Lyonette. Mick has proved a most valuable supporter of the club over many years.

If any local Simmarians would like to make contact with the Club they may contact the Alumni Office who will forward any mail to Mick or myself. Alternatively the Club has lunch and an informal meeting on the last Thursday of any month at the Blundellsands Hotel.

On a much sadder note, Gilly Fyles (1945-47) and I attended the funeral of Bernard Bland (1945-47) shortly before Christmas. Bernard had been ill for some time and had borne his illness with characteristic fortitude and humour and above all with great faith.

Finally, our Benevolence Committee still functions, headed by Jim Moran and Terry Roose, offering help and advice when required.

### Manchester & District Simmarians

Kevin Madden writes: Thirty Simmarians attended the Mass on November 14 for deceased Simmarians. The Mass was celebrated by Canon Tony Dorran (1945-47). Due to sickness our other loyal priest Dean, Frank Austin (1946-48), was unable to celebrate. After the Mass there was a convivial evening in the local Catholic Club.

We received eleven apologies for non-attendance. Bill Glynn (1933-35), the 'Father' of the group, was unwell and we missed his always amusing anecdotes. We prayed especially for his wife, Margaret, who had died a few weeks before the Mass. We also made a special remembrance of Joe McGrath who had died earlier in the year.

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email: phillipa@smuc.ac.uk

Daniella Poonawala (nee Jaquest) (1990-94) is a primary school teacher. She lives in Edgware with her husband and young daughter.

Rebecca Price (1992-95) lives in Rickmansworth. She is a literary agent for a publishing company.

Jenny Rajalingham (1991-95) married Jonathan in 1997. They would like to contact friends from St Mary's via the Alumni Contact Service.

Aaron Rodgers (1993-97) is the Head of PE (Special Needs) at a school in Caerphilly.

Christine Sheehy (1992-95) lives in Gwent and is an aromatherapist.

Stephen Trinder (1993-94) is a mathematics teacher. He lives in Guildford.

Joanne Whan (1994-97) is an Assistant Editor for the BBC World Service news. She shares a house in Twickenham with Toby Wilson and Matthew Davey (1993-96).

**Don't forget to return your Alumni Reply Form if you would like to feature in future 'Where are they now'.**

#### NEWS OF THE DEATHS OF THE FOLLOWING SIMMARIANS HAS BEEN RECEIVED

James Agar (1933-35) Cleveland	Anthony Buttigieg (1934-36) Malta	Michael John Hamon (1949-51) Nottingham	Terence Lyons (1940-42) Lancashire	Patrick Power (1937-39) Cardiff
Allan Birkett 1943-45 Tyneside	John (Jack) Coan (1946-48) Cumbria	Patrick (Stephen) Hannon (1955-58) Surrey	Bill McCormack (1946-48) St Helens	John Joseph Rock (1941-43) Bingley
Bernard Bland (1945-47) Halifax	Anthony Corrigan (1937-39) Newcastle	Edmund Harrison (1937-39) Blackpool	Joseph McGrath (1928-30) Manchester	Henry Saunders (1949-51) Liverpool
John Boyce (1943-45) Liverpool	John Dennison (1955-57) Manchester	Joseph Hover (1930-32) London	Frances Patrick O'Connor (1945-47) Middlesbrough	Frances Scicluna (1957-58) Malta
Brother Thomas Bullen (1929-30) New York	Tom Fleming (1934-36) Liverpool	Joseph Lockley (1927-29) Middlesbrough	John O'Murphy (1923-25) Essex	

Please remember in your prayers these Simmarians, their relatives and friends.

MAY THEY  
REST IN PEACE

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## COLLEGE Merchandise

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through mail order from:**

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St Mary's, Strawberry Hill  
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