



St. Mary's College

Crosby

# ST. MARY'S Matters

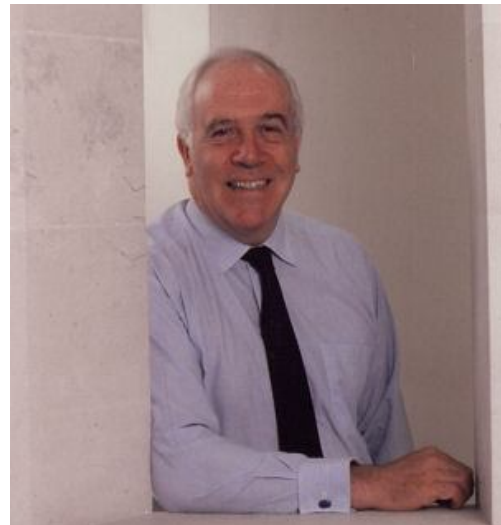
www.stmarys.ac

December 2009



Last month, the Friends of St. Mary's welcomed former College pupil, Lord John Birt, to address the Annual Dinner and we are now delighted to be joined on Prize Day by his fellow old-boy, Sir Ivor Roberts. Both point to the ethos of the College and how they were challenged to achieve, whilst preserving the importance of Christ's message and values in shaping their future lives. We look forward to celebrating further successes in the coming years.

During its ninety-year history, St. Mary's has become firmly established as much more than just a great academy of learning: it is the all-round development of our young people together with the instilling of strong Catholic, Christian values that forms the true foundations of preparing them for life and beyond. It is the period after the War that saw the advent of the Direct Grant, thereby enabling many pupils the chance to attend the College and provide the launch-pad to many great careers. We are delighted and privileged to be celebrating this anniversary with former pupils who have achieved prominence and success through these opportunities.



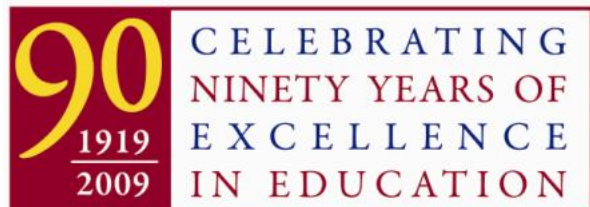
**Sir Ivor Roberts**

In this issue we celebrate the participation and achievements of so many members of the College: academic, extra-curricular, musical, sporting, charitable. Through these, we are proud to witness the combined yet essential qualities of determination with consideration; individual endeavour with teamwork; initiative and integrity; success with selflessness. I would like to record my grateful thanks to all the members of St. Mary's who have given of themselves to our community and have gained and grown as standard-bearers of our values for the future.

M. Kennedy



**Mr Kennedy pictured with Lord Birt (centre) and the FoSM Chair, Mr Tony Bradshaw**





## Welcome to New Staff



We welcomed Mrs. Linda Clark to the Science Faculty in September. She brings a wealth of experience and a cheerful disposition to the Chemistry Department which she now leads. We wish her every success.



The music team welcomes Mr. Colin Johnston to the department.

Mr. Johnston graduated from Lancaster University with a B.A and P.G.C.E in Music and specialises in choral music. He brings to the job great choral experience and wonderful enthusiasm. We look forward to building on past success with the chamber choir.

## Double Congratulations



Mr. Bob Johnston, Head of Science at the College, has been awarded yet another prestigious Fellowship. This time Mr Johnston has become a Fellow of the Linnean Society in London.

The Linnean Society of London is the world's premier learned society for the study and dissemination of taxonomy and natural history. The Society's Fellowship is international, and its 2,000 Fellows are drawn from all walks of life, ranging from leading professional scientists to amateur naturalists. It promotes the study of all aspects of the biological sciences, with particular emphasis on evolution, taxonomy, biodiversity and sustainability.

The Linnean Society was founded in 1788, making it the world's oldest active biological society. It takes its name from the Swedish naturalist, Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778), whose collections have been in its keeping since 1829. The Society is based at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Current fellows include Sir David Attenborough, while Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace are among former fellows.

This award follows another recent Fellowship that was awarded to Mr Johnston by the Institute of Biology for his contribution to bioscience for more than three decades.

Double congratulations, Mr. Johnston!

## Parents' Association

The Parents' association have been very busy fundraising this term. The Ladies night in October raised over £1,000; the Halloween Disco at the Mount raised £500; the very successful Autumn Fayre in November raised a fantastic £7,000. Thanks to Parents' Association Chair, Mrs. Janet Bingham, the committee, parents and staff who all work so hard to raise money for school funds for the benefit of pupils across all three sites.

## Girls' Sports



The Year 7 Netball squad have made an encouraging start to their first season at St Mary's. The 'B' team finished as runners up at the recent Sefton Start of Season Tournament.



The Year 11 Netball team finished in 3rd place at the Under 16 Sefton Schools' Tournament.



The Year 11 Hockey team are the newly crowned Under 16 Sefton Hockey Tournament Champions.

Some of our sporting stars have been busy over the last couple of months: Laura Halsall (Year 11) represented Great Britain in the European Catholic Schools Swimming competition in Portugal and Ellen Thomas and Eleanor James (both Year 11) were selected for the Under 16 North of England Hockey squad to play in the Futures Cup. Following her performance for the North, Eleanor was asked to attend training with the full England squad. See College website for full details.

## Boys' Sports

St Mary's has a record number of pupils who have been selected for Merseyside and Lancashire at rugby this season. No fewer than 17 boys have been selected at representative level for the 2009-10 season.

Under 13 - Rhys Courtney, Tom Cannon, Connor Dever (all Merseyside). Under 14 - Owen Griffiths, Ben Swift (both Merseyside). Under 15 - Chris Bartolo, Chris Clarke, Reece Hogarth (all Merseyside). Under 16 - Jonathan Bonner, Gavin Griffiths (both Lancashire) Alex Fairhurst, Oscar Fearn, Jonathan Martin, George Lightfoot, Sean Marren (all Merseyside). Under 18 - Danny Frost (Lancashire). Congratulations, boys!



Above: Year 7 Rugby team



### Senior Boys Race 1

Above: Sefton Schools Cross-country champions



Special congratulations to George Newell, pictured left, who has recently been signed by Everton to join their academy.

Congratulations to Peter Gaskell of Year 11 who has been selected to represent the North West Junior Elite Triathlon Squad. A very busy year has seen Peter achieve some outstanding finishes this year:

Northwich Duathlon (2nd place); Saltaire Aquathlon (3rd place); Saltaire Triathlon (4th place); Liverpool Triathlon (1st place); Mersey Triathlon (3rd place); Hetton Lyons Triathlon (3rd place); Troutbeck Triathlon (4th place); Tatton Park Triathlon (1st place); Fleetwood Triathlon (2nd place).





## German Exchange

Ten GCSE students and seven A-level students of St. Mary's College, together with their German teacher, Maria McKean, travelled from Manchester airport to Munich on 19th September 2009 in order to take part in an eight-day exchange programme with their Bavarian partner school of Niederviehbach.

The pupils were taken to their host families where they spent the weekend with various activities organised by the families themselves. For the rest of the week Frau Dieckmann had organised a varied programme. On Monday the English group was welcomed by the Headmaster and then the pupils joined their partners in their lessons.

The following three days were taken up by trips to Munich, Regensburg and the Bavarian Forest. The trip to Munich was particularly exciting for the students as they were given the chance to visit the 'Oktoberfest'. Most girls and boys had dressed for this occasion by wearing the traditional 'Dirndl' for the girls and the 'Lederhosen' for the boys.



In Regensburg the students had a guided tour through the medieval town centre which has been declared a World Heritage Site. They found out about the two thousand year history of Regensburg of which a multitude of sights still remain.

Thursday was totally different. A bus took us to a glass factory and this was followed by an activity the pupils had been looking forward to all week: summer tobogganing (Sommerrodelbahn). A very enjoyable trip! For more information and photographs, please see the College website.



## French Exchange

Lasting friendships were forged during the two legs of our very successful French exchange and great progress was made in the language. Last February, we experienced the snowy slopes of the Vosges Mountains and visited picturesque towns and villages. On the return leg, our French counterparts enjoyed the sand dunes and pine forests in mild October sunshine, visited Chester, Liverpool and Alton Towers.

Que du Bonheur! ("Lovely!")



## Spanish Department

Iria, one of the Spanish pupils who came on the exchange last term, liked the school so much that she decided to come back to study in St Mary's for the whole of the autumn term. She has just gone back to Spain after a very successful term with us. Best wishes to her from teachers and friends!



### Welcome to "Linguascope"

Thanks to St. Mary's Parents' Association the pupils have access to Linguascope, which offers interactive activities in French, German and Spanish. Ask your teacher about access details!

## Music News

This has been another busy and successful term for the music department. Since September various ensembles have performed no less than six concerts either at school or in the local community. It all started when many of our talented musicians entered the Southport Music Festival. The tradition of St Mary's students entering the festival and gaining honours for their individual and group performances continues. Notable praise should go to Nicholas Hicks, Alastair Cawdron, Anna Maher, Elizabeth Chadderton, Sue Marray and Katherine Orme. Nicholas and Alastair won numerous first places!



October brought two concerts. The first was held at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, where the Stage Band was invited to perform at the HMC Conference. Playing with their usual style and finesse, the band 'wowed' the audience, gaining great acclaim and leaving a number of headmasters 'envious' of our talented band. The second concert was our very own 'Classics by Candlelight'. This highlighted our GCSE and A level students, allowing them the invaluable opportunity to perform in front of an audience. The evening was a great success.



November saw the College's String Quartet and Stage Band performing at the Marriott Hotel for the 'Friends of St Mary's Annual Dinner'. Both ensembles performed to an exceptional standard. The Stage Band played for over an hour and a half, playing 45 pieces in total. A great 'Bravo' and 'Thank You' to all those involved. The many hours of rehearsing and numerous Sunday call-ups were all worth it in the end! During the month over twenty instrumentalists entered the first round of Associated Board of Music Exams. On his departure the examiner remarked; 'What a privilege it has been to listen to and examine such polite and disciplined musicians'.



December ushered in the "busy" period. Back to the Marriott Hotel, this time with members of the Chamber Choir singing Christmas Carols at another Ball, and then to our 'Message of Christmas' Carol Service. This brought together the Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Training Choir, Staff chorus and soloists to convey the meaning of Christmas at SS Peter and Paul Church. Once again a big 'Thank You' to all those involved.

It has also been a busy time for those at the Mount. In September The Mount hosted, for the first time, the Christian Brothers Choral Festival, where St Anselms, St Ambrose and St Edwards joined members of our Years 5 and 6 choir. The theme for the occasion was 'Harvest' and each choir sang two pieces and a combined item. Thanks, once again to those involved including Mrs. Newby and Mr. Johnston.



In November the Years 5 and 6 choir was recorded by the Southport radio station, Dune FM. Their piece was then played on the radio station for the whole of the following week. I am sure you would all agree, a great experience for those youngsters and something they will not forget.

December saw the traditional end of term with our young musicians playing in the Carol Concert at St Joseph's and the choir performing at the Advent service at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Finally I would like to say 'Thank you' to all the parents for their support over the last term, not only for ferrying your children around, but also for the support you have given the music department in general. Without your encouragement the standards in musical performance could not be maintained or indeed built on. I hope you all have a peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all next term.

Mr. A. J. Byers



## Geography Department

Lower 6th students completed a river study day in Grasmere in the Lake District, as part of their AS Geography Course.



Students went to 3 different study sites and measured variables to show changes in the river system downstream.



Not only did this develop their research skills, but it enhanced their understanding of the work of rivers.



## Careers Programme

As part of the St Mary's Careers Programme, Year 9 students enjoyed an interesting visit to an Engineering Fair at Aintree Racecourse.

24 boys and girls met students and lecturers from North West universities and representatives from companies such as Balfour Beatty and Unilever to find out about how the science they learn in school is used in Industry.

Arranged by Mr. McColgan, Careers Coordinator, the visit gave pupils the chance to use computers to design bridges, explore the construction and uses of microchips, use flight simulators and learn about the construction of racing cars and jet engines.

Mrs. Clark, Head of Chemistry and Mrs. Cahill, Head of Year 9 and a Science teacher, also gained valuable information about what companies and universities have to offer as well as resources for lessons.

Already, they have discussed arranging in-school visits to support the teaching of science topics and the school is enrolling in the CREST Award scheme.



## 8F Sponsor Jasten

Over the last two years 8F have sponsored a boy called Jasten who lives in Malawi, through a Christian Aid organisation, called World Vision. For just £216 a year a child like Jasten can enjoy a whole year in school while the wider community benefits in other ways. This year 8F excelled themselves in their quest to raise the sponsorship money needed. They wanted to do something different this year; three pupils, Alexandra Williams, Charlotte Manning and Liam Harrison, with the support of their families, did a sponsored walk up Snowdon, raising between them over £550, which is fantastic! Well done, 8F!



## Duke of Edinburgh

### Bronze

The Bronze qualifying expedition took place in Lancashire around the Rivington area. The groups had the opportunity to check on the progress of the digital satellites at the top of Winter Hill! The muddy terrain downhill claimed one 'stick in the mud', however an excellent performance by all! Well done!



### Gold

The Gold qualifying expedition took place in Wales, where the groups met with some challenging terrain over the five day / four night assessment. The independent assessor was impressed by the knowledge and determination of all participants; congratulations to all!



## Science News

### Science club

This year has seen the science club start afresh after being taken over by Mrs Clark, our new Head of Chemistry, and Miss Shaw, Biology Technician. Run on a Tuesday at 12.35, our extremely enthusiastic Year 7s are often to be found waiting outside the lab at 12.15. This year the emphasis is on science as a whole and we have been able to include themed activities. In National Space week the pupils were tasked with designing their own rockets which were then fired in the yard one lunch break, attracting the attention of most of the staff and the rest of the school.



We have also been able to take a closer look at the chemistry of fireworks and pupils have made their own lava lamps! Before the end of term we hope to be able to make some Christmas tree decorations before moving on to 'CSI at St. Mary's' in the new year. We have already begun planning a wide range of activities based around the exciting discipline of forensic science. So if you want to know more come along after the Christmas break, science club is open to all!

Mrs. Clark

## Senior Maths Challenge 2009



At the beginning of November an assortment of mathematicians from Lower 6th, Year 11 and Year 10 competed in the Senior Maths Challenge. Once again, Joe Dodd achieved a Gold award and the title of 'Best in School'. Jack Nugent from Year 11 achieved a Silver Award and Katherine Orme (L6), Ruth Evans (L6) and Philip Robinson (Year 10) achieved Bronze Awards. Well done to all.

Mrs. Thomas



### CCF News

On Sunday 25th October 2009 fifty-eight cadets and eight adult staff headed to Altcar Training Camp for the start of their annual Autumn Camp.

During the camp the cadets were divided into recruits and seniors. A group of senior cadets who have successfully completed their Method of Instruction Course took the recruits for various lessons, such as map and compass, first aid, drill.



As the Last Post was played, and during a two-minute silence at the moving climax to the ceremony, staff and students were able to reflect on the poignancy of the occasion, bearing in mind ongoing British losses in Afghanistan.



### Dominic stars in the Cavern

Year 8 pupil, Dominic Dunn (pictured centre below), has been playing the guitar since he was 7-years old, performing at the Lee Jones centre and The Cornerstones Theatre, Liverpool since he was eight. Dominic started out as a member of a Rock School, run by Liverpool North Police at the Community Justice Centre in Kirkdale. He recently attended a 10-week course, being the youngest to get through the auditions. The course comprised of instrumental tutoring, learning song-writing and vocal techniques and a master-class on the music industry. The up-and-coming musicians were then split into bands and, after just three weeks of rehearsals, performed to a packed public audience at a showcase event on the main Beatles stage in the Cavern.

On the Monday evening the recruits took part in a night exercise where the cadets had to get as near to the flag pole on the sand dunes, in the dark, without being caught by the staff on look-out duty.

The remaining cadets were involved with training provided by the Cadet staff, members of 4 Para. St Helens and the KDRT (Army Training Team).

Their training involved skill at arms, battle drills, drill and culminated in an exercise where the cadets were required to surround and capture an enemy post, using the skills they had learned.

On Thursday there was a final parade, to which parents were invited to see the recruits and cadets receive the beret for their chosen unit and awards earned throughout the week.

LT. Col Rothnie would like to thank the staff for their commitment and time, but more importantly the cadets whose behaviour was exceptional and commented on by all those who had dealings with them. They are a credit to themselves and the school.

### Remembrance Day

Staff and pupils took part in a special event to remember the men and women killed during the two World Wars and other conflicts.

As part of the ceremony, students paid tribute to former St Mary's pupils who have been killed in action. Their names are recorded on a plaque within the school building.



## Sierra Leone

During October half term Mr. Gough took a group of pupils to Sierra Leone on a vocational visit. They worked in a number of different Christian Brothers' schools delivering maths, art, music, dance and a variety of sporting activities.



During their visit, the group observed many of the community projects the Brothers are actively involved with, aimed at helping some of the most marginalised people in society. A guided tour of a displacement camp and the slum areas of Freetown was a particularly moving experience.



All members of the group benefited immensely from the visit and, whilst we may not have changed Africa, I think it fair to say that Africa most certainly changed each one of us.

Mr. Gough

## Charity Muffin Bake!

Students donned their chefs' hats to raise funds for Children in Need. Sixth Formers headed for the school kitchen to bake a range of delicious muffins which were then sold to teachers and pupils at a coffee morning in the school library, along with cakes that staff had made at home. As a result of their efforts, almost £100 was raised for the Pudsey appeal which is 30 years old this year.



## Shoe Box Appeal

Pupils have got their festive charity project 'all boxed off'. Children at the school have been filling shoe boxes with a wide range of gifts to support the Operation Christmas Child campaign, organised by Samaritan's Purse, the Christian International relief organisation. Samaritan's Purse has been supplying desperately needed assistance to victims of war, natural disaster, famine and disease for more than 35 years. Samaritan's Purse launched Operation Christmas Child in 1993 to bring joy and hope to youngsters in the world's most troubled regions. Since then, almost 70 million gift-filled shoeboxes have been shipped across the globe. In 2008 alone, 7.9 million boxes were sent to children in 95 countries. Pupils at St Mary's filled their boxes with a wide variety of presents, including toys, school supplies and hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, brushes and combs.





## ESU Competition

In the opening round of this year's ESU Public Speaking competition for pupils in Years 10 and 11, held recently at Birkenhead School, the St. Mary's College team was placed first and now moves into the Liverpool Final which will be held in February at The Athenaeum in the centre of Liverpool.

The successful team, pictured below, was made up of Matthew Foulkes (Chairman - pictured centre), Gabriel Bean (Questioner), both of Year 11 and Ruth Cawdron (Year 10) who took the role of Speaker and discussed the topic 'Money is the root of all evil'.



## Date with author!

An evening of entertainment took place at Crosby Civic Hall when a number of students from Years 7 & 8 attended an evening with the Children's Laureate Jacqueline Wilson. To the delight of the audience, Ms Wilson entertained everyone with excerpts of her latest novel, 'Hettie Feather', and later signed copies of her new book.

C Howard



Ellie Molloy with Jacqueline Wilson signing her book.

## Booked-up initiative

St Mary's College is backing a national campaign to encourage children to do more reading for pleasure. Year 7 pupils were poring over brand new books this week after the school signed up again for the annual Booked Up programme which provides a free book, from a choice of 12, to 11-year-olds in England.

The programme is run by reading charity Booktrust and supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The selected books feature fiction, non-fiction and poetry titles, and include unusual options like Wow 366, a series of bite-size stories just 366 words in length, by a number of today's top authors. As well as reading the books - and swapping them between themselves afterwards - pupils can log on to the Booked Up website to vote for their favourite title, submit reviews, enter competitions and play book-related games.



Rebecca Clinton and Stephen Huang check out what Booked Up has to offer

## Cheerleading Trophies



Jessica Bartolo, a Year 7 pupil, is a member of the Lancashire Twisters Cheerleading Squad. The squad took part in the Northern Classics Cheerleading Competition held at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool on 28th November. Jessica competed in both junior and senior age groups, gaining three first place trophies - well done, Jessica!

## Bright Sparks News

A BIG thank you to all of our very supportive parents, their families and friends. A grand total of £1017.55 has been raised through the Kindergarten raffle and summer fair, and the Sponsored Walk by the Early Years Department held in July. A presentation was made to Zoe's Place on Monday, 28 September.



## Partnership working is fun!

The start of the new academic year has seen the introduction of the Sports Leaders Level 1 course to the Year 11 Games curriculum. With almost 40 St Mary's students registered, the course is proving to be a great success. Here you can see some of our Sports leaders working with children from the Kindergarten.



## News from The Mount

The Mount has received the Department for Children, Schools and Families International School Award (ISA), from the British Council which promotes UK culture overseas. Deputy Headteacher, Anne Daniels, collected the award from BBC TV broadcaster and journalist, George Alagiah, at a high-profile ceremony in London.



Award winners have to demonstrate that an international ethos is embedded throughout the school and provide evidence of international work across a range of subjects. They also need to show that they have developed successful links with partner schools in Europe and further afield.



We are delighted to announce that The Mount have been awarded their Green Flag as part of the Eco-Schools bid that we started last year. We are one of the few local schools that have been awarded full status because of the work we have contributed.





## Friends of St Mary's Dinner

St Mary's College welcomed back one of its most famous former pupils as the VIP guest at its annual dinner. Former BBC Director-General, Lord John Birt, was the main speaker at the third reunion event organised by the Friends of St Mary's, the organisation for ex-pupils, parents, governors and staff of the school, which is 90 years old this year.

Around 200 people attended the event at the Marriott Hotel in Liverpool city centre, including 96-year-old Colonel J Graeme (Paddy) Bryson. Colonel Bryson was the special guest at the St Mary's prize-giving ceremony in 1963, the year that Lord Birt left the school.



Other special guests at the reunion included six of the seven Murphy brothers from Bootle who were educated at the school. The brothers - who come from a family of 15 children in total, nine boys and six girls - travelled from all over the UK to attend the event.

Following the speeches there was entertainment from the St Mary's College Stage Band who received a standing ovation after their 75-minute set of big band favourites.



**FoSM Chairman, Tony Bradshaw (centre) with his year group of former pupils who left in 1974**



**Mr Magill (centre) with former leavers from 2005**



**A group of former pupils who left in 2003**

## Ladies Night

St Mary's College Parents' Association held a very successful Ladies Night dinner dance recently. Around 80 women attended the event at West Lancs Golf Club, enjoying a three-course meal and entertainment from popular local singer, Sally-Anne. The sole male guest at the dinner was St Mary's Head of Drama, Laurence Doherty, who acted as MC for the event. Thanks to ticket sales, an auction and a raffle the Ladies Night is expected to have raised around £1,300 for college funds.

