



Celebrating  
125 years

ST MARY'S COLLEGE SOCIETY  
INVITES YOU TO THE 2024

# REUNION WEEKEND

13th -15th September 2024





**St Mary's College Society warmly invites you to join us for the Annual Reunion Weekend from the 13th to the 15th September, 2024. This year St Mary's College celebrates 125 years since its official inauguration and SMCS is delighted to honour this significant achievement.**

This year's reunion builds on the success of 2023, the first since the pandemic. Last year we welcomed alumni from all the decades since the 60s, with many alumni reconnecting with colleagues they last saw at their graduations. This year we hope that many more Alumni will be able to attend with a particular welcome to those graduating in a year ending in 4.

As well as the formal reunion schedule, we've left time to reconnect with the College itself, with Durham City landmarks and its surrounding sights, its bars, restaurants, and cafes. We look forward to welcoming you.

# Friday

- 14 00 Arrivals, Room key Pick-Up and Registration (until 18 00)
- 18 30 Welcome Reception in Dining Hall
- 19 00 Hot Three-Course Meal in Dining Hall
- 20 30 The Mary's Quiz - Fast and Furious

# Saturday

- 09 00 Full English Breakfast Buffet in the Dining Hall
- 11 00 SMCS Annual General Meeting in the Kenworthy Room, including elections
- 12 30 Cafe Style Lunch Buffet in Dining Room
- 17 00 College Chapel Service
- 18 45 Pre-Dinner Dinner Reception, Kenworthy Room
- 19 15 Grand Reunion Dinner. Conference Bar will also be open.
- 21 00 Music from the [Kirsty Forster 4-Piece Band](#)

Alumni not involved in the morning and afternoon organised events are free to spend time in College or exploring the City and further afield.

The 2024 Exhibition: **Looking Back**, is being prepared by the College Archivist, Anne Elliott. This will be available to look at for the whole weekend in the main corridor of the Ferguson Building and is always worth close study.

# Sunday

- 10 00 Brunch available until 11 30 in Dining Hall
- 14 00 Farewells and Departure with rooms vacated

# Prices

We have simplified the booking process this year. Please note no double rooms are available in college.

Packages include:

- Room for Friday and Saturday nights
- Breakfast on Saturday
- Grand Reunion Reception and Dinner
- Sunday Brunch

Package 1 (Standard Room)	£132.80
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Package 2 (En-Suite Room)	£165.80
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The following meals are offered as options to enable alumni to arrange their own programme for the weekend:

Friday Dinner and Reception	£27.50
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Saturday Cafe Style Lunch	£18.00
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Grand Reunion Reception and Dinner (Alumni)	£53.80
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Grand Reunion Reception and Dinner (Guest)	£56.50
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Sunday Brunch	£16.00
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All bookings can online or by calling the college office on 0191 334 5719. Alternatively, please email [stmarys.alumni@durham.ac.uk](mailto:stmarys.alumni@durham.ac.uk)

# While in Durham...

To help you plan your time in Durham, we have prepared a list of places outside Durham you may want to visit, a selection of Durham Bars, Restaurants, and Cafes and a suggested crawl route!

We'll send a current list of places to visit in the City closer to the event.

## Pubs and Bars

Name	Category	Recommendation
Whitechurch	Pub, Restaurant, Café	To some alumni, this place was previously fondly known as the New Inn and has hosted many a Mary's club social over the years. This pub has had a significant upgrade since some of us were students and now offers a great range of food and drinks throughout the day, from breakfast through to dinner. The perfect stop to refuel on your way to or from town.
Swan & Three Cygnets	Pub	A joint student and local staple, this traditional pub is known for having the cheapest pints (*not verified) in Durham and embracing a 'no technology' rule to keep those real-life conversations flowing!
The Boat Club	Bar	Fondly previously known as Boathouse, this bar has also had a bit of a rebrand but is still in the same great riverside location with all of your favourite drinks options available. Perfect for a sunny day by the river.

<p>Tin of Sardines Gin Bar</p>	<p>Bar</p>	<p>If gin is your thing, then stop by this tiny artisan gin bar stocking over 200 types of gin. It is very small inside so either go with a small group or in sunnier weather so you can stand outside to enjoy your drink.</p>
<p>The Library</p>	<p>Pub</p>	<p>For the sports fans amongst you, The Library is a solid choice for an afternoon watching live sport with all the classic pub drink and food options available. It also has an outside section at the back for those warmer days.</p>
<p>Fabio's</p>	<p>Bar</p>	<p>Located above Spags (see La Spaghattata in the restaurants section) Fabio's is a student staple for a slightly classier night. With great cocktails, music, and vibes, it's a perfect evening location to dance the night away.</p>
<p>Kate's Irish Bar</p>	<p>Bar</p>	<p>A newer option that's not so familiar for some of us older alumni, Kate's can be found down near the Gala theatre and has become a firm Durham favourite with overall great vibes, drinks, and live music available.</p>
<p>The City Bar in the City Hotel</p>	<p>Pub/Bar</p>	<p>Just before you reach the Swan, the City Bar is a popular spot and can be found inside the City Hotel on the walk down New Elvet. Stop by here if you're looking for another good pub. It would also make another good alternative stop for the suggested pub crawl route you will find later in this guide.</p>

# Restaurants & Cafés

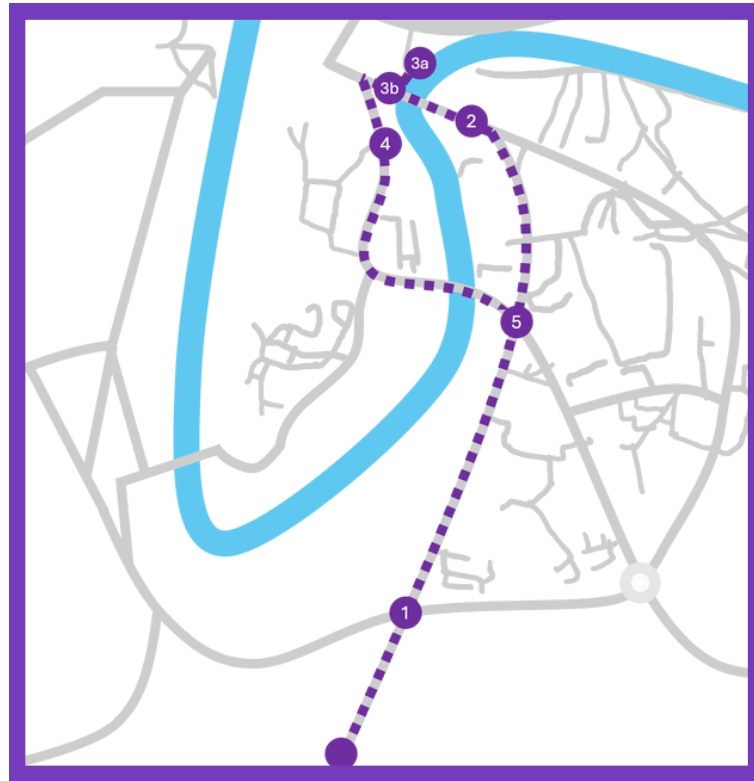
Name	Category	Recommendation
Zen	Restaurant	Always the place students take their parents to so they can pick up the bill... Zen is an upmarket Asian restaurant that is a real treat. Great for lunch or dinner, you must give it a try if you haven't already.
La Spaghattata	Restaurant	Fondly known as Spags, this place is a firm student favourite for all occasions, from birthdays through to socials. It is mostly first come, first served so either get there early or be prepared to queue. Order the two litre bottles of wine if you're brave...
Barrio Comida	Restaurant & Bar	Located next to the DSU, this new Mexican restaurant took over a redundant space and has transformed this area of the hill down to town. A great option for tasty Mexican food, drinks, and cocktails with a nice terrace area for those summer days.
The Tapas Factory	Restaurant	A newer addition to the Durham food scene, this authentic tapas bar is run by two cousins from the Canary Islands and has an extensive Spanish tapa menu for light bites through to full dinners.
The Cellar Door	Restaurant	Another popular option for students to take their parents, the Cellar Door is an upmarket restaurant serving Modern European dishes down in the ancient cellar converted space with a few tables outside with river views.

# Restaurants & Cafés

Name	Category	Recommendation
The Fat Hippo	Restaurant	Virtually opposite Spags you will find this place which is famous for its burgers. A fantastic alternative option if the queue at Spags is too long...
Chapters	Café	Located on Elvet Bridge, Chapters is another student classic. With multiple floors and rooms, this café is perfect for a hot drink and a tasty cake on those common rainy/cold/snowy Durham days.
Vennels	Café	Hidden down a side alley, Vennels is a great café with a strong sandwich and sweet treat selections. A hidden away gem that is annoyingly very popular!
Flat White	Café	Flat White used to be known as the more upmarket café option for students. Now they have expanded and exist in two locations, with the smaller original café on the ramp down to Klute and a larger location on Elvet Bridge. The smaller location has a more limited menu compared with the bigger site but can be a bit quieter so see which you fancy.



# Crawl Route



## Stop 1 – Whitechurch

Having left St. Mary's, walk down the hill the short distance to the Whitechurch (previously the New Inn). This is great for a lunch stop or quick drink to fuel you for the (short) walk into town.

## Stop 2 – Swan & Three Cygnets

Continue down Church Street and New Elvet until you reach Elvet Bridge and you won't miss 'The Swan & Three'. The cheapest pints in Durham (\*not verified) and no phones policy makes this a great stop for a catch up with other alumni.

## Stop 3a – Boat Club or 3b - Tin of Sardines Gin Bar

We would probably recommend choosing one or the other of these options but head down the stairs on the other side of Elvet Bridge and you will find both of these bars. The Boat Club (previously Boathouse) is a good choice for a classic bar with wide drinks variety. The Gin Bar is a good alternative for those real gin lovers looking for a special experience.

## Stop 4 – The Library

Head back up the stairs and continue towards the town centre before turning left up towards the Cathedral and Castle. Stop off at The Library for a classic selection of drinks and bar snacks. This is also a good spot if you have any sports fans with you wanting to catch the Saturday afternoon match.

## Stop 5 – Barrio Comida

Keep going up the hill until you can turn left just after Hatfield to cross Kingsgate Bridge to the Durham Students Union (DSU). Across here you will find one of the newer additions to Durham, the Mexican Barrio Comida restaurant. Whilst this is better known as a restaurant, they have some great cocktails and other drinks deals which should fuel you for the final walk back to St Mary's to get ready for the evening ahead.

# Places to visit in free time

## DURHAM'S WORLD HERITAGE SITE, PALACE GREEN:

**Cathedral Museum** (Sat. 10am-4pm; Sun. 11am-4pm)  
Tickets £7.50 on-line or at visitor desk inside Cathedral

**Palace Green Library** (Sat. and Sun. 10am-5pm)  
Tel. 0191 334 2932  
Free

**Bishop Cosin's Library** (11am-3pm Sat. and Sun.)  
One of the earliest 'public' libraries  
Conservation work completed 2022  
Enter from within Palace Green Library  
Booking of tickets on-line or through reception at Palace Green Library  
Tel. 0191 334 2932  
Free



Bishop Cosin's Library

**Oriental Museum** (Sat. and Sun. 12pm-5pm)  
Exhibition '1924 Everest Exhibition.'  
Free

# Beyond the City

## THE AUCKLAND PROJECT:

Market Place, Bishop Auckland, with parking in the nearby Bondgate car park.  
**Auckland Tower** provides information and sells tickets, which can also be purchased on-line or at each individual venue on the day.  
Ticket £18 for Castle, Faith Museum and Gardens.

**Auckland Castle** and **Walled Gardens** (Sat. and Sun. 10:30am-4pm)  
Central point of interest is the dining room in which the famous Zurbaran paintings of the sons of Jacob hang

**The Bishop's Kitchen** (Sat. and Sun. 10:30am-4pm)  
Restaurant within the Palace serving produce from Castle's walled gardens

**Faith Museum** (Sat. and Sun. 10.30am-4pm)  
This is newly opened

**Deer Park** (Sat. and Sun. Dawn until dusk)  
Free

**Spanish Gallery** (Sat. and Sun. 10.30-4pm)  
With art of the Spanish Golden Age

**El Castillo** (Sat. 11.30am-10pm and Sun. 11.30am-5pm)  
Tapas restaurant, also serving produce from Castle's walled garden

**Mining Art Gallery** (Sat. and Sun. 10.30-4pm)  
Tickets £6

**Ushaw College** (Daily 11am-4pm)  
Ushaw Bank  
Historic house and chapels set in beautiful gardens, once a Catholic seminary.  
Pugin.  
Matisse Exhibition, 'Drawing with Scissors'  
Cafe (11am - 3pm)  
Admission £8

**Jarrow Hall** (Sat. and Sun. 10am-4pm)

Anglo-Saxon farm, village and Bede Museum

Church Bank, Jarrow NE32 3DY

Tel. 0191 424 1585

Cafe on site - open 9am-4pm

12 min. walk to Anglo-Saxon St Paul's Church with the earliest stained glass in England

£8.50

**Beamish Museum** (Open Sat. and Sun. 10am- 4pm)

Beamish, Co. Durham DH9 0RG

Museum of everyday life in urban and rural North-East from late Victorian times to early 20th century

Refreshments provided at cafes and shops within.

Tel. 0191 370 4000

Adult £27.95.



Beamish Museum

**Locomotion** Open daily 10am-4pm

Dale Rd. Industrial Estate, Shildon DL4 2RE

Free, no need to pre-book

Cafe 10am-3:30pm

**Scan the QR Code to book**

