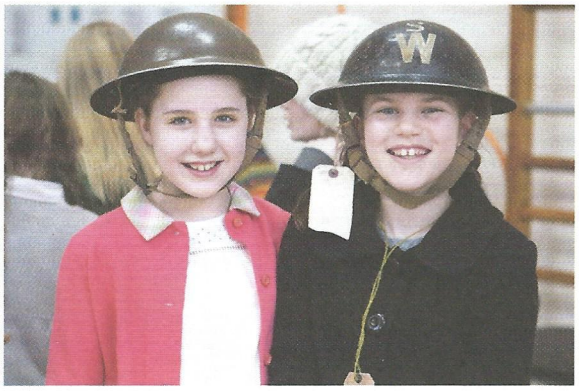

BACK TO BLACK-OUT

IN JANUARY, AS PART OF THEIR HISTORY TOPIC ABOUT WWII, THE PREP SCHOOL L3 GIRLS SPENT THE DAY RELIVING THE WAR YEARS AT ST CATHERINE'S – singing songs in the cellar, visiting Bramley station to be evacuated, playing traditional party games and creating a blitz picture.

We were delighted to welcome back Marjory Bayliss, a pupil at St Catherine's from 1939–1946, and a teacher at the Prep School from 1960-1989. During the war, Marjory and her sister Audrey had to be day girls as all of the boarding beds were filled by pupils evacuated from St Mary's Hall, Brighton. The girls loved hearing about the air raid shelters running next to the Sanatorium (now the music school). Air raid practices happened regularly and Marjory can still recall the strong smell of damp earth in the narrow trenches and the rubber smell of the gas masks. She clearly remembers the day the bomb fell on the railway station and how they all hid under their desks on hearing the enormous crash. Everyone was fascinated to hear about the evacuees who had stayed with Marjory's family, especially the naughty one!

Later in the day the girls were shown various artefacts and photos by Rosemary (née Munn) (1960) and Richard Christophers, now the St Catherine's volunteer archivists. The girls tried on helmets, sounded the air-raid alarm clacker and watched our film of the Bramley Home Guard marching through the grounds of the School. It really helped bring history to life for the girls.

We hope to see lots of the war years' alumnae back at St Catherine's on 23rd June for the Golden Girls Reunion (30s, 40s and 50s leavers).

Postscript : During the Easter Holiday we were also pleased to be reintroduced to Anne Waters (Esdaile) (1946), one of the evacuees from St Mary's Hall, who returned to School for the first time since 1946. We are looking forward to meeting her again in June.

MANY MILES FOR MACMILLAN CHARITY WALK – A 'RAINBOW OF HAPPINESS'

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT CAN ALWAYS BE RELIED UPON TO 'GO THE EXTRA MILE' and to make sure that there's someone available to give support, energy and inspiration to those who are unwell with cancer. The Prep School wanted to support Macmillan, as many of our school community have received help and encouragement from them in times of need.

On Tuesday 28th February, girls from PPI up to L3, together with the Prep School staff, enjoyed participating in our Many Miles for Macmillan walk and run. Five of our L3 girls, Daniella, Maddie, Darcey, Poppy and Sienna, initiated the event and, with the help of Mrs Cowx, Mrs Gibbs and some of our lovely mums, they did a tremendous job organising and encouraging all of the participants.

To help get us off to a good start and to sustain us in our efforts, the event began at break with Macmillan cupcakes for us to enjoy! The girls and staff then walked and ran together for half an hour around a course shaped in an 'M' for Macmillan. Whilst running and walking, we tried to remember why we were taking part in the event. Every time a lap was completed a house point was scored for our respective houses.

We completed an amazing 578 miles and everyone who took part received a Macmillan medal. The event raised over £940. One of our PPIII girls commented that the charity walk had been like 'a rainbow of happiness', which we thought summed up the event perfectly.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with and supported this event. If you would still like to donate, you may do so via the following link - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jane-Cowx1. It is not too late for you to play your part! Thank you!