

# ST MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter 107 Spring 2007

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This newsletter is published by the SMHA Committee on behalf of the St Mary's Hall Association, c/o St Mary's Hall, Eastern Road, Brighton, Sussex BN2 5JF

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Are we alumni or alumnae ?

If you're a male, you're an alumnus. If there is a bunch of men together, you're alumni. If you're female, you're alumna. But a group of females is called alumnae. However, if a group is made up of men and women, you're alumni again.

## **EDITORIAL**

As a previous editor wrote in her opening editorial, surprising things can happen when you go to a Reunion and for me it was to be appointed as your Newsletter editor last year. I confess to bringing no experience of editing and few writing skills to the job; however I do bring a passion to see our membership Newsletter continue its long history. So I hope you will be forgiving of some clumsy prose in the interests of keeping the annual Newsletter alive.

Those of you who know me will also know that I have long harboured another passion; for all things electronic and computerised. Whilst it is only the existence and now widespread use of the internet, the world wide web and email that has allowed me even to consider taking on the editorship, I am happy to assure those of our many members who prefer to convey news and views with a pen, paper and stamp that they too will be welcome correspondents.

At the time of writing I don't know quite how the Newsletter will look but it probably won't be in the familiar dark blue cover with gold crest of recent years. The reason for this is that we have selected a new publisher, Spindrift, to whom the computerised Newsletter and mailing list will be sent by email. They will print, copy, staple, trim, bag, label, calculate the postage and post the 1100 copies without our further involvement, except payment of course. Sadly this method of production does not favour dark coloured heavyweight covers with gold printing.

When we were faced with the choice of no Newsletter, because in our time poor world the process of producing it had become impossible to maintain, or a Newsletter with a good amount of content in a lighter cover, I hope you will understand why we considered it a "no contest".

**Penny (Buck) Gardiner**  
**SMHA Hon Editor**

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## **REPORT FROM THE HEAD AND DEPUTY HEAD GIRLS**

Having come to the middle of our term as Head and Deputy Girls, we are glad to report some of the many achievements and events of our school. Our first role was to welcome back the Old Girls of St Mary's Hall for their Reunion. Everyone who participated enjoyed themselves and

was pleased to see the changes within the School. They were thrilled to see the new Junior School completed and the wonderful new facilities. We all found it exciting and thrilling that from September the new Sixth Form Centre, Elliott House, was opened. It's a fantastic place for communication among boarders and day girls.

We were pleased with the success and effort of the Young Enterprise Company this year. The company was called Zeal and managed to gross a net profit of over £600. Despite the fact that they didn't win any awards at the Ceremony, they seemed to enjoy themselves and were able to learn from the experience. They sold a variety of products like hand-made scarves, hand-made jewellery and ran a very popular tuck-shop.

We are excited and looking forward to the Senior School production of the musical "Oliver!". The cast is full of energy and currently rehearsing for the grand opening later this month. It's set to be a great success. We are also looking forward to other exciting events such as the Christmas Carol Service and the much awaited Inter-House Swimming Gala.

We would like to take this opportunity to send you all our best wishes for the coming months. We hope everyone has a prosperous and successful New Year.

**Karen Ma, SMH Head Girl**  
**Chloe Sachikonye, SMH Deputy Head Girl**

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## **HEADMISTRESS'S SPEECH - AWARDS CEREMONY**

Mr Deputy Mayor, Madam Deputy Mayoress, Mr Henderson, Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen

May I welcome you most warmly to our Awards Ceremony Evening to celebrate the success and achievements of the Senior members of the School from years 11 – 13.

Our guest speaker this evening is **Mr Gavin Henderson**, Principal and Chief Executive of Trinity Laban and Artistic Director of Dartington International Summer School. He is also Chair of Youth Music, and a Founder-Trustee of the Council for Dance Education and Training. He was a member of the Arts Council of England and Chair of its Music Panel until 2003. He was director of the York Festival and the Mystery Plays, he created the Wilde Theatre in Bracknell and he is also chairman

of an independent film and television company – so his breadth of experience across the Arts is indeed impressive.

Among Gavin's many accomplishments, he is also very much a Brighton celebrity, having been Artistic Director of the Brighton International Festival from 1983 to 1994, in which time he broadened the programme and introduced the literature festival and the children's parade, in which our Junior School took part last year as giant bananas and the open art houses in which our art staff participate. Gavin is a Governor of the University of Brighton and an Honorary Fellow of both Brighton and Sussex universities; he is chairman of the Regency Society, Chairman of the Brighton Youth Orchestra, President of the Brighton Orpheus Choir and the National Piers Society and a member of the board of the Brighton West Pier Trust, to name but a few of his involvements. Not surprisingly, Gavin was awarded the CBE in June 2004.

It is a real pleasure to welcome you, Gavin – and also to welcome back your sister Jackie Fitzgerald who is an Old Girl of the School.

And of course, it is also auspicious that Gavin, as a pillar of the Arts world, particularly in this city, is here today as we approach the launch of our appeal to save this wonderful building, the Chapel of St Mark, and transform it into an Arts Centre, both for St Mary's Hall and for the local community.

More of that later, but before reporting on some of the highlights of the past academic year, may I also welcome back Maria Redman who, having excelled at St Mary's Hall both academically and musically, is currently in her fourth and final year at Trinity College. She returned to this Chapel two years ago to perform the second Rachmaninov piano concerto with Brighton Youth Orchestra and today she will delight us with two pieces, which must be quite daunting in front of her Principal. We are thrilled she is able to join us for this celebratory occasion – and we are very proud of all she, too, has achieved since she left School.

The past year has been, I think, the most exciting and creative one of my time here.

In April, the Duchess of Gloucester officially opened our wonderful new Junior School, Gloucester House. Then, this September, we launched our new Senior Boarding House and Sixth Form Study Centre, Elliott House. Both projects were brilliantly managed by our Bursar, Chris Elkins.

To complete these developments, I am optimistic that the dream of an Arts Centre for St Mary's Hall will become a reality over the next two

years, and that this beautiful chapel will be refurbished to accommodate not only our worship, but will also be a flexible performance and exhibition space with a dance studio in the South Transept and dressing room facilities.

I am very grateful to Helen Farquharson who is spearheading our appeal, which will be launched on 30<sup>th</sup> November on the opening night of the performance of this year's musical, "Oliver" and is an apt way to mark the 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School.

St Mary's Hall has always achieved highly in the Arts. It will be wonderful to enhance our facilities to complement the outstanding work that already goes on here, to extend our provision for art display, for dance, drama and music and also provide a much needed performance, rehearsal and exhibition space for East Brighton. We have received pledges of support already, and if any of you are interested in helping us with this project, please do contact Mrs Farquharson.

The Senior School Play was "The Ash Girl" by Timberlake Wertenbaker. It is based on the much-loved fairy story, Cinderella, but this was an extremely challenging play which could be interpreted on many levels. Lurking in the forest were the colourfully malign "Seven Deadly Sins", conniving with the malevolent Sadness (hauntingly played by **Rachel Flatt**) to bring about the downfall of humankind. All the "sins" were brilliantly acted and stunningly costumed.

There were strong performances, too, from the determined and heroic **Lily Vernon-Hunt** as "Amir" and **Chloe Sachikonye** as his wise mother "Zehra", who recognises true virtue and love in the Ash Girl, as opposed to the false claims of the vile ugly stepsisters (**Claire MacNeill** and **Imogen Hine**), who themselves fall victim to their mother's greed and ambition, having had their feet mutilated to make the slipper fit! As the wicked stepmother, last year's Head Girl **Keli Farkas** bore a striking resemblance in this production to Cruella de Ville, extremely evil but extremely stylish.

The Play was entertaining and amusing, but left us with much food for thought. The whole cast & director, **Mr Wells**, are to be congratulated on a most accomplished production of a fable for our time.

The Senior Christmas Concert is always a popular event in the Autumn Term, thanks to the inspiration and guidance of **Mr Jay** and **Mr Roser**. It was delightful to see so many talented new players joining the orchestra, led by last year's Deputy Head Girl, **Emma Wilkins**. The orchestra performed "March of the Bowmen" by Curzon and "The March"

from Bizet's Carmen. The highlight was a spirited performance of the 1<sup>st</sup> Movement Allegro from Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik".

In order to fund our new buildings, we sadly bade farewell to St Hilary House – the grand old building in Sussex Square which was originally home to Thomas Kemp and over the years to both Junior and Senior Boarders. Last year we leased it back from the new owners, while we converted Elliott House. To commemorate the final Christmas in St Hilary, Senior Boarders arranged themselves on the magnificent staircase and entertained guests around the Christmas tree in the hall with a programme of carols and beautifully recited Christmas readings.

For a finale, there was an energetic rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with instrumental accompaniment! **Mr Jay** was an outstanding Master of Ceremonies and the students expressed warm thanks to **Miss Gravett** (the Housemistress from 2001 until this year) for their time in St Hilary, while looking forward to the future "state of the art" facilities of Elliott House. We were delighted to welcome back for the occasion **Miss Margaret Payne** (Housemistress of St Hilary from 1966 to 1982) and **Mrs Betty Drew** (Housemistress of St Hilary from 1983 to 1988).

There were more creative events in the New Year. In the Spring Concert we enjoyed the singing of **Annie Sinclair** in "Look for the silver lining" accompanied by the Jazz Band. **Keli Farkas's** saxophone solo of Stephen Sondheim's "Barcelona" was memorable, as was the truly accomplished violin solo "Gypsy Carnival" by Kien, performed by **Emma Wilkins**. **Emma** has made an outstanding contribution to the Music Department and was, as **Mr Jay** remarked at the concert, "one of the best music scholars he had known at St Mary's Hall – alongside **Maria**, of course!

Then came the House Play Festival. The joint-winners this year were Chichester House's production "Specimen 6", a brave original script, written and directed by **Rachel Flatt**, and Bristol House's hilarious production of 'The Musicians' by Patrick Marber, co-directed by **Lily Vernon-Hunt** and **Rebecca Ridge**. The adjudicator, Richard Lindfield, praised individual performances in Adelaide's Play, 'Sparkleshark' by Philip Ridley, adapted and directed by **Emma James** and in Babington's 'The Exam' by Andy Hamilton directed by **Lucy Hunt** and **Harriet Butterworth**.

Senior actors who were highly commended were **Claire MacNeill** as Captain Wow and **Annie Sinclair** as Ratcatpony in 'Specimen Six'. In the same play, **Gumashah Al-Ateeqi** was awarded Best Supporting Actor and **Lily Vernon-Hunt** was a popular choice for Best Actor of the

Festival in her wonderfully comic performance as Alex the Caretaker in 'The Musicians'.

**Mrs Moss**, our charities co-ordinator, reported that last year we raised a total of £2,686.13 which we divided between the Martlets Hospice, Vanessa Grant School for disabled pupils in Rongai Kenya, the Race for Life (in aid of Cancer Research) in which both students and staff took part, and Jeans for Genes where again both staff and pupils enjoyed wearing denim for the day. In addition we contributed our Harvest goods to two local charities for the homeless – Stopover Women's Refuge and St Patrick's Night Shelter.

In the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 14 girls completed their Bronze Award and 5 girls completed their Silver Award. The Silver participants had to endure terrible weather for their practice expedition in March, but coped well and had better conditions for their assessed expedition on the Isle of Wight in May.

**Jenny Moreton** successfully completed her Gold Expedition over the summer and should receive her award next February. Many congratulations to her and thanks to **Mrs Dempster** who co-ordinates the Award at St Mary's Hall and to members of the expedition team: **Mr Peter Ashdown, Mrs Jane Abbot & Miss Anita Jensen.**

Among all their other activities and commitments, Senior Girls have participated extremely well in Sports fixtures, as well as leading the competitive houses in Inter-House sporting events. We are a small school and the loyalty, commitment and determination of our squads is indeed praiseworthy. We can certainly hold our heads high on the sports circuit!

The high spot of the year was the U16 Netball squad reaching the quarter-final of the Sussex knock-out cup where they played Brighton College. The Senior Swimming team lost only one gala last season and the volleyball team remained undefeated. **Rachel Boxall** and **Claudia Ching** competed in the Mid-Sussex badminton tournament and were runners-up.

**Claudia and Becky Broe** then competed in the Brighton Schools tournament and were awarded bronze medals. Teams and individuals really excelled themselves. Special commendations go to **Abbey Gibbons** in hockey, **Charlotte Leak** in netball, **Rachel Boxall** in swimming and **Claudia Ching** in volleyball.

And, in interhouse events, **Miss Whittaker** and **Miss Gale** were impressed by the highest standard they had seen. The interhouse



hockey cup was awarded to **Adelaide House** and the netball cup went to **Bristol House** in hard fought and extremely skilled matches.

My thanks, as always, to **Miss Whittaker** and **Miss Gale** for all they do to promote sport at St Mary's Hall.

Sadly, we said goodbye to several staff during the course of the year:

**Mrs Paula Dittborn-England** joined the Modern Languages Department in September 2005, teaching GCSE Spanish. She and her husband are now celebrating the birth of José on 26 October.

**Mr Martin Green** did an excellent job in the Mathematics Department last year.

**Miss Polly Knight**, Housemistress of Venn House, left us in the Summer to take up a post at a boarding school in Thailand.

**Mr Philip Polden**, who taught Mathematics from 2003, retired from St Mary's Hall in July

**Miss Lucy Dean** who was our School Librarian from 2003

**Mrs Christine Moyse** who taught Science since 2002 also retired at the end of the year, as did:

**Miss Veronica Gravett**, Sixth Form Tutor, Head of Boarding and the last Housemistress of St Hilary from 2001 to 2006.

**Mrs Sue Manby-Clarke** who was the Head of Accounting from 2001 to 2006 left us, but is now back.

**Mrs Judy Hollands** was involved with Careers Guidance at the School since 1995. She left in April to take on greater responsibilities at Sussex Careers.

**Dr Mike Hopley** taught English at St Mary's Hall for 20 years. He joined St Mary's Hall in 1986 and was Head of Department until 1997. His final coup was his wonderfully witty entry in the School Magazine, where he claimed to have taught all the literary greats from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Austen. This is well worth a read if you haven't already done so. We wish **Dr Hopley** a well-deserved and happy retirement.

**Mrs Betty Drew** began in St Hilary House in 1976 and has also worked in the Administration Department at St Mary's Hall. Latterly, **Mrs Drew** took on the Uniform Shop. She retired at the end of the Spring Term, having been a familiar face at St Mary's Hall for 30 years.

And last, but not least, **Dr Peter Ashdown**, who had so many feathers in his cap since his arrival in September 2000: Head of History, Psychology, Law, Work Experience Co-ordinator, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition Leader and member of the team of staff who accompany Year 8 to camp. He was also a member of the Senior Management Team with special responsibility for Policies and Procedures. I have no doubt he will have a retirement packed with adventures, one of which is to travel up the Amazon.

We are indebted to all our colleagues who left us last year and we wish them every happiness in the future.

In August, Senior staff returned to School to distribute the public examination results and to help negotiate university placements. We were greatly encouraged by the excellent results achieved in last year's public examinations. 94% of students gained A\* to C grades in their GCSE results, with three-quarters of students achieving A\* to B grades.

Particular high flyers include: **Claire MacNeill** who achieved nine A\* grades, **Lily Vernon-Hunt** with six A\* and three A grades and **Kiwi Lau** who achieved four A\* and four A grades. I am very pleased to report that 70% of our students have been able to go to the institution of their first choice. Special congratulations go to **Emily Ting** who achieved three As and a B and is reading Pharmacy at the University of Bath and **Vicky LeFeuve** who achieved two As and a B and is reading Medicine at Queen Mary's London.

In September, we launched our new logo – a splash of colour for our promotional material. We shall continue to use the traditional blue crest for formal occasions, like today – and there is also a new, refreshed website in which various community members have become "Talking Heads". What a challenging experience that was, I felt like the Queen giving her Christmas Broadcast. I am grateful to our Marketing Manager, **Miss Katja von Schweitzer**, for helping to create our new 'look'.

The School magazine also had a fresh approach this year. As I wrote in the foreword, it is colourful, vibrant and fun – a reflection of our lives at SMH. Its 'colour supplement' style made it immensely readable and enjoyable and all members of our school community were represented

including an article "It's cool to be waterwise" by our gardener, **Mr David McElvenny**, and "Why we love each other" by **Mr and Mrs Hargreaves**. The magazine was inspired by the editors, **Mrs Christine Hargreaves** and **Mr Jock Peebles**, and was a lively record of School life illustrated with wonderful art and special moments captured by our prolific school photographer, **Mr Mark Hatherly**.

Then on October 9<sup>th</sup> this year, the Inspectors rolled in. Ten of them! Two from the Commission for Social Care and eight from the Independent School Inspectorate. Understandably, all schools are accountable and, as Socrates said, "the unexamined life is not worth living". However, it is always daunting to be closely scrutinised and the proliferation of paper, of handbooks, of plans, parental and student questionnaires, of schemes of work, of policies - and the intensity of the navel-gazing for the self-review forms meant there was a great sense of relief when the last inspector left the premises and when finally we had our School to ourselves again.

The Inspection process is very much a team effort and I am grateful to all the staff and indeed the students for their support during the Inspection - but I am most especially indebted to my Deputy Olive Ridge who bore the brunt of the organisation.

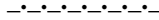
We now await the final report with anticipation and will circulate all current parents as soon as it arrives. It will also be available on our website. We hope the report will provide us with a useful perspective on where we are now and some helpful pointers for the way forward.

One of the aspects of School life which was highly commended by the Inspectors on their tours round the School was the wonderful art work which is displayed, both painting and ceramics, which is created through the expert guidance of **Mr Jock Peebles and Mrs Jane Abbott**. I should like to give a special mention this year to Art Scholar **Rosalie McBride** whose exquisite work hangs in our newly refurbished drawing room and gives us so much pleasure every day. I tell everyone they are McBrides and I have no doubt they will be highly sought after before long - in fact many of us already covet the pieces she has left behind.

To conclude my report, I should like to extend my warmest good wishes to those students who have left SMH and have moved on to the next stage of their lives. In your time with us we aimed to educate you for confidence, in order that you might have the courage to face the challenges ahead, that you might believe in yourselves and strive for your goals with resilience and determination. In the words of the German poet and philosopher Goethe, 'Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it: Boldness has genius, power and magic in it';

I wish you all good luck for the future. Be brave, be bold, be resolute and of good courage and God bless you all.

**Sue Meek**  
**SMH Headmistress and SMHA President & Chairman**



## **SMH MARKETING REPORT**

Some of you will probably be aware that we now have a new brand identity which is stronger, more contemporary yet classic so it will not date quickly. The old logo was outdated and did not reflect what St Mary's Hall is about so it was time for a change.

A strong brand is an organisation's most valuable, intangible asset. It's everything we say and do. It defines personality and expresses a point of view and ethos. It can raise profile, put us on the map and improve the business. It differentiates us from our competitors.

We have kept a link with the previous logo whilst looking forward to the future. This has been done by using a flower motif as in the previous logo and using the existing dark blue as one of the primary colours. The flower motif also reflects the caring ethos of the School, i.e. nurture not pressure.

To provide a stronger statement and better flow, the previous strapline 'To educate for confidence' has been amended to 'Educating for Confidence'.

In line with our new identity we have produced two new prospectuses: one for the Junior School and another for the Senior School. We also have a fabulous looking new website so please check it out at [www.stmaryshall.co.uk](http://www.stmaryshall.co.uk). We will soon be adding two exciting new features, Talking Heads and Virtual Tour, which will allow visitors to get much more of a 'flavour' of the School before visiting.

We are very excited about the new look and the positive response received from past and present parents and pupils. A new flag in our new colours to replace the one generously donated by SMHA would complete the transformation. The cost would be in the region of £350 and any donations from the Old Girls would be gratefully received.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Katja von Schweitzer**  
**SMH Marketing Manager**



# NEWS FROM FORMER HEADMISTRESSES

## MISS OLWEN DAVIES

Miss Davies had hoped to join us at the May Reunion but, in the event, the after-effects of a successful hip operation in October 2005 had reduced her stamina and appetite for long distance driving and she was unable to come to Brighton.

**Olwen Davies**

**SMH Headmistress 1965 – 1972 and SMHA Hon Vice President**

## MRS OLIVE LESLIE

Mrs Leslie wrote in her 'round robin' of Christmas 2005 "You will have to forgive me for not sending cards this year. There are friends whom I do not often, in some cases never, see. As I started to write this I saw a letter to the editor in my daily paper headed "Stop Mum's Round Robins", so I won't boast too much about my family since it irritates the young. Suffice it to say that my two grandsons continue on their merry way, one up at Cambridge and having a year out at the Sorbonne while the other has just started at Oxford where one cousin has just graduated this year and is staying on for an M.A. while twin cousins have also got places, so the family record is being maintained.

Now for news of me: I had a number of holidays with my sister, firstly to the Baltic in glorious weather, and to Egypt as if in Old Testament times. There were eight of us in the party including my sister's daughter (a consultant psychiatrist in London), her husband and two couples, who are their great friends. We thoroughly enjoyed some younger company. Earlier we had gone with my brother to Tenerife to give him some of the sunshine, which he loves, but we hit on the wettest Spring since 1971. On October 14th I had a peculiar 'turn' which I recognized as a mild t.i.a. and a friend took me to the doctor and then straight to the local hospital where I stayed until almost the end of the month. When I came out I spent several weeks with the Wilsons where I had wonderful care. Then sister Iris came from Norwich for two weeks. She had to go back to prepare for an operation on her knee which she had successfully only to develop peritonitis some time later. An emergency operation was carried out (at 3.30 a.m) and for some days she hovered in a borderland before pulling through. She still has a long way to go and 19 of her family gathered last week-end to be with her and to go together to church on Sunday. How pleased our parents would be to find us so supportive of each other!

Although I have not been to SMH since the Spring, I still keep in touch and enjoy meeting or hearing of former staff and pupils. Gillian (née Loder) had promised to take me to St Paul's to hear her son singing in the Messiah. Instead she has sent me a CD of Carols entitled " Love Came Down At Christmas". Buy it if you can; it's delightful.

And now to all of you, whatever your beliefs, I send my message - the one which the Christ Child brought to us so many years ago: "Peace on earth, goodwill to all". With love as always,  
Olive Leslie

And in the Spring of 2006, Mrs Leslie wrote "Since October I have been of much interest to numbers of consultants in several disciplines with no firm diagnosis yet. It has been lovely to hear at Christmas from so many O.G.s and if you didn't get a round robin (horror of horrors) from me blame it on exhaustion. After 90 I had to stop. I hope to see many of you (D.V.) in May."

Unfortunately Mrs Leslie was unable to be at the May event ,and the latest news as we go to press in December 2006 is that she has had another spell in hospital having lost almost all her sight. She will stay with her sister Iris for a while and then hopes to return to Deddington.

**Olive Leslie**

**SMH Headmistress 1972 - 1981 and SMHA Hon Vice President**

## **MRS CLARE FEAVER**

Chichester, September 2006

Dear All

I am still in Chichester enjoying Cathedral music and being a Cathedral guide. I also enjoy holidays, and this year have visited the Classical sites in Greece including Delphi and Olympus which were the highlights. In Athens I had a rather nasty bug and had to retire to bed. I am now off to Cornwall for a late holiday with my sister.

I hope members who come this way will drop in. It would be good to see you and if you telephone first I can provide refreshment.

I hope to be at the Autumn 2005 concert but I am sorry that I was not able to be at the May 2005 Reunion.

With every good wish to you all.

**Clare (Harvey) Feaver**

**SMH Headmistress 1981 - 1988 and SMHA Hon Vice President**

## **MRS TERESA BROADBENT**

Mrs Broadbent was unable to attend the May event as she would have to be in Nottingham. She writes that she has really appreciated the news of old girls, and particularly the news from Mona Kassim telling us about so many of her friends from Brunei and SMH. She sends her best wishes to all.

**Teresa Broadbent**  
**SMH Headmistress 1988 – 1991 and SMHA Hon Vice President**

## **MRS PAMELA JAMES**

Brighton, November 2006

Dear Friends

Those to whom this letter is addressed have in common the fact that they once attended St Mary's Hall, and because of that share also, wherever they may be now, an acquaintance with the city of Brighton and Hove. That is why sometimes I choose to write about one or other of the city's landmarks.

I wrote some years ago that work was ready to start on the restoration of the West Pier. Sadly though, the legal opposition of the owners of the Palace Pier and arson attacks on the West Pier's structure made it impossible to realise the dream of the Pier's reconstruction.

However, those leading the West Pier Trust, among them Sir Lindsay Bryson husband of Lady Averil Bryson who taught at SMH, had courage, determination and perseverance. Their cherished dreams dashed and years of work brought to a fruitless end, how tempting it must have been to give up. But they did not. Instead they re-thought. They decided to seek a scheme that would retain as much of the heritage of the West Pier as possible; but would also create new heritage, speaking to the future of the 21st century in which it was conceived and constructed. It would have to be of equal merit to the West Pier and reflect its spirit. It would be, to quote the Trust, 'a source of civic pride, public benefit, tourist attraction and cultural acclaim'.

And what have they come up with? the i360: an air-conditioned pod taking about one hundred people slowly up a slender steel mast to 500' above sea-level, and then returning equally slowly to the ground. The architects involved are those who created the London Eye. At the feet of the i360 will be an open-air Heritage Centre displaying artefacts from the Pier, including the original 1866 kiosks. On the sea-based Pier the aims are for the saving of the Pavilion structure, the renovation of the

external appearance of the Concert Hall, and the re-use at points along the deck of the original railings, lights etc. And planning permission has been granted.

Walking out along the West Pier - promenading - has been described as 'walking on water'. As I said earlier, the Trustees of the West Pier, faced with so many defeats and difficulties, did not give up. They re-thought. They swung the original idea from the horizontal to the vertical: walking up the sky; 'rising in the air'. What an imaginative leap. To courage, perseverance and determination add imagination and there is created Hope for the future, in which we can all share.

With affection and good wishes to all

**Pamela James**

**SMH Headmistress 1991 – 1997 and SMHA Hon Vice President**

## **NEWS FROM FORMER STAFF**

### **LAURA BRISTOL 1958-1988**

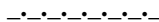
Miss Bristol spent last winter camping in the kitchen as her drawing room needed a new floor and there seemed to be weeks between each operation. The "end of the skirting" was in sight in March 2005 to be followed by redecoration. Miss Bristol reminds us that 6th May - the date of the 2005 May event - was the date of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of George V and also the wedding of Princess Margaret, amongst many other events, "but the weather is usually good!" [Ed: Not this time, Miss Bristol, not this time!]

### **BETHAN CHANNING 1962-1985**

Mrs Channing went on a cruise in January 2005 returning in March and, at the time when Mrs Channing wrote in, she was still trying to catch up with the chores after the extended absence from home. The cruise was a wonder filled trip around South America in calm seas and very mild weather even in the Falklands and around Cape Horn. Then came Easter and with it Mrs Channing's son, wife and two grandchildren to stay.

### **MARGARET PAYNE 1966-1982**

Miss Payne accepted the invitation to join us at the May event and wrote of enjoying the St Hilary farewell concert earlier in the year. She is not always as well as she would like but keeps in touch with other members of staff of her era.





**ST MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION**  
**ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2006**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

		2006	2005
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership Subscriptions		2,300.25	3,351.50
Fund-raising:			
	Spring Draw	389.00	305.00
	Building Fund	-	50.00
	Donations	50.00	-
	Raffle	-	59.00
		439.00	414.00
Re-union:	May lunches	103.00	185.00
Interest:	Bank premium account	45.71	40.82
	Bank current account	-	-
	CBF share dividends	-	39.27
	CBF deposit account interest	-	473.03
	Scottish Widows account	350.99	-
		396.70	553.12
Total income		<b>3,238.95</b>	<b>4,503.62</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Printing costs:	Magazines	555.34	1,175.00
	Flyers	-	240.00
		555.34	1,415.00
Postage/Stationery:	Magazine postage	434.52	449.46
	Stationery	7.99	91.54
		442.51	541.00
Re-union:	May lunches	-	160.00
Spring Draw	Prize money	-	100.00
Other expenses	SMH Building Fund	-	5,705.00
	Retirement gifts	45.00	19.99
	Treasurer's expenses	-	-
		45.00	5,724.99
Total expenditure		<b>1,224.85</b>	<b>7,940.99</b>
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<b>2,014.10</b>	<b>(3,437.37)</b>
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>			
Current assets			
Scottish Widows Bank	Deposit account	16,350.99	-
Cash at Barclays Bank	Premium account	1,534.84	16,689.13
	Current account	2,604.59	1,787.19
		4,139.43	18,476.32
Total Assets		<b>20,490.42</b>	<b>18,476.32</b>
Representing:			
General Fund at start of year		18,476.32	21,744.66
Profit on realisation of shares		-	169.03
Surplus of income over expenditure		2,014.10	(3,437.37)
Fund at end of year		20,490.42	18,476.32
Gift Fund at start of year		-	22.00
Donation to SMH Building Fund		-	(22.00)
Fund at end of year		<b>20,490.42</b>	<b>18,476.32</b>

The above accounts agree with the financial records maintained by the Honorary Treasurer.

Andrew Russell, Chartered Accountant  
31 January 2007



## Transforming Lives of Children in Brighton



February 2007

As fellow Old Girls we would like to keep you up to date with one of the most exciting developments SMH has ever seen:

### **St Mark's Church – St Mary's Hall Chapel & Arts Centre - for Children in Brighton**

St Mark's is about to be repaired and developed to create a multifunctional **new Community Arts Centre**. It will continue to be used as a place of worship, and will provide facilities for rehearsing and performing dance, music and drama and exhibiting art. We hope that you'll agree that this is a most fitting way to commemorate the **170<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of St Mary's Hall.

In order to clarify the connection between St Mary's Hall and St Mark's the name will be changed to St Mary's Hall Chapel & Arts Centre.

### **Who needs it?**

St Mark's is a tremendously useful space that currently cannot be used to its full potential. There is an acute shortage of rehearsal & performance space in our area which we could provide. Areas of East Brighton are some of the most socially and economically deprived in the UK and the restoration of the Chapel will create positive opportunities for children in our community. St Mary's Hall pupils & those at St Mark's Primary School will continue to worship in the Chapel and benefit from the dance studio, art gallery & theatre the restored building will provide.

### **What needs to be done?**

The Chapel is a Grade II listed building and an architecturally significant local landmark. Despite considerable School investment, the Chapel is in a bad state of disrepair.

- The East wall is supported by scaffolding and is threatening the beautiful stained glass window above the altar.
- Essential major improvements include repairs to the fabric of the building, re-wiring, a new heating system, flooring, new toilet facilities and improved disabled access.
- The Chapel will then be fitted with staging, a dance studio, an art gallery and an heritage area.

### **The cost**

- The estimated cost of our project is at least £600,000. We are delighted to report that several Charitable Trusts have already pledged support, and we are also applying to receive National Lottery funding which would bring us closer to that total.
- Over the next 12-18 months we will be fundraising for the remaining amount and to match any Lottery support.

We are extremely grateful for the generous donation already pledged by SMHA and hope that you will be able to offer your support again as we progress.

We hope that, like us, you value what SMH has given you and we look forward to writing to you with an update later in the year. Visit [www.stmaryshall.co.uk](http://www.stmaryshall.co.uk) > News & Events, or contact Helen Farquharson, Appeals Director on +44 (0) 1273 647778 or email [appeals@stmaryshall.co.uk](mailto:appeals@stmaryshall.co.uk) for more information.

With warmest regards

*Penny (Hunt) Barnes Anne (Levisieur) Commin Margaret (Cook) Rawlings*

**On behalf of St Mary's Hall Chapel & Arts Centre Appeal Board:  
*Penny Barnes, Anne Commin, Denise Hastilow, Patrick Kerrigan,  
Margaret Rawlings, Andrew Russell and Robert Stiles***

If you do not wish to receive any further information about St Mary's Hall Chapel & Arts Centre, please contact Helen Farquharson, St Mary's Hall, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5JF Tel. 01273 647778, email [appeals@stmaryshall.co.uk](mailto:appeals@stmaryshall.co.uk)

## **Minutes of the 88th Annual General Meeting of the SMHA, held at St. Mary's Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

### **Present**

Anne (Leveiseur) Commin, Anne (Finch) Nelson, Frances (Moojen) Bearn, Miss Laura Bristol, Margaret Ellis, Miss Margaret Payne, Mary (Rand) Abbis, Pam (Cryer) Butcher, Pat Goode, Penny (Buck) Gardiner, Robina Methven, Sheida Besozzi, Mrs Sue Meek, Susan (Harris) Roller, Veronica Smith, Virginia James, Vivien (Greenyer) Thompson, Mrs Pamela James, Karen Ma (Head Girl)

The meeting opened with prayers and remembrance for those who had died since the last May event.

Sue Meek welcomed Karen Ma, new Head Girl, and Helen Farquharson who is working hard on the St Mark's appeal.

### **Apologies**

62 members sent apologies for absence - a list has been kept for the record. Miss Olwen Davies sends best wishes and hopes to attend with better hips next year. Moyra Corscarden hopes to return next year.

### **President and Chairman's Report**

Gloucester is up and running. Hazel Hawtin and her team had only a matter of hours to move from Elliott to the new premises. Somehow they managed it and it is a huge success. ROC were excellent and considerate contractors. The Duchess of Gloucester's visit was delightful. Mrs Avis organised the music, just as she had done for the Duchess's last visit. The senior girls lined the drive and she walked down, talking to many girls and staff as she went.

This Christmas was St Hilary's last, and carols on the front stairs with Miss Payne was a lovely way to mark the event.

Technology is moving on as ever, not least in our new IT suite. The interactive whiteboard is installed in the maths department and we plan to use them in many other departments, including the Junior school. Funding from the Southover Trust has been a great help here.

As well as renewing our prospectus, we will be rebranding all our publicity, including the website.

Helen Farquharson was invited by the Chairman to give us a run down on how the St Mark's appeal was progressing. Helen outlined the main concerns: the roof, the east window and the heating system are all in dire need of repair. The organ has been wrecked by the condensation caused by the heating system. These repairs must be carried out at considerable cost, irrespective of whether we decide to seize the opportunity of putting in a new sprung floor and some decent loos.

An improved chapel would be very desirable all round – the girls would have a great dance, drama and concert venue and local groups are interested in hiring it. This fits well with the Heritage Lottery funding requirement that the development be of broad benefit to the community. There will be an area in St Mark's for an ongoing historical display. The old girls might have some interesting bits and pieces for us to use.

### **Hon Treasurer's Report**

Susan Roller thanked Anne Nelson for her careful preparation of the accounts, which were submitted in December and audited by Andrew Russell. Subs are now rising to £53.50 for life membership. Our investments in central board of finance deposit account for charities have been sold and we have invested £16,000 in a deposit account that yields 4.25% interest. Susan will review the interest rates.

### **Hon Editor's Report.**

We still lack a magazine editor. We have had a generous response from Jodie Graham but fear the task will be too onerous for her, given her student workload.

### **Retirements**

We thanked Anne Nelson, Frances Bearn and Angelica Meletiou for all their hard work over the years [Ed.: Anne, Frances and Angelica have thanked SMHA for the gifts of a book token each.]

### **Nominations and Election of Committee Members**

Linda Kings and Sue Carnochan have agreed to stand again. Penny Gardiner, Virginia James, Karen Ma, Robin Methven were all approved and elected. Margaret Rawlings and Anne Commin sit on the committee as our old girl governors.

### **The Spring Draw ...**

... raised £394, the £100 prize being won by Sheila (Humphrys) Allison.

### **Date of Next Reunion**

The date for the 2007 May event was to be 5<sup>th</sup> May but when later we realised it was a Bank Holiday we moved to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

### **The meeting closed with prayers**

50 members and guests then met for a drinks reception, lunch, tours of Gloucester House, a delve into the archives and tea.
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## **2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Committee of the St Mary's Hall Association hereby gives notice that the 89th Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 11am at the School on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening prayers and remembrance
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 88<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2006
4. Matters arising
5. Reports from
  - President & Chairman
  - Hon Secretary
  - Hon Overseas Secretary
  - Hon Treasurer
  - Hon Editor
6. Committee members
  - Retirements
  - Nominations
  - Elections
7. Draw for prizewinners of Spring Draw 2007
8. The May Event 2008
9. Any other business
10. Closing prayers

### **COMMITTEE NOTICES**

- Yammie Pang, having completed three years as Hon Overseas Secretary, stands down in May 2007 and is eligible for election for a further term.
- This is an opportune moment for the Committee to thank Anne (Gay Gosnell) Stapleton and Diana (Moore) Gosnell for running the Reunion lunchtime Raffle for many years. Last year Anne and Diana were unable to attend due to a family bereavement and this year we shall be asking you to give generously to the Chapel Appeal instead.

You can reach the committee members in a variety of ways

- Email to: [stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com)
- Letters via the Headmistress' PA at the school
- Logon to: [www.stmaryshall.co.uk](http://www.stmaryshall.co.uk) >Our School> Past Pupils



## SMHA DATABASE

For some years now the work has continued on the mailing database started by Linda (Belasco) Kings which now contains the current whereabouts of 1,072 SMHA members and also a subsidiary database for contact details of SMH pupils who are not SMHA members.

I am always happy to do lookups for friends with whom you have lost touch although, with one eye on the Data Protection Act, I cannot supply addresses directly but will act as middleman in an exchange of letters. Though as email becomes more common, and with less sensitivity around email addresses, the amount of letter forwarding is diminishing. But there are many, many more SMHA members where we have lost touch because their annual newsletters have been returned as 'gone away' so I take this opportunity to publish the names of those we have lost contact with in the last 10 years. If you have details for any of our missing members please let me know.

**Penny (Buck) Gardiner**  
**SMHA Hon Editor**

### **GONE AWAYS 2006**

A	Harris
Cheryl	Garnsey
Claire	Watkins
Deborah	(Goodall) Raper
Dega	Stephenson
Elisabeth	Goodhind
Emily	Maskey
Goldie	Momen
Isabel	(Child) Ford
J	Rogers
Judith	Green
Julie	(Freeman) Allin
K	Wolff
Kathryn	Harris
Lucy	(Middlemas) Rothman
Naomi	Stephenson
Nicola	Walters
Rameen	Momen
S	Wimbush
Shani	(Waller) Mason

## GONE AWAYS 1995-2005

A Steer, A McNair, Alexandra Khalik, Alison Forster, Allison Rollinshaw, Amanda Nicholas, Amy Drinkwater, Anna Vigerland, Anne (Payne) Grapes, Anne Tissier, Anne (Black) Linsey, Anne Marie Parker, Asuka Nakamura, Brigid (Cooper) Sundaram, C Hui, C Benton, C Hitch, C Parker, Candida-Jane (West) Luongo, Caroline Fuller, Carolyn Pumphrey, Carolyn Mulenga, Charlotte Pumphrey, Charlotte Steventon, Chrissie Courtney, Christine Clark, Clare Barnes, Clare Black, Collette Little, Constance (Gamble) Sturt, Coral Golding, D Wai, D Chandler, Daria Sveshnikova, Debbie Brown, Donna Lui, E Anderson, E Manville, E Nicholls, E Scott-Wilson, E Tuckwell, E (Waller) Jones, E R (Powell) Martin, Elaine (Johnstone) Luckily, Elizabeth Warburton, Emelia Papadamou, Emma Henderson-Kemp, Emma Sloan, Emma Chapman, Emma John, Emma Bird, Emma (Wills) Remie, Emma Israiel, Erica Nakpo-Ewien, Eva (Yik Ting) Wong, F De la Motte, Fenella Rouse, Fiona (Laughton) Moss, Frances Margaret (Woolgar) Paine, Francesca Parker, Freya Rowe, Grace Lee, H Rabjohns, Hae-Gyung (Helen) Chang, Heather (Gilham) Hampson, Helen (Crittall) Nixon, Helen (Cope) Barker, Helen Demetrious, Henrietta Knott, Hilary (Pugsley) Pugh, Hoi-yan Annie Tong, Hong Hong, Ibukun Agbelusi, Irene Kwong, J Greenall, J Jasmine, J Tall, J Howard, J Sterry, Janan Kassir, Janet White, Jemma Joyce, Jennifer (Jones) Lambert, Jennifer (Owen) Warren, Jennifer Matthews, Jill (Cockburn) McKean, Jin-Hee Kim, Joanna Lutkin, Joanna Comens, Joy Yang, Joyce Fung, Judy Law, Julia Bramwich, Julia Archangelskaya, K Sartori, K Williams, Karina Zajac, Kathleen Chambré, Katie Walters, Katrina Beck, Katrina Maddock, Keeley Ward, L Richardson, L Wright, Laura Gold, Laura Tennant, Lauren Eede, Lorna (Champion) Franks, Lucy Barnes, M Wai, M (Chaun) Kwok, M Sturdy, M Lилley, Madeline Farr, Man Wah (Catherine) Lau, Marguerite (Seton) Arter, Marguerite (Cook) Oxley, Mary Anne Coate, Melanie Anne (Lythgoe) Versloot, Melissa (Lindeck) Lindsay-Bethune, Mi-Hee Kim, Mona Alimin, N Watts, N Kings, N (Burden) Callow, N Sautter, Naomi Usher, Natalie Wesson, Natasha Greaves, Natasha Arghiros, Nesanet Assefa Kebede, Nesheko Mundia, Nga Wai Tsang, Nicola Sanderson, Nina Motylinski, Ola Ibraheem, Patricia (Carton) Elsdon, Pauline Hesson, Pei-Hsin (Sharon) Ou, Penelope Maflin, Penny Hill, Phoebe Stewart, R Kettlewell, R Greenwood, Rebecca Doble, Rosemary (Turner) Baxter, Ruth Pang, S Nee, S Nicholls, S Scates, S (Gurney) Elsom, Samantha Barnett, Sarah Davies, Sarah Stallard, Sarah Nee, Sarah Alam, Sara-Jane Lo, Shannon O'Neill, Sheenagh (Bodkin) Murphy, Sophie (Grant) Wycsock-Wright, Sue (Haydock) Forsyth, Susan Knight, Susan (Lea) Browning, V Wilson, Venus Li, W Chan, Wing Sum (Donna) Lui, Y (Claudet) Downer, Yee-Hee Kim, Yeuk Sze (Christina) Wong, Z Abubakar, Zee Agoro, Zoe Gordon.

—•••••—



## 2006 SMH LEAVERS JOINING SMHA

Annie Sinclair, 5 Boniface Close, Foxes Hollow, Stonecross, East Sussex, BN24 5FG  
Baiju Patel, 61 Woodland Drive, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6DF

Calise Pang, 17\B, Block 8, Provident Centre, 35 Wharf Road, North Point, Hong Kong. email: calise\_pang@hotmail.com

Chin Yan (Emily) Ting, Flat A, 20/F, Tein Tsin House, Tsuen Wan Ctr., Tsuen Wan, N.T, Hong Kong email: emilyting26@yahoo.com.hk

Claire Burgess, 9 Windlesham Gardens, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 3AJ

Claire McCarthy, 32 Southdown Road, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5A

Claire Hossack, 34 Upper Abbey Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 0AD

Denise Staples, 57 Hawth Park Road, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 2RT

Emma Wilkins, 9 Park View Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 7BF email:  
emma.wilkins@hotmail.co.uk

Gumashah Al-Ateeqi, 15 Antill Road, Bow, London, E3 5BT

Han Jing (Reiya) Yan, 7 Yucai Road, Zouqu, Wu Jin, Chang Zhou, Jiang Su, China.  
email: rayabxz115@hotmail.com

Hannah Bishop, 25 Bristol Gate, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 5BD,

Hannah Elbaccush, 83 New Church Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 4BB

Hiu Hung (Nikki) Chua, Flat A 20/F Tower 5, The Leighton Hill 2B Boardwood Rd,  
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Hoi Yee (Candice) Cheung, Flat D, 10/F, Friendship Court, 12-14 Blue Pool Road,  
Happy Valley, Hong Kong. email: ean2d@yahoo.com

Jean Sally Yiu, B2, 7/F, Summit Court, 150 Tin Hau Temple Road, Hong Kong.  
email: jean2gether@hotmail.com

Jessica Hancock, 70 Pembroke Crescent, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 5DE email:  
jessrulesdaworld@hotmail.com

Julia Primostka, 26 Wakefield Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 3FP

Ka Wing (Catherine) Kwok, Flat D, 5/F, Blk 11, Tai Po Centre, On Pong Road, Tai  
Po, N. T., Hong Kong. email: smallcat\_kkw@yahoo.com.hk

Ka-Yan (Gigi) Mak, Flat F, 5/F, Block 1, Hoi Sing Court, South Horizons, Ap Lei  
Chau, Hong Kong. email: yoie\_gigi@yahoo.co.uk

Keli Farkas, 35 Over Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 4EE. email:  
kelisaseagrape@hotmail.com

Kiu Kiu (Shealfiin) Chan, Flat E 12/F Wang Wah Mansion, No. 1 Tai Ha Street, Tai  
Wo Hau, Tsuen Wan, N.T, Hong Kong.

Kwai Yee (Sally) So, Flat K, 7/F, Block 2, Lok Hin Terrace, 350 Chai Wan Rd, Chai  
Wan, Hong Kong. email: sallysallyso@yahoo.com.hk

Larissa Huber, 19 Wanderdown Road, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 7BT

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Min (Minnie) Huang, Pearl Industrial Company, Rm. 206, Int.Plaza, 20 Sheung  
Yuet Road, Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong.

Natasha Allahiary, 294 Dyke Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 5BA

Nga Ting (Sonija) Ng, 18/F, Flat B, Block 3, Braemar Hill Mansions, 19 Braemar Hill Road, Nort Point, Hong Kong. email: [yocki@hkwatches.org](mailto:yocki@hkwatches.org)

On-Yue (Annie) Chan, Flat 5H, Block 3, Palm Mansion, Whampoa Gardens, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

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Victoria Lefevre, 1 Shirley Drive, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6NQ

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Yi Chu (Esther) Hu, Room 302, Building 1, 1 Nan Liu Lane, Beilin District, Xi'an City 710001, Shanxi Province, China.

Yuk Hang (Rita) Shau, Flat B2, 4/F, Block B, 80 Bonham Road, Rhine Court, Hong Kong. email: [ballerita323@hotmail.com](mailto:ballerita323@hotmail.com)

**Welcome!**

## **PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

From Mathilde Henrot "I have been a student at Saint Mary's Hall in 1988 and 1989 (3rd Form). I would be eager to get in touch with people who attended the school at this time, especially Neda Piniawatana, who was a dear friend." [mathilde.henrot@mk2.com](mailto:mathilde.henrot@mk2.com)

From Claire (Riches) Tormey -1988 Does anyone have a contact for Tara Fitz-Andrews? [clairetormey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clairetormey@yahoo.co.uk)

Elsbeth (Jones) Cavalcanti is in the Middle East and looking for Barbara James, Julia Besser, Anne Anthony, Catriona Ferguson, Helen Carden and Margaretta Adams. [ecavalcanti@hct.ac.ae](mailto:ecavalcanti@hct.ac.ae)

Caroline (Sims) Stephen 1965-71 is looking for anyone else in her year especially Bimbo Debayo, Joanna Browne, Jill Smith, Debbie Salmon and Alice Baxter. [carolines@tamarind-intern.com](mailto:carolines@tamarind-intern.com)



WHITE CUT-OUT PAGES FOR NEWS & VIEWS

**St. Mary's Hall Association**  
**Annual May Event Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

St. Mary's Hall, Eastern Road, Brighton, BN2 5JF  
Tel: 01273 606061 Fax: 01273 620782 www.stmaryshall.co.uk

**Programme**

<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Coffee, tea and home made cakes</b>
<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>SMHA Annual General Meeting</b>
12.15 pm	<b>SMH Chapel &amp; Arts Centre Appeal Launch</b>
<b>12.45 pm</b>	<b>Buffet lunch or bring a picnic</b> (Lunch tickets £5 per head, children ½ price – pay on the day)
14.15 pm	Enjoy & Explore, Tours & More Meet the new Head of the Junior School, Huw May.
<b>16.15 pm</b>	<b>Tea</b>
16.45 pm	Committee Meeting

All past, present and future members of the S.M.H. community are welcome at May Reunion events. Family and friends are welcome guests.

Very last minute/ emergency contact number - mobile telephone: 07973 881959

✂.....  
Please complete, detach and return this part to : **Mrs Susan Roller, The Red House, Wilsford-cum-Lake, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 7BL.**

Alternatively email [stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com)

Use the white space overleaf for AGM agenda items, nominations for new SMHA committee members and your NEWS.

**Your Full Name** .....

**School Surname if different** .....

Years at S.M.H. (YYYY) ..... to (YYYY) .....

Contact Email and/or tel. no. ....

**Yes, I will be at the AGM**

**Please reserve places for the Buffet lunch (£5 each, children £2.50):**

Number of places ..... **Name(s) of Guest(s)** .....

**Sorry, I'm unable to join you at the 2007 May Event**

**R.S.V.P. by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

**St. Mary's Hall Association  
Spring Draw 2007  
Prizes £50 x 2**

The Spring Draw is a fun and simple way for you to give to St Mary's Hall Association funds which are used for the benefit of the membership and SMH.

You could win £50 when the draw takes place on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007 during the AGM at the SMHA May Event (details opposite). The name of the prizewinners will be carried in the 2008 Annual magazine.

We have not been able to pre-print the draw tickets this year so make sure we know who you are by putting your name and postcode below and ticking the number of tickets you want to purchase.

Then send back the form below along with your cheque made payable to SMHA, sit back and wait to win!

Good luck and thank you.

✂.....

Send your tickets and cheque to **Mrs Susan Roller, The Red House, Wilsford-cum-Lake, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 7BL.**

Closing date 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007

£1 01	£1 02
£1 03	£1 04
£1 05	£1 06
£1 07	£1 08
£1 09	£1 10

Print your name and postcode and postcode here:



WHITE CUT-OUT PAGES FOR NEWS & VIEWS

**'THREE OLD BIRDS' by Maria (Tinner) Dunn ('69-'76)**

We came back to school just for the day  
to see if it had changed in any way.  
Tinner, Luggie, and BB are we  
part of the famed SMH three.  
There is stood in all its glory  
with walls that could tell many a story.  
We climbed the steps in trepidation full of doubt and anticipation.  
Could things really be the same  
would they remember us just by name?  
As we walked through the door and looked around  
the first thing we noticed and also found  
was the smell of the place and just how small  
it seemed to us (now we were tall!)  
But, nothing had changed, was something wrong? It felt as if we had never gone.  
Our tour began with a walk to the gym  
seeing school photos of us looking slim.  
We saw the wall bars and reminisced  
about all the friends that we all missed.  
Music concerts, evening prayers  
and undertaking various dares.  
Boiling Summers, chilly nights grey long skirts and woolly tights.  
Inter-house matches, and open days  
where we showed off our skills in various ways.  
"Hilary for Ever" rang in our ears  
as we supported the 'yellows' with shouts and cheers.  
Then off to the boarding house we then went  
to see the dorms where we all spent  
many years of our lives living together  
true friendships were made, mates forever.  
But, oh what a treat we to come  
Invited for lunch - what great fun.  
A surprise was in store for the old girls three  
formerly of the boarding house called Hilary.  
Fantastic grub, and what a choice  
I'm sure the girls must now rejoice  
at the cuisine available for them to eat compared to what we had - what a treat!  
The time then came for us to leave  
hours passed so quickly it was hard to believe.  
As we bade our farewells and walked away  
we said to each other "what a wonderful day  
of happy memories, and those times past,  
was it really 25 years since we were here last.  
It seems like yesterday, maybe it's a dream  
that we were all part of the SMH team?"

## 2006 MOVERS

Angelica Meletiou, Via E. Toti 3, 24040 Stezzano (BG) ITALY  
Anne (Weston) Clarkson-Webb, Hadlaubstrasse 70, 8006 Zurich, Switzerland  
Anthea (Drake) Holland, 7 Baltimore Close, Pontprennau, Cardiff, Wales, CF23 8PX  
Caroline (Searle) King, Lodge Farm, Copyhold Lane, Cuckfield, RH17 5ED  
Christine (Peckham) Yates, 33 Hazlemere Close, Rhyader, Powys, LD6 5NN  
Claire (Riches) Tormey, 194 St Leonards Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 6AU  
Emma (Worgan) Hunter, 30 Saltings Way, Upper Beeding, West Sussex, BN44 3JH  
Gillian (Green) Green, 7 Shaw Green Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham, GL52 3BS  
Joan (Gray) Cook, c/o 19 Atherley Road, Southampton, Hampshire, SO15 5DR  
Laura Drew, The Old Granary, Ockley Lane, Hassocks, West Sussex. BN6 8NX  
Lisajane (Nash) Caesar 4Hertford Wy Rheindalen-JHQ Moenchengladbach Germany  
Margaret Gray, 1 Ennerdale Road, Kew, Surrey, TW9 3PG  
Mei Tek Wong, 61 Brondesbury Road, London, NW6 6BP  
Melanie (Morrison) Heidler, 360 Cavendish Road, Balham, London, SW12 0PP  
Moyra Corscaden Red Oaks Care Home, The Hooks, Henfield, W Sx. BN5 9UY  
Nadya (Merk) Wathen, 55 Martindale Road, Short Hills, New Jersey, 7078, USA  
Nicola (Weatherley) Hanley, Warren Wood, Horsham Road, Handcross, RH17 6DX  
Ruth (Wooderson) Mehmet, 23 Norlands Crescent, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5RN  
Sally-Anne (Burt) Thomson, 20 Carnarvon Avenue, Glendowie, Auckland, NZ  
Sandra Newman, 4 Alexander Avenue, Mosman, NSW, 2088, AUSTRALIA  
Sarah Davis, 2 Arundel Court, Elverlands Close, Ferring, BN12 5QE  
Sarah Terrot, 1 Solways, Lyme Road, Uplyme, Dorset, DT7 3TL  
Sarah (Hunt) Ashford, 32 Abbey Gardens, Mt Claremont, Perth 6010, W Australia  
Sooty (Pearn) Naysmith, 97 Lyminster Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 8JL  
Trish (Williams) French, 14 The Lea, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 6JY  
Yetunde (Akisanya) Cuthbert, Glenwood, Southfield Place, Weybridge, KT13 0RQ

### **Farewell to St Hilary House**

On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005 the boarders had their end of term dinner and carol singing around the Christmas tree in the hallway of St Hilary House, 21 Sussex Square. Andrew Russell, Chairman of Governors, Sue Meek, Headmistress, and several members of staff joined them. This would be the last Christmas in the 'old' house before it was to be handed over to the new owners in August 2006.

It was interesting to realise that this event was a revival of the old tradition of St Hilary dating back to 1934. In the archives is a programme belonging to Betty Kettlewell and it shows the 'Hilarians', as the 42 boarders called themselves, held a similar evening.

Seventy years later our 21st century girls were carrying on a tradition that Betty Kettlewell and her friends would recognise. It was a very enjoyable evening, and a suitable tribute to the many girls and staff who have, since 1926, spent time at St Hilary.

**Sue Carnochan, SMH Archivist**





**Through the round window ...**

**May Event 2006**



**They weren't like this in our day !**

**May Event 2006**



## FROM THE ARCHIVIST

### Links across the Atlantic

A student from Chicago, USA, doing a thesis on church music, wanted to know about Charlotte Elliott. I was able to send her information and a picture of the famous 'bower' in which "Just as I am" might have been composed.

### Lady Hymn Writers

Mrs Murdoch, a vicar's wife, is writing a pamphlet on female hymn writers and asked for information on Charlotte Elliott and Emily Elliott, daughters of Edward Bishop Elliott, the vicar of St Mark's from 1853 to 1875.

### Links with 'Down under'

Mrs Stewart from Australia wanted to know about her great, grand aunt Ellen Heale. Our earliest register for 1836-1884 revealed the entry. Ellen was at SMH from 1857-1861. Her home was on St Helier but surprisingly her father's diocese came under Winchester. Ellen left aged 19 with a 3rd class certificate to return home and take up a "half engagement" post, presumably as a governess on St Helier.

### Bobby

Thanks to Fiona Carter and Olwen Davies for identifying "Bobby" as Rosemary Jane Lyons 1961-67.

**Sue Carnochan, SMH Archivist**

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#### SMHA PRAYER

O God, who art everywhere present, look down in Thy mercy on all those who have gone forth from this school. Grant that by the light of Thy divine inspiration and the gifts of Thy bountiful providence they may fulfil Thy purpose for them here on earth and may attain at length to that blessed home where they shall go no more out but serve and praise Thee continually in Thy temples; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### SCHOOL PRAYER

O God, by whose manifold grace all things work together for good to them that love Thee, stablish, we pray Thee, the thing that Thou has wrought in us, and make this school as a field which the Lord hath blessed, that whatsoever things are true, pure, lovely and of good report, may here forever flourish and abound. Preserve in it an unblemished name, enlarge it with a wider usefulness and exalt it in the love and reverence of all its members, as an instrument of Thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## NEWS\*NEWS\*NEWS

**First of all, news of our treasured veterans...**

### **Elisabeth Beresford 1932-40**

I remember Miss Ghey - Headmistress who started the kindergarten for me! She was very good to me. I became an evacuee after our house was bombed - am now 80 and partially confined to bed! Best wishes from me & The Wombles!

### **Joan (Gray) Cook 1931-34**

Joan's daughter writes "Mum is now 87. I finally persuaded her to move from Wallasey to Southampton. She has a lovely ground floor flat and sees her grandchildren go past every day on their way to school. She still remembers her time at St Mary's Hall and vividly remembers the sound of the sea on the beach when falling asleep in the dormitory!"

### **Margaret Gray 1926-32**

Now 92, Margaret writes to say that since leaving SMH she has been to two universities - Newnham College Cambridge and then Smith College Massachusetts, has worked in two schools and then been the headmistress of two more - the second of which was the Godolphin & Latymer School in Hammersmith. Margaret now lives in one of the Abbeyfield homes which are excellent residential homes giving maximum freedom and minimum work - suits me fine, she says. Margaret sends SMHA her very good wishes and remembers her headmistress, Miss Ghey, with affection and gratitude.

### **Sonia (Mackay) Warner 1935-40**

Sonia writes that she is still in Lisborough Green - older at 81 and more decrepit than when she managed to get to a Reunion dinner a few years ago, but life is still fun a lot of the time.

### **Sheila (Humphrys) Allison 1937-40**

It's now nearly four years since Sheila moved to West Sussex, close to her son, a dentist, and his family. She has just returned from a holiday in Sicily and a trip up Mount Etna which, given 83 years and two knee replacements, is some achievement ! Sheila provides a much appreciated bed and breakfast service to her daughter **Penny (Buck) Gardiner 1961-65** on her way between work in London and home in Somerset.

*[Ed: Miss Ghey (pronounced J-eye) was headmistress from 1911 to 1936 retiring immediately after the Centenary celebrations. She was instrumental in the post war re-opening of SMH and served for many years thereafter as a Governor.]*

## NEWS\*NEWS\*NEWS

### Continuing with news of the 1950s leavers ...

**Christine (Bean) Edmondson 1952-59** has had a busy year with a month's visit to S Africa early in the year, a hip replacement in July and a third grandchild born in November - his name is William Arthur Baxendale to be known as Billy, a brother for Freddie. My younger daughter, Anthea is expecting a baby in December just before they move house in London. I shall be with them for a week or so to help with Zara our two year old granddaughter. Hope to see **Mary (Cunliffe) Cole 1950-59** and **Liz (Cockburn) Males 1948-59** soon.

**Christine Heaton (McGarry) 1951-58** joined in the Spring Draw all the way from Australia and sent in some news at the same time.

"I attended SMH between 1951 and 1958, a very happy part of my life. I enjoy receiving my copy of the school magazine every year to keep up with the news of the school, and old friends. I have lived in Australia now for 45 years. I did my teacher training and degree here in Queensland. I majored in Geology and Geography - thanks to the enthusiasm of Miss Farmer at SMH.

I have kept in contact over the years with Miss Conrady (my godmother) Sister Browne, Mrs Hora and June Munzing. My son, a geologist, has two children and my daughter, an environmentalist, has one son, so life has been very kind to me.

My husband and I are now retired, whatever that means, and I do voluntary work - meals on wheels and as a nurse and general dogs body at the koala hospital caring for sick and injured koalas.

I remember many of the names mentioned in the SMH magazine and would love to hear more news of them but being a bit of a Luddite I am computerless so cannot use the website. Although my married name is McGarry I usually use my maiden name Heaton."

Christine sent in a photograph of the 1958 6th form on the front steps *[Ed: Sorry, we ran out of room Christine]*. Remembering these names; Ruth Pang (see Gone Aways list), Marion Fardell, Sarah Oates, Mary H-D, Elizabeth (Hockenull) Viner, Jane Bailey, and Mrs Hora.

*[Ed: It is not uncommon these days for a married woman to be known by her maiden name. In these cases, the brackets will be around the married name to indicate that the maiden name is of preferred use.]*

**Heather (Heald) Johnson 1948-51** is co-editor of a newsheet for the Learning in Later Life Student's Association at Strathclyde University in Glasgow. Heather would have liked to help with the SMHA newsletter but is just too far away.

**Julia (Franckeiss) Clayson  
1948-52**

Do any of these photos ring a bell? If not with you, perhaps someone will recognise themselves. Photos are of Upper 5 A taken in, I think, March 1952; the Reference library, (I loved the library, it was on the top floor, peaceful and sunny, and where you could read the Times and The Tatler, or search the shelves for poems of Rupert Brooke, and the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam etc.) and Prefects



1952.

I would love to hear from anyone who recognises themselves.

They remind me of very happy times at SMH...have more photos, if anyone is interested.



Jeannette Saunders died 1995 of cancer. (front left prefects) Would love to know what became of Mary Boswell (front centre prefects).



## NEWS\*NEWS\*NEWS

### And on to the sixties leavers ...

**Amanda (Hobson) Jones 1958-60 Elliott** writes "It is three years since my youngest child, Rebecca, died of breast cancer at the age of 33. Since then, I've tried to turn the unbearable grief and deep sadness of her loss into something positive for the future by becoming a voluntary fundraiser, local contact and political campaigner for the charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer. My involvement with this amazing organisation has taken me to so many places and events. I have the privilege of talking about Becs and Breakthrough to literally crowds of people in a huge variety of circumstances. I've had great support, both physically and in terms of her donations, from **Judith (Patten) Gunton 1950-60**, who was at SMH at the same time as I was. She and I have done a 60km Week-end Walk to Breakthrough Breast Cancer, an experience we both found incredible and which we so enjoyed doing together. In all this, my fantastic family provides incredible encouragement and motivation. Our grandchildren, both here and in America, are all helping to keep Becs's memory alive and, with Breakthrough, her life is being celebrated every day."

**Angelica Meletiou 1957-63 Babington House** has now moved permanently to Italy. I become a pensioner in December! I'm living close to my eldest son, so can play grandmother more often!!

**Catherine (Kate) (Steiner) Tordoff 1957-66 Elliott House** is living in Coventry on her own. Three sons all married. One grandson now 4 months old. Still teaching English in Further Education college. Sisters **Jill Steiner 1954-58** and **Mary Steiner 1956-59** still living in Home Counties with children and grandchildren around. In touch with **Lesli (Price) Day** who lives in Devizes and **Gilly (Synge) Fifield 1959-66** who lives in Solihull. Would welcome contact with anyone who has to come to Coventry - not many people come here voluntarily!!

### **Corinne (Hannant) Andrews 1963-69**

I live in South Africa with my husband Bryan. We have five adult children and five grandchildren. I visit UK annually as two of our children as well as my mother, sister are resident there.

### **Deborah (Cohen) Deller 1959-67**

I regret that I shall not be able to make the 2006 Reunion. My husband and I are sailing to Bilbao to take advantage of our early retirement by spending two months in Spain at our apartment with a shared swimming pool on the Costa Blanca. Both our sons are in their 20s, so they will probably be pleased to have a bit of their own "space."

I became a grandmother on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 when our younger son became a father at the grand old age of 22. At last I have a little girl in the family. Sue Meek may remember my son, Michael who was in the same class as her daughter at Kingscliffe School, now called Brighton College Pre-Prep.

### **Jane (Harvey) Porter 1956-62**

As an old girl of the school I am always grateful for the newsletters which I receive here in Queensland, Australia. Unfortunately my visits to UK rarely coincide with the Annual Reunion, and we often go straight to Scotland, where one of our daughters now lives.

**Liz (Baker) Caudle 1950-64** was sorry not to be able to get to the May event but will endeavour to come in 2007. Liz says "We are all around the dreaded age of 60 but feel years younger!"

### **Lucy (Cunningham-Clayton) Magauran 1960-67**

Has mixed memories of SMH between 1960 and 1967, beginning life as a boarder in Elliott and then becoming a day girl. "I often wonder what happened to the girls in my year." Lucy also asked to be removed from the SMHA mailing list.

*[Ed: We receive approximately one request a year for removal from the mailing list with which we comply without question. Unusually this year there were two requests, the second being from a member who does "not have the time to devote to the contents of the newsletter."]*

### **Margaret Anne (Megan) Warner 1955-61 Elliott House**

Having been an Ofsted Inspector for ten years, I decided to train as an International Consultant, and have this year worked in Qatar, in the Gulf region of the Middle East training teachers, and in India running workshops for teachers. I am also an Assessor in UK schools for classroom assistants who wish to become Higher Level Teaching Assistants. It all keeps me busy and on my toes! If anyone wants to know more, I have two websites [www.maweducation.co.uk](http://www.maweducation.co.uk) and a Blog! <http://maweducationmi.blogspot.com>

### **Mary (Abbis) Rand 1959-62 St Hilary House**

Mary writes that she retired last year after 40 years in the nursing profession and now has time to attend the May event. She got in touch with **Jenny (Riley) Wray 1951-63** after a gap of nearly 30 years then met **Jenny, Liz (Caudle) Baker** and **Jeanette Smith** (American exchange student) in Oxford when they chatted to **Miss Farmer (Kathleen Milton)** on the phone which Mary says "was great!" In the summer Mary met with **Veronica (Alsop) Smith, Pam (Cryer) Barber 1955-60** and **Lucinda (Tudor) Hassel**, who was over here from Barbados, at the OXO Tower in London to reminisce.

# NEWS\*NEWS\*NEWS

## Moving on to the seventies leavers ...

### **Anthea (Drake) Holland 1967-70**

I have been in Doha, Qatar for 4 years now. Alice (17) is at Steyning Grammar School doing A levels. Jess (14) is at Doha College, Doha, doing GCSEs in 2007. I am tutoring English and helping Qatari children with their school work. I am still in touch with **Rachel (Hewitt) Dedman** as she lives in Rusper with her three children, one of whom has just taken GCSEs at Lancing College, and a menagerie of pets, near to Steyning, West Sussex. My step-niece **Nicola (Weatherley) Hanley** has three children, William, Oliver and Charlotte. She is living in Handcross, West Sussex again after being in Australia for several years. Her husband works for an Australian law firm in London. They have come home for 3-5 years. I recently met in Doha, Qatar a lady called **Juliet (O'Hea) Rose** at SMH 1961-67, living in Doha with her husband Mark who works for an oil company here. I am always hopeful of a reunion of my years 1967-1970 but there never seems to be one in the pipeline!

**Caroline (Sims) Stephen 1965-71** was so pleased to receive the news from SMH. She has had the second of what she hopes will be regular get-togethers with **Fanny Johnston 1965-70** after many years of no contact. Fanny is in touch with **Liz Nichols** who lives in Australia. Caroline emails **Marissa (Harris) Gardiner** in Canada. Last year Caroline invited Mrs Redfern (Miss Armstrong) her form mistress, Transition, to tea as she lives close by in London. They enjoyed looking at old SMH photos and school reports, the latter to the amusement of Caroline's 19 year old daughter.

**Chevrel (Moisey) Traher 1970-75 Elliott House** has been living and landscaping in Turkey since 1994 (English Gardens Ltd). Divorced, two daughters: Kelsey at Hertford College Oxford, Georgia at Hurstpierpoint College. Enjoying the continued challenges of life, operating Organic farms and eco-tourism in Turkey. Check out our websites and join the project!(currently seeking partnerships) [www.englishgardens.com.tr](http://www.englishgardens.com.tr) [www.omercan.com.tr](http://www.omercan.com.tr)  
[www.ecoclubinlycia.com](http://www.ecoclubinlycia.com)

**Suzie (Rosser) Gutteridge 1970-76** gave up work last year to take on a full time BA in Textiles, Fabric and Fashion and have just started my second year, specialising in Textile Art at Winchester School of Art, Southampton Uni. Only two more years to go! Now have three students in the household with both young people also at University. An interesting time. Saw **Akiko (Shaw) Hickey 1971-77** and **Sandra (Jantuah) Pepera 1968-77** last year and spoke to Emma Godden.



### **Gillian (Green) Green 1968-76**

Finds the SMHA newsletter always an interesting read and would love to hear from anyone who remembers her! See new address in the change of address section.

**Kate Lord 1970-75** writes "With both my daughters now finished with their schooling, I have just put nearly 30 years in IT behind me and gone back to college myself. Having completed a Foundation Degree in Furniture Design and Making at Rycotewood College, Oxford I have tentatively started taking on my first commissions. I haven't seen any of my old SMH friends for a couple of years but still exchange erratic communications with **Nikkie Luers (Williams)** who is settled in Germany, **Kate Fletcher** and **Sheila Hurd**. Sheila took the big step of tracing her birth family fairly recently and she has also married her long time partner Colin. Through Kate's membership of Friends Reunited I visited **Shanti Patman (Haylar)** at her home in Leicestershire and had the slightly unnerving experience of meeting her daughter Jenny, who at nearly 18 looked so like the Shanti I had last seen when we left SMH that for a moment I thought I had stepped back to 1975!"

**Katie (Hodgson) Griffiths 1972-79** keeps in contact with **Anne Black**, who now lives in Adelaide, Australia. We live in Bedford with our twin 8yr old daughters. I have recently started selling chic accessories locally, & am hoping to increase my business in the area. I would love to get in touch with anyone who remembers me.

### **Lis (Ferguson) Eastham 1969-76**

I am now the proud Mum to two University graduates, with one remaining, with a year to go. As yet there are no grandchildren so at the moment Mike and I are enjoying life together, whilst still both working full time.

My main hobby has been genealogy for the last few years - I now have close to 5000 relatives /ancestors on our combined family tree and am in touch with a number of distant cousins across the world. Helen, our youngest, suffers from Myalgic Encephalopathy/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and as a result I have become quite interested in the M.E./CFS community in my efforts to support Helen. Do any other old girls suffer or have relatives who have this illness? Perhaps they'd like to get in touch? My mother, **Ruth (Powell) Ferguson 1948-51** was 74 in Dec 06. Continuing to teach swimming regularly, she also attends many dance classes and is a member of various clubs and associations which keep her busy.

### **Margaret Ellis 1967-75**

I have now clocked up 29 years of working for American Express and am now at their Burgess Hill office. When not there I seem to be either at St George's church in Kemp Town where I am PCC Secretary, as well as holding a few other posts, or ringing the bells at St Mark's chapel. The bells are rung for as many school events as possible, which we enjoy, and they do seem to be appreciated by those living locally. In August this year, **Jacqueline Morgan (1966-75)** had a week's holiday in Brighton so it was an opportunity for us to get together. **Ruth Pollock** also joined us (I have only seen her once since she left in 1974) so it was great to

meet up. It is hard to believe where the years have gone and in many ways none of us have changed.

**Sandie Newman 1969-76**

Still living in Sydney with husband Jon and three children (Emma 15, Alex 13 and Harriet 10). Love to hear from anyone (email to [scriven@bigpond.net.au](mailto:scriven@bigpond.net.au)) Nothing else to report.

**Sandra (Jantuah) Pepera 1968-77**

Just received my SMHA newsletter and was saddened to read of Sue Moller's death last year from cancer. She was the year above me and co-boarded at Elliott House. She might even have been Head of House. Sue was a stunningly talented oboe player, with musicianship that was head and shoulders above even some of the other talented girls. She also had quite the fastest cradle and twist on a lacrosse pitch that I ever saw! Absolutely no fun to try and tackle - made Sussex county teams I believe. Please pass on my warmest thoughts and my memories of her to William, Peter and Helen.

## **NEWS\*NEWS\*NEWS**

**Now the eighties leavers ...**

**Alison (Schuller) Platt 1980-87**

Emigrated to Adelaide in South Australia in 2004 with husband Steve and have just become Australian citizens. Still in Adelaide and loving the relaxed atmosphere and general Aussie lifestyle. Working for an organization called Trees For Life assisting in the revegetation of South Australia and the protection of its remnant vegetation, so finally feel that I am putting something back and doing my bit for the planet. Care2 make the world greener <http://www.Care2.com> In contact with **Vikki (Tink) Burcombe 1979-85, Tracey Baker -1987, Vicki (Davis) Johnson 1979-87, Mary Barltrop 1980-87, Karen (Duxbury) Connor 1979-88 & Serena Keef.**

**Brigitte (McAteer) Gladstone 1980-84**

Unfortunately I won't be attending the reunion this year. Maybe next year I'll try and organise to be back in the UK at that time. I am still living in Sydney and enjoying the lifestyle out here. My two daughters are now 6 and nearly 4. I am not working but enjoying looking after the girls and becoming more & more involved with the school - reading, canteen, class mum etc... It's amazing how busy school life is!

**Claire (Riches) Tormey -1988** has moved back to Sussex, currently in Horsham with husband and two children and would love to hear from some old school friends. [clairetormey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clairetormey@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Jane Campbell 1975-81**

I've been working at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union since September 2005 - I work in the department that looks after the Council of Finance and Economy Ministers of the 25 EU Member States. My sons - Jonathan (13) and Benjamin (10) - and I are all still keen hockey players.

**Jo (French) Grey 1983-88** was unable to make the May event as it clashed with her charity's AGM.

### **Melanie (Morrison) Heidler 1976-84**

I am now Mrs Heidler! Rado and I were married in Lewes Register Office (Southover Grange) on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, followed by a blessing in Streat Church on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April. It was lovely that **Christina Stainer (nee Laxton)** and **Janine Johnson (nee Launchbury)** - with their respective husbands and Jan's daughter - were able to be with us on the 8th. We honeymooned by spending a few



relaxing days in Angouleme, France. Otherwise, life is much as usual! I am still in the same job (Production Administrator at London Studio Centre), as is my sister, **Lucinda** - Head of Press at the National Theatre (which means I get to see lots of shows!).

### **Nadya (Merk) Wathen 1982-88 Chichester**

Studied Business with German in Swansea, got a job with Amex and helped introduce a new credit card to the German, French, Italian and Spanish markets. Married Angus Wathen from Brighton College in 1996. Am currently a stay at home mother to Paige (Oct 2002) and Marcus (May 2005) in Short Hills, New Jersey where we moved with Angus' job three years ago. Kept in contact with a few people, but mostly **Gemma Buckley -1988** who has just gone to work in an Orphanage/School in southern India for six months.

**Nancy Wong 1983-88** after graduation, returned to home - Hong Kong. Have been working ever since - in financial institutes as boring officer/manager. Got married in 1994 to Ken , who used to study in Hawaii ! Have two kids - Pearl 9 and Matthew 4.

### **Pippa Considine (Jones) 1978-83**

Married to Tim Jones, now have three children: Matilda 6, Vita 4 and Rufus 1. I still work as a freelance journalist (my husband runs a printing company based in Barnes) and we live in Hurstpierpoint, just 20 minutes from SMH. I keep up with **Annabel (Rogerson) Wates**, who has four children, **Caroline 'Tigger' (Searle) King 1975-84** who has three children and **Catherine (Fenn-Smith) O'Hara**

who also has three children, sometimes seeing **Annabel (Middlemas) Bott**, another with three children. I've also bumped into **Paula (Ashley) Ashdown - 1983**, who lives in Hurstpierpoint and has a girl and two boys. **Susan (Harris) Roller 1975-82** is working as a private tax specialist with Smith & Williamson in Salisbury dealing with some large country estates. Something of a contrast to her time with the Citizens Advice Bureau! Susan gives news of other 1982 leavers: -

**Libby (Ager) Thompson** is still busy globetrotting as sales director of the engineering business she works for in Brighton. **Anne (Barr) Carr-Hill** has three young sons. Her sister **Carole** lives in Canada.

**Mary Broach** was at SMH for a few years whilst her American family were in the UK. She worked as an investment banker but has ended up in the charity sector, fundraising and recently importing cottage industry goods from Cambodia to help alleviate poverty. She has three daughters. Her sister Elise has published her first book – Shakespeare's Secret – aimed at 8-12 year olds. She mentions her time in the UK as triggering her interest in English history.

**Jo (Dwyer) Hill** is doing some pieces for 'Women's Hour' and 'You & Yours' and has recently become a school governor.

**Susan (Hennings) Duncan** is Technical Editorial Adviser for the Hydrology Journal. She works from home and guides authors from across the world who wish to publish their work in English. Ross (aged 9) is progressing with his drum kit. Ellie (aged 6) and husband Andy are usually found at the other end of the house!

**Jane (Hitchcock) Bunclark** teaches English and drama at West Buckland school in Devon where her two children now also attend.

**Gabrielle (Lyons) Hutton** has moved to Cambridge where she is a busy mother and also teaches for the OU.

**Tamsin (Johnson) Kidwell** has given up work to go sailing. After touring the UK (and spending the winter running a chalet), she and David are now sailing round the Mediterranean.

**Doreen Lai** has a son James, aged 2. She lives in Australia but may be in London for a few months in 2008 as her husband hopes to take a sabbatical here.

**Lisa (Martin) Andrews** has qualified as a swimming teaching assistant.

**Katherine (Miller) Beaumaris** works as a clinical nurse at Rockingham hospital in Western Australia. She recently moved into a new home that they had built for them although they also sound to be doing a fair bit of work on the property

# NEWS\*NEWS\*NEWS

**And the nineties .....**

## **Emma (Davies) Thomas 1982-91**

Married Angus in 2003, had a little girl, Isabella Audrey in March 2005. Lost my dad in September 2005. I am working full time in IT and also studying for the Montessori International teacher training diploma in Surrey, with a view to opening my own French/English Bilingual nursery school next year. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me. Get in touch at [emma@hardpress.demon.co.uk](mailto:emma@hardpress.demon.co.uk)

## **Emma (Durrant-Peatfield) Mizael dos Santos 1989-98**

Emma left her job as office/HR Manager to emigrate permanently to Brazil in December 2006 after living in Bristol and Manchester for 3½ years with her Brazilian husband.

## **Gemma Finney 1992-99**

I am still working in an Investment Bank in Canary Wharf and living in South West London (Earlsfield). I have applied for a place in the 2007 London Marathon in aid of Parkinson's disease so I have a lot of training ahead of me during these cold and dark winter months! **Katie White -1997** recently contacted me out of the blue and we are planning to meet some time before Christmas. I still see **Nicola Mansell-1997** and hear from **Lucy (Dinning) Davies**.

## **Hannah (Gale) Toms 1991-98**

Writes to tell us that she got married in June 2006. Currently working as a midwife at the RSCH so not very far from SMH. Has a daughter who's nearly two called Georgia and a baby due in February.

## **Helen (Roberts) Fraser 1988-95**

My husband Simon and I had our first child in August - a little girl, Caitlyn Jane Fraser and we're all enjoying life (if craving sleep a bit!).

## **Jessica Jones 1984-90**

I now live in London with my "husband", near Wandsworth Common. We're not married although it feels like we are - in a good way! We have two amazing children - Ruby aged 3 and Sam (a boy) aged 1. I work from home part time as a freelancer. As a pure coincidence I live on the same Road as **Katherine (Manktelow) Banks 1985-89** from the year above. In touch with **Amanda (Robins) Clarke 1981-90** and **Nowal Al-Shaikley**. My Mum still lives in Sussex Square, so I go back to Brighton quite often.

**Julia Fleming 1991-96** is currently working in Perth, Australia.

**Kate Taylor 1989-96** (from Friends Reunited website)

Catch up for the sixth form from 1996! London 17.11.05 from left to right:



**Marie York, Clare Newman, Zoe Richmond-Smith, Jenny Mathews, Rima Shuman, Shannon O'Neill, Kate Taylor.**

**Marie York -1996**

My news is that I am now living in Exeter, having moved down in September 2006 to live with my boyfriend. My lovely company, based in London, has agreed to let me work from home and I am happily settling into my new home in Devon. I'm still in touch with a few of the SMH girls - some news on their behalf is **that Kate Taylor -1996** has just got engaged to her boyfriend Andrew and they are now planning their wedding for May 2007.

**Sarah (Cox) Fitzpatrick 1983-90** had a daughter Leah Niamh on 2.2.06 at Epsom General Hospital. Leah weighed in at 8lb 6½ oz. Leah was christened at St. Peter's Church Henfield (where we married on 27.9.03) on 29.4.06. Old girl **Pegeen Armstrong** is one of Leah's godmothers. Pegeen married on 27.5.06 in South Wales.

**NEWS\*NEWS\*NEWS**

And no news at all from the 21<sup>st</sup> century leavers!  
Hey, where are you all? Email [stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com)

**BIRTH AND MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Any news of births and marriages is included in the main news sections.

## **CELEBRATING SUCCESS FARSHID MOUSSAVI – left SMH 1982**

Farshid Moussavi Professor in Practice in the Department of Architecture, Harvard University Graduate School of Design (effective January 1, 2006). She trained at the GSD, University College London, the Bartlett School of Architecture, and Dundee University. Prior to establishing Foreign Office Architects (with Alejandro Zaera Polo) in London in 1992, she worked with the Renzo Piano Building Workshop in Genoa and the Office for Metropolitan Architecture in Rotterdam. Recognized as an outstanding and committed teacher, bringing a strong intellectual rigor to the discourse on architecture, she has been a visiting professor at UCLA, Columbia, Princeton, and at several architecture schools in Europe; she was also the Kenzo Tange Visiting Design Critic at the GSD in spring 2005. She taught for eight years at the Architectural Association in London and was the head of the Institute of Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, where she taught from 2002 until 2005.



Her London-based firm, Foreign Office Architects (FOA), is recognized as one of the most creative design firms in the world, deftly integrating architecture, urban design, and landscape architecture in their projects. They have produced numerous critically-acclaimed and award-winning international projects, most notably the Yokohama Ferry Terminal in Japan, an imaginative combination of industrial infrastructure and social function completed in 2002. Other built projects include a large new park with outdoor auditoriums in Barcelona, the Bluemoon Hotel in Groningen, The Netherlands, a police headquarters in La Villajoyosa, Spain, and the Spanish Pavilion in the 2005 Aichi International Expo in Japan. FOA projects under construction include, in Spain, a theater building in Torrevieja, a technology center in Logrono, and social housing in Madrid, as well as a publisher's headquarters in Paju, Korea. The practice is also working on other major commissions including, in London, a new music center for the BBC, a college of art and design, and the master plan design for the Lower Lea Valley and the London 2012 Olympics, as well as commissions for retail spaces in the U.K., Turkey, and Spain, and large-scale office developments in Spain and The Netherlands.

*[Ed: Let me know whom you think we should celebrate next year.]*

## **TWENTY YEARS ON – 1986 LEAVERS NOTES FROM THE WEBSITE “FRIENDS REUNITED”**

**Tracey Baker** “I am partner in Lane Clark & Peacock, a firm of consulting actuaries. I’ve worked there since leaving Oxford university (having read geology - yes I know that the connection with actuarial work isn’t exactly obvious) over 12 years ago! What little spare time I have when I’m not at work I spend trying to

keep fit (boxercise is a particular favourite of mine - punching gets rid of lots of aggression!) and counteract some of the damage the odd glass of wine does to me. I have recently taken up golf in the hope that I may occasionally get to see my husband by joining him on the golf course. I am in contact with Mary Baltrap, Vicki Davis, Alison Schuller and Vikki Tink, but would love to hear from other "old girls"."

**Mary Barltrop** "Didn't expect to end up here, but I'm now working as a freelance Location Manager in the film industry, based in Sydney, Australia. Live in delightful sin with James, a photographer, plus a labrador & two cats. Kids? God, no. Far too expensive & time-consuming. Loving this fantastic country, so much so that I'm now officially an Australian citizen. Professionally, this country has been very good to me and I've worked on a far greater range of projects than I ever would have done if I'd stayed put in Blighty. The most recent film I worked on was 'Superman Returns', which was shot almost entirely here in Australia. I get back to the UK usually every (European) summer if I can, to do a mad round of concentrated catching up with family & friends (particularly those from SMH & Kings College days)."

**Helen Black** "I have been married for 14 years to David and have two sons, William who is 5 and Oliver who is 2. We are now back living in Hurstpierpoint and we have bought an engineering business in Godstone, Surrey."

**Kim Boddington** "Having changed (or rather forgotten) my logon - decided to try again! Nothing has changed recently-Jade is another year older! Met up with Houri, Tina and Diane recently. Be good for more of us to get together."

**Heather Bruce-Merrie** "After leaving SMH I did my nurse training at St. Bartholomew's in London. Qualified March 1991. Married a Scotsman - Richard (my ski instructor!!) in August 1991 and moved north of the border. Continued in general surgical/medical until May 1995 when I moved into practice nursing which I love. I now work in Comrie (get your maps out girls!). On the family front we have 3 beautiful children Joshua (8), Benjamin (5) and our very UNEXPECTED but beautiful surprise bundle Abigail (8 months) Despite getting 90% in my family planning course I obviously missed something very basic somewhere along the line!! A work colleague put me in touch with this website and its such fun to catch up on everyone's news. I'm still regularly in contact with Karen Connor (nee Duxbury) and Juliet Smith (nee Parrish). This is my work e-mail but I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me - it would brighten my day."

**Jane Comber** "Graduated uni in 93, spent 3 yrs travelling. Am now living in Manchester, got married last year to Karl and am now working as a part time florist while studying for a counselling qualification."

**Victoria Davis** "Had the same problem as Kim - forgotten login so much easier to register again.... Working at home now looking after the children and planning a



new business venture based around children shortly. Eleanor is now 6 and Isobel is nearly 3."

**Hannah Field** "Hey all! It would be good to hear from everyone, let me know what you are all up to! E-mail me XX"

**Jane Goacher** "live in Worthing. Divorced after 12 year marriage. 3 children."

No notes from **Philipa Hawker, Minnie James, Lara Jennings, Johanna Jones, Emma Judd, Nathalie Kasir, Sara Keaveny, Sophie Longhurst.**

**Victoria (Vicky) Lowe** "I am currently living and working in Hong Kong after living in Japan for three years where I taught ballet and kindergarten in an International school. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me !"

**Victoria Marriott-Smith (married)** "i am living in barcombe in east sussex.i have been married for seven years and have three wonderful children, georgina, imogen and hugo.would love to hear from anyone to reminisce about the old days."

**Amanda Nelson** "Hey Guys! Now live in Cornwall which is fab! Just finishing the third year of a degree in Visual Arts with Art History at the University of Plymouth. I would love to hear from my old friends Tom Nash, Jayne Kirby, Hennie Knott, Jo Sharp, Katie Wilkinson, Diala Salman, Anya Hodson, Ruth Parker, Jennie Redstone etc.. or anyone who remembers me and would like to get in touch. Hope you are all happy and having a blast!"

No notes from **Charlotte Oldham, Naji Oroumchi.**

**Hilary Parkin** "too much to put in here but I'm working in Cambridge for a small IT software company. I'd love to hear from anyone who remembers me!"

No notes from **Nikki Patel, Louise Potter, Marianne Proe.**

**Jennifer Read** "Still teaching English at Capilano College, still living in Vancouver - in own house with husband, Eric, and 2 cats."

**Geraldine Royse** "Went To Surrey Uni to study Sociology, then on to Lancaster Uni to do a diploma in Social work. Returned to Brighton where I worked as a social worker and married Luke in 1998. Stopped work when George was born (September 2000) and have now been living in Sheffield since May 2001."

**Jane Salisbury** "Currently working at a public school in Somerset. Mum to Adam - 18 months old."

**Alison Schuller** "After attending St Marks Primary & Secondary schools, I did my O & A levels at St Marys Hall and a bilingual secretarial course at the French Institute. I then worked for 13 years at American Express followed by 2 years at Edward Jones Investments. Emigrated in 2004 to sunny Adelaide in South Australia with my wonderful husband Steve and love every minute of life here! Working for an organisation called Trees For Life, who are helping to revegetate South Australia & save its bushland, so I feel that I'm finally doing my bit for the planet!

**Jenny Sterry** "Since returning from working and living in Lebanon for just over 3 years, I've moved down to Somerset and have got back in to full time teaching again which I am loving. I am also getting married to Tim next March - the day after term ends !! So with the teaching and wedding planning, I'm pretty busy, but never too busy to hear from old friends, so feel free to get in touch : +)

No notes from **Katherine (Katie) Stoodley, Vanessa Tannenbaum (van).**

**Alice Tarrant** "Living in Falmouth, Cornwall with husband, Dave who is in the Royal Navy, with our son Henry (born May 2001), Lois (born Nov 2004) and dog Jambo. I run an HR consultancy business and also work as HR Manager for an Accountancy Practice."

**Vikki Tink** "Got married to Ray in 1996 and rather surprisingly had twins in 2000 (Edward and Alison)." Still in contact with Tracey Baker, Vicki Davies, Alison Schuller and Mary Barltrop. Vaguely in contact with Juliet Parrish (I think!) and even more vaguely in touch with Amanda Tucker." Met up with most of the above plus Serena Keef (who organised the meeting), Kim Boddington, Diane Abbott, Darryl Johnson, Jenny Sterry, Eloise Scott-Wilson, Alison Miller and Hourii Alavi a couple of years ago - would be good to meet up again! Am living in Worthing and enjoying being a Mum at the moment. Not much time for anything else to be honest.

**Heidi Wood** "Spent several years travelling. Now an HR Manager for a major Airline. Trying to have as much fun as possible as a thirty something. Currently living in pebbly Brighton."

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## OBITUARIES

At the request of the membership at the AGM, announcements of deaths included in the 2006 news-sheet are recorded again in the 2007 Newsletter.

**Hildegard Francis** (SMH 1925-29) born 5<sup>th</sup> March 1911 died February 2004.

**Sue (Møller) Lowe** (left SMH during 1976) died November 2004.  
William Lowe wrote:

My wife Sue was a pupil at St Mary's Hall. I am writing to let you know that unfortunately Sue died of cancer in November 2004. A friend recently said that cancer attacked her body but not her spirit, which I believe to be very true. Sue left St Mary's Hall in 1975 and subsequently left Canterbury Art School with an Art degree. She was a very active artist throughout the last 30 years exhibiting her work in exhibitions in the UK and abroad. She was also a wonderful wife and wonderful mother to our two children Peter and Helen. Three or four of Sue's St Mary's Hall friends came to Sue's Thanksgiving Service in Blackheath.

**Elizabeth Edwards (SMH 1975-82)** died in March 2005.

**Joan (Barker) Lawson 1931-35** died 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005.  
Richard Lawson wrote:

"I married Miss Joan Barker on 29th May 1943 and I regret to say she died on 29th June 2005. We had sixty-two wonderful years bringing up our family."

**Margaret Ann Robinson** born 7<sup>th</sup> April 1936 and died 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Robina Methven writing about her friend said:

"Margaret was a boarder at SMH from May 1947 until July 1953. I was a day girl and during this time we became friends. After Margaret left school she went to France for a time later attending Brighton Poly to take training in cooking etc. Margaret lived with her parents in Worthing then Thame near Oxford where for many years she ran her own very successful teashop making most excellent cakes. Some eighteen years ago Margaret married Ted Martin a retired engineer who has built a wonderful 'garden railway' which he and Margaret opened on certain days for fellow enthusiasts, Margaret providing wonderful teas. Her garden was a special joy as were our holidays in the South of France or Austria. I last saw Margaret in July 2005 and Margaret's death came as something of a shock although she had been in poor health for some time."

**Miss Betty Donaldson** died in March 2006. She was PE, dance & drama teacher at SMH between 1936 and 1940.

**Margaret Joan Eastham** died 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006 and was a pupil at SMH from 1926 to 1931. Lis Eastham writes:

"My husband's Aunt and God Mother passed on in February 2006 at the age of 93. She remained single all her life and is remembered with love and affection by her 8 nephews and nieces. She leaves a sister, Mary,

whom I believe is also an SMH old girl; and a brother, Ernest John, my father in law, now 92 years old."

**Charlotte Hester (Girdlestone) Oliver** 1918-27, born 27th July 1911, died 28th March 2006 of whom Ruth and James Oliver wrote

"Mum died peacefully in her sleep on Monday night. She was 94. Monday was wash day as usual and a perfectly normal day including the daily crossword, University Challenge and the TV News. We are both comforted by the thought that she died with all her mental faculties, in her own home and not alone. This is what she had always hoped for."

Angela (Wright) Waller 1934-40 wrote of going to Hester's very well attended funeral where her grandson mentioned that in her time she was a headgirl of SMH. Angela had met Hester in 1981 at the Banbury Samaritan Centre where they both helped.

**Mrs Phyl Sheasby**, former Head of History, died 4<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

**Dame Mildred Riddelsdell** D.C.B., C.B.E. Honorary Vice President St Mary's Hall Association, born 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1913, died July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006.

Anthony Elliott, a former Chairman of the St Mary's Hall Board of Governors, wrote:

'The School has indeed lost a good friend. Mildred was very good news indeed as a Governor, with a wealth of experience and wisdom, not to mention kindness. She might have appeared a bit formidable to some, with her background of reaching the top echelons of the Civil Service, but I never found her so. She was simply in the long tradition of powerful but friendly female Governors, who have not been afraid to express their opinions, but have done so in a thoroughly constructive way. Mildred's loyalty to SMH ran deep. I remember her well, and was fond of her, as well as holding her in high esteem.'

and forwarded this obituary from The Times of 4<sup>th</sup> August 2006:

*Dame Mildred Riddelsdell, who died on July 22 aged 92, was one of a formidable trinity of women, with Dame Evelyn Sharp and Dame Mary Smieton, who rose to the top of the Civil Service in the era before equal opportunities.*

*As an assistant secretary in the Ministry of National Insurance, established in 1945 by the post-war Labour government, she was instrumental in setting up the contributory benefits system that became a cornerstone of the welfare state, a process that involved not only overseeing lengthy and complex legislation, but the training of thousands of staff to handle the new system.*

*In 1971 she became the third woman to be appointed to the grade of permanent secretary, as Second Permanent Secretary responsible for social security in the newly-merged Department of Health and Social Security. In 1972, she became the first woman to be appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the Bath.*

*The Labour cabinet minister Richard Crossman, with whom she worked from 1968 to 1970, had originally suggested her for the permanent secretaryship in 1969,*

*but had come up against the Whitehall old boys' club, in the form of Sir William Armstrong, head of the Civil Service. After consulting his "friends", Armstrong declared that, though Mildred Riddelsdell was good at policy, she was not up to running a department. It was left to the incoming Tory Secretary of State, Keith Joseph, to ensure that she got the job.*

*Crossman described her as "a terribly noble and nice woman" and admired her brilliant analytic mind and "deep personal integrity", though he suspected (as ministers often do of mandarins) that she was more loyal to the ethic of her department than to that of her political masters. On one occasion he found that she had written a draft paper committing him to a position he had expressly opposed in meetings with her. When he rang her to complain, she apologised profusely for the "misunderstanding". As he believed her incapable of deception, he could only conclude that: "Miss Riddelsdell assumed that I, being intelligent, would want what she wanted, and therefore she heard me say what she wanted me to say and misunderstood me."*

*A former colleague of Dame Mildred's recalled that she regarded Crossman as a "frightful man", an opinion of which he was almost certainly unaware. For behind her formal and sometimes intimidating official persona, there lurked a private woman who could be amusing and waspishly perceptive in her judgments of people and had a nice line in calculated indiscretion. Tam Dalyell, who worked as Crossman's PPS, recalled being entertained by her account of accompanying Crossman to a meeting with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Roy Jenkins, and senior Treasury mandarins. It, she recalled, had been "like visiting Mussolini and his advisers".*

*The daughter of a clergyman, Mildred Riddelsdell was born at Llandaff, Glamorgan, on December 1 1913 and educated at St Mary's Hall in Brighton and at Bedford College, London University.*

*In 1936 she passed the Civil Service exams and chose the Ministry of Labour. During the war she worked as private secretary to Ernest Bevin and in 1945, by now an assistant secretary, she was one of four civil servants selected to introduce the new system of family allowances and contributory benefits in a new Ministry of National Insurance. At the young age of 36 she was promoted to under-secretary.*

*She worked on secondment at the United Nations from 1953 to 1956 (for which she was appointed CBE in 1958), and at the National Incomes Commission from 1962 to 1965, when she was promoted to deputy secretary.*

*Though she inspired a healthy degree of awe, Mildred Riddelsdell was held in great affection by her colleagues and staff. After retiring from the Civil Service in 1973, she became chairman of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship. She enjoyed gardening and remained mentally alert into old age, enjoying regular lunches with her old colleague, Dame Mary Smieton, until Dame Mary's death last year.*

Anne (Gay Gosnell) Stapleton represented the Board of Governors at Dame Mildred's funeral on 3rd August 2006 at Oxford. She forwarded a family tribute by Michael Riddelsdell from which the following is an extract:

In early December 1936, as I was on my way from school, I read on the news placard 'The King has Abdicated'. My Mother was very upset when she heard the news but told me we had a visitor for supper that night, cousin Mildred Riddelsdell. We were to call her Cousin Mildred as she was twelve years my senior. My brothers and I were not very pleased about her visit. I later learned that my relationship to Mildred was somewhat remote; her Grandfather and my Great Grandfather were brothers.

The Second World War intervened. My Father was transferred to a new Ministry and evacuated to Blackpool. Mildred was responsible for setting up the new National Pension scheme and this occasioned visits to Blackpool where she from time to time met my Father. To entertain Mildred he took her on the Funfair on the South Pier.

In 1972 Mildred received the DCB in the New Years Honours. I decided to write and congratulate her and suggested that I would be very pleased to take her out for lunch. I had a charming letter back and later discovered over lunch what a delightful person she was.

Although Mildred was a very charming lady, apparently she could be tough. A friend, a clerk in the House of Commons, said "She's very fierce isn't she!". My Father told me she was probably defending her department.

Mildred retired in 1973. I remember visiting her and her sister Yolande at their house in Bladon. It was a great loss to Mildred when her sister Yolande died in 1984 and when her married sister Audrey died two years later. I discovered Mildred was a great 'family person'. her nearest relatives were Audrey's two daughters Mary and Alice. Mary told me what a wonderful aunt Mildred was and how she used to read to them when they were very young and later take them to the theatre, the ballet and the opera.

The Rev. H J Riddelsdell Mildred's Father, is still remembered in Bloxham for having climbed the church steeple. and her Mother saying "I told him he ought not to do it!". Dame Mildred, Cousin Mildred, Mildred was a remarkable lady; very well read, very talented and very charming. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

**Jane (Ellis) Freeman** died 27<sup>th</sup> September 2006. A friend of Robina Methven, they were both at SMH from 1947 until 1952. Jane leaves two children, Julie and Nicholas, and husband Tony.

**Mrs Jan Newton**, a Governor of St Mary's Hall, died 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2006.

**Alma (Smallpeice) Fosbery** died 23rd January 2007. Her son Richard wrote:

"My mother, Mrs Alma Fosbery (nee Smallpeice) who was an old girl of SMH, passed away last Tuesday. She would have been 96 this Saturday. I know how proud she was of her association with the school and also, I think, her regret that she did not become involved with the Association so much earlier."

**DON'T MISS!**

**St Mary's Hall Chapel & Arts Centre Appeal Launch**

**at the Annual Reunion**

**The Chapel, 12.15 pm May 12<sup>th</sup> 2007**

Formerly St Mark's Church

We are delighted to invite you to an exclusive launch of the School's exciting plans for

**The SMH Chapel & Arts Centre.**

We hope to welcome **our new Appeal Patron, Gavin Henderson, Former Director of Brighton Festival and Principal of Trinity Music College** to say a few inspirational words about what this project could mean for children in Brighton.

**East Brighton Bygones** will also have a **fascinating collection of photos of the local area entitled 'Then & Now' on display in the Chapel** which will make wonderful viewing.

RSVP to Helen Farquharson by telephone +44 (0) 1273 647 778 or by email [appeals@stmaryshall.co.uk](mailto:appeals@stmaryshall.co.uk) by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

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