

2003

2003



**Association Newsletter**

# ST MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter

No 103

January 2003



### 2002-2003

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## EDITORIAL

During my school-days at St Mary's Hall, I never gave much thought to any impact or influence I, or any of my contemporaries, could possibly have in the world outside those high stone walls in Brighton. Certainly, in those days of arms races and atomic weapons, when cold war threatened to become very heated, and international crises abounded, we weren't always sure that we'd even have the opportunity to influence anything. There was also the feeling that a few young women couldn't possibly make any difference to the way the world was going.

Maturity brought the realisation that each of us makes a difference to those around us, whether we realise it or not. Our individual spheres of influence may be anything from very local to global, but each of us has something to contribute. As I read the SMHA news that comes in from all over the world, I realise just how much our Old Girls have contributed, and continue to contribute, at all levels of community, whether local, national or international. In the highest levels of art and architecture, business and commerce, literature, sport, music, law, medicine and the armed forces, Old Girls have made, and are still making, their mark in many countries.

At local and regional levels too, the input of SMH Old Girls has been, and continues to be, considerable. Teachers, doctors, nurses, magistrates, farmers, mothers, carers, fund-raisers and volunteers in many fields, combine skills and enthusiasm with determination and commitment.

It's difficult to put a name to the ethos that enables so many Old Girls to have an influence, whether at a local or a wider level. Old-fashioned words like decency, integrity and service come to mind, though the younger generations would probably express it very differently! Whatever name we put to it, that ethos often has much wider ramifications than we realise.

This was brought home to me very vividly one Sunday morning in our local church. The preacher was our curate, Margaret Roylance. Speaking on the subject of influence, she mentioned that the prime influence in her own life (outside her immediate family) had been 'a wonderful and inspiring woman called Lois Gunnery'!

I was stunned to hear a name so instantly recognisable as that of a former pupil of SMH and long-time member of SMHA. Lois and her sister Aletha had been at SMH before and during WW1. Both were good at sport as well as being strong academically, both went to Oxford, and both became teachers. Later Aletha joined a religious order as Sister Ruth, teaching and caring for the poor in India before

returning to the UK to become head of her order. Lois became Headmistress of Eastbourne High School for girls, and Margaret had been one of her pupils!

Margaret recalled, with enormous gratitude, the values instilled in her at school – values I know she has since passed on in her own life as a teacher, a mother, and latterly as an ordained minister. The influence of one SMHA member, who died many years ago, was still rippling outwards, through her pupils, and on to others who have probably never even heard of St Mary's Hall!

Since that Sunday morning, when Margaret brought to mind the influence of the SMH ethos, I've wondered just how many communities have benefited from the input of that ethos, how many ripples have carried it on through generations and miles. Reading the SMHA news, and preparing it for this *Newsletter*, has made me very aware of just how widespread the SMH influence is.

For the past four years it's been a joy and a privilege to gather that news and share it with you. It's also been great fun! I feel I've come to know so many of you, rejoicing at your good news and sharing your sorrows in hard times. My thanks go to all of you who have written and emailed with news, memories and other articles. I hope you've enjoyed reading these *Newsletters* as much as I've enjoyed preparing them for publication.

Sadly, health problems mean that I must now relinquish the post of Hon Editor, and pass the reins to someone else. I know you will give the same support, encouragement and pleasure to my successor, whoever she may be, and I trust she will enjoy being Hon Ed as much as I have. As for me, I will always enjoy reading about the Old Girls of SMH, and the impact and quiet influence they have on those around them.

**Kim Cook**  
Hon Editor

### **SMH Email Community**

Practical considerations make publication of email addresses in these pages impossible, but anyone with a genuine involvement in SMH can make contact through SMHEmC. To ensure that this predominately female presence on the web doesn't attract unwelcome attention, SMHEmC membership is restricted to those with a genuine interest in SMH, and moderated, so that all messages are screened for content before going out to members. Membership is free! All you need do is send an email to [penelope.gardiner@btinternet.com](mailto:penelope.gardiner@btinternet.com). Please include your full name, school surname, dates at school, and mailing address (though this last isn't vital). SMHEmC will do the rest.

## HEADMISTRESS'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Thanks to the staff and the hard work and determination of last year's Upper Sixth, we were able to begin this academic year celebrating our best A-level results ever. You will certainly be aware that this was the first time the new A2 specifications have been examined and this cohort were the guinea pigs for both AS and A2.

There was a wonderful photograph in the Argus of **Rosie Robison** quite literally leaping for joy as she received her results. So were we all – metaphorically speaking anyway!

At A-level there was a 98% pass rate, with over 60% of our students gaining A and B grades, and over 80% achieving grades A to C. Among the high fliers, we are delighted that **Rosie Robison** was awarded four A grades at A level and grades 1 and S (full marks) in her STEP papers. She will take up her Choral Scholarship at Jesus College, Cambridge to read Mathematics, following a gap year in Paris. **Amanda Tsui** gained five As and she is now reading Natural Sciences at New Hall, Cambridge. **Katie Mokhtar** achieved three As and is reading History at Warwick University.

At AS-level both **Rokhsana Saddighzadeh** (our Head Girl) and her twin sister **Atousa Saddighzadeh** (one of our Deputy Head Girls) achieved four grade A passes. **Maria Redman** gained three As and a B alongside her many musical achievements. We are extremely proud to learn that Maria has been awarded the Gladys Puttick Prize for piano performance by Trinity College of Music, London.

It has been a reflection of the generosity, versatility and talent of last year's Sixth Form that they managed to achieve excellence both in their academic studies and in such a wide range of extra-curricular activities. We have greatly appreciated and valued their outstanding contribution to the life of the school. I am also delighted that so many of the Upper Sixth have gained entry to their first-choice university.

At GCSE there were also some wonderful results. Both **Simin Kiani-Lirharani** and **Christina Myers** gained eight A\* and two A grades. There were other excellent personal bests, including **Abosede Ososanya** with two A\* and eight A grades, and **Anna Mojab** with four A\*, four A and one B.

**Mrs Crocker** and the Mathematics department are to be congratulated on once again achieving 100% pass rate at GCSE.

As I look back over the last year, an event which was a real highlight for me was **Mr Wells'** memorable production of the musical *Hello Dolly!* I certainly



will always remember the climax of the show when **Charlotte Bishop**, dressed to the nines as Dolly, sang the title song with such panache and style to her admiring team of waiters, as she descended the staircase which had been brilliantly constructed by two of our maintenance team, **Mr Ewan Methven** and **Mr Phil Keeley**. Charlotte was Dolly, as even Dora Bryan, a former Dolly herself, had to concede when she attended the opening night! **Valerie Furnham** made a convincing Horace Vandergelder with her wonderfully subtle touches of humour. **Rosie Robison** too was delightful as Mrs Molloy, as was **Kitty Brandon-James** as the coy Minnie Fay. Once again **Mrs Lock** excelled herself with the ingenious set design – New York in sepia – and this was most efficiently transformed by stage manager **Saphy Ali** and her outstanding stage crew.

The Christmas concert was also a most joyous occasion. Highlights of the evening were **Amanda Tsui**'s beautiful performance of Vivaldi's *Concerto in D* for the guitar, and **Rosie Robison**'s superb singing of 'Rejoice Greatly' from Handel's *Messiah*. It is always good to see so many pupils involved in music-making and contributing to concerts. The Jazz Band, under the expert direction of **Mr Roser**, is always a favourite at our concerts, and guaranteed to get feet tapping with performances of a wide selection of popular tunes, all arranged by Mr Roser himself and accompanied in his inimitable style on the trumpet.

During the course of last year the former Parent-School Association changed its name to The Friends of St Mary's Hall. This is because some of the committee members no longer have daughters in the school, but such is their loyalty and commitment that they have stayed on to support us! We are so indebted to **Mrs Denise Hastilow** who was re-elected to chair the committee last year – and the committee almost doubled in size in the autumn term!

In the House Play Festival, this year's adjudicator, Mrs Ginny Whitelaw, Head of Drama at Benenden School, awarded the cup to **Bristol House** for their entertaining production of *Gosforth's Fete* by Alan Ayckbourn. The award for Best Actress was shared between **Rosie Robison** as Mrs Duckworth and **Katie Mokhtar** as her daughter Glad in Chichester's amusing production of *Orange Blossom* by Philip Johnson.

It was good to see some of you at the Art Exhibition at The Grange in Rottingdean in March. Visitors were extremely appreciative of the exceptional standard of art at St Mary's Hall, inspired by our dedicated teachers **Mrs Lock** and **Mrs Abbot**. I thought you would be interested to read extracts from the comments book. The President of the Brighton & Hove Arts Council wrote '*The variety and boldness shows expressiveness beyond their years. Some amazing talent is emerging...*', and another visitor wrote '*The room is filled with vibrancy*

*from this super exhibition; there is such variety and depth in the pieces – what a tribute to the students and their amazing teachers!'*

In the Easter holiday **Mrs Thomason**, with **Dr Ashdown**, **Mrs Fellingham**, **Mrs Vincent-Gill** and **Mrs Manby-Clarke**, led the school trip to Crete. Mrs Thomason reports:

*We visited Paleo Kastro as planned, and also the sunken city of Mochlos. The girls were particularly moved by our visit to the Commonwealth War Cemetery. I had originally planned to spend half an hour there, but after Dr Ashdown's excellent lecture, with maps, in the open-sided chapel and his laying of a bunch of spring flowers on Pendlebury's grave, the girls were quite content to wander quietly and contemplate. Most girls left a message in the visitors' book and we returned to the coach over one hour later. Many of them were quite tearful, and the coach remained silent for some time.*

*There were happier tears, too, at the end. As our coach left for the airport, our final view was of the elderly lady who had looked after us for a week, waving from the top of the steps, tears streaming down her face.*

It was particularly fortunate that at Paleo Kastro St Mary's Hall was the only school to have been given the unique opportunity of a personal guided tour. Former pupil **Gemma Finney** has recently been excavating there.

This is the third year that Year 11 girls have undertaken work experience after GCSEs. **Mrs Rees**, Head of Year 11, reported that 85% of Year 11 participated in vocational experience, which proved to be a worthwhile and valuable experience for them. It gave them a clear insight into the world of work in a large variety of areas from medicine to law, veterinary care to garden design, beauty and banking. They learned a great deal about the workplace, how to interrelate with people, how to ask questions and approach tasks, and how to ask for help.

Year 11 was not the only year group to benefit from the outstanding careers programme provided by **Mrs Hollands**, our Careers Adviser. Year 9 very much enjoyed the 'Take Your Daughters to Work' day. Pupils reported that they recognised the importance of confidence, persistence, concentration, listening, good communication, teamwork, efficiency, helpfulness, courtesy, punctuality, versatility, respect, responsibility, organisation and a sense of humour! I didn't think that was bad for their first impressions of the world of work.

In the Year 10 'Insight into Industry' day, employers from local business and industry joined pupils in a *What's My Line?* session, and in the afternoon there

was a production simulation – making T-shirts out of paper and modelling them, with the aim of developing skills in planning, decision-making and the interpersonal skills required for working as a team. I think this was quite a steep learning curve for some!

We are indeed fortunate to have **Mrs Hollands** on the staff. Her expertise is proving invaluable in encouraging students to build on their strengths and to become independent learners, with the ability to make informed choices for their futures.

In the PE department's inter-house competitions, **Chichester House** was finally knocked off its pedestal this year after several triumphant years, but did hang on to the swimming trophy. **Bristol** reigned supreme, winning the rounders, hockey and netball tournaments, under the excellent leadership of **Amie Noone**.

The biggest success of the season has to be the Junior and Senior swimming teams which have won every gala, both teams beating close rivals Roedean, and the juniors beating St Leonard's Mayfield. For a school of our size, that is some achievement!

In athletics, the Year 8 team came a superb second out of fifteen at the Brighton and Hove Athletics Championships. **Jessica Daltrop** was just one-tenth of a second outside the 200m record for her age group – a record which has stood since 1977. **Kerry Trembling**, **Charlotte Ridge** and **Donna Lui** were all selected to represent Brighton and Hove Schools.

The Under-15 rounders team won the Newlands Tournament and were undefeated, as were the Under-12 tennis team. At the end of the year we closed with the success of **Rokhsana Saddighzadeh** and **Simin Kiani-Lirharani** being selected to represent the Sussex Under-18 hockey team.

I cannot leave the PE Department without mentioning the really wonderful achievement by **Miss Whittaker** on the first weekend of the September term, when the whole School turned out for a 10km sponsored walk across the Downs. This was no mean feat. In fact, nearly £3,500 has been raised so far. This will be divided between Livestock for Life, a charity which sends cows, sheep, goats and bees to war-torn African countries, and the fund for Senior School lockers. Combined with a donation of £1,000 from the friends of St Mary's Hall, this fund has provided all pupils in the Senior School with new full-length lockers.

Schools, like people, need love and commitment. We have enjoyed this in abundance, particularly from the members of staff who retired from St Mary's Hall last year.

In the Spring term, **Mrs Howard** retired from her post as Headmistress's Secretary. Those of you who came into contact with her will know how calmly, efficiently and professionally she served the School for over thirteen years.



**Miss Lovell** has left us after fifteen years of committed service to the School in a variety of roles. She was a Housemistress of all three boarding houses, and Head of Modern Languages from 1993–96. From 1997 she was Head of Religious Studies, and also co-ordinated the Chapel programme, the fund-raising for charity and the School's community service activities. We owe Miss Lovell a huge debt of gratitude.

**Mrs Lock** was Head of Art for almost 22 years. She has been a most inspirational teacher during this time, and the exhibitions of girls' work in School, in the Grange at Rottingdean and in the Institute of Contemporary Arts Gallery in The Mall, are testimony to the superb standard of art enjoyed at St Mary's Hall. In her retirement, Mrs Lock is hoping to do some painting of her own, and we are looking forward to an invitation to her own exhibition.

At the end of the last academic year, **Mr Wells** decided to step down as Deputy Head after ten years of dedicated service on the Senior Management Team. I am grateful to him for all he has done for the School in this capacity. He is continuing as Head of History and Co-ordinator of Key Skills and Extra-Curricular Drama. He also co-ordinates UCAS applications for the Sixth Form. We are very much looking forward to this year's School production, *Monkey in the Stars*, and I hope many of you will be able to be there.

As I write this letter, we have just held our Remembrance Day service, giving thanks for those who sacrificed their lives in the service of their country in two world wars and in other conflicts. We are living in uncertain times, and our prayers for peace remain fervent in a world so bewilderingly filled with violence and destruction. In this year's School Magazine, Year 9 pupil **Michelle Mezny** wrote in her poem *Dreams of Peace*:

*Let us be messengers of peace and let love flow from heart to heart  
Into the lives of poverty-stricken people  
To people who suffer from injustice or war.  
Let peace be restored.*

I send you all warmest greetings from St Mary's Hall, and look forward to welcoming you back during the coming year.

**Sue Meek**  
November 2002

## HEAD GIRL'S REPORT

This year has given much to report on. Firstly, Speech Day – a great success! We all enjoyed the enthralling talk of Dr Thrower and it was nice to see some familiar faces, as the hard work of many students was rewarded. The Garden Party, too, was enjoyable, despite the lack of sun. The wide range of activities, from drama workshops to science displays, kept everyone entertained. The appearance of some students in the *Argus* was exciting.

Abstract, last year's Young Enterprise company, was a challenge. Members worked extremely hard, and the company was awarded the best report at the final stages. We wish the best of luck to Kat-chi and Oki-doki, the two new Young Enterprise companies this year.

Our Sponsored Walk raised enough money to complete the supply of desperately-needed full-length lockers to the Senior School, as well as contributing to the 'Send a Cow' campaign. We thank Miss Whittaker for her organisation and motivation. The 'Jeans for Genes Day' was also very successful, raising £216 for the eight different charities and, yet again, students and staff featured in the *Argus*. Our Harvest Festival gift aim, set by Mrs Moss, was £1,000. This was easily beaten, and all the shelters were very grateful for our generous donations.

As we all look forward to, and prepare for, the School play, *Monkey in the Stars* by Jamila Gavin, the Music Department, headed by Mr Jay and Mr Roser, is frantically preparing a wonderful musical repertoire for our Christmas concerts and Carol Services, generating great enthusiasm. As always, our guests will be amazed and inspired by the multiple talents that have been developed and nurtured.

As those in the Upper Sixth prepare their UCAS forms and look toward their futures in the world at large, each Year is coming to terms with new challenges. Year 7 students have successfully made the transition from Junior School to Senior. Year 8 pupils, no longer the youngest, are buckling down to some serious work. Those in Year 9 are beginning to think about the GCSE choices they will soon have to make, while Year 10 pupils embark on their choices with both trepidation and excitement. Year 11 face their GCSE exams this summer, while Year 12, well into the Sixth Form regime, are working towards their AS exams with more freedom than they have ever had, but with more work to do as well.

I would like to wish everyone the best of luck in whatever they are doing, and to thank the staff for their continued support and guidance.

**Rokhsana Saddighzadeh**

November 2002

## LETTER FROM PAMELA JAMES

Dear Friends

Although you will read this in 2003, I am writing in October 2002 (mindful of the November deadline!). Last week I went with Mrs Howard (former Headmistress's Secretary, SMH) to see the Moscow City Ballet dance *Swan Lake* at the Theatre Royal Brighton – a great delight, with superb dancing and a magical production.

Earlier this month I accompanied Mrs Feaver (Miss Harvey, another former Headmistress at SMH) to hear the Russian State Philharmonic Orchestra play a programme of Russian music at the Chichester Festival Theatre – again a wonderful experience. I was in the audience for many of the plays performed when the Chichester Festival Theatre was first opened (the late 1950s/early 1960s), and I couldn't help thinking how incredible it would have seemed in those days that the world would have so opened up that Russian artists would be performing here and that their creativity and distinctive artistic interpretations would be made accessible to us.

We have indeed lived through momentous times and witnessed profound changes. The visits of artists I instance above are a very positive outcome of these changes. Yet the pace of change can also cause a worrying feeling of instability and the need for a sense of rootedness and continuity is never more profound than at a time of rapid change, not as an alternative or an escape route, but to underpin and counter-balance our experience of flux. Those of us who are members of the SMH community are very lucky to have such continuity within diversity and change available to us. Old and young, of different cultures, separated in space, we are nevertheless interlocked and bound together by our connection with the school – again a very different place from what it was, say, fifty years ago, but enduring.

I am always amused by the proverbial Jewish telegram: 'Start worrying. Details follow.'! We can all be tempted at times to live in a perpetual state of daily worry, but our SMH community can give us a longer and truer sense of perspective.

With affection and best wishes to you all.

**Pamela James**  
Headmistress, 1992–1997

## LETTER FROM TERESA BROADBENT

Dear Friends

It is hard to believe it is now ten years since I retired from St Mary's Hall. The first year of my 'retirement' involved two spells in hospital, after which my recovery went full speed ahead, and I was able to work for the Leprosy Mission as an area organiser. This involved a two-month trip to India, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong, about which I wrote an article for the GSA magazine.

During this time my husband, Martin, was the Methodist equivalent of an Anglican Diocesan Bishop. He was deeply involved in ecumenical relations at church leader level, and counted many Bishops among his friends. He was the first non-conformist to be made a Canon of Honour of Chichester Cathedral.

After ten years, Martin and I have both retired and moved to our own home in Bath. Having always lived in church houses, this seems very special. Bath is a wonderful city in which we feel very much at home, particularly as I came to SMH from a deputy headship in Bath. Our daughter and her husband live nearby with their two lovely children. Now that I am a granny, I have all the excuses I need for trips to London to visit the Natural History Museum! Our son, Christopher, who used to join us in Brighton during university vacations, is now a married man in his thirties with one son and another due in December 2002. How time rolls on!

Martin and I have just (October 2002) returned from a five-week trip to the USA and Canada to visit friends and relations. Now we are home again, and about to find out what retirement is really like!

During our trip we visited and travelled with various friends from our student days. Life-long friendships are very precious! At university and school, particularly if boarding, one can invest a lot of time in deepening friendships. Don't be tempted to let these precious relationships slip when you leave school. However busy your lives, make time to keep in contact and meet up from time to time!

It has been a pleasure to visit the school a couple of times in recent years and meet new and familiar faces. It is good to see the school in such good heart and in excellent hands! I've also enjoyed reading and sharing news via SMHEmC. We would be pleased to hear from any of you or meet if you are visiting the Bath area.

With very best wishes to you all.

**Teresa Broadbent**  
Headmistress 1988-1992

## LETTER FROM OLIVE LESLIE

Dear Friends

To all SMHA members, old and new, known to me and unknown, I send you all greetings! It was a great joy to see so many of you at the May reunion and I hope, God willing, to be with you again in May 2003.

This year (2002) I ventured down for Speech Day, unsure as to how many people I would know. I need not have worried, as there were still many familiar faces including those of ever-faithful kitchen staff. There was a strong feeling of optimism and purpose, illustrated by the forward-looking speech of the Headmistress, the positive comments of the Chairman, Mrs Buckland, and the contribution of the guest speaker, Dr Michael Thrower, who is also a member of the Board of Governors. He warmed my heart when he said that parents have a right to choose private education if they so wish. Let us never forget that in most cases it is paid for with hard-earned cash!

As for me, I still lead an active life, always remembering to make the odd concession to age! I am active in various societies and I have taken up bridge. I also continue to travel, visiting friends and family, and going to South Africa if my brother invites me to spend a couple of months there.

My older grandson has his place at Christ's, Cambridge, for next year and is now in Rome hoping to become fluent in Italian, before going on to France to gain more fluency in French. He has earned himself a place on a local football team, and has been asked to speak in a girls' school on British education. His brother is still pursuing music, and has a new, rather good, baritone voice. He may follow many of the family into medicine. My son's research proceeds apace, and the wonderful world of genetics is opening up new vistas to him.

The facility of email has enabled me to be back in touch with many Old Girls, and I welcome the opportunity of hearing from others. My email address is [horsefair@amserv.net](mailto:horsefair@amserv.net)

May God bless you all.

With best wishes.

**Olive Leslie**

Headmistress, 1973 – 1981

## St Mary's Hall Motto

### *Before Honor (is) Humility*

The Biblical origins of the school motto are well known. I quote from the King James version, Proverbs 15:32–33.

*He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding. The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom: **and before honour is humility.***

Later, in Proverbs 18:11–12, we read:

*The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit. Before destruction, the heart of man is haughty **and before honour is humility.***

However, what is perhaps less well known is the quotation's appearance in John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, which was completed and published in 1678. It occurs in Part One, when Christian and Faithful exchange experiences, notably about what Christian calls here the Valley of Humility, previously termed by him the Valley of Humiliation. In Part Two, the valley is exclusively referred to as the Valley of Humiliation, 'the best and most useful piece of ground in all those parts', and is discussed at some length.

It is thus curious, in what seems to be interchangeable terminology, that it is here, in his conversation with Faithful, **and only here**, that Christian refers to it as the Valley of Humility – a term which, as you can see below, Faithful adopts.

I cannot find anyone to support the contention that the semantic alteration is significant. What Faithful himself would have chosen to call it later is idle speculation, for he is soon to be judicially and brutally murdered in Vanity Fair.

This is the conversation between Faithful and Christian.

**Faithful:** *Yes, I met with one Discontent, who would willingly have persuaded me to go back with him. He told me moreover, that there to go was the way to disobey all my friends, as Pride, Arrogancy, Self-Conceit, Worldly-Glory, with others; who he knew, as he said, would be very much offended if I made such a fool of myself as to wade through this valley.*

**Christian:** *Well, and how did you answer him?*



**Faithful:** *I told him that although all these that he named might claim kindred of me, and that rightly – for indeed they were my relations according to the flesh, – yet since I became a pilgrim, they have disowned me, as I also have rejected them; and therefore they were to me now no more than if they had never been of my lineage. I told him moreover, that as to this valley, he had quite misrepresented the thing: for **before honour is humility**, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Therefore, said I, I had rather go through this valley to the honour that was so accounted by the wisest, than choose that which he esteemed most worth our affections.*

What is at issue here is the overtly moral progression involved in Christian's journey towards the Celestial City and the depiction of humility/humiliation as coming sequentially as well as morally before honour. (The spelling honor in the motto is puzzlingly and unnecessarily idiosyncratic, if not even pretentious!) A bigger problem for the theologian (and the sophist?) lies in the apparent interchangeability in Bunyan's mind between humility and humiliation. But Bunyan, perhaps unconsciously, helps us to achieve a better understanding in Part Two when Christian's widow, Christiana, and their four sons, accompanied by Great-Heart, meet the shepherd boy in the Valley of Humiliation, and he seems to draw the threads together for us.

*Now, as they were going along, and talking, they espied a boy feeding his father's sheep. The boy was in very mean clothes, but of a very fresh and well favoured countenance; and as he sat by himself, he sang. Hark, said Mr Great-Heart, to what the shepherd's boy saith. So they hearkened, and he said:*

*He that is down needs fear no fall;  
He that is low, no pride;  
He that is humble, ever shall  
Have God to be his guide . . .*

The reference given by Bunyan at this point is to Philippians 4:12–13.

*I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: and everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

As to the questions why and when the motto was adopted by St Mary's Hall, history has not revealed the full answers. There is no record that I can find of this motto being among the Founder's papers and writings; Bateman, in his biography, is silent on the matter. The Trustees' minutes make no reference to it, which suggests that it was never a matter for consideration. There was, apparently, no 'day one' motto. All we know is that it appeared towards the end of the 19th century.

*The Pilgrim's Progress* was a very widely-read book at the beginning of the 20th century. Fussell, in *The Great War and Modern Memory* (OUP, 1974), bears striking witness to this. It also features in Scott's account of his polar expedition, the Great Barrier being referred to by the expedition as the Slough of Despond. Earlier, the Clapham Sect, to which the Founder's family had actively belonged, were admirable, even self-conscious, exemplars of Bunyan's work. I believe, therefore, that we should take a fresh look at the motto's significance.

The oppositional interpretations which I have heard promoted from time to time over the years – and to which I have to confess I thoughtlessly subscribed – of humility being preferable to honour seem, in the light of Bunyan's influential text, to be less than adequate. In that text, humility has to be experienced before honour may be properly achieved.

The motto has far more virtue if considered from within *The Pilgrim's Progress* than it does as just one of many appropriate proverbs plucked at random from the Bible.

**Timothy Elliott**  
Governor

I am indebted, for supplementary information in this article, to the SMH Archivists past and present, to friends at Cambridge University, and to Rev R W Huband, Vicar of Elstow, the parish where John Bunyan was born and educated. **TE**

*We are very grateful to Timothy Elliott for shedding this new light on the origins and meaning of the SMH motto. In the 2000 issue of the SMHA Newsletter, Margaret Payne referred to a passage in Miss Meades' History of SMH, which quoted from an address by Henry Venn Elliott on 1 August 1859 to staff, pupils and friends. In his address, the Founder commended his hearers to '... have true unity. Humility and love are necessary to produce it'. There can be little doubt that, whoever introduced the motto, it is one of which the Founder would have approved. – Ed*

## MINUTES OF THE 84th AGM OF SMHA

held at St Mary's Hall on 11 May 2002

**Present :** Mrs Susan Meek (Chairman), Jessie Armstrong (Mrs Redfern), Linda Belasco (Mrs Kings), Valerie Boyes, Penny Buck (Mrs Gardiner), Moyra Corscaden, Margaret Ellis, Kathleen Farmer (Mrs Milton), Vivien Greenyer (Mrs Thompson), Amanda Hobson (Mrs Jones), Barbara Hunt (Mrs Millbourn), Janine Launchbury (Mrs Johnson), Olive Leslie, Anne Levisieur (Mrs Commin), Angelica Meletiou, Robina Methven, Frances Moojen (Mrs Bearn), Moira Munro (Mrs Campbell), Judith Patten (Mrs Gunton), Margaret Payne, Kate Steiner (Mrs Tordoff), Gilly Synge (Mrs Fifield), Sian Williams and Angela Wright (Mrs Waller).

### Prayers

The meeting opened with moments of silence for the victims of the Potters Bar rail crash, followed by the SMHA prayer in which all joined, and prayers for those whose deaths we had learned of since the last meeting: **Maisie Beaumont** (Mrs Sarnet), former pupil, died 26 May 2001; **Penny Burgis** (Mrs Lowe), pupil 1946–52, died 23 May 2001; **Doratheia Phayre Crowley**, pupil 1930s, died 17 August 2001; **Adrienne Dunbar** (Mrs Morton), pupil 1950s, died 1 January 2002; **Aletha Gunnery** (Sister Ruth, CSD), pupil until 1918, died 5 May 2001; **Charles Macdonald**, organist and friend of SMH, died April 2001; **Audrey Miller**, Housemistress in Elliot House 1974–77 and French teacher, died May 2001; and **Vivian Marie Claudet** (Mrs Harris), pupil 1931–38, died 29 October 2001.

### Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following (listed by school name, where known, with former members of staff indicated \*).

**Jane Bayley** (Mrs Gillmore), **Christine Bean** (Mrs Edmonson), **Ruth Belson** (Mrs Witham), **Wendy Bland** (Mrs Lawrence), **Sarah Bright** (Mrs Warren), **Teresa Broadbent\***, **Mary Chalmers** (Mrs Scully), **Vanessa Cuddeford**, **Melanie Davidson** (Mrs Bastable), **Anne Finch** (Mrs Nelson), **Julia Fleming**, **Joanna French** (Mrs Grey), **Debbie Goodall**, (Mrs Raper), **Rachel Gordon** (Mrs Stewart), **Anne Gosnell** (Mrs Stapleton), **Phillipa Graham** (Mrs Biles), **Claudine Ickeringill**, **Pamela James\***, **Kim Kimmins** (Mrs Cook), **Diana Moore** (Mrs Gosnell), **Christine Peckham** (Mrs Yates), **Phyllis Poyser**, **Louise Redfern**, **Dame Mildred Riddlesdell**, **Alex Rolt** (Mrs Wooster), **Lucy Telford**, **Mary Theobald** (Mrs Pashley), **Victoria Tink** (Mrs Burcombe), and **Daphne Williams**.

## Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were agreed and signed.

### Matters arising

- a) Mrs Meek expressed our thanks to Mrs Boyes for all her help over the years on the SMHA committee and for her loyal attendance at school events.
- b) Angelica Meletioui and Linda Kings were nominated to become SMHA committee members and were duly elected.
- c) The SMHA prayer is now under scrutiny by Mrs Carnochan, our archivist. Mrs Meek will also find out if Tim Elliott knows anything of interest about it. Mrs Leslie reminded us that in the SMH school prayer there is a 't' in 'hast'.

### Chairman's report

Mrs Meek hoped that we had all read the full written report in the SMHA Newsletter. That being so, there was no need to rewrite the report in the minutes. The school is flourishing, continuing to nurture the girls and educate for confidence. The ethos of the founder – to give back in abundance what you gain at SMH – is of enormous importance at a time when the idea of service is not a fashionable one. Although heavily burdened with assessments at all levels, with SATs under way and the new AS levels looming for the Lower Sixth, school life continues to be rich. Music and drama events are always a joy for all concerned, although Mrs Meek still has mixed feelings about teaching dance routines to the girls for *Hello Dolly!* The recent chamber choir concert in St Mark's was, as we have come to expect, outstanding. Congratulations were extended to all staff and girls involved in all our school events. Thanks were also expressed to the small person dancing in vest and knickers in the common room opposite, for causing all those present to chuckle collectively!

### Treasurer's report

As Anne Nelson was in France, Penny Gardiner cast her expert eye over the accounts and reported that, thanks to the increased subscriptions, the Association is now nicely solvent.

### Hon Editor's report

As Kim Cook was unwell and unable to attend, Penny Gardiner presented her report. After initial problems in getting sufficient material for the last *Newsletter*, Kim had used the list of those attending the last reunion and added additional information gleaned from the Friendsreunited website, to compile a newsy content. Once this was completed, a sudden spate of late news arrived from a variety of sources, making

the *Newsletter* over-size (and over budget). As a result, photos had to be taken out, typesize reduced, and the whole issue restructured. The Committee agreed that the end result was excellent, and Mrs Meek congratulated Kim, in her absence, for a thoroughly enjoyable publication. Mrs Meek also observed that the November deadline continues to be a bugbear, coming as it does at such a flat time of the year, but because it takes such a long time from deadline to production, we have no option on this.

#### **Any other business**

a) It was suggested that details and dates of school events would be gratefully received by SMHA members who might be able to attend. Mrs Meek agreed to circulate a list during lunch for interested parties to sign. They would then receive notification by post well in advance.

b) An enquiry as to whether the strain of AS levels was causing any pupils to drop out was answered most encouragingly by Mrs Meek, who said that pupils were coping well. The school suggests that only the Oxbridge candidates study five AS levels. Most of the girls take four AS levels and, in not being overburdened with academic work, can continue to enjoy participating in all the creative activities on offer at SMH.

#### **Closing**

The meeting closed with the SMH school prayer, complete with audible 't'!

*The 85th Annual General Meeting  
of the  
St Mary's Hall Association  
will take place at 11am on  
Saturday 10 May 2003 at  
St Mary's Hall, Eastern Road, Brighton*

# SMHA 2003 REUNION

Saturday 10 May

at St Mary's Hall

All past and present members of the SMH community  
are invited to join us at the school for a day of  
reunions and reminiscences

A warm welcome awaits everyone, whether members of SMHA or not, from 10.45am on Saturday 10 May. After coffee, come to the AGM to find out what's going on in the Association and the School – it's not heavy, takes about an hour, and you'll be surprised how interesting it can be!

There's a drinks reception at mid-day, followed by a buffet lunch at 12.45pm. After lunch there's time for a swim in the pool, a game of tennis, a tour of the school, or a trip down memory lane with a visit to the archives. Interrupt your activities for tea at 4.15pm, after which the Committee will hive off to start planning for next year. In between, there's plenty of time to catch up with old friends and reminisce about old times. The day's programme finishes at 6.00pm.

Remember, you can bring your husband, partner, or friends – it doesn't matter if they're not members of SMHA.

Forms are included with this Newsletter, so make sure you fill your form in now and return it promptly to the School, or email Penny Gardiner at [penelope.gardiner@btinternet.com](mailto:penelope.gardiner@btinternet.com).

**See you there!**



## NEWS

*News has been divided into two sections, with news of those who were at SMH before 1940 in the first section, and news of post-war pupils in the second. In each section, news has been collated in alphabetical order of names by which people were known at school, with current surname, where known, in brackets. This has been done at the request of many readers, in order to make it easier to find information about old friends. Dates within each entry refer to the years when that person was either a pupil or a member of staff at SMH.*

**Moyra Corscaden** (who left in 1937) was at the 2002 reunion.

On 10 December 2002, **Cicely Farnsworth** (SMH 1914–21) joined the ranks of SMHA centenarians, celebrating her 100th birthday in a nursing home in Louth. Cicely Alice (also known as Polly) was the second of four daughters of Rev W J Farnsworth of Fotherby Vicarage, Louth, who attended SMH. **Edith** arrived in 1910, followed by Cicely, and then came **Sylvia** in 1919 and **Mildred** in 1921. Sadly, Cicely's last surviving sister, Sylvia (Mrs Sealey), died in March, but other members of the family were able to join Cicely for her celebrations.

**Vivien Greenyer** (Mrs Thompson, 1933–40) and **Barbara Hunt** (Mrs Millbourn, 1930–36), were all at the 2002 reunion.

**Sheila Humphrys** (Mrs Allison) writes with affection of her old friend **Daphne Wilson** (Mrs Meikle), who died recently. Although they had kept in touch for some time after leaving school, Sheila and Daphne lost contact many years ago. They were reunited at an SMHA meeting about four years ago, and both greatly enjoyed the writing workshop run by **Liz Fincham**, Head of English at SMH. The two old friends found that, despite the intervening years, they still had the same rapport they had enjoyed during their days at SMH. Sheila writes 'I feel there's a moral there somewhere'! After the reunion, they kept in touch, even though during her last illness Daphne could talk only for a few minutes on the phone. The poem Sheila wrote following that workshop was included in *Light Years*, the SMH millennium anthology.

**Elizabeth Watson** (Mrs Meredith) joined SMH in 1932, and was in St Hilary, where the House Mistress was Miss Batterby. **Phyllis Cook** (Dr Goatcher) also joined at the same time, and they formed a strong friendship which lasted until Phyllis died in November 2000 (see page 46). Elizabeth, who lives near Taunton, would like to hear from any others from her year.

**Angela Wright** (Mrs Waller, who left in 1940) was at the 2002 reunion.

Now we turn to news from pupils and staff from the post-war years.

**Leila Abdalla** (1975–82) is living in Seattle, where she is lecturing in English, having gained a PhD in the subject. Leila and has been in touch with **Jo Dwyer** (qv) and **Gabrielle Hutton**.

**Margareta Adam** (left 1982), who is living in Australia, has returned to work after having twin boys, leaving her partner Rob to look after them at home. This is working very well for all parties!

**Nicky Aylin** (1976–81) is living in Canada, where she runs her own aircraft leasing business, hiring out private jets to celebrities! **Susannah Aylin** (Mrs Way, 1979–84), works at Southampton University as a geophysics technician, and recently went to Prague as part of the GB softball team which won the gold medal. Their other sister, **Victoria Aylin** (Mrs Macari), whose husband has a music business in London, has given up teaching and is now a full-time mum at their home in Haywards Heath. Their mother **Jill Elliott** (Mrs Aylin, qv) and grandmother **Marjorie Duke** (Mrs Elliott) were also at SMH.

**Yetunde Akisanya**, (Mrs Cuthbert, 1979–81) who is now divorced, is the Development Director for an international drinks company.

**Jessie Armstrong** (Mrs Redfern, 1958–66) was among those at the 2002 reunion.

**Rosemary Baker** (Dr Hall, 1954–60) writes that her daughter is due to marry on 10 May 2003, so she will be unable to attend the annual reunion. However, she sends her best wishes for a good day, particularly to those from her year.

**Anne Barr** (Mrs Carr-Hill, 1975–82) gave birth to her second son, Daniel in December 2001, and is now a full-time mother.

During the summer, **Judith Barrington** (1948–61) taught writing workshops and gave readings at two writing conferences. The first, under the auspices of the University of Alaska at Anchorage, was based in Homer, where novelist Russell Banks was a colleague. Judith and her partner enjoyed time off kayaking among sea otters and orcas. She then went to the other end of the US for a week-long memoir workshop in San Antonio, Texas, where the culture was very Mexican – all this despite a serious knee injury which kept her walking with a stick for almost a year. Thankfully, the injury has now healed, and she's able to enjoy walking her dog again. In March Judith will be teaching a two-week writing course in Puerto Escondido in Mexico. Meanwhile, she's working on a new book and awaiting publication of her third collection of poetry. Judith adds that she's trying to juggle dates to enable her to attend her year-group reunion in May.

**Christine Bean** (Mrs Edmondson, 1952–59) retired at the end of 2001, and in January 2002 travelled with her husband to India. They were particularly pleased

to visit Kerala and St Francis Church in Fort Cochin, where Christine's grandfather was Chaplain, and where her mother was baptised. A month in East London, South Africa, has been planned for January 2003, but in the meantime Christine has been very busy researching her family history, which she says is 'almost like a full-time job, but entirely pleasurable'. *[Couldn't agree more! – Ed]*

**Anne Bearne** (Mrs Bell, 1956–59) now rejoices in seven grandchildren, two girls, three boys and two girls, in that order! Anne, who lives near Auckland, has travelled widely in the past year, visiting her family in various parts of New Zealand, and enjoying a 60th birthday weekend in Akaroa. In August Anne came to England to visit her father in Wiltshire, and was able to meet up with **Kim Kimmins** (Mrs Cook, qv) and her husband Roy, who were staying with friends nearby. Anne also travelled to Canada to visit her sister **Jill Bearne**, and then flew on to South Carolina to attend the Embroiderers' Guild of America 2002 Seminar – her sixth visit. Undaunted by all this travel, Anne hopes to be in the UK again in May for her year-group reunion.

Following her divorce, **Rachel Beckley** has returned to using her maiden name. She and her seven-year-old son Jonathan are now living in Enniskillen, where Rachel works from home as a freelance graphic designer. Rachel remembers **Pamela James** with great affection, saying 'her style of teaching made each one of us feel we had something to offer'.

**Nadia Behdad** (1992–99) is in her final year at Birmingham University, reading Music. After qualifying, Nadia would like to take a postgraduate course at Birmingham Conservatoire, which she hopes will lead to a career in music.

**Julia Besser** (left 1980) is now running an estate agency and property development company in Sussex. She often meets up with **Helen Carden** (Mrs Thompson, qv).

After working for eleven years for the Tussauds group, including three years in Australia and Singapore, **Victoria (Lulu) Brown** (left 1982) has now returned to England and works for Fulham Football Club where she is Head of Community and Ladies Football. She currently lives in Earlsfield, London, but would love to return to Australia at some time.

**Lizzie Bunn** (1976–82) is still running the Hickstead horse shows, and has **Maria Tinner** (Mrs Dunn, qv) to help her in the office. Lizzie's two children are now eight and four.

**Sally-Anne Burt** (Mrs Thomson, left 1982) is living in New Zealand.

**Jane Campbell** (1975–81) emailed from her home in Belgium to say that she is now separated from her husband and has moved to Brussels, where she works in the marketing department at Management Centre Europe. She and her sons Jonathan, aged eight, and Benjamin, aged six, are active and avid hockey players.

**Helen Carden** (Mrs Thompson, left 1982) manages to combine bringing up her two children with working as a midwife at the East Sussex Hospital.

**Rosemary Cashel** (Mrs Petts, 1950–57) had a superb three months in Australia at the beginning of 2002. Sadly, Rosemary has since been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, which hampers her considerably, and leads to frustration. She would love to hear from anyone who remembers her.

**Bekakpo (Becky) Clark** (left 1986) is working in Nigeria as a banker. Having returned to Brighton for the 2001 reunion, Becky is particularly keen to renew contacts with those of her year, and mentions **Maha Barakat**, **Louise Goodsell** (and Mrs Goodsell), **Melanie Griffiths**, **Claire Hemmings**, **Katie Stoodley** and **Rebecca Utley**. Becky can be contacted through SMHEmC.

After teaching in Kuwait for many years, **Jenny Clarke** (1982–91) has returned to the UK, and attended the SMH Garden Party in June, where she was reunited with **Claudia** and **Henrietta Duveen** (Mrs Tan, qv)

Last Easter **Liz Cockburn** (Mrs Males, 1948–59) and her husband Barry moved from Old Basing to a bungalow in Dorset. Coupled with the difficulties of downsizing have been problems with the property, including leaky central heating, so there are still many boxes to unpack! Keen bowlers, Liz and Barry have had to fulfill their commitments as Match Secretary and Treasurer (respectively) in Old Basing, as well as playing for their new team in Blandford, which has meant many miles travelling between the two clubs. Liz and Barry now have a grandson, Rowan, who is two, and another grandchild due in February 2003.

After completing a degree in ceramic design at Staffordshire University, **Hannah Crockett** (1989–94) designed a range of tableware for Portmeirion Potteries before becoming an art teacher at a high school near Cannock. She is now landlady of her home in Stafford, which she shares with two student friends. She would love to hear from anyone who remembers her – please make contact through SMHEmC.

**Vanessa Cuddeford** (1988–1996) writes that she had 'a fantastic three years' at Oxford, rowing for her college and performing on stage with the Oxford Revue, as well as going on several archaeological digs, including one to Lesotho. She graduated with a 2:1 in Archaeology and Anthropology, and in June took a musical comedy, *Animal Crackers*, by the Marx brothers, to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

**Nicky Currie** (1975–82) continues to run a successful catering business in Sussex.

**Amy Dalla Mura** (left 1980) lives in Wales, where she is a member of the US LPGA teaching division. However, health problems, including several major back operations, have curtailed her playing career.

**Frances Draisey**, (left 1980) has recently returned to the UK after twelve years in Australia. She would particularly like to make contact with **Vicky Harding**.

After three very happy years in Cairo, **Anthea Drake** (Mrs Holland, 1967–70), with her husband and two daughters, moved to Doha, Qatar, where her husband works for a civil engineering company. They arrived in August heat of 50° C, and are now settling into a very different way of life. Anthea is still in touch with **Nicola Weatherley** (Mrs Hanley) in Sydney, who gave birth to another boy in April 2002, and with **Rachel Dedman**, who is leading a very busy life in Rusper. **Henrietta Duveen** (Mrs Tan, 1984–91) lives in Sydney, Australia, where she works for Beyond Television. In June 2002 while in the UK for the first time in four years, Henrietta was able to attend the SMH Garden Party, with her sister **Claudia Duveen** (left 1988), who is Brighton branch manager for a recruitment company. There they were delighted to meet **Jenny Clarke** (qv) for the first time since 1991. Together they took a nostalgic wander around the grounds ‘happily bumping in to familiar faces including Mr Jay and Mrs Lock’.

**Jo Dwyer** (Mrs Hill, 1975–82) now has three children, and is writing novels and freelancing for BBC Radio 4 when time permits.

**Elizabeth Edwards** (1975–82) has been bravely battling breast cancer and has had a number of operations. Happily she is now in the clear.

**Renée Edwards** is working in television production.

**Jill Elliott** (Mrs Aylin, 1952–60) is looking forward to her year-group reunion at SMH in May. Jill, who enjoys being a grandmother, plans to stay with her daughter **Victoria Aylin** (Mrs Macari, qv) and her family in Haywards Heath. Jill’s three daughters, **Victoria**, **Nicky Aylin** (qv), and **Susannah Aylin** (Mrs Way, qv) were all at SMH. Jill was delighted when Susannah won a gold medal as part of the GB softball team last year.

**Margaret Ellis** (1967–75) has completed 25 years with American Express, so is now eligible for their Quarter Century Club, which holds an annual dinner at the Grand Hotel in Brighton. Margaret, who is responsible for the employee pension and benefits plans at Amex, enjoyed the 2002 reunion, meeting up with **Mrs Boyes**, **Miss Farmer** (Mrs Milton), **Mrs Leslie** and **Miss Payne**. As a keen bellringer, Margaret now organises special peals at St Mark’s for occasions such as Founder’s Day, Confirmations and Christmas services. **Kathy Howard** is a fellow bellringer, and Margaret also keeps in touch with **Jacqueline Morgan** (Mrs Wiercinski). Margaret, who has joined friendsreunited says ‘please can more join up, so that we can hear even more of ex-SMH friends?’.

**Sue Evans** (Mrs Chapman, left 1981) and her husband Chris are living in France.

**Elisabeth Ferguson** (Mrs Eastham, 1969–76) works as a Technical Sales Engineer in an electro-optic distribution company, where she says ‘physics, chemistry and maths make a whole lot more sense now than it did in 1976!’. Her three children have now all left school. Elisabeth is still in touch with **Claire Bowes**, **Susan**

**Davis, Susan Graves, Kathy Howard and Jane Woodhead**, but would welcome contact with other old friends.

**Shana Freshley** (left 1980) who has three children and lives in the US, came to England with her 17-year-old daughter Ashley to join in the year group reunion in May 2002 organised by **Tamsin Johnson** (Mrs Kidwell, qv) and **Susan Harris** (Mrs Roller, qv)

**Katie Goodall** (Mrs Harper, 1973–78) left Southampton University in 1985 and worked for IBM in various locations. In Portsmouth she met her husband Rob, a Scotsman who was in the Royal Navy, and they married in Glasgow in 1990. Their first son Calum was born in 1992, followed by Cameron in 1995 and Jessica in 1997. Rob left the Navy in 1998 as a Lieutenant Commander, and has since worked in IT, currently with CSC. In July 2001 the family moved back to Scotland, where they now live in Kingussie. Katie, who enjoys hill-walking, baking and creative arts, would love to hear from anyone who shared time with her at SMH.

**Lizzie Gosney** (Mrs Tunney, left 1982), now lives in Lymington and has a daughter Amy, born in December 2001.

**Joanna Greenwood** (Mrs Weddell, left 1980) lives in rural East Sussex with her husband and two daughters, where she is chairman of the governors at her daughters' primary school! Jo, who is hoping for a research grant to continue her studies in architectural history, is still in touch with **Nicky Sautter** (Mrs Axtell).

**Marissa Harris** (Mrs Gardner, 1966–72) is now divorced and living in Canada. Since 1995 she has been running her own recruitment business. Marissa was particularly keen to re-establish contact with **Caroline Sims** and **Abimbola (Bimbo) Abedayos**. [*Hon Ed has managed to trace Caroline (now Mrs Stephen, qv) and put them back in touch. Searches for Bimbo, who is believed to have returned to Nigeria and married there, have so far been unsuccessful. Can anyone help find Bimbo?*]

**Susan Harris** (Mrs Roller, 1975–82) very kindly sent news of over forty of her contemporaries, together with an excellent report of her year-group reunion (see page 34). Susan herself is now training as an adviser with the CAB, and she and her husband Mike continue to search Wiltshire for their ideal family home.

**Miss Harvey** (Mrs Feaver, former Headmistress) sends her best wishes to former pupils. She would be delighted to see any who are in the area, provided they telephone her first, on 01243 530313.

**Lesley Herbert** (Mrs Maiden, 1977–82) met up with **Janine Launchbury** (Mrs Johnson, qv) and **Sally Tearle** (Mrs Golding, qv) at the 2002 reunion.

**Jane Hitchcock** (Mrs Bunclark, 1975–82) has returned to full-time work as an English teacher while her husband Liam combines running his surveying company and looking after their two small children.



**Liz Hodgson** (left 1982) works in Cambridge as Head of Marketing for a scientific/manufacturing company. She lives in a nearby village with her partner Steve and his two children, Kate and George, two cats, a dog and a horse!

**Claudine Ickeringill** (1973–80) is working as an optician.

**Barbara James** (Mrs Marshall, 1974–80) now has three children.

After university, **Sandra Jantuah** (Mrs Pepera, 1968–77) worked for a while in Parliament before marrying in 1986 and moving to Ghana in 1987. There she worked as a university lecturer in political science, and also found time to have two sons and a daughter. After separating from her husband, she and the children returned to London, where Sandra now works for the Department for International Development. Her younger sister, **Jackie Jantuah**, ‘an attentive aunt’, lives nearby, and Sandra is also back in touch with **Akiko Shaw**, **Deborah Goodall** and **Sue Gutteridge** (Rosser). She would particularly like to have news of **Abimbola** (Bimbo) **Abedayos**, **Lois Hall**, **Sally King** and **Zainab Verjee**.

**Tamsin Johnson** (Mrs Kidwell, 1975–82) and her husband David hope to take some time off soon to go sailing round the world.

**Gaynor Jupe** (Mrs McKinnon, 1975–82) and her husband Stuart, who live in Sompting, both love their jobs as airline pilots with BA. Gaynor flies the BAe 147 Whisper Jet.

**Patricia Kennedy** (Mrs Turner, 1979–86) and her husband Graham, who live in Alresford, Hants, now have three children.

Although deteriorating health has forced her to give up work, **Celia (Kim) Kimmins** (Mrs Cook, 1954–60) has managed to trace former classmates **Patricia Carlton-Scott** in Anglesey, **Anne Farris** (Mrs Haston) in Paris, **Anne FitzPatrick** (Mrs Hendry) in Staffordshire, and **Davinia Ritchie** (Mrs Tingvoll) in Hove, in time for the 2003 reunion. Kim has also re-established contact with **Susanne Nicholls** (Mrs Rae, qv) in Queensland, **Jenny Pigg** (Mrs Claughton) in Essex and **Rosemary Nolda** (Mrs Matthews, qv) in Tenbury Wells. Although less mobile than she used to be, Kim uses her computer to keep in touch with old friends, as well as to continue her family history research.

**Doreen Lai** (left 1982), who has been in Australia for twenty years, has recently started a full-time MBA course. Her sister **Donna Lai** lives nearby with her two children, and Doreen is a regular visitor.

**Janine Launchbury** (Mrs Johnson, 1977–84) gave birth to a daughter, Lucy, in January 2002, and four months later introduced the new arrival at the May reunion! Janine was delighted to meet up with **Lesley Herbert** and **Sally Tearle** (Mrs Golding, qv) whom she had not seen for 20 years, but would still like to hear from **Julia Cooper**, **Donna Lai** (qv) and **Teresa Waters**.

**Gillian Lawrence** (1969–73) is a community education worker in Edinburgh. **Suzie Markham** (1969–73) has fond memories of Ken Crowther's photography club, which inspired her to take up photography as a career.

**Lisa Martin** (Mrs Andrews, 1975–82) is kept busy by her three children, Luke, David and Euan. The family spent some time in Greece this summer where they felt very much at home, as Lisa's husband Alex is half Greek.

**Lucy Middlemass** (Mrs Rothman, 1975–82) now has four daughters, aged between two and nine, but still manages to find time to paint and play the piano.

**Alison Miller** (Mrs Law, 1975–80), who has a four-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son, is in touch with **Petra Moisey** (qv) and also with **Sandra Jantuah** (Mrs Pepera, qv). Alison's sister **Katherine Miller** (Mrs Beaumaris, 1973–82) married in 2001, and the newlyweds have emigrated from Scotland to Western Australia.

After leaving SMH in 1978, **Petra Moisey** went first to Wycliffe College in Gloucester and then to University College, Cardiff. Married, with four children, Petra has had a variety of jobs, but now owns and manages her own day nursery for 58 small children! She would love to hear from old friends.

**Carole Morley** (Mrs Robson, left 1980), her husband Mark and their three children live in Blackboys, Sussex. They also run Robson's coffee shop in Lewes, and would be happy to see old friends there.

**Juliet Morris** (Mrs Jee, 1976–82), whose husband Jonathan is vicar of St Paul's, Leamington Spa, is kept busy caring for their five young children.

**Melanie Morrison** (left 1984) has moved to Battersea, but continues to work in a performing arts college in Kings Cross.

The architectural partnership of **Farshid Moussavi** (Mrs Zaera-Polo, left 1982) and her husband Alejandro continues to be extremely successful. Their practice, foa, which has eleven architects, featured in the *Times Magazine* in August 2002, with a front-cover picture of Farshid and Alejandro. There were also superb pictures of the new floating, origami-inspired Yokohama ferry terminal in Japan, designed by foa, which had 27,000 visitors on opening day! Further commissions in Europe and Asia followed, and it has since been announced that the foa design for the redevelopment of Ground Zero in New York is one of seven being considered for this sensitive project.

Among those at the 2002 AGM was **Moir Munro** (Mrs Campbell, left 1966), returning for the first time in 35 years! In the past the journey from her home in the Peak District has been too difficult, but now that her eldest child lives in Brighton it has been easier to get back. Moira has nostalgic memories of walks from St Hilary to Black Rock – in crocodile!

Having worked as a speech therapist and special needs support teacher for the MoD in Germany, **Lisajane Nash** (Mrs Caesar, 1979–86) is now a full time mother, caring for two daughters. The family has moved from Northern Ireland to York, where Lisajane's husband Julius commands a Ghurka squadron. While in NI, Lisajane met up with **Sally Davies** (Mrs Tomlinson) whose husband's posting overlapped with theirs, and **Sam Davies** (Mrs Oldershaw). Lisajane has also been in touch with **Patricia Kennedy** (Mrs Turner, qv). In July Lisajane, with four other wives, plans to take part in Trailwalker, a 100-km walk from Hampshire to Brighton to raise funds for the Ghurka Welfare Fund, and hopes to be fit enough to make a visit to SMH!

After losing contact with old friends for a number of years, **Susanne Nicholls** (Mrs Rae, 1955–60) contacted the school and was put in touch with the Association. As a result, Susanne is now delighted to be back in contact with **Carol Pink** (Mrs O'Connor). Susanne, who now lives in Queensland, Australia, was due to be in the UK in January 2003, planning to meet up with Carol. Susanne adds that she hopes to return for the year-group reunion in May 'if commitments and dollars permit'.

Having had 23 blissfully happy years in the Old Rectory at Boraston, **Rosemary Nolda** (Mrs Matthews, 1949–61) and her husband have now moved. Rosemary writes 'We have bought a 200-year-old wreck of a cottage nearby, and after a ghastly battle with the planners have at last been able to start a six-month gutting job.' She and her husband John look forward to the work being completed by this spring. Although she has now retired from the Ludlow magistrates bench, Rosemary keeps very busy with grandchildren, the garden and local community events. Rosemary is determined to be at the 60-year-old reunion of her year group, and mentions that John is looking forward to meeting Olive Leslie, as both were Governors of Moreton Hall in Shropshire for many years.

Another of those who re-established contact through friendsreunited is **Susan Paterson** (Mrs Quirk, 1952–60), who started at SMH when she was just five and left at the age of 13. Susan remembers **Patricia Cohen** and **Olivia Morgan**, and would particularly like to make contact again with **Miriam Coleman**. Miriam is believed to have moved to South Africa at one time, but more recent news of her would be most welcome. Susan, who lived in New Zealand for five years, has now been living in the USA for USA thirty years. Two of Susan's step-sisters, **Susan** and **Elizabeth Lloyd**, were also at SMH in the 1950s.

**Josephine (Phina) Paine** (Mrs Maxton, 1952–57) is also back in touch thanks to friendsreunited. After leaving SMH, Phina lived in Oxford before marrying a solicitor in 1964 and moving to York. They have two sons and two daughters, with two grandchildren and two more on the way. Phina is particularly keen to

make contact with Isobel Rowland, who was a very good friend at SMH. Isobel, who had a beautiful singing voice, is believed to have lived in America, where she was married to a doctor. *[If anyone has any news of Isobel, or can remember her married name, please let me know – Ed.]*

**Margaret Payne** (History teacher and Deputy Head, 1966–82) has enjoyed a pleasant and busy year. A little gentle coaching of a friend's son preparing for Common Entrance has helped her to keep up with modern school developments. Those who moved to SMH when Trevelyan School closed in 1966 may be interested to hear that the last formal reunion, made memorable by the attendance of 88 pupils and six staff, was held in October in Clair Hall, Haywards Heath. Contacts are being maintained and renewed through friends reunited, and already some local groups are planning get-togethers in their own areas.

**Myra Pearse** (1969–73), has now been married for 25 years, and has two children, aged 21 and 18. Myra, a teacher in Essex, would like to hear from old friends.

**Carol Pink** (Mrs O'Connor, 1954–60) was looking forward meeting up again with **Susanne Nicholls** (Mrs Rae, qv) who was due to be in England in January. Carol is also in touch with **Elizabeth Scatliff** (Mrs Putnam), and both plan to be at the year-group reunion in May.

**Amanda Plaskett** (left 1982), who was a senior manager in Rover's body engineering department, is married to Bill and they have two young sons, Sam and Ben.

**Melanie Porter** (1969–73) is a lecturer in Counselling and Psychotherapy at Sussex University, as well as running a small charitable clinic not far from SMH. Melanie, who has four children, last year attended a prizegiving at which her daughter received a prize from **Margaret Payne** (qv)!

Former Head Girl **Alice Rawdon-Mogg** (left 2000), now at St Andrews, has written a lively and humorous account of her life since leaving SMH. Originally intended for current pupils at SMH, it's such a good read that it's included here on page 36.

**Shirley Read-Jahn** (1953–63), who now lives in California, recently announced her engagement to Travis Fretter. To celebrate the 60th birthday of Shirley's sister **Pam Read-Jahn** (Mrs Bailey, 1954–60), who lives in Australai, a group of women, including Shirley, Pam and **Rowan Cawkell** (Mrs Fookes, 1954–57), hiked the four-day Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in the autumn of 2002. Shirley writes 'It was probably the hardest thing I've done since having a baby, but worth every minute!' Shirley asks if anyone has any news of **Janina (Nina) Benoit**, **Shirley Foulsham** or **Kuabrut (Nong) Sivadith**.

The husband of **Angela Recknell** (1969-73) is a former pupil of Hove Grammar School, where he was taught by Mr Liddell, who also taught Maths at SMH. Angela and her husband, who met at Southampton University, now live with their three children near Ipswich, where Angela is an Open University Tutor and also works for Suffolk County Council in Community Education.

**Jo Ruoss** (left 1980) runs a business with her husband, as well as bringing up their three children.

**Charlotte Sabel**, (1991-99) wrote to say how much she enjoyed last year's Newsletter. Having gained her degree in History, Economics and Politics at Royal Holloway College, where she was also Secretary and Treasurer of the Conservative Society, Vice-president of the History Society and on the Elections Committee at the Union, Charlotte has now returned there to take a Master's degree in History!

**Joanne Sale** works as a reporter for BBC Radio 5 Live, and was also featured in a television programme in May 2002. Some fun pictures of her as a child have featured on the BBC website.

**Caroline Simmons** (Mrs Hearn, 1975-81) combines caring for her two children and working part-time for a local facilities management consultant.

**Caroline Sims** (Mrs Stephen, 1965-71) is freelancing in the fashion business for her former employers in Hong Kong, combining work with bringing up her three children, now sixteen, fourteen and nine. Although a family celebration prevented Caroline from attending the 2002 reunion, she hopes to be there in May 2003.

**Naomi Slater** (1986-93) is living in London and teaching at 'a fantastic beacon school in St John's Wood'. Naomi's sister **Joanna Slater** (Mrs Vergunst, 1987-89), lives in Cape Town and is now a mother, while **Nicola Slater** (1987-91) lives in Woodingdean with her daughter Amber, who was in the nursery at SMH.

**Gloria Smart** (1954-61) celebrated her 60th birthday in December with a party for a few friends at her home in Southampton. However, she is postponing her retirement for six months, as the Christian bookshop where she works in Southampton has not been able to replace her. This extra time will also enable her to consolidate her plans for the future.

**Kate Steiner** (Mrs Tordoff, 1958-66) enjoyed the reunion last May, and was glad to meet up again with **Gilly Synge** (Mrs Fifield, qv), as well as **Penny Buck** (Mrs Gardiner), **Linda Belasco** (Mrs Kings), **Miss Bristol** and **Miss Farmer** (Mrs Milton). Kate, who teaches A-level English in Coventry, is grateful to the late Mrs Allen for her inspirational teaching at SMH. The Steiner family is preparing for a family reunion when Kate's second son, who has just completed his PhD, marries next year. Kate's eldest sister **Jill Steiner** (Mrs Soundy, 1954-59) has five grandchildren, and was awaiting the arrival of two more, while her other sister **Mary** has two grandchildren.

**Rosa-Kate Suffolk** (Mrs Cook, 1984–90) has been living in Kent for the past two years with husband Steve and their three children, Isaac (six), Jasper (five) and Madeleine (three). Rosa-Kate divides her time between looking after the family, working part-time as a pharmacist, and singing and looking after her horse, Murphy. She hopes to come to the next reunion, and would love to meet up with some of her contemporaries then.

**Gilly Synge** (Mrs Fifield, 1959–66) was at the reunion last May.

**Katie Taylor** (left 1982), who has three children, is teaching part-time in a local village school.

**Sally Tearle** (Mrs Golding, left 1982) writes that after her marriage to Colin she continued with her nursing career until 1995 when their first daughter Alisha was born. A second daughter, Tamsin, was born in 1997, but sadly at the end of 2001 their third baby died. Sally and Colin are enthusiastic members of their local church, the Christian Outreach Centre in Seaford. Sally was at the 2002 reunion, where she met up with **Lesley Herbert** (qv) and **Janine Launchbury** (Mrs Johnson, qv).

**Liz Terry** (1989–93) emailed to say that after gaining her degree in Classics and Theology from the University of Kent at Canterbury, she went on to achieve an HND with distinction in Performing Arts: Stage Management at Northbrook College, Worthing. Sadly, just a year later, she was forced to give up professional stage management following a back injury. Now she and her partner have moved to France and bought an old presbytery which they are renovating. Once the property is up to standard, they plan to rent part of it as self-contained holiday accommodation as well as providing bed and breakfast in the main house. Liz would like to hear from anyone who remembers her.

**Louise Thwaites** (Mrs Wilson,) has given up her work as an advertising copywriter, and now keeps busy looking after her three children, as well as restoring an old farmhouse and keeping chickens!

Since 1989, **Maria Tinner** (Mrs Dunn, 1969–76) has been running the accounts department at Hicksted for former class-mate **Lizzie Bunn** (qv), who is godmother to Maria's daughter Ellie, now thirteen. Having studied music for many years, Maria plays the piano – light music for parties, and accompanying children and adults for auditions, concerts, exams and festivals. She remembers a visit to SMH when she was in the old girls' team playing rounders against pupils, and says, 'We thrashed them – they say you never lose your touch!' Maria is also in contact with many of her contemporaries, including **Gina Behar**, **Belinda Fleming**, **Sharon Goss**, **Shelley Hayes**, **Felicity Johnson**, **Amanda Lugg**, **Sally McDonagh**, **June Purley**, **Melanie Rose**, **Carolyn Sycamore**, **Anne Weston**, and **Alison Whittome**.



**Penny Titheradge** (Mrs Harrison, 1963–69) writes that, inspired by last year's SMHA *Newsletter*, she has been tracing old school friends through friendsreunited. This proved very rewarding, as it enabled her to renew contact with many old friends, including **Marissa Harris** (Mrs Gardner, qv), **Gillian Lawrence**, **Myra Pearce**, **Melanie Porter** and **Angela Recknell** (qv). For some time Penny has also been in touch with **Diana Markham** and her sister **Suzie Markham** (qv). After leaving SMH **Rosemary Townsend** (Mrs McAllister, 1956–65) went to Art College and then worked for ten years in London as an interior designer. After her marriage, Rosemary moved to Scotland and had three children, a son and two daughters. For the past few years Rosemary has been working as a self-employed architect. The family recently moved from Argyll to Perth, where Rosemary and her elder sister **Juliette Townsend** (1954–63) share a holiday cottage in Creiff, which they also let out. Juliette has now retired from nursing and is a full-time student. Rosemary would love to hear from anyone who remembers her or Juliette. **Katharina Tyldesley** (left 1980), who has a son, Sol, continues to work as a TV producer/director in current affairs.

**Sarah van Carrapiett** (Mrs Carter, left 1986) is a qualified health visitor, working in Margate. She and her husband now have three children, Daniel (six), Emma-Louise (four) and baby Harry.

**Susan Vokins** (Mrs Fazakerley, left 1978) her husband, and four-year-old twins Barney and Thomas, live in New Zealand, where Susan runs a recruitment business.

**Penny Waddington** (Mrs Peaty, 1953–57) enjoyed meeting up with **Ruth Bradbrook** (Mrs Whiffen) at the 2002 reunion. Penny, who has kept in contact with **Heather Heald** (Mrs Johnson) since they met up at the 150th Anniversary in 1986, has recently been back in touch with **Sarah Oates** (Mrs Wren). Penny and her husband spent much of the summer sailing in Cornwall, and while there were glad to be able to spend time with Penny's mother. This time proved to be particularly important as, sadly, Penny's mother died suddenly in August.

After completing a degree in Business Studies, **Katherine Watkins** (1988–95) bought a house in south London. She is currently working in the human resources department of a firm of accountants in the City, and at the time of her letter was due to qualify as a Member of the Institute of Personnel Directors. She would love to hear from anyone who remembers her.

**Sian Williams** (left 1977), who was at the 2002 reunion, lives in Lewes and works for the Guild of Master Craftsmen as their Conciliation Officer. She would love to hear from anyone who remembers her.

**Philippa Wooderson** (Mrs de la Billiere) and her husband Edward were featured in a BBC television documentary in the *Extreme Lives* series. Philippa and Edward

left their home in the UK for the wilds of Alaska, to train huskies for the 1000-mile Iditarod race. Despite having to retire two of his strongest dogs, after 13 gruelling days Edward completed the race at his first attempt, and was welcomed in Gnome by a proud and delighted Philippa.

**Mariam Yousuf** (1991-95) writes that, at the age of 25, she is now a bank manager with the Bradford & Bingley group.

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## A GAP YEAR FILLING THE GAP

Last year, while talking to Sixth Formers about their university courses, I discovered that **Julia Bezanson** was due to spend a gap year in Peru before starting at St Andrew's University. I mentioned that I would be on holiday in Cuzco in October, and we agreed to meet if possible. Lo and behold, when I arrived at my hotel in Cuzco, there was a letter from Julia with a contact number!

That evening we met for coffee. Julia told me about her voluntary work in a school for orphaned and abandoned children and it was arranged that I would visit the school the next afternoon. We arrived in pouring rain to be greeted by one of the nuns who run the school. I realised how desperately poor the facilities were when we saw water coming through the roof. The children's dining area was an open-sided roofed shack, containing a kitchen that had only a clay oven, on which their staple diet of rice and potatoes was cooked. Guinea pigs, kept in cages, occasionally supplemented the nuns' menu.

The school-rooms were basic, with a few wooden tables and chairs, and small windows affording little light. Despite this, the children were smiling and cheerful, and sang us a delightful song which we recorded and played back to them, bringing an amazed grin to their faces! Julia and two other students were teaching them English, and they practised saying 'Hello' and 'Goodbye'. We gave Julia some dollars to buy desperately-needed towels for the children. Our visit ended with tea and cake in the nuns' dining room – a luxury we felt embarrassed to accept.

We left feeling great admiration for these three young people who had given up their comfort in civilised Europe to travel half-way round the world to this unknown village to help the children. These little children were in such great need and, but for the frugal support of the nuns and volunteers, would have been on the streets begging and living an even more pitiful existence. We saw many such!

Thank goodness that compassion and dedication are still practiced by those who care, and that there are ex-SMH girls among them.

**Sue Carnochan**  
SMH Archivist and former History Teacher

## TWENTY YEARS ON!

### Class reunion brings fun and nostalgia

We'd always promised ourselves a ten-year reunion, and way back in 1992 we kept that promise, with an enjoyable and jolly get-together. But a twenty-year gathering? None of us could quite believe the time had come! Could we really be that old?

But time had indeed been ticking away, and we decided to try and get our year group together to coincide with the SMHA meeting on 11 May 2002. Tamsin Johnson very kindly agreed to do a large share of the administration by collecting addresses from friends, with some help from SMHA. We also obtained the class lists for 1975 and 1980 from the school archivist, Sue Carnochan, just in case we'd forgotten anyone. FriendsReunited also proved a good source of data. Nicky Currie and Libby Ager went off to look for a venue for an evening gathering and alighted on Samson's in St George's Road, which some of us remembered from school days!

It turned out to be a real SMH weekend for me, as Jane Hitchcock came to stay the night before, and then Jo Dwyer joined us for a lift into Brighton on the day.

We met at school for drinks in the small dining room, followed by lunch. There were lots of cries of recognition. Juliet Morris seemed largely unchanged after twenty years, but others such as Helen Carden and Julia Besser were much more glamorous than I remembered them at school.

After lunch there were tours of the school, much of it very familiar, including the toilet block near the hall, of which we all had unpleasant memories. Pictures were duly taken to commemorate its continued existence. It was strange seeing our old dormitories in Elliot House being used as classrooms. St Hilary had the same homely feel, but the facilities have been much improved. Dormitories where we were sure ten girls had once slept, now house just two or three.

Tea followed, and then we made our way down to a pub in St George's Road. Several more people joined us for the evening, including Mrs Sinclair (who had done so much for the Duke of Edinburgh awards, among other things). She was made an honorary old girl for the evening.

What really brought home to me just how long we had all been apart was meeting Shana Freshley's seventeen-year-old daughter. Ashley, who had come over with her mother from the US was older than Shana had been the last time I saw her! Yet, bizarrely, Shana and I seemed to pick up where we'd left off our last conversation way back in 1980, as if the intervening twenty years hadn't existed!



*Class reunion with (l to r) back: Anne Barr, Renee Edwards, Shana Freshley, Lizzie Bunn, Lulu Brown, Mrs Sinclair; middle: Lisa Martin, Susan Hennings, Susan Harris, Juliet Morris, Elizabeth Edwards, Jackie Cooper, Caroline Simmons, Nicky Mumford, Ruth Belson; front: Gaynor Jupe, Jo Dwyer, Nicky Currie and Jane Hitchcock.*

In addition to the people who met up in the evening, we've been able to put a number of other old friends back in touch with each other. So, if you were in our year group (O-levels 1980, A-levels 1982), please do get in touch, via SMHA, as we would love you to come to the next reunion – possibly in 2007!

**Susan Harris** (Mrs Roller)

## PAUL GROVE MEMORIAL CUP

The Paul Grove Memorial Cup, which is really more of a bowl, has surfaced from storage at SMH. There is no information engraved on the cup, other than the title as shown above.

Does anyone know anything about this cup, its history, for what it was awarded, or the names of any past winners? Any information will be gratefully received by Mrs Sue Carnochan, the SMH Archivist, at the school.

## NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS (and beyond!)

Since I left SMH, life has been very hectic and has simply flown by. This summer (2002) I had the most amazing and varied time, in Germany and Malawi. Since then, I've not been allowed to forget that I'm now in the honours stage of my degree, and have had my nose in my books for much, although certainly not all, of the time. However, the work is fascinating, so I don't mind at all!

In Malawi, the first month was spent working on an irrigation scheme in the central region of Ntichi. This involved living and working very closely in one specific village. What an experience! Together with the villagers, we built a 14ft dam and an extensive but simple network of channels designed to irrigate the fields to their greatest potential. As extras, we built a bread oven, a commercially-sized chicken coop, and introduced a range of fruit trees and vegetable patches. These will complement their diet (currently dominated by maize) and provide cash crops.

I was with a group of friends from St Andrews, so we had a fantastic time bricklaying and digging – not to mention the entertainment we improvised during the evenings in our tented camp! It was an unforgettable experience getting to know the individuals within that community. Only one person in the village spoke some English, so we soon picked up some basic Chichewan. We also had the opportunity to kayak on Lake Malawi, where there were some surprisingly big waves, and do some trekking in the last remaining area of rain forest in southern Africa. Have you ever tried vine swinging before? I highly recommend it!

After a month on this organised expedition, I spent a further month with three friends exploring more of Malawi. It was amazing being able to experience so many different sides of such a diverse country – village life, backpacking hostels, and even a brief sample of ex-pat community life!

Lake Malawi has one commercial ferry, the *Ilala*. Built in 1951, she seriously reminded us of the *Titanic*, only slightly smaller! Despite the obvious tilt, caused by maize sacks all being loaded on one side of the ship and people on the other, we weren't unduly worried until the morning when we were woken by the ship's horn blasting out the distress signal! The entire crew was running, with life-jackets on, past our cabin on their way to the top deck! We were relieved to discover that this was only a drill, which had been announced in Chichewan, but which they had forgotten to repeat in English! Lake Malawi is famous for its huge range of fish species and is very popular with divers. We were lucky enough to experience this briefly by snorkeling around some of the islands, during a sunset catamaran cruise.

We also benefited from the generous hospitality of ex-pats in Blantyre, the commercial capital, and saw giraffe, zebra, buffalo, antelope, hippos and crocodiles in a game reserve. In the famous tobacco auction rooms, just one warehouse held tobacco bales, worth billions of dollars, lined up and being bid for by three different companies. The contents of the warehouse are sold and cleared within the hour, and then the whole process begins again! Vast quantities of tobacco pass through that warehouse each season! We also had a tour of the factories that deal with the tobacco once it's been bought – masses of workers scurrying about, masked and concentrated, drying and then rehydrating the leaves, stripping, crushing and packing. I will never look at a cigarette in the same way again!

Now I'm back in the UK, clean and secure in my own home, many of these experiences seem unreal and unbelievable. However, they are definitely unforgettable and have taught me an amazing amount.

I've now returned to the student routine – quite a contrast! I'm studying two modules, 'Warlords and Holy Men' with eleven students, and 'Egypt 1798–1970', with 21 students. We have two demanding, but fair, tutors, and usually manage to get some very good discussions going. Each week involves only four hours of direct contact with the tutor, in the form of seminars, but I'm able to see my tutors at any stage for advice or guidance, if needed.

The mediaeval module covers the disintegration of the Roman Empire and the emergence of Barbarian successor kingdoms as well as the spread of Christianity throughout Europe. One of my essays focused on the lasting influence of the Roman Empire on the development of Christianity in Anglo-Saxon Britain, something about which I previously knew only a nominal amount. However, with the huge library we have at our disposal, it isn't difficult to come up with a good argument that doesn't rely on the bog-standard approach.

The Egyptian class is dangerously dominated by several boisterous Americans! However, that doesn't stop the rest of us from fighting our own corner and guiding the debate back to nineteenth-century Egypt, rather than modern-day Iraq! Not that this is entirely irrelevant – one of my reasons for choosing this module was to learn something of the background to present-day situations in the Middle East.

Outside classes, much of my time is taken up with the OTC. I seem to be heading more and more towards a military career (at least for the early stages) and now have an Army bursary. In the summer I spent three weeks in Germany on the OTC training camp, and during this time was promoted to Senior Under Officer – a sort of cadet RSM, not unlike being Head Girl! This is a huge honour, and I'm still living in a state of slight disbelief. The actual job description is up to me and what I want to make of it, but includes ensuring that standards of dress and discipline



are maintained. I'm also the link between the cadets and the Commanding Officer, and get to carry around a stick with a shiny silver end, as well as a rank slide that resembles that of a Rear Admiral! I spend some of my time teaching lessons about map reading, military skills, and tactical methods, and am also in charge of the Contingent Mess, so boat races have become my speciality! On the whole, I have a free rein to implement things that I think are a good idea, but above all, I have to aim to be a good role model and lead by example. This is easier said than done, but I'm learning through the endless mistakes there are to be made! Already, I can see changes in myself. I wouldn't change any of it for the world, and am having the time of my life!

I've recently been applying for internships next summer. Despite my ambition to join the army, I plan to get a decent amount of civilian work experience. This is partly to help me make an informed decision when choosing the army, and partly to ensure that I have a back-up plan. At the end of the day, all experience is valuable in some way. I plan to spend the first week in November visiting the expedition base office of the Scientific Exploration Society, an organisation set up by John Blashford-Snell (who also founded Operation Raleigh, now Raleigh International). This should give me some insight into the kind of things involved in organising mass expeditions, such as tackling the Amazon on reed rafts!

I've also become involved in the University Countryside Society, affiliated to the Countryside Alliance. This year I'm the secretary, and the only girl on the committee, which is great fun! Although somewhat controversial, the Society is a great gateway to all that the Scottish countryside has to offer. In addition, I've recently taken up playing the violin again, and find I've gone back to the standard I reached at the age of 12 – very frustrating! However, it's a small, informal group, and it's amazing how quickly everything is coming back. We're tackling Handel's *Water Music* at the moment, so at least I can rely on a familiar tune!

This year (my penultimate year) it's my turn to be an Academic Mother – an excuse to enjoy Raisin Weekend all the more, as well as being able to welcome and help the freshers. My house this year is situated in the most central street possible (location, location, location!), and I'm sharing it with two fantastic guys, which is great fun. It is typically St Andrews – grey stone, on a cobbled street, with a little garden, a huge dining room table and even a dishwasher!

I trust that you are all well, and would love to hear from anyone who has a spare minute.

With best wishes,

Alice Rawdon-Mogg  
Head Girl, 2000



## POSITIVE THANKS

My father was an army officer who taught his children to repay favours whenever possible. 'If someone does something good for you, it is not enough to thank them', he would tell us. 'You have to do something positive in return.'

In September 1977 I arrived at SMH and was installed in Becket dormitory in Elliott House. It was hard to settle in at first, but I soon began to enjoy life at SMH. Then, at 55, my father was forced to retire from the army. Without his army salary and subsidies to help meet my school fees, financial reality began to bite. As months passed things began to be quietly sold to meet the end of term bills. When attempts to obtain scholarships were not successful, things grew desperate.

Finances eventually became so bad that my father travelled down to Brighton to meet Mrs Leslie. I had been offered a free place at a girls' school in Liverpool, but the examination board, curriculum and subjects were so different that I would have to repeat a year and put aside preparations already made for my O-levels.

Mrs Leslie decided to raise the issue of my education with the Governors. She argued hard that I be given the opportunity to prove myself. Eventually a decision was reached that an army bursary would be awarded along the lines of the bursaries for clergy daughters that were available at the time. This was an unusual and progressive step, but it emphasised the faith that Mrs Leslie had in me.

The bursary made it possible for me to remain at SMH until I had completed my A-level exams, and this in turn led to my gaining a place at St Andrew's University. Later I was awarded a second degree at Napier University and Membership of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in Scotland. Even now, my education continues as I work towards completion of my MBA.

Eighteen years on, I make a point of returning to Brighton for SMHA reunions and SMHA committee meetings whenever I can. I will admit to missing a few years – once, at university, when I was offered a never-to-be-repeated chance to visit Moscow, and another time when I was in the USA for a family get-together. In 2001, when I was recovering at home after a bad car crash, I wanted to come, but couldn't walk across a room, let alone get on a plane! Now I have a family of my own, it's a bit harder. Bringing a wriggling toddler on the plane is a challenge, and often things like chickenpox get in the way of my plans! It's hard to explain this commitment to outsiders, most notably my husband, although he has grown to accept my attachment to the school. Thanks to the education I received at SMH, I now have a career and a degree of financial stability that would not have been possible otherwise.

**Janine Launchbury** (Mrs Johnson, 1977–84)

## CHANGED AND NEW ADDRESSES

- Allen, Sally.** (Mrs Wilkinson), 31 Lyndhurst Drive, Harpenden, Herts AL5 5RH  
**Appleyard, Thelma.** (Mrs Hammerton), The Bolthole, 26 Radinden Manor Road, Hove, E Sussex BN3 6NH  
**Behdad, Nadia.** 110 Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham, W Midlands B29 6HY  
**Benjamin, Lynn** (Mrs Tulip), Chantry Cottage, 121 High Street, Lindfield, W Sussex RH16 2HR  
**Bland, Wendy.** (Mrs Lawrence), 59 Rous Road, Alstonville, NSW 2477 Australia  
**Broadbent, Teresa.** The Vines, 94 Greenway Lane, Bath BA2 4LN  
**Brown, Lulu.** 136 Strathville Road, London SW18 4RE  
**Bruce-Merrie, Heather.** (Mrs Watters), St Mungo's Farmhouse, Gleneagles, Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1PL  
**Burt, Sally-Anne.** (Mrs Thompson), 6B Worcester Road, Auckland, New Zealand  
**Campbell, Jane.** Moensberg 57, B-1180, Brussels, Belgium  
**Cockburn, Liz.** (Mrs Males), 6 Hectors Way, Bryanston Hills, Blandford St Mary, Dorset DT11 9QP  
**Damit, Masrina.** No 8 Spg 1626-44, Kg Tnajong Nangka, Jln Tutong, BSB BG 2321, Brunei, Darussalam  
**Davies, Emma.** Hambleton House, Lyndon Road, Upper Hambleton, Nr Oakham, Rutland LE15 8TJ  
**Drake, Anthea.** (Mrs Holland), Halcrow, PO Box 19923, Doha, State of Qatar  
**Duveen, Henrietta** (Mrs Tan), 512/40 King Street, Waverton, NSW 2060, Australia  
**Fearn, Alexandra.** (Mrs McCreery), 24 Temperley Road, London SW12 8QQ  
**Ferguson, Catriona.** (Mrs Markey), 6 Agincourt Road, London NW3 2PD  
**French, Jo.** (Mrs Grey), 31 Pennington, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 0AQ  
**Goodall, Katie.** (Mrs Harper), Craigview, East Terrace, Kingussie, Inverness-shire, Scotland PH21 1JS  
**Gordon, Rachel.** (Mrs Stewart), Coulin Estate, Kinlochewe, Ross-shire, IV22 2ES  
**Gordon, Zoe.** 4 Richmond Court, 30 Richmond Terrace, Haymarket, Edinburgh EH1 2BY  
**Harris, Marissa.** (Mrs Gardner), 1054 Lindsay Drive, Oakville, Ontario L6M 3B5, Canada  
**Hollingsworth, Sarah.** 73 Pales Green, Castle Acre, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE32 2AL  
**Hoskins, Lauren.** Chantry Cottage, 121 High St, Lindfield, W Sussex RH16 2HR  
**Hoskins, Selena.** Chantry Cottage, 121 High St, Lindfield, W Sussex RH16 2HR  
**James, Barbara.** (Mrs Marshall) 36 Montague Rd, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6QJ

**Johnson, Emma.** (Mrs Kane). c/o Redleaf Communications Ltd, 9-13 St Andrew's Street, London EC4A 3AF

**Jupe, Gaynor.** (Mrs McKinnon) 18 High Views, Halewick Lane, Sompting, W Sussex BN15 0QW

**Kassim, Kasma.** 726 Simpang 720, Kg Sungai Besar, Jalan Kota Batu, BD2517, Brunei

**Kassim, Mona.** 726 Simpang 720, Kg Sungai Besar, Jalan Kota Batu, BD2517, Brunei

**Kennedy, Patricia** (Mrs Turner). 44 Brown Candover, Alresford, Hants. SO24 9TN  
**Lord, Kate.** 24 Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7LB

**Meletioui, Angelica.** Abbeyfield House, 2a London Lane, Bromley, Kent BR1 4HD

**Mellors, Holly.** 16 Altenburg Gardens, London SW11 1JJ

**Moojen, Frances.** (Mrs Bearn), Badgers Sett, 6 Lower Woodcock Street, Castle Cary, Somerset BA7 7BH

**Morris, Clare** (Mrs Harwood), 10 Russetts Close, Woking, Surrey GU21 4BH

**Morrison, Melanie.** Flat 5, 26-30 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 4HY

**Mumford, Nicky.** (Mrs Scott), 1 Queen Anne's Close, Lewes, E Sussex BN7 1BQ

**Nash, Lisajane.** (Mrs Caesar). 24 Strensall Park, Strensall, York, Yorks YO32 5SF

**Nicholls, Susanne.** (Mrs Rac). 54 Hibiscus Lane, Holloways Beach, Queensland 4878, Australia

**Nolda, Rosemary** (Mrs Matthews). Church Cottage, Bayton, Worcs DY14 9LP

**Podd, Jo.** (Mrs Stubbs). 29 Braybon Avenue, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 8HH

**Rolt, Alexandra** (Mrs Wooster). Longridge Cottage, Thyssel Lane, Northiam, Rye, E Sussex TN31 6LB

**Salisbury, Jane.** (Mrs Clarke). 2 Stourcastle Close, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4FH

**Scatliff, Elizabeth** (Mrs Putnam), Furners Farm, Furners Lane, Henfield, W Sussex BN5 9HS

**Scatliff, Jean.** (Mrs Weston). 3 Woodard Mews, Church Street, Henfield, W Sussex BN5 9NR

**Scott, Claire.** (Mrs Ambler). 6 Goodwin Close, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG31 7ZW

**Sims, Caroline.** (Mrs Stephen). 45 Carlton Hill, London NW8 0EL

**Steiner, Kate.** (Mrs Tordoff). 31 Edward Rd, Keresley, Coventry, Warks CV6 3GS

**Stewart, Babs.** (Mrs Woolf). Unit 9 Camellia Grove, 23-25 Dumaresq Street, Gordon, Sydney, NSW 2072, Australia

**Suffolk, Rosa-Kate.** (Mrs Cook). The Old Bakery, 26 Sandwich Road, Eythorne, Kent CT15 4AA

**Tearle, Sally** (Mrs Golding). 26 Beacon Drive, Seaford, E Sussex BN25 2JX

**Temmerman, Zoe.** 3 Wayland Heights, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 5RA

**Terry, Liz.** L' Ancien Presbytere, 82500 Belbeze, Tarn et Garonne, France

**Tink, Victoria** (Mrs Burcombe). St Margaret's, 9 Gaisford Road, Worthing, W Sussex BN14 7HP

**Van Carrapiett, Sarah** (Mrs Carter), 105 West Dumpton Lane, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7BL

**Vokins, Carolanne**, (Mrs Fazakerley), 8 Woodstock Avenue, Redland, Bristol, Avon BS6 6FN

**Watkins, Katherine**, 16 Tylney Avenue, Dulwich, London SE19 1LN

**Woodthorpe, Catherine**, 23 Sidney Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1PA

## GONE AWAY

SMHA *Newsletters* for 2002 addressed to the following members have been returned marked 'gone away'. If you know the whereabouts of any of these members, please let the Hon Secretary know.

**Julia Archangelskaya, Natasha Arghiros, Gillian Bardsley, Samantha Barnett, Emma Bird, Y Claudet** (Mrs Downer), **Sally Davies** (Mrs Tomlinson), **Amy Drinkwater, H Goddard, Miranda Graham** (Mrs Bruce-Merrie), **S Gurney** (Mrs Elsom), **P Hill, Emma John, Anne Judd** (Mrs King), **Yee-Hee Kim, Irene Kwong, Fiona Laughton** (Mrs Moss), **J Lawrence, Donna Lui, Joanna Lutkin, Penelope Maflin, C McVeigh, Carolyn Mulenga, Claire Nunn, Jennifer Owen** (Mrs Warren), **Anne-Marie Parker, E R Powell** (Mrs Martin), **Helen Roberts** (Mrs Fraser), **Allison Rollinshaw, Elizabeth Ryan** (Mrs Herdon), **Maria Thomson-Nunn, J Tall, Naomi Usher, Katie Walters, Nicola Weatherley** (Mrs Hanley), **Candida-Jane West, Debbie West** (Mrs Brown).

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT SMH

Thursday 27 March, 7.00pm in Chapel  
**Senior School Spring Concert**

Thursday 3 April 7.30pm in Main Hall  
**Senior School House Play – open dress rehearsal**

Wednesday 2 July  
**Garden Party**

November (date to be confirmed) in Main Hall  
**Senior School Play *Annie***

A number of SMH events are open to old girls. If you wish to receive news of other events throughout the school year, please write to the school and ask to be put on the mailing list.



## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

### Births

- Biles** On 24 September 2000, to Philippa (née Graham) and Gerry, a son, Alexander Hardy, brother for Eleanor Rose.
- Bunclark** In January 2002, to Jane (née Hitchcock) and Liam, a son, Hector, brother for Hebe.
- Carr-Hill** In December 2001, to Anne (née Barr) and Martin, a son Daniel, brother for Oliver.
- Johnson** On 21 January 2002, to Janine (née Launchbury) and Mark, a daughter, Lucy Ann, weighing 7lb 3oz.
- Nee** On 29 May 2002, to Clair (née Joynt) and Sean Nee, a daughter, Daisy Tabitha May, sister for Annabelle.
- Tunney** In December 2001, to Lizzie (née Gosney), a daughter, Amy.
- Turner** In July 2002, to Patricia (née Kennedy) and Graham Turner, twins Katie and Tom, a brother and sister for Joscelyn.
- Vergunst** On 15 June 2002, in Cape Town, South Africa, to Joanna (née Slater) and Richard Vergunst, a daughter, Emma.

### Marriages

- Miller – Beaumaris** In 2001, Katherine Miller to Paul Beaumaris.

### Deaths

- Balogh, Daisy** – In September 2002, in Finland, as the result of a tragic accident while swimming, Daisy Delta Lovell Balogh, at SMH 1985–90
- Barton, Barbara** – On 27 September 2001, Barbara, mother of Jane Hopkins, and sister of Gabrielle (Gay) and the late Elizabeth, and daughter of the late Rev Conrad Barton.
- Bucknor, Aduke** – On 11 May 1998, in Greenwich Hospital, London, Aduke Bucknor (Mrs Oke), wife of Professor O L Oke of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, survived by her husband, five children and six grandchildren.
- Claudet, Vivien** – On 20 October 2001, Vivien Marie Claudet (Mrs Harris), aged 80, of Sevenoaks, sister of Yvonne Claudet (Mrs Downer), pupil at SMH 1931–38, and one-time Governor of the school.

**Cook, Phyllis** – In November 2000, in Australia, Phyllis Marion Elliott Cook (Dr Goatcher), daughter of the late Archdeacon Edwin Arthur Cook, wife of Dr Philip Goatcher, and mother of Jane and Philip, pupil at SMH 1932–39.

**Farnsworth, Sylvia** – On 3 March 2000, Sylvia Cloudesely Farnsworth (Mrs Sealey), pupil at SMH 1919–25, daughter of the late Rev W J Farnsworth and sister of Cicely and the late Edith and Mildred.

**Spafford, Elizabeth** – On 10 January 2001, Elizabeth Spafford (Mrs Chester), much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Elizabeth was at SMH 1936–37.

**Wilson, Daphne** – On 27 December 2002, peacefully in her sleep, Daphne Mary Wilson (Mrs Meikle), mother of Jenny (Mrs Goss), and pupil at SMH 1931–40

## OBITUARIES

### DAISY DELTA LOVELL BALOGH

Daisy Balogh came to SMH as a boarder in the late 1980s. She was a bubbly girl, who had an engaging manner and a twinkling eye. Although naturally bright, Daisy tended to doubt her own abilities, and often needed reassurance and encouragement. Her teachers, recognising her innate abilities, did all they could to increase her self-confidence and enable her to achieve her potential at school.

In 1994 Daisy went to the University of Sussex to study biology. Despite some early difficulties, Daisy persevered until she mastered the essential techniques of the course, and is remembered as a quiet, gentle and unassuming student, who was determined without being either demanding or dominating, and who really enjoyed the work she was doing.

It was early in her second year at university that Daisy's mother died of cancer. This was a severe setback. Despite her initial wish to continue, and her struggle to keep her studies in focus, Daisy needed to take time out to grieve and to recover. She returned with renewed determination, opting for courses involving a wide spectrum of knowledge. The selection was a challenging one, but she enjoyed it and began to develop the confidence that she could understand and contribute to these subjects. In her final year she studied Behavioural Ecology, Biotechnology, Community Ecology, Genes and Development, Innovation and Science Policy, and Molecular Genetics. As a consequence Daisy was widely knowledgeable in a range of subjects with significant social impact. At her graduation in 1998, it was recognised that Daisy was still improving markedly, and her acceptance for post-graduate studies in London came as no surprise to her tutors.

After graduating, Daisy joined UCL Graduate School to take an MRes-Linked PhD course in specialist research techniques – a move which both excited and stimulated her. She was such an excellent student that UCL awarded Daisy a PhD Scholarship to cover the remaining three years of her PhD course. Although technically at UCL, Daisy was based at the Institute of Zoology (IoZ) at London Zoo. Her specific field of research was the genetics and health of *parus major*, the great tit – work which led to some interesting discoveries, particularly in flocks of birds at Wytham Woods.

In September 2002, Daisy travelled to Finland to attend a conference of Post-Graduate Students in Evolutionary Biology. During a lakeside barbecue one evening, many of the delegates, including Daisy, went swimming in the lake. Daisy disappeared, and was later found to have drowned.

Well over 200 people, including a number from SMH, attended the cremation service at Kensal Green on 13 September, where glowing tributes were paid to Daisy's exceptional talents and warm personality. Dr Bill Jordan of the IoZ, who supervised Daisy's work there, described her as a bright and able student, a popular colleague, and treasured friend to many.

As a further tribute to Daisy, the prize for the best presentation at the annual IoZ Student Conference will in future be known as the Daisy Balogh Prize.

We extend our sympathy to Daisy's brother, Tom.

**Kim Cook**

*[I am grateful to Mrs Teresa Broadbent, former Headmistress of SMH, Dr Chris Ford of the University of Sussex, and Dr Bill Jordan of IoZ, for their kind help in preparing this tribute – Ed]*

### **DAPHNE MARY WILSON (Mrs Meikle)**

Daphne Wilson came to SMH in 1931, and I knew her from the Third Form onwards. She laughed easily and a lot, and we had a wide circle of friends, as Daphne was the most popular girl in class. She was musical and, being excellent at sport, can be seen in many pre-war tennis and hockey team photos. Together we enjoyed swimming and biking and, after we had left SMH, when I was in the WRAF stationed at Wrattling Common, I used to cycle across country to see Daphne, who was then a student at Cambridge. Later we lost touch, but it was a joy to meet up with Daphne again at an SMH reunion a few years ago, when we both attended a writing workshop. Despite the intervening years, we still had the same rapport.

**Sheila Humphrys (Mrs Allison)**



## PHYLLIS MARION COOK

Dr Goatcher AO, MD (Lond), BS, DCH

Phyllis was born in West China on 16 January 1922, the daughter of Archdeacon Edwin Arthur Cook and his wife Marion. She grew up in a staunchly Christian environment, and in 1932 came to St Mary's Hall in 1932, where those Christian principles were reinforced. Phyllis left in 1939 to study at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School, and gained her Doctorate in Medicine from London University.

In 1953 Phyllis married fellow practitioner Philip Goatcher and soon they emigrated to Australia, where Philip developed a successful career as a surgeon. Phyllis was appointed to the clinical staff of the Royal Perth Hospital, and four years later became Senior Physician in Rheumatology, with particular interest in the Rehabilitation Unit in Shenton Park. She continued in this work until her retirement, as well as conducting a specialist private practice for many years.

In 1971, with the support of a colleague, Phyllis formed a steering committee to promote the idea of an Arthritis Foundation to provide funding for research, to encourage more young doctors to take up the speciality, and to provide better facilities for patients. A year later her enthusiasm and charisma had led to the birth of the Arthritis Foundation of Western Australia. Leading by example, Phyllis made it impossible for others to say no when she asked for their support. The inaugural President of the Foundation, she went on to become its Life Governor. Her teaching ability and her willingness to share her knowledge and expertise with others, greatly enhanced the speciality, and the Rheumatology Research Unit at the Royal Perth Hospital was named in her honour.

Her Christian upbringing and staunch faith found practical expression in her devoted service to her family, her church, her colleagues and her patients. A regular worshipper in her local church, she also sang with the University Choral Society. Phyllis never sought self-advancement, but in 1975 was recognised as Citizen of the Year, and was also made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

At her funeral in December 2000, Phyllis was remembered as an outstanding personality, a loving wife, mother and grandmother, a caring doctor and tireless campaigner, whose life had been a blessing to many.

Phyllis is survived by her husband Philip, daughter Jane, son Philip and grandchildren, and we extend our sympathy to them, and to her many friends

**Kim Cook**

*[I am grateful for permission to use details from the funeral address given by Arthur J Smith – Ed]*

## **ELIZABETH SPAFFORD (Mrs Chester)**

When Elizabeth Spafford joined St Mary's Hall in 1932, she was immediately awarded a scholarship. In 1936 she was appointed Head Girl. After leaving in 1937, Elizabeth remained a loyal member of SMHA, and always spoke with affection of her days at the school. Our condolences go to her family. **KC**

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## **YEAR GROUP REUNION – 2003** **1954 (Lower IV) to 1961 (Upper VI) Year Group**

During the current academic year, most of the girls from this year group (O-level 1959, A-level 1961) reach the big 6-0! A special celebration is planned as part of the SMHA Reunion in May. Over twenty of this group are in touch, but contact details are still needed for Jennifer Allen, Sally Brace, Linda Cannon, Jane Clarke, Susan Collard, Penny Fanshawe, Rosalind Green, Carol Hayes, Mariam Kanoo, Priscilla Mair, Celia Malins, Joanna Mardling, Heather Newenham, Elizabeth Thouard and Caroline Wise. Any information on married names, family names or past addresses, even if not recent, would be helpful. Friends and family members from other years are also welcome to join the celebration. Please contact Mrs Kim Cook at Cherry Trees, Ingleden Park Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6NS, or email [roykimcook@aol.com](mailto:roykimcook@aol.com).

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

If you know of any former pupil or member of staff not at present a member of SMHA, please encourage them to join by sending a cheque, payable to SMHA, for the current Life Membership subscription of £45, to the Hon Treasurer, Mrs Anne Nelson, 15 Slindon Road, Worthing, W Sussex BN14 9LJ.

## **MILLENNIUM FUNDS**

Contributions to the Millennium Subscription and Gift Funds should be sent to the Anne Nelson, at the subscription address (above). Any old girl, or SMHA member who knows of an old girl, who would like to join the Association, but whose circumstances make it impossible for her to meet the subscription, may apply to have her subscription paid by the Subscription Fund. The Gift Fund allows the Headmistress to provide small financial assistance to pupils where appropriate.

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please send all material for the *Newsletter* (articles, photographs, news, memories, and details of births, marriages and deaths) to the Hon Editor, c/o Mrs Penny Gardiner at 4 Station Path, Staines, Middx TW18 4LA, or email her at [penelope.gardiner@btinternet.com](mailto:penelope.gardiner@btinternet.com). All material should arrive **before 1 November**.

## ENQUIRIES AND DATABASE

Enquiries about former pupils and staff should be sent to the Hon Secretary, Mrs Angelica Meletiou, Abbeyfield House, 2a London Lane, Bromley, Kent BR1 4HD. A database of names and addresses of former pupils and staff, whether or not they are currently members of SMHA, is maintained by Penny Gardiner. If you have any information that will add to or update the database, please contact Penny at 4 Station Path, Staines, Middx TW18 4LA, or email her at [penelope.gardiner@btinternet.com](mailto:penelope.gardiner@btinternet.com).

## 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 hast wrought in us, and make this school as a field with 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.

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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 © SMHA 2003