

1998



Association

Newsletter

ST. MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION

No. 99



Apr 1998

COMMITTEE

President and Chairman.....Mrs. Susan M. Meek, M.A.
Vice Chairman.....Dame Mildred Riddelsdell, D.C.B., C.B.E.
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Hon. Asst. Secretaries.....Mrs. V. Boyes, Miss M. Payne
Hon. Treasurer.....Mrs. Bearn (F. Moojen)
Hon. Editor.....Miss M. Morrison
Also the present Head Girl of the School, Mrs Johnson (J. Launchbury) and Miss J Podd

EDITORIAL

Unfortunately, I have to start my first year as Hon. Editor with an apology for the late delivery of the Newsletter, owing to a combination of circumstances. I shall try to do better next year! In the early autumn of 1997, news of Old Girls seemed very thin on the ground and it looked as though this year's letter would be a rather slim affair. However, the letters slowly dribbled in and eventually I had collected a nice little pile. Many thanks to all those who have contributed.

I share a flat in Battersea with my sister, Lucinda - an arrangement which we have both survived for several years now! For the past two and half years, I have been working at London Studio Centre, one of Britain's foremost colleges for the performing arts (to quote our publicity material!). We run a three year Theatre Dance Course and final year students specialise in one of four areas - Classical Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Jazz Theatre Dance or Music Theatre. Each specialist area has its own performing company, which undertakes a

short tour in the summer term, and I am Administrator for the latter three companies - look out for our visits at a theatre near you!

I hope to see many members of the Association at the Reunions in May or September this year.

MELANIE MORRISON Hon. Editor

LETTER FROM OLIVE LESLIE

Sydney, N.S.W.
November, 1997

Dear Friends

As I write this letter to you, I am looking out over one of Sydney's innumerable bays, with many boats in the foreground and more houses climbing the hill opposite, a constantly changing view. I have come out here with one of my sisters on a world tour arranged by her son, my nephew. After Bangkok and Hong Kong for ten days, we arrived here for four weeks and then one in Melbourne, before continuing via both islands of New Zealand and Rarotonga (Cook Islands), Los Angeles, Brazil, Princeton for Christmas and a final few days in New York. We'll be home for New Year's Eve. What a privilege and a totally unexpected treat!

During the year, I have gradually divorced myself from the various committees on which I served, so that now I am left with the Chairmanship of the English Speaking Union as my only major commitment.

My older grandson has just started at Eton as a King's Scholar with, I am thankful to say, an equal interest in and ability at all sports and games. His younger brother is not quite so academic, but equally gifted at sports and very musical with a lovely voice. My sister, who is with me here, has fifteen grandchildren, which means that comparing notes is rather lop-sided.

Everybody felt sad when Mrs James retired after so many years of devoted service to the school. By next autumn, she will feel free to return to the school again and I hope that those of you who were in S.M.H. over that period will come to the S.M.H.A. supper. I, too, look forward to seeing you again.

We also all owe a debt of gratitude to Linda Kings for acting as Hon. Editor of the S.M.H.A. Newsletter for so long, and to the loyal committee members who supported her.

Best wishes to you all from

OLIVE LESLIE

LETTER FROM PAMELA JAMES

Dear Friends

I write this in November, after some two and a half months of retirement. I endorse what so many people told me beforehand: retirement is wonderful, but very busy! The best thing is the delight of the release of the pressure on one's time. I feel that I am perpetually on holiday (or playing truant?). But what I do miss very much is the people; so many friends over so many years. Therefore it gives me particular pleasure to write to you at this time.

The monthly flowers given to me so generously by the S.M.H.A. are giving me great joy (as those of you who know me personally and my love of flowers will appreciate). At the moment, I have a vase full of white September, which I can see as I write: a cloud of delicate white tiny star-like daisy flowers. September is a fairly new flower to me; it looks like a more cultivated version of the Michaelmas daisy, abundant in the gardens of my childhood at this time of the year (as I write; not as you read). Thank you all so much.

I thought you would like to know that in early November I visited Miss Gilligan ('Gilly'), Bursar of St Mary's Hall from 1951 to 1968. For those of you who don't know, Gilly, who is ninety-four years old and who, incidentally, was the school's first naval bursar, is living in a British Legion home in Bexhill-on-Sea. She told me the following story, which I have her permission to pass on to you. Gilly has had a life-long fear of lifts. When she was a young woman of about nineteen she was caught up in an accident on the London Underground. One train had caught fire and another had collided into it. Trying to escape from the scene, Gilly got stuck in a lift. From that horrific experience dates her fear of lifts. However, Gilly's room at Bexhill is on the first floor. Although she is ambulant, she walks with the help of a stick and can't manage stairs. She was able to use the lift at Bexhill only if someone was with her. Gilly decided that she must conquer her fear.

She sat outside the lift, she told me, for ten minutes and talked to it, telling it that it must behave and look after her as she was going to trust it. She then got into the lift and made her solo ascent. Now she is able to use the lift freely.

I asked Gilly for permission to tell that story as I feel that it is such a wonderful achievement to conquer, at the age of ninety-four, a life-long phobia. It is also a marvellous encouragement to the rest of us, and example of courage and the power of the human spirit.

I hope to see some of you during the next academic year. Meanwhile, my affection and every best wish to you all.

PAMELA JAMES

HEADMISTRESS'S LETTER

Dear Friends

It is a great privilege for me to write to you as the new Headmistress of St Mary's Hall. I can hardly believe I am nearing the end of my first term in post, but am certainly feeling that I am finding my feet. I am grateful for the welcome and support I have received from the S.M.H.A., from Governors, from current pupils and parents and from staff. Change is a great opportunity and, as we face the challenges of the future, I pay tribute to those whose past contributions have made St Mary's Hall the very special place it is. Above all, I thank Mrs Pamela James for her help and kindness to me in the transition period. It's good to know she's on the end of the telephone!

I join St Mary's Hall having spent the past twenty-six years teaching creative arts, both in this country and in the Middle East. During the last fifteen years, I have been at Roedean where I had a variety of roles - Housemistress, Registrar, Public Relations Officer, Head of Drama, Head of Performing Arts and Senior Mistress. I have been widowed for nearly ten years and have two children: Robert who is 16 and Rosalind who is 13. They are both at boarding schools. I also have an 81 year old mother who lives with us and is already a regular supporter of events at St Mary's Hall!

There have been some improvements to our buildings since the last

magazine report. The Senior School Library has been transformed and is now a bright and comfortable place in which to study. We are most grateful to Mrs Fincham (Head of English) who has overseen the refurbishment and we are indebted to all those who have contributed to the Library Appeal. (It is not too late if anyone still wants to make a donation or dedicate a book in memory of a friend or member of staff.)

Another important development is the Nursery's move to the Robinson Wing. Our three-year olds have settled extremely happily; and Mrs Riggs has worked tirelessly to establish a stimulating and creative environment for our youngest pupils, with their own self-contained playground.

We have welcomed several new members of staff: Mrs Kathy Rees has joined the Religious Studies Department; Mr Andrew Brooke has joined the staff as a part-time teacher of English and Drama; Mr John Crocker joins us to coach A Level German; Mrs Margaret Hippert has been appointed as an Assistant Housemistress and is mainly in Venn House, with some duties in St Hilary House; Mlle Delphine Renault has been appointed as an Assistant Housemistress in St Hilary House and Miss Adrienne Wenstone has joined us to teach Dance in the extra-curricular programme. Mrs Kate Hudson has been appointed Special Needs co-ordinator to help organize a programme for dyslexic pupils with Mrs Bernice Renfrew, who joined us at half-term.

One of our present members of staff, Mrs Deirdre Taylor, who has been at St Mary's Hall for over eight years, was re-married in the Summer and is now Mrs Francis.

Sadly, I have to report the deaths of Miss Margaret Thouless, who was a member of staff in the 1930s; and Bishop Douglas Feaver, who was married to a previous headmistress of St Mary's Hall: Miss Harvey as she then was.

I was delighted to meet some of you at the S.M.H.A. dinner in September, where I expressed my wish to nurture links with as many Old Girls as possible. Not only are your achievements an inspiration to current students, the network of the S.M.H.A. is an invaluable and dynamic national and international resource which could be a great support in all kinds of ways. One or two of you are already 'grasping the nettle' and have volunteered to speak to 'Young Enterprise' groups

at St Mary's Hall in the new year, or to offer work experience or advice. I am very grateful for your positive suggestions and I offer you all an open invitation to visit whenever you can. I would be delighted to welcome you back and to have the opportunity to meet you.

When I took up my post during the summer holidays, several Old Girls ventured over the threshold to introduce themselves. Some of you will remember them and I can report they are very well and happy and expressed a wish to hear from friends:

Mrs Frances Tweedy, née Sprigge (1959-64), of Windyridge, 284 Hillsborough Road, Hillsborough, Auckland 4, New Zealand, visited with her husband.

Irene Mak (1985-9), 28/F Devon House, Tarkoo Place, 979 Kings Road, Hong Kong, also brought her husband for a tour before returning home to await the birth of their second child.

Anna Crowe, née Crowley (1957-63) from 57 Lade Braes, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland KY16 6DA, came back for the first time since she left St Mary's Hall, and presented her latest poetry anthology, 'Skating out of the House', to the new Library.

Eileen Howard, née Portas (1932-40), sent us a complimentary copy of her book 'A History of Sussex Wild Plants' for the Library.

My hope to develop closer links with the S.M.H.A. relies entirely on gathering accurate information and maintaining effective communication with all members and, indeed, all past pupils. If you have heard from anyone who has lost touch with St Mary's Hall, do let Anne Stapleton know so we can add them to the database of Old Girls.

It would be wonderful if year groups (who I know meet in each other's homes!) decided to have a reunion at School, either at the Dinner in September or at the gathering in May. Perhaps we could target specific year groups. We so enjoy seeing you and sharing your memories of your times at St Mary's Hall - so do keep in touch! If you have any thoughts about ways to encourage current girls to join the S.M.H.A., I would be pleased to hear them.

I look forward to meeting more of you in due course. In the meantime, 'spread the word'! Inspired by the example of those who went before, I trust that St Mary's Hall will go from strength to strength.

SUSAN MEEK

TREASURER'S REPORT

As stated in last year's report, Subscriptions were down this year to £841 and thus there was a reduced profit. Income from the Raffle continues to improve along with donations and, true to his word, the Bursar is allowing us to make £1 on each ticket for the lunches/suppers. This, together with a negotiated small increase in the printing costs, has helped lessen the impact of the reduced subscriptions. The database is expanding and address enquiries are easier to discharge. More contributions were received after the closing date for Mrs James' retirement present and this gave us a handsome sum. She was delighted at the thought of being able to purchase flowers every month. All contributors' names were inserted in her Retirement Card. My thanks to Chris Elkins for his help in auditing these accounts.

FRANCES BEARN (Moojen) Hon. Treasurer

SMHA TRADING ACCOUNT AS AT 31 JULY 1997

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Subscriptions	£841.50	Printing Costs	£677.02
Lunches/Suppers	332.50	Lunches/Suppers	293.50
Donation	1.00	Postage/Stationery	321.89
Raffle	59.50	Presents for	
Donations for Mrs James	198.50	Mrs James	155.52
		AROPS	<u>10.00</u>
			£1,457.93
Interest:		Profit	
Bank	£16.35	for 95/96	<u>£554.96</u>
CBF	£481.19		
CBF Share Dividend	£82.35		
Totals:	<u>£2,012.89</u>		<u>£2,012.89</u>

BALANCE SHEET

		<u>Assets at 31.7.97</u>	
Capital at Start of Year	£10,739.83	Barclays Deposit A/C	£350.24
Add Profit for Year	554.96	Barclays Current A/C	985.77
		CBF Deposit A/C	8,530.78
		CBF Shares	
		(238 @ £6)	<u>1,428.00</u>
	<u>£11, 294.79</u>		<u>£11, 294.79</u>

HEAD GIRL'S REPORT

I can't believe that it's nearly Christmas once again and yet another year has sped past. As usual, the St Mary's Hall calendar has been packed full of events - academic visits, musical concerts, theatrical performances and many sporting fixtures.

Our new sport, hockey, has been going from strength to strength. The enthusiasm is enormous. The swimming and netball teams are also enjoying considerable success in their fixtures.

As Christmas draws nearer, there is a wealth of end of term activities in store. At present the 'Fiddler on the Roof' rehearsals are in full swing, with all the cast members working flat out to produce a show which cannot be missed!

A group of second years have organised a Talent Contest, which includes a varied and rather interesting line up of acts. As usual, the 'Spice Girls' are appearing and 'Barbie Girl' is also showing her face. We look forward to some surprises from both girls and staff in this fund-raising event in aid of The Princess Diana Memorial Fund.

The Sixth Form have organised a trip to see the musical 'Grease' at the Cambridge Theatre in London, which promises to be an enjoyable evening. Probably the most looked forward to event of the term is the candlelit Carol Service; I don't know if this is because it marks the beginning of the holidays! It is always a beautiful occasion and tickets are much in demand.

University applications for the Upper Sixth are now well under way. The Autumn Term is always a nervous time for the Sixth as the realisation dawns that A Levels are fast approaching and that our school careers are drawing to a close.

St Mary's Hall now has a School Council. This involves a member from each form in the Senior School representing her form. All the representatives meet about twice each half term to discuss any matters of concern and to make suggestions which will be of benefit to the girls.

The four house charities continue to profit from the hard work carried out by the members of the houses. The houses have all sold small snacks and chocolate in break times to raise money. Other activities included Mr Low's shaving his beard off for Bristol House in aid of Leukaemia Research; and a mufti day organised by Babington House in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Both events successfully raised large amounts of money.

The school year has only just started, but already we have an extensive programme of events ahead of us. What a promising and exciting year this will be! As always, there is much to strive for and much to which we can look forward.

HANNAH GALE
Head Girl 1997-8

MAY LUNCH 1997

The following were present at the Lunch on Saturday 10th May 1997:

Mrs Leslie, Mrs Boyes, Miss Brisol, Miss Payne, Mr Liddell, Fanny Johnston, Liz Forbes (Nicholls), Melanie Morrison, Kathleen Chambré, Melanie Bastable (Davidson), Robina Methven, Moyra Corscaden, Daphne Williams, Frances Bearn (Moojen), Linda Kings (Belasco), Jean Peters (Pearson), Liz Caudle (Baker), Liz Green (Allwright), Alex Wooster (Rolt), Issy Ricci (Rees), Vivi Nahum (Murad), Penny Gardiner (Buck) and Anne Stapleton (Gosnell).

After lunch and Miss Payne's raffle, several Old Girls were taken on tours around the school by some of the boarders. The Library was to be

re-ordered and decorated in the summer holidays, so it was an opportunity to look round and remember its being a dormitory in the 1930s, and a room to be crossed in fear and trepidation en route to the Prefects' Room in the 1950s and '60s.

**A RECEPTION WAS HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON
SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 1997 AT 6.15 P.M.
FOLLOWED BY SUPPER**

Mrs Susan Meek, the new Headmistress, introduced herself and gave a brief resumé of her career.

Miss Jo Podd (Old Girl and current member of staff) and Hannah Gale, Head Girl, were present, together with the following:

Mrs Leslie, Mrs Boyes, Miss Bristol, Miss Payne, Anne Hollingsworth (Finch), Penny Gardiner (Buck), Melanie Morrison, Kathleen Chambré, Nadya Wathen (Merk), Melanie Bastable (Davidson) and Anne Stapleton (Gosnell).

Miss Margaret Thouless, member of staff from the 1930s who had died since the last meeting, was remembered in the prayers.

LETTER FROM KATHY HOWARD (1967-1976)

Whether you liked games or not, I am sure many old girls will remember Miss **Mary McEwan**, PE teacher at S.M.H. from September 1968 to December 1979.

Since I left S.M.H. in 1976 I have kept in touch with Mary. We rarely met though, as her husband's work took them abroad to such places as Malaysia and Indonesia. She is currently living in Jakarta where she has been for the last 12 years or more. Eventually, having not seen her for such a long time and after hearing all about the exotic flowers, warm weather and massages, I thought it would be great to go out to visit Mary and her family.

So last February I flew out to Indonesia for three weeks, staying initially with Mary for the first week, then visiting neighbouring

islands Bali and Lombok, and finally returning to Jakarta again for the last part of the holiday. Quite an amazing and educational holiday - volcanoes and paddy fields, local arts such as batik and shadow puppets, but also poverty and culture contrasts. Very different from my geography lessons at school!

Mary and I had many a long chat about the old S.M.H. days; she even looked out the notes she made (and actually kept for 25 years, taking them to Indonesia!) for organising our school camp. And coincidentally, this year's S.M.H.A. magazine arrived while I was out there, and this of course sparked off further reminiscences.

It was great to see her again, and despite now being Mary Hayhurst, I found it hard not to call her Miss McEwan!

P.S. She says if anyone is passing a B&B is always available!



Kathy Howard and Mary Hayhurst (McEwan)

MINNETTE DE SILVA

I am indebted to a family friend who told me of her meeting with Minnette de Silva on a recent visit to Sri Lanka, and copied the book jacket from which the following information is taken. Whilst a student in England, Minnette was a pupil at St Mary's Hall. (Hon Ed)

Minnette de Silva was the first Sri Lankan woman architect and the first Asian woman to be elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects. A pioneer of modern Sri Lankan architecture, inspired by her friendship with Le Corbusier, she was the first to combine Western techniques with the architectural traditions of Ceylon and India and with indigenous building crafts. Born into a political family, her Buddhist father was one of the leaders of the National

Movement in Ceylon, while her mother, of French/Dutch/Sinhalese extraction, was a leading campaigner for women's franchise.

As a student in pre-Independent India, Minnette encountered a cosmopolitan world of politicians, industrialists, army generals, artists, film-makers, dancers, actors and architects. Family friends included Tagore, Gandhi, Nehru and other important Asian leaders, and she formed lasting friendships with Henri Cartier Bresson, David Lean, Laurence Olivier, Le Corbusier and many others. In June 1997, she published her autobiography - *Minnette de Silva: The Life and Work of an Asian Woman Architect*.

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS AND STAFF

Allison, Mrs Sheila (Humphreys) [1936-1939] lives in Hildenborough with her second husband and enjoys using her computer, amongst many other interests.

Appleton, Katyana Last seen by the Hon. Ed. dancing with City Ballet of London in *Cinderella*, she has now joined English National Ballet.

Ashford, Mrs Sarah (Hunt) and her husband, Peter, have now started their third year with Woodside in Perth and are feeling very settled. Their house 'on the park' is "very much home and bears the battle scars of three rumbustious boys". Sarah had an operation on her thyroid last year, but has continued to lead a very busy life.

Bastable, Mrs Melanie (Davidson) [1982-1990] has been married to Daniel for four years. They have two children - Thomas aged two and a half, and Elizabeth aged one. She helps with the family fencing business (Beacon Fencing 01444 248240 - if you need a fence/shed/ gate etc!).

Biles, Mrs Philippa (Graham) and her husband, Gerry, celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Eleanor Rose, on 18 September 1997. She weighed in at 6lb 6oz and is doing well. Her aunt (Philippa's sister **Miranda Bruce-Merrie**) and cousin Charlotte (Mandy's daughter) agree with her mum that she is absolutely beautiful!

Karen Bowerman, who was one of Philippa's bridesmaids, will be one of her godmothers.

Blee, Mary is married and living in Lewes with her husband and 18 month old baby. Mary's father studied with Minnette de Silva (q.v.) in Ceylon.

Boyes, Mrs Valerie was spending Christmas abroad again - this time in Pakistan, where she was "supervising" her daughter, Jemma, who is married to an engineer and was expecting her third child in the New Year. Her daughter Nicola has four children and stopped to devote the rest of her spare time to being a full-time GP in Chiswick.

Butterwick, Mrs Emma (Terrot) [1985-1992] is married to Jonathan, a police sergeant in the centre of London. They have two children called Jack, who is two and a half, and Jessica, who is seven months. Emma works from home as a Business Development Consultant. She is still in touch with **Claire Hall** and **Marie Downes (Levene)**.

Chambré, Kathleen enjoyed the S.M.H.A. supper in September, but says "Where are all you shirkers?" (Hear! Hear!)

Cockroft, Mrs Charlotte (Temple) [1977-1984] is married to Roger and has two children, Victoria and Benjamin, with number three due at the end of May. Roger is working as a Management Consultant in Birmingham but is on a secondment in Portsmouth, so the family is going to join him and hoping to live just outside Chichester.

Corser, Mrs Penny (Wade) [1970-1977] moved from Norwich up to Aberdeen in February 1997, in order to take up a new post as Head of Radiation Protection at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and Radiation Protection Adviser for three NHS Trusts. She and her husband are settling into life in Scotland. They have a three year old daughter and are expecting another baby in June.

Counsel, Mrs June (Hume) was, she thinks, only a year at S.M.H. (1940-1941?), but remembers it vividly, particularly Brighton's one and only bomb falling. She writes: "I was boarding at Hilary House - and the noise! We all leapt up and went down to the basement and I felt very sick. Then all the schools on the Sussex Coast closed and, for the next two years, I and the Vicar's two daughters in Borehamwood got our education two mornings a week from two magnificent retired school teachers, who were also ARP wardens!!" She is now a Writer, Storyteller and Lecturer - please see notice on p.18.

Emmet, Professor Dorothy M was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Open University in June 1997.

Gardiner, Penny has her own computer company in Essex, which continues to expand, assisted by Self Assessment, because the company specialises in supplying software and hardware to accountants for preparing tax returns.

Hennings, Ms Susan married Andy Duncan in 1996 (although she has kept her maiden name for the moment). They have a little boy,

Ross, born in October 1997. Susan's parents are still in Cyprus, her brother in Switzerland and her sister, **Anne**, in Worthing. She regularly sees Susan Roller (Harris) and Jo Hill (Dwyer).

Hill, Mrs Johanna (Dwyer) had a daughter, Josephine, in December 1996. Susan Hennings is her godmother.

Holland, Mrs Anthea (Drake) has moved from Bristol to South Wales. Her niece **Nicola Weatherley**, who was at S.M.H. in the 1980s, got married in June 1997 in Staplefield, West Sussex, to Rob Hanley, a solicitor from Sydney, whom she met whilst working out there. They are living and working in London for the next two years. Anthea hears from time to time from **Rachel Dedman (Hewitt)** who was at S.M.H. in the late 1970s and who has three children and lives in Rusper. She would like news and addresses of **Madeline Green** and **Anne Fridal** (see Miss Payne's news further on). She was interested to read **Judy Hart's (Reynolds)** article, as they were at S.M.H. together.

Hollingsworth, Mrs Anne (Finch) is now in the fifth year of a BA Hons Degree in Business Studies at the University of Brighton.

Johnson, Mrs Janine (Launchbury) is still working at the Bank of Scotland I.T. Division buying and installing Mainframe Hardware. She was recently involved in moving the entire contents of one of the Bank's Computer Halls 14km across Edinburgh! She has also gone back to college and next summer hopes to graduate from Napier University with a B.A. in Financial Services. Her husband, Mark, is now working as the I.T. Manager at a firm of accountants in Dunfermline. They have made many new friends through the Internet and have made several trips to the States.

Johnson, Miss Tamsin has recently joined Smithkline Beecham as an internal auditor. She is marrying David Kidwell in February 1998 - he proposed to her at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro on a recent holiday. Her sister **Veryan Johnson** is currently doing an MBA at Cranfield.

Manger, Mrs Rachel (Hardaker) has a second son, Sebastian, a brother for Hamish. He arrived on 5 September 1997, weighting in at 9lb!

Marshall, Mrs Barbara (James) has a second son, Cameron, born in July 1996.

Miller, Miss Katharine is working as a nurse in Scotland. Her sisters, **Alison** and **Fiona**, have both got married in the last few years.

Morrison, Miss Lucinda recently met up with **Ginny Hudson (Carver)** and **Louise Wilson (Thwaites)** at the Royal Albert Hall

to sing *The Messiah* from scratch - shades of S.M.H. choir going strong! Ginny is living in Oxfordshire where she and her husband run their own company manufacturing garden furniture. Louise is kept busy by her three children - James aged two and a half (Lucinda's godson), and twin daughters Alice and Emma, born in May 1997. Lucinda is Senior Press Officer at the Royal National Theatre, a job that took her to the Salzburg and Phoenix, Arizona Festivals in 1997 with *Othello*, as well as publicising many productions at the South Bank.

Nash, Miss Lisa Jane [1979-1986] After working as a speech and language therapist at a school for dyslexics in London for three years, took a break in Canada and the USA from January to July 1995. She returned to the UK to study at Oxford Brookes on the primary PGCE during 1995-96. She went out to Germany to work, again as an SLT, for the MOD with British Forces' families in August 1996. She met her fiancé out there and is getting married in September 1998. Her fiancé was recently posted to Pembrokeshire, Wales and Lisa Jane was beginning a new job in two language units in Milford Haven in January.

Oxley, Mrs Marguerite Frances (Cook) married Richard Mark Oxley on 23 August 1997, at All Saints Church in Old Heathfield, East Sussex. Richard is from Skipton, North Yorkshire and is employed by Peterborough City Council as their Environmental Policy Officer.

Payne, Miss Margaret had a very pleasant meeting with **Sue Hill, Anne Fridal** and their friends when they went to see Anne in her role of Serena in 'Porgy and Bess' at Eastbourne. It was an excellent production and it was lovely to hear Anne singing again. The company has been on tour in the Far East and now faces mammoth performances over the whole of America

Podd, Miss Joanna [1977-1984] is now in her fourth year of teaching at S.M.H. in Elliott House.

Randall, Mrs Mary (Fosh) and her husband, Arthur, celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary in 1997, with a lovely holiday in Rome and Sorrento. Their son, Paul, is now a major in the Royal Logistics Corps. He is married and has George who is nearly six, and Alice who is four. Their daughter, Jane, is an accountant working in the City and she has two girls, Kimberly who is nearly eight and Natalie who is nearly five. In the last issue of the S.M.H.A. Newsletter, Mary noticed that the article 'A Miscellany of S.M.H. Memories (1954-1960)' mentioned that the first dance with Brighton College took place during those years. However, she writes that in

fact, in the summer of 1950, she with **Joan Edwards**, **Beth Laurence** and one other sixth former attended the Brighton College dance. She even remembers the dress she wore!

Roller, Mrs Susan (Harris) is expecting her second child in March 1998. She works a four day week as Group Tax Manager at Legal & General and seems to spend much of her day off dealing with SMH matters in her capacity as Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. She particularly enjoyed seeing **Mrs Channing** and **Mrs Baker** at the 1996 Prize Day. She meets regularly with **Lisa Andrews (Martin)**, **Caroline Hearne (Simmons)**, **Anne Carr-Hill (Barr)** and **Tamsin Johnson** to play Mah Jong. (The Hon Ed would like to thank Susan for the news she sent of several Old Girls.)

Slater, Miss Naomi [1986-1993] graduated from Royal Holloway College in July 1997 with a 2:1 in Modern European Languages. In the summer, she did a TEFL course at International House in Piccadilly, London, and is now living in Brunei with her boyfriend. Her sister, **Joanna [1988-1990?]**, got married on 22 March in Cape Town, South Africa. The whole family went over and Naomi and her sister Nicola were bridesmaids. **Heloise Overshott** also attended the wedding. Joanna and her husband, Richard Vergunst, are very happy and she is coming to England for a six week holiday in March, when she can be contacted at 19 Salisbury Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2DD Tel: 01323 890411.

Tripp, Mrs Jackie (Buck) married her brother-in-law's cousin in October 1996 and now lives within a couple of miles of her sister, **Sally** (see below for her news), and her husband. She is working in Ipswich as a paediatric registrar and is also doing a part-time MSc at Great Ormond Street.

Wathen, Mrs Nadya (Merk) [1982-1988] studied European Business Studies (HND) at Swansea and European Business Administration (BA Hons) at Cardiff. She now works at American Express, marketing test products for Germany. She married Angus from Brighton College on 7 September 1997.

Watts, Mrs Sally (Buck) has added to her family with Toby, a brother for Zoe. He was born on 5 February 1997 and weighed 9lb 1oz! She was suffering with the night feeds when she wrote, but planned to go back to work in the future. She is fortunate enough to be able to work part-time, which makes bringing up a family much easier. She has been in contact with **Vicki Macari (Aylin)**, who also had a baby boy, Joseph, at the beginning of 1997. She would like to see any

ex-S.M.H. people who are in the Suffolk area.

Wilkinson, Mrs Jo-Anne (Galbraith) and her husband, John, have bought a house in Hurstpierpoint. She bumped into **Ann Longhurst's (Trustrum)** husband on a train! He told Jo that Ann was expecting a child in October.

Witham, Mrs Ruth (Belson) [1978-1982] has two children, Christopher and Jenny, and was hoping to start a teacher training course in 1998.

Wood, Miss Clare Some of you may have seen the article in *The Times* recently announcing Clare's appointment as tennis coach to Tony Blair. She appears to be impressed by his ability! Clare retired from active play in November, aged 29, having been national champion three times. She coaches full-time, mainly junior players for the Lawn Tennis Association.

DEATHS

It is with great sadness that we learned of the following deaths:

Ruth Hart née Harris in 1989; Jeanette Saunders in 1995; and Dr H Barnes.

Miss E.M. Thouless M.A. Oxon

Diana Gosnell writes:

I was saddened to read of the death of Miss Thouless on November 28th 1996, as I had only just received her Christmas card a few days before. Her brother kindly phoned to give me the funeral details, but unfortunately I was unable to represent S.M.H.A. as I was going to be away.

Miss Thouless was my last form mistress (1935-36) when I left at the centenary, and we had corresponded over the years. Though she was over 90, her writing was meticulous and her interest in all Old Girls remained undimmed. Like many of us at S.M.H., we found her an inspiring teacher who made us want to study and appreciate the English and poetry she taught us, and I for one will always be grateful to her.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

In the summer of 1997, the whole country was shocked by the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. London City Ballet had been one of the Princess's charities for many years. Although I had left the company before its demise, I was very touched to be asked to walk with four other company members in the procession behind the coffin of the Princess of Wales. It was an extraordinary experience. The most overwhelming impression was that of the silence that had descended upon the heart of London, despite the thousands of people who had gathered along the route of the cortège. On the walk from St James' Palace to Westminster Abbey, I was aware, of course, of the crowds on each side, but it was impossible actually to focus on them. It was easier to concentrate on looking straight ahead at the white wreaths that were laid on the coffin, and to try and avoid stepping on the flowers that had been thrown in its path. I also felt such admiration for the lady in front of us, who walked bravely along the whole route on crutches.

The service was broadcast to us in St Margaret's, where we joined in all the hymns and prayers. Elton John's singing reduced many in the church to tears. Waiting on the coach which was to transport us back to Chelsea Barracks, people were lost in quiet contemplation of the ceremony of which we had been so privileged to be a part.

Melanie Morrison

June Counsel

Writer • Storyteller • Lecturer

17 Andrew Close, Ailsworth, Peterborough PE5 7AD
Telephone 01733 380653

Writer

•

Storyteller

•

Storycircling workshop in schools

•

Talks to children and adults

•

Tutor to creative writing classes

FREE ADVERTISING!

We would like to hear from any Members who may be able to offer particular services such as that of Solicitor, Optician, Dentist, Masseuse, Portrait Painter..., so that we can put ourselves in the safe hands of an S.M.H. Old Girl!

S.M.H.A. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We would welcome any comments from Members on the following proposal, which was made at the Committee Meeting in September 1997.

Mrs Leslie writes:

The S.M.H.A. Members would like to commemorate the Millennium in a practical way and a proposal was made that this should take the form of a scholarship. Other suggestions, of course, would be equally welcome.

In the past, boys' schools were able to raise large sums of money through their Associations. Nowadays, girls often hold down equally responsible and well-paid posts and many of those whom I remember received financial help at S.M.H. when their parents needed it. I do hope that they, and all others who benefited from the educational opportunities, as well as the School's emphasis on care for others, will respond generously when the time comes.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO NAMES AND ADDRESSES

Butterwick, Mrs Emma (Terrot) 118 Torbay Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 9QJ

Corser, Mrs J.P. (Penny Wade) Tillyrieve, Pettymuick, Udney Station, Aberdeenshire AB41 6SB

Countiford, Miss V. Point Clear, Lustrell Road, Rottingdean, East Sussex BN2 7DS

Hennings, Ms Susan 47 Elizabeth Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1RA

Emmet, Prof. D. The Hope Residential & Nursing Care Home, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2BQ

Holland, Mrs Anthea (Drake) Northwood House, Penllyn,
Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7RQ

Hollingsworth, Mrs A. (Finch) 15 Slindon Road, Worthing,
West Sussex BN14 9LJ

Jackson, Mrs Vicky (Scatliff) 70 Marryat Road, London SW19
5BN

Jones, Mrs Janet (Summerscale) 63 Girls' Camp Road, Box
43, Vale Perkins, Mansonville, Quebec,
Canada J0E 1X0

Joynt, Miss Clair 41 Middleton Avenue, Hove, East Sussex BN3
4PH

Leavey, Mrs P. 1 Minster Cottage, Littleworth, Partridge Green,
Horsham, West Sussex RH13 6JX

Morrison, Miss Lucinda 15 Almeric Road, London SW11 1HL

Oxley, Mrs Marguerite (Cook) 53 Whitemill Road, Chatteris,
Cambs PE16 6PG

Podd, Miss Jo 83 Bernard Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 3ER
Tel: 01273 383513

Robins, Dr Amanda Walnut Yard, Church Street, Buckingham,
Bucks MK18 1BY

Rothman, Mrs Lucy (Middlemas) 29 Mostyn Road, London
SW19 3LL

Sealy, Mrs Sylvia (Farnsworth) 7 St Leonard Avenue, Otford,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 5RB

Tripp, Mrs Jackie (Buck) 6 Riverside, Framlingham, Woodbridge,
Suffolk IP13 9AG

Waller, Miss S. The Abbeyfield House, St Margaret of
Scotland Society, #5 1010 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., Canada
V5B 4H9

Wathen, Mrs Nadya (Merk) 44 Herbert Road, Preston Park,
Brighton, East Sussex Tel: 01273 389549

Wilkinson, Mrs Jo (Galbraith) 20 Fairfield Crescent,
Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 9SF

Witham, Mrs Ruth (Belson) 55 Primrose Walk, Ewell, Surrey
KT17 2EZ

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

Addresses needed please for the following Members, whose Newsletters were returned marked 'Gone Away':

Mrs Cymes (S. Ponder), Miss C. Hannant, Miss Carolyn and Miss Charlotte Pumphrey, Mrs Hampson (H. Gillham), Mrs Jones (E.Waller), Mrs Silvester (P. Kennedy), Mrs Versloot (M.A. Lythgoe).

UPDATING THE RECORDS

It is very important that you let us know any change of address or change of name as soon as possible - very many Members over the years have ceased to receive the Newsletter simply because we do not know that they have moved!

ADDRESS LISTS

As the address list is out of date so soon, rather than sending out and charging Members for a complete list, Mrs A Stapleton, Hon. Secretary, S.M.H.A., is willing to look up addresses for Members. She can be contacted at 17 Windsor Road, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7DX (01722 501730 / 337967).

We are continually trying to keep the list updated, so any information or corrections would be gratefully received. Please also include your years at S.M.H. whenever possible.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The MAY REUNION is on Saturday 9th May 1998 and, at the School's suggestion, this year will follow a different format. The programme is as follows:

1. Arrival from 12 noon onwards. Sign-up time for afternoon activities.
2. Ploughman's Lunch (£3 per head including a glass of wine; additional wine: £1 per glass; soft drinks: 50 pence), from 12.15 to 1.30 p.m.
3. Afternoon Programme, to be held on the lawns or Hall if wet:

Tours of the School - 1.30 to 3.00 p.m. - departmental 'static' displays.
Swimming - 2.00 to 2.45 p.m.
Croquet on the lawn
Tennis
Badminton
Rounders
Craft display / workshop
4. Organ recital 3.00 p.m. - Light music and requests! There will be a collection for the organ fund.
5. Tea 3.30 p.m. (£1 per head)
6. Disperse 4.00 p.m.

ALL OLD GIRLS, HUSBANDS, BOYFRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE WELCOME!

PLEASE TELEPHONE THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY ON 01273 606061 TO SAY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND EITHER THE LUNCH OR TEA, OR BOTH. MONEY WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE DAY.

The REUNION SUPPER will be held on Saturday 19th September 1998 at 7.00 p.m. preceded by a Reception and Review of the Year's Events at 6.15 p.m.

Committee Members please note that your meeting with tea will take place at 5.00 p.m. on the 19th.

The cost of the supper will be £9.50. To save s.a.e.'s and Members' time, tickets will not be issued. Please apply to the Hon. Secretary on the enclosed insert, cheques to be made payable to S.M.H.A.

FREE LUNCH AND SUPPER

Do not forget that for **one year** after leaving school an Old Girl may attend the lunch or supper free. Please apply to the Hon. Secretary on the enclosed insert in respect of the Supper, or directly to the School for the May 1998 Lunch.

RAFFLE!

There will be a raffle held at each Reunion event. All donations very gratefully received on the day.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Anyone wishing to join the Association should send a cheque payable to S.M.H.A., for the current Life Membership subscription of £30, to Mrs F Bearn, Hon. Treasurer, S.M.H.A., 34 Fitzjohn Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1PS.

NEWSLETTER

Please send all items of news, articles, photographs, etc. to Miss Melanie Morrison, Hon. Editor, S.M.H.A., 15 Almeric Road, London SW11 1HL before 1st December in each year.

S.M.H.A. 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 fulfill 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.**

THE SCHOOL PRAYER

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