

# ST MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter 109 Spring 2009

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

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## 2008/2009 COMMITTEE

President and Chairman	Mrs Susan M Meek, MA
Hon Vice Presidents	Miss N Olwen Davis Mrs E Olive Leslie Mrs Clare Feaver Mrs Teresa Broadbent Mrs Pamela James
Old Girl Governor	-
Hon Secretary	-
Hon Secretary (Overseas Members)	Yammie Pang
Hon Treasurer	Susan (Harris) Roller
Hon Editor	Penelope (Buck) Gardiner
Committee Members	Anne Commin Kim (Kimmins) Cook Virginia James Robina Methven Akiko (Hickey) Shaw Charlotte Sabel Jodie Graham
Archivist	Mrs Sue Carnochan
Head Girl	Sophie Bowles

### **Dear SMHA member**

The news which broke on February 24<sup>th</sup>, the succumbing of St Mary's Hall to competitive and economic pressures, came as a shock.

At first it was difficult to take it in; to realise that our school, St. Mary's Hall, which had fought its way back after wartime closure, and ushered generations of schoolgirls into the adult world for 173 years, would not exist after July 2009.

Then there was realisation that this was real and we had to deal with it. So on March 1<sup>st</sup> your committee met, by telephone conference call, to discuss what future there could be, if any, for SMHA.

The short term future was quite easy; with the Hall's support, we decided to hold the AGM and Reunion as planned on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and to issue the Newsletter in advance of that event, just a little later than planned, by Easter.

The long-term future was much harder; it is not a committee decision but we did have to decide what options to put to you, the members, for you to decide.

We are bound by SMHA's constitutional objectives which are two-fold; to support the Hall, in other words current pupils and staff, and to support former pupils and staff. Our main source of income and new members has been the annual leavers and their life membership subscriptions. Both sources ceased with the 2008 intake. In round numbers we have 1400 members and £23,000 in the bank.

Your committee will ask you at the Annual General Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> to choose the way forward for SMHA.

The choice is not easy but an answer has to be reached at the AGM by the majority vote for one of the options below. Is it your choice to -

- a) Close SMHA; if the Association were to be closed, we would need to decide how to distribute our funds in support of our objectives, which, remember, are the support of current as well as former, pupils and staff.
- b) Keep SMHA as it is; this option presumes that there continues to be sufficient member support to maintain a committee structure, produce the annual printed Newsletters (the current Editor retires this year) and organise and attend AGMs and Reunions somewhere other than SMH. With no income stream, eventually the funds will run out, in an estimated 10-15 years time.
- c) Move SMHA to a different format; recognising that electronic communication and contact can be faster and less expensive than the old ways, planning for a website to serve former pupils and staff of SMH is under way. SMHA could join that initiative and become an all-electronic organisation. Funds should last longer, committee members will need different skills, but we will inevitably dis-enfranchise those members unable or unwilling to use an electronic interface.

You can send in a proxy (see insert), so you don't have to attend the AGM to vote. Of course, none of these options is a complete solution and whichever is chosen will have to be adjusted to fit circumstances.

The other job we have to do at the AGM is approve amendments to the SMHA constitution \*\* which will allow a future committee, if any, to move forward without hindrance. The existing constitution is printed next, together with amendments proposed as deletions (strikethrough) and additions (italics).

And finally, please will every SMHA member make sure that we have an email address to communicate electronically with you, or exceptionally, a request in writing from you to receive future communications by post.

## **SMHA committee**

### **\*\* PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF**

#### **St. Mary's Hall Association (SMHA)**

##### **Objects**

1. The objects of the Association shall be to link Old Pupils of ~~the~~ St. Mary's Hall together and to serve as a source of support, both spiritual and practical, ~~to the Hall and~~ to former pupils and staff.

## Patrons

2. People who have given distinguished service to the Hall may be invited to become patrons of the Association.

## Membership

3. All Old Girls and all past teaching staff of the Hall shall be eligible for *Life* membership. ~~Present teaching staff and members of the VI<sup>th</sup> form shall be invited to attend Annual General Meetings without becoming members of the Association, but shall not be entitled to vote. In addition,~~ Present and former *Old Girls and teaching staff*, Governors, parents of former pupils, and others involved in SMH or SMHA ~~but not eligible for full membership,~~ shall be eligible for Associate Membership *but shall not be entitled to vote., at the discretion of the Committee.*

## Subscription

4. Each *Life Member* shall pay a life subscription, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the Committee. The amount of subscription, if any, for Associate Members, shall be determined from time to time by the Committee.

## General Meetings

5. ~~(1) — There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association.~~  
(2) The Chairman shall call such ~~Extraordinary~~ General Meetings of the Association as may be necessary *but not less than one every three years*. The Chairman must call an ~~Extraordinary~~ General Meeting if at least twenty members of the Association ask *him/her* in writing to do so.

## Notices of Meetings

6. ~~The date of the Annual General Meeting shall be fixed provisionally at the preceding Annual General Meeting and items for the Agenda shall be sent to the Secretary at least six weeks before the date so provisionally fixed. The Secretary shall send members firm notice of the time and place of the Annual General Meeting at least one month beforehand, and the agenda of the meeting shall be circulated with this notice. The Secretary shall send notify members notice of the time and place of an Extraordinary General Meeting as early as possible and at least a week month before the date when it is to be held. Notice of the Agenda of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given with the notice of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting. Life Members shall have the right to vote in person at the Meeting or appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf. Such proxy may be the Chairman or Life Member or Associate Member.~~

## Management

7.

- (1) The Headmistress of *St Mary's Hall*, or when none, an elected *Life member of the Association*, shall be the Chairman and President of the Association.
- (2) An Old Girl *Life member* may be elected to fill the office of Vice Chairman and Vice President of the Association.
- (3) The other officers of the Association shall be:-
  - (a) An Honorary Secretary (elected *Life member*)
  - (b) An Honorary Treasurer (elected *Life member*)
  - (c) An Honorary Secretary for Overseas Members (elected *Life member*)
  - (d) An Honorary Editor of the News Letter (elected *Life member*)
  - (e) Such Honorary Vice Presidents as the Association may appoint, including all ex Headmistresses of *St. Mary's Hall*.
- (4) The Association shall be managed by a Committee which shall consist of:-
  - (a) The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Editor of the News Letter, and the Hon. Secretary for Overseas Members.
  - ~~(b) All Old Girls who are Governors of the School.~~
  - (c) Six other elected members.
- (5) The committee may co-opt two other members to serve for a period of one year.
- (6) The Officers shall be elected for a period of office of three years and shall be eligible for re-election. Other elected Members of the Committee shall serve for a term of ~~two (three from 5<sup>th</sup> May 1979)~~ years. They may be elected for a second term, but after serving for two consecutive terms they shall be ineligible for membership of the Committee for two years.
- (7) Elections of officers and Committee Members shall take place at the ~~Annual~~ General Meeting. Vacancies occurring between ~~Annual~~ General Meetings maybe filled temporarily by co-option, the vacancies being filled by election at the ~~Annual~~ General Meeting.
- (8) The Committee shall meet at least once a year. *Committee meetings may be held in any convenient manner including remote conference calling.* The quorum shall be ~~seven~~ five.
- (9) The Committee may appoint sub-Committees. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary shall be ex-officio members of all sub-Committees. In the event of the Chairman not wishing to serve

as Chairman of a sub-Committee the sub-Committee shall appoint its own Chairman.

#### Balance Sheet

8. *An annual ~~The~~ balance sheet shall be presented to the Committee and all balance sheets since the previous General Meeting reported to Members at the next ~~Annual~~ General Meeting. The accounts maintained by the Hon. Treasurer shall be ~~audited~~ examined by a suitably qualified individual who is not a Member or Associate Member of SMHA.*

#### Amendments

9. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to a General Meeting of the Association and shall be adopted if two thirds of the *Life* members ~~present~~ vote for them. Notice of any proposed amendment shall be ~~sent~~ *advised* to members with the notice of the General Meeting. (see paragraph 6)

#### Communications

10. *Notices of meetings and other communications may, if the Association so decides, be made available to members by electronic means.*

#### Data protection

11. *The Association may at its discretion supply contact details for one or more members to another member who has applied in writing with a valid reason for the request.*

## **2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Committee of the St Mary's Hall Association hereby gives notice that the 91st Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 10.15 am at the School on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening prayers and remembrance
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 90<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008
4. Matters arising
5. Committee Reports
6. SMHA – the future
7. Constitution amendments
8. Subscription rates
9. Committee members retirements and elections
10. Any other business
11. Closing prayers

## **Minutes of the St. Mary's Hall Association 90th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 10th May 2008 at 11.00am at St Mary's Hall.**

**Present:** Susan Meek (Chairman), Helen Farquharson (SMH Appeals Director), Margaret Ellis, Jane (Bunclark) Hitchcock, Susan (Harris) Roller, Penny (Buck) Gardiner, Kathy Howard, Linda (Belasco) Kings, Frances (Moojen) Bearn, Diana (Moore) Gosnell, Anne (Gosnell) Stapleton, Sophie Bowles (Head Girl), Robina Methven, Virginia James, Alison Forster

**Apologies** for absence were received from many members including ex-headmistresses Olwen Davies and Pamela James.

The meeting opened with the School Prayer and remembrance of those who had died since the last meeting including Marion (Bucke) Deschamps.

**The minutes** of the 89th meeting, having been circulated in the 2008 Newsletter, were agreed with nil matters arising and signed by Mrs Meek.

**Mrs Meek, President and Chairman**, brought us up to date with school news; the front of the old building is looking good after repairs; the beam across the front of the building was found to be completely rotten. The Martin Wing has new windows. Karl Marden, the new bursar, has a programme of works for the old building now that major works at Gloucester and Elliott are complete; classrooms H and I are now refurbished. Gloucester unfortunately leaking, hence the scaffolding but final payment is to be retained until problems resolved. The Junior school is now officially co-educational, boys being accepted up to year 6. The speaker at the Senior Awards was Lord Lieutenant Phillida Stewarts-Roberts. The school play was Midsummer Night's Dream and the Christmas Bazaar had become an annual event, next on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008.

Mrs Meek asked **Helen Farquharson** to speak about the progress of the St Mary's Hall Chapel & Arts Centre Appeal. The Chapel has hosted heritage learning events and the name plaques stored in the Chapel were being researched, particularly the stories behind the names, to bring them to life. The focus of the Lottery application had changed, to fulfil criteria for a Heritage fund grant and to enhance the community benefit aspects of the project. In a few days hence, the Chairman of the South East of England committee of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the main decision maker, is to visit St Mark's prior to convening the committee in June when a decision is to be made on Lottery funding for St Mark's. The Lottery application for £260,000 would add to the £350,000 already gathered in. The Lottery funding is not a foregone conclusion but if it happens, all planned works will be completed. If not, there are sufficient funds in hand to repair the Chapel and do at least some of the rest.

A discussion ensued on our memories of St Mark's. Many of us were confirmed there. Confirmations at St Mark's seem to have stopped somewhere between 1965 and 1976 according to members present.

Mrs Meek resumed her report mentioning the house plays where the winning entry was based on the Charlotte Elliott's hymn 'Just as I am'; the play is about the ageing process, the person inside needing to be recognised. In adjudication the writer was commended and the play forwarded to the Royal Court's Young Writers Festival. Another talented girl is May Ho, a wonderful artist. In sport, our swimmers had qualified for a national event, a potential Olympian amongst them.



On staff changes, Shirley Campbell and John Low amongst others had retired. Katya von Schweitzer had a baby girl earlier in the year.

The Southover Trust had awarded £3,000 to refurbish the library. School numbers were good, helped by issues with the state education admissions process. China is still an important market with a visit due soon. Mexico and Europe are new markets with some Spanish entrants due.

Huw May, Junior School head, and Karl Marden, Bursar, were to attend the lunch after this meeting.

A member asked about the absence of Miss Ghey's gates; unfortunately they are in a state of disrepair, fallen apart. Also the drive may need to be widened for fire safety reasons and the gates would then not fit.

A reunion coming up on the 28<sup>th</sup> June was mentioned. Jodie Graham is organising it for the leavers of years 1990-2007. It will be an evening do for about 50 people with drinks and tours.

**Hon Secretary's report:** Gillian Morgan being absent, Penny (Buck) Gardiner has been best placed to deal with secretarial matters, few apart from minute-taking, until such time as a volunteer comes forward to take on the post.

**Hon. Editor's report:** Penny (Buck) Gardiner said that the 2008 centenary edition of the Newsletter had gone out to over 1000 members. Currently there were 837 members with UK addresses, 245 with overseas addresses, 98 'gone aways' pre 1996 and 213 'gone aways' post 1996. The Treasurer mentioned that the Newsletter postage cost for a UK address was 24p compared to the cost for a non-UK address of £1.02. Discussion ensued about the potential for a members-only area of the SMH website where the Newsletter could be published and accessed electronically with a potential for saving on distribution costs. This proposal had been around since 2005; it will continue to be a subject of discussion between SMHA and SMH.

Changes in the Lotteries Act had done for the Draw. However the Treasurer had received in donations much the same amount as had previously been netted from the Draw.

The Editor wants to run an article on 'uniforms'. Any material will be gratefully received.

**Hon. Treasurer's report:** Susan (Harris) Roller circulated a report covering the 2007 Accounts published in the 2008 newsletter, subscriptions and investments. A discussion ensued on the enrolment of leavers to the Association. The Treasurer will liaise with SMH to promote SMHA to the leavers. A life subscription increase to £57 with immediate effect was proposed, and the members present agreed this should be implemented. SMHA will not be making investments into equities for several reasons; any changes in the current investments may jeopardise our concessionary tax position, we do not have the skills to time the market correctly and there are compliance issues for some committee members due to conditions of their employment.

**Committee:** Linda (Belasco) Kings retired as a committee member by rotation and will not stand for re-election. We thanked Linda for her long tenure as a committee member including many years as Hon Editor. Linda's predecessor as Hon Editor was Joyce (Colman) Tinto; Joyce had been a Vice-President of the

committee since handing over the editorship but felt the time had come to hang up her boots. Joyce, in her absence, was thanked for her long and loyal service to SMHA. Gillian (Loder) Morgan retired by rotation following a three-year stint on the committee and did not offer herself for re-election. We warmly welcomed on to the committee volunteer Charlotte Sabel in her absence. Susan (Harris) Roller resigned by rotation and was re-elected for a further three year term.

The date for the **2009 AGM** was set for May 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting concluded with the SMHA prayer.

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.**

**ST. MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION  
ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**Current assets**

Scottish Widows

Deposit account	20,127.27		19,178.43
		20,127.27	19,178.43

Cash at bank

Premium account	2,683.82		2,566.06
Current account	437.60		186.61

	3,121.42		2,752.67
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	<b>23,248.69</b>		<b>21,931.10</b>
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**Creditors** (Unpaid expenditure)

	-		-
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**Total Assets**

	<b>23,248.69</b>		<b>21,931.10</b>
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**Representing:**

General Fund at start of year	21,931.10		20,490.42
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Surplus of income over expenditure	1,317.59		1,440.68
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Fund at end of year	<b>23,248.69</b>		<b>21,931.10</b>
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**The accounts agree with the financial records maintained by the Honorary Treasurer. Chris Elkins, Retired Bursar. January 2009**

# ST. MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION

## ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2008

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2008	2008	2007	2007
<b>INCOME</b>				
Membership Subscriptions		1,538.50		2,036.50
Donations:				
Spring Draw	-		200.00	
Donation	215.00		10.00	
		215.00		210.00
Re-unions:				
May lunches		132.50		172.50
Interest:				
Bank premium account	17.76		31.22	
Bank current account	-		-	
Scottish Widows account	948.84		827.44	
		966.60		858.66
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,852.60</b>		<b>3,277.66</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Printing/postage costs:				
Magazines	1,396.01		1,223.07	
		1,396.01		1,223.07
Postage/Stationery:				
Friends Reunited sub	10.00		10.00	
Stationery	3.00		-	
		13.00		10.00
Re-unions:				
May lunches		106.00		138.00
Spring Draw				
Prize money				100.00
Other expenses				
SMH flags	-		356.03	
Retiring Gifts	20.00		9.88	
		20.00		365.91
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,535.01</b>		<b>1,836.98</b>
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>1,317.59</b>		<b>1,440.68</b>

## EDITORIAL



From the purely selfish point of view as your Editor, the announcement of the demise of SMH could not have come at a less convenient time. The 2009 Newsletter was largely written and on the point of publication. So, what to do?

Delay publication? Good thought. That would give time to consult with the committee and the school. So that's why this Newsletter is later than usual but should still be on your doormats by Easter.

Amend content? Not so much amend as add. I took the editorial decision to retain a lot of information which is clearly out of date but still of interest to many.

So what you see now is a Newsletter, possibly the last in this format, arriving late, carrying news you would rather not read about the closure of our old school. Right now, Hon. Editor doesn't seem to be such a great job.

Once again, a year on, I find myself writing about where SMHA should go next, but now it is real, nastily closely real, no longer the indulgence of theoretical musings.

What choices does SMHA have? We can shut our doors too. We can try to carry on exactly as before. We can re-invent ourselves to meet new circumstances.

The time for hard choices is at the AGM on the 9<sup>th</sup> May and your vote will count. If you can't come to the AGM then make sure you send in your proxy vote.

But a note of caution; try to vote with your head and not your heart.

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

I can be reached by email on [stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com) or by letter at 1 Baker's Orchard, Crowcombe Heathfield, TAUNTON, Somerset TA4 4PA, and by phone for urgent matters on 01984 618214.

## REPORT FROM THE HEAD AND DEPUTY HEAD GIRLS

As Head and Deputy Head girls of St. Mary's Hall, we would like to take the opportunity to report on the many successes and events that have taken place during our first two terms in office and the many things that we look forward to.

In the Summer term, we had our first House outings which were a great success. The idea was to promote 'house spirit' and provide interaction between the year groups in a fun way. Adelaide House, led by Head of Art Mr. Peebles had a very creative day in the Art block creating Mod Rock Sculptures, of each other and the results were hilarious! Babington House had an active day out rafting at Cuckmere Haven, which was enjoyed by all.

Bristol House hired a dance teacher to teach Bollywood, cheerleading and street dance to the girls. Even Mr Lawrence and Ms Whittaker took part, much to the amusement of everyone.

Chichester had a picnic at the beach in the lovely weather and had a photography competition of which year 8 were the winners. They then went bowling at the Marina which was a very enjoyable experience.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, we celebrated senior achievements at the Senior Awards Ceremony. We were honoured to have the Lord Lieutenant, Mr. Peter Field JP as our guest speaker. His speech was based on 'community life' and was it was definitely food for thought for all the girls moving on to or planning the next stages of their lives. The message was 'you can only get out of life what you are prepared to put in'. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, receiving their prizes, meeting old friends and thanking teachers for all their hard work.

This year has been a very successful one in raising money for charity.

The Pre-Prep children raised £807.50 for children with leukaemia. The Senior School has raised a total of £2500 for numerous charities including Martlets Hospice, Nanyuki Children's home, Great Ormonds Street, Guide Dogs, Cancer Research, the Chinese Earthquake Appeal, World Wildlife funds and Leukaemia Research. Well done to everyone!

This year Mr. Wells has chosen a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens Victorian classic 'A Christmas Carol' called 'Scrooge'. This production will give a great opportunity for a wide range of age groups, talents (including singing, dancing and acting) from years 5-13. We are very much looking forward to the production.

As well as the play, we are also looking forward to the revival of a much missed end of term talent show which will be showcasing the many talents of the students and hopefully of the teachers as well!

We are also looking forward to the Carol Service which will be taking place in the Chapel, even though renovation work has begun.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year on behalf of all the girls of St Mary's Hall.

Sophie Bowles, Head Girl

Alice Heans and Sara Eftekhari, Deputy Head Girls

## HEADMI STRESS'S SPEECH - AWARDS CEREMONY

Lord Lieutenant, Mr Mayor, Mrs Field, Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen.

May I welcome you most warmly to our Awards Ceremony Evening to celebrate the successes and achievements of the Senior members of the School, from last year's years 11-13.

Our guest speaker this evening is the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Peter Field JP – and Brightonian of the Year! I have known Mr Field for many years as Chairman of the Brighton and Hove Business Community Partnership and as you will see from his impressive CV, in your programme, he has had a distinguished career as a leading light and initiator of a variety of projects in Brighton and Hove in support of the Homeless and of Environmental issues. Corporate Social Responsibility is his passion and we look forward to hearing more about this in his address.

Although it is always a pleasure to hold events in this beautiful Chapel, it is with very mixed feelings we are here this evening when we had so hoped building work would be underway for our new Arts Centre. It was disappointing that we were not awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery in the summer, despite the valiant efforts of our Appeals Director, Helen Farquharson. However, only 5 projects in the country received awards this year, and despite receiving several visits from the Committee, we were unlucky.

But it is not the lack of Heritage Lottery funding which has delayed us, it is the minute detail of every stone which must be submitted to the Planning Department before we can get the go-ahead to begin. But work **will** shortly begin on restoring the East window and external repairs while the Planners languish over the final drawings of the interior.

Our next fundraising event for the Appeal is on 22<sup>nd</sup> November – the Christmas Bazaar to be held in the Junior School, Gloucester House. I do hope you can join us to shop early for Christmas – and thank you in advance for your ongoing support of our fund-raising events.

Our School motto is "Before Honor Humility". Humility has been described as a clear recognition of what and who we are, followed by a sincere attempt to become who we could be. One of the great privileges of being in the teaching profession is to see year on year our young people achieving grades that many had felt to be beyond their reach. Humility is the firmest foundation for integrity.

However, today you all, pupils and staff are forgiven for feeling immensely proud of yourselves.

It is always a tremendous boost to one's self esteem to succeed, and a string of good examination grades is the first step, the passport, towards living useful, fulfilled and happy lives. You all have ambition and aspirations, but not all of us are high fliers, not all will be leaders of prominence nor would wish to be. Service gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, the knowledge that at home, at school, at university, in the wider community we are partners in a common effort and every one of us has an unique role to play whatever our skills or talents may be, there lies the true reward for hard work and consistent effort. I hope you all have

experienced in your GCSEs or A Levels the satisfaction that you have tried your hardest and achieved our own personal best.

At GCSE 93% of students achieved at least their predicted grades and 50% exceeded their predictions. And there were some high fliers. Alyson Parkes achieved 7 A\* and 2 A grades. Dominique Duplain and Lucy Mayes both received special commendations for the Edexcel Examination Board for being among the highest scoring candidates in the country for their Art & Design GCSEs.

And at A Level St Mary's Hall overall pass rate was 99% - 1% up on last year and 59% of students were awarded A and B grades.

Monica Lam achieved 4 As and is reading Accounting & Finance at Manchester University. Kiwi Lau achieved 3 As and a B and is studying International Relations at LSE; Claire MacNeill achieved 3 As and is reading French at Oxford and Head Girl Lily Vernon-Hunt achieved 3 As and is reading **French** at Exeter. Most of Year 13 gained places at the university of their first choice. We are only sorry that lectures, long journeys and other university commitments have prevented some students from being with us today to receive their certificates and celebrate with us.

May Ho is with us today and so are her parents who have flown in especially from Hong Kong. A warm welcome to them. Mr and Mrs Ho - "**Foong Yeng**". May Ho is now on an Art Foundation course at Central St Martin's, and was regional runner-up in this year's International Boarder of the Year competition for her outstanding contribution to life in a boarding school.

Three Year 13s, Lucy Monnery, Charlie Leak and Natalie Banfield, also added the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award to their A Level results. Many congratulations to them.

Last November, a shining example of being 'partners in a common effort' of 'team spirit' and working together creatively was Mr Wells' beautiful production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with a Russian theme reflected in the setting and costumes. There were our young people from Years 6-13 enjoying the language and energy of this wonderful comedy. The imaginative set created by Mr Peebles evoked the magical atmosphere of the wood, inhabited by **Fairies** and their King, **Oberon** and Queen, **Titania**.

Lily Vernon-Hunt was powerfully regal as **Oberon**. Claire MacNeill as **Hermia** and **Demetrius** played by Rosalind Caldwell were convincing as the bewildered **lovers**. The group of tradesmen were hilarious rehearsing their chaotic play for the wedding of **Theseus** played admirably by Gabbie Savell Stewart and the extremely stylish **Hippolyta** played by Canitta Hart.

Sophie Bowles threw herself outrageously and whole-heartedly into her role as **Bottom the Weaver** and in her transformation, when she appeared in Sabine van der Sande's ingenious wire donkey's head, she made the very most of the humour.

Once again the production was a coup for our Drama Director Mr Wells who always brings out the best in our young performers. We are so grateful to him and look forward very much to this year's production of '**Scrooge**' at the end of this month.

During the Christmas holidays, Miss Whittaker led the annual ski trip, this time to Vars in France and unlike the previous year, there was plenty of snow to enjoy. A

superb effort was made for the fancy dress parade on the final day, but the honours went to the 1980s style Year 13s. We certainly enjoyed the photographs

My thanks as always, go to Miss Whittaker and Miss Gale for all they do to allow us to hold our heads high in our sporting activities. In swimming we are the Senior Champions for Brighton & Hove for the second time.

Rachel Boxall and Milly Choi represented the School in the Mid Sussex restricted Badminton Tournament and won runners-up in the Plate Competition for Under 18 girls.

Our Senior Volleyball team remains undefeated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> season running.

In the winter Inter-house events, it has been Babington House's year. In the Hockey event, they have been runners-up for 4 years and haven't won this trophy since 1999 – so determination really did win the day. And in Netball Babington had been runners up for 3 years and hadn't won since 1988. So victory was indeed sweet for Babington House this year. However, Adelaide House retained the Inter-house Swimming cup as well as winning the Inter-house Rounders. Inter-house Athletics was won by Chichester House.

Congratulations to all the Heads of Houses for rallying their teams to take part in these School events.

I know Miss Whittaker would wish me to pay a special tribute to last year's Year 13s some of whom committed themselves wholeheartedly for the last 7 years to SMH teams whatever the activity, the day or the time. Their positive attitude, drive and enthusiasm to improve and achieve have been impeccable and inspirational to the younger girls. Special thanks go to Rachel Boxall, Claudia Ching, Charlie and Sophie Leak, Lucy Monnery and Natalie Banfield; in fact, Natalie did not miss a single ski trip! And Lucy Monnery has been active in sport and drama since she joined the School in the Nursery – so 15 years of sporting activity at St Mary's Hall. Congratulations to Lucy.

The London 2012 Games are just around the corner – so we are looking forward to seeing some of you amongst the participants.

And I must just add my special thanks to Charlie Leak and Rachel Boxall for organising a fund-raising swimming marathon for the Junior School for new starting blocks for the swimming pool. They raised the rest by being rather cheeky and asking the suppliers to **sponsor** a starting block – which was commendably enterprising. The other section was raised through parental contributions – for which we are extremely grateful.

In our musical events this year the Spring Concert was greatly enjoyed with spirited playing by the orchestra of the **First Movement of Handel's Trio Sonata in E Minor** and **The Typewriter** by **Leroy Anderson** featuring our Head of Accounting, Mrs Manby-Clarke on the typewriter – actually, some of our students didn't know what a typewriter was!

The Jazz group is always a favourite and this year we were treated to two numbers by **Duke Ellington** and **Robbins Nest** by **Jacquet** skilfully arranged as always by Mr Roser and featuring the **Famous Five**, Rainbow Lam, Kiwi Lau, May Ho, Hilda Chan and Ivy Cheung. What a fabulous Jazz Quintet they made!



There was also some lovely solo singing from Sophie Bowles. **A Blackbird singing** by **Michael Head** and Alice Heans and Gigi Chang performed **Dido's Lament** by **Purcell**. A highlight of the concert was the **Sonata in D** for two pianos by **Mozart** from Rainbow Lam and Director of Music, Mr Jay, which was a thoroughly memorable performance, if a bit hair-raising for Mr Jay who stood in at the last minute.

At St Mary's Hall we traditionally end the Spring Term with the House Drama Festival.

Adelaide House came first with their moving play about old age, based on the School hymn **Just as I am** written by Eva Howells in Year 10 and co-directed by Eva and Rosalind Caldwell. You may be interested to hear that a video of Eva's play was seen by the GCSE Theatre Studies board AQA. They were so impressed by it that they will be using her film for training moderators so many people across the country will get to see it. Rosalind and Canitta Hart were both "highly commended" for their excellent performances.

In Bristol House's adaptation of **Gosforth's Last Fete** Gabbie Savell Stewart was highly commended for her performance as **Gosforth**.

Chichester House chose **Murder at D'Arcy Manor** adapted by Alice Heans and Claire MacNeill from the play by **Michael Green** from The Art of Coarse Acting. Alice was awarded Best Performance as the **Inspector** and Claire was Highly Commended, illustrating brilliantly how hard it is to act acting badly.

Our Charities Co-ordinator, Mr Mark Hatherly has really made huge efforts to encourage us to raise money this year for local, national and international charities. We began with the Harvest Festival collection from the Senior and Junior School Harvest Festival services. The Harvest gifts were donated to a charity called "Off the Fence" and as we had collected so much, the excess was given to Brighton and Hove City Mission for the Needy.

During the Autumn term last year, the Senior and Junior Schools raised £371.81 for 'Genes for Jeans'. Collections from the Carol Service and the Mufti Day were sent to the Martlets Hospice.

During the Spring term, we donated £259.79 to the **Readathon Roald Dahl Fund for Children with Cancer**, which was overseen by Mrs Hargreaves and £249.40 was raised for the **Nanyuki Children's Home for Orphans in Kenya**, which Mrs Moss visits every year. It is always encouraging to know how our money is spent and this year it bought much needed mattresses for the children's beds.

The following week was a **Peter Pan Week**, in aid of the Great Ormond Street Hospital, culminating in the reading for the Guinness Book of Records in the hall which appeared on the news programme "**Meridian Tonight**". £281.35 was raised for this event, which was again coordinated by Mrs Hargreaves.

In total, SMH raised £2,500 for those less fortunate than ourselves. Well done to everyone and especially to Mr Hatherly for coordinating those events.

Over the past year we were sorry to bid farewell to colleagues:

At Christmas, Mrs Quantick retired after 21 years teaching Science in the Senior and Junior Schools and she was a most supportive and kind Head of Year 7 to so

many St Mary's Hall newcomers. In February, our Housekeeper Mrs Campbell retired after 22 years service to the School.

At Easter Miss Corris who taught PE and English since 1989 moved on to St Bede's Prep School in Eastbourne and Mr Low our Head of ICT retired after 17 years as Teacher, Timetabler and Network and Senior Manager.

Then in July we bade farewell to Mrs Barrett who retired from the ESL Department after 6 years. Dr Cheng returned to Bellerby's College to concentrate on 6<sup>th</sup> Form Teaching. Mrs Riley-Stewart, Head of Boarding from 2006 went off to be Head of Boarding at the International School in Guangdong, China. Mrs Wilcox left Venn House to be Housemistress at the Choir School of St John's College Cambridge.

To all our colleagues we extend our thanks and best wishes for the next stages of their lives and it is lovely to see some of them here this evening to celebrate with us.

So finally, my sincere thanks to all Governors and our Chairman, Mr Russell, the Senior Management Team, especially my Deputy, Mrs Ridge and all the staff at St Mary's Hall for their hard work and support over the past year.

And my warmest wishes and affection to all our Leavers.

Before I forget, the latest edition of the School Magazine is out today so do collect your copy as a memento and many thanks to the editors Mrs Hargreaves, Mr Peebles and Mrs O'Jakovoh for meeting today's deadline.

Dear Leavers, some thoughts for today. Hold fast to the values for which St Mary's Hall stands. These are difficult times and as you embark on this next stage you will need to learn to deal with ups and downs.

You will recall the famous lines from Rudyard Kipling's **If**. "If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same." May you be able to see each adversity if and when it comes as a God given opportunity to develop the kind of courage which is born of humility – not bravado.

And remember that seemingly insignificant actions can change the course of history. Remember black American Rosa Parkes who refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white person. All those years ago, she could not in her wildest dreams have imagined the events of last week. Barack Obama's inspirational creed "**yes we can**" echoes across the world as an endorsement of determination and resilience, and single mindedness.

So remember, if the going gets tough, **Yes I can**. Good luck and God Bless You.

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

SCHOOL PRAYER

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

## **NEWS OF FORMER HEADMISTRESSES**

### **MISS OLWEN DAVIES**

Miss Davies wrote with her apologies for missing the May event; she still drives but finds the journey to Brighton and back just too much in one day.

**Olwen Davies**

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

### **MRS OLIVE LESLIE**

Mrs Leslie arranged to send Mrs James a tribute to the late Miss Margaret Payne (see News of Former Staff).

**Olive Leslie**

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

### **MRS CLARE FEAVER**

We have no recent news of Mrs Feaver.

**Clare (Harvey) Feaver**

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

### **MRS TERESA BROADBENT**

Mrs Broadbent was unable to join a SMHA committee conference call in November and wrote

"I shall be at a Golden Wedding celebration. It is a sign of the passage of the years that so many invitations are for such events or 70th birthdays!

Please pass on my best wishes to all the members of SMHA. I did enjoy the form of the 2008 magazine with the inclusions from yesteryear.

2008 has been a year of highs and lows. We started in January with an absolutely marvellous expedition to the Antarctic and marvelled at the fantastic colours and being so close to the fauna. Alas, on the return flight, I caught a viral bronchitis and pleurisy infection and was in hospital shortly after our return. My body is on 'red alert' when I get infections and I have an anaphylactic reaction. Two weeks later, I was admitted again with diverticulitis. This was one of the complications which developed in my final months at SMH and prevented me continuing in post. I am hoping that this chronic disease is now in the past tense, as I have had a bowel resection this summer to remove the offending portions. It has been a long haul, but at last, I feel that I am regaining my energy. I have been enormously blessed in having such a caring family. My husband, Martin, has become an extremely good cook during this time!

Our eldest grandson is now at secondary school and towers over his grandmother!

Martin joins me in sending best wishes to all who remember us.

**Teresa Broadbent**

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

## MRS PAMELA JAMES

Brighton, November 2008

Dear Friends

I am aware that you will be reading this letter at the earliest in the Spring of 2009. However, if you cast your mind back to the Summer of 2008, you may remember that Nelson Mandela celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in July.

Nelson Mandela is admired all over the world as a leader, transcending his own nation and race, let alone any political party; a leader of the human race, of humanity.

Someone said at the time of his birthday that people all round the world are standing on his shoulders. On the actual day of his birthday, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July, a clip was played on the radio of cheering crowds at one of the many celebrations. A bystander was asked what was Nelson Mandela's greatest quality. The answer was not power, strength, force of personality; it was:

"Humility; and from that, great leadership."

The answer gave me pause for thought. So many leaders try to impose their will by force and might. And it reminded me of the motto of St Mary's Hall:

"Before Honor Is Humility"

Humility is a quality which is not very fashionable today. We are encouraged on every side to assert ourselves and demand our rights. But humility is not the same as self-abasement, making yourself a 'worm' to be trodden underfoot, as anyone can see by looking at the life of Nelson Mandela.

The Founder of St Mary's Hall, Henry Venn Elliott, who chose the motto, believed that without humility there cannot be unity, whether in a school community or in the wider world. Unity allows peace to flourish.

So it is good to celebrate the lives of Nelson Mandela and others like him, though known only to a few, and from them take courage and hope.

It is good to remember too that scattered all over the world are one-time members of St Mary's Hall, each with that motto not perhaps often consciously brought to mind, but woven somewhere in the memories we each carry with us and which are part of our individual lives.

It is an unusual motto, but one to be proud of if you think about it – and one not easy to live up to.

Just a thought.

With affection and good wishes to you all.

**Pamela James**

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

## **NEWS OF FORMER STAFF**

### **MISS MARGARET PAYNE DECEASED - SMH 1966 – 1982**



As reported last year, Miss Payne had not been in the best of health during 2007. After a spell in hospital and then a nursing home, she had been allowed to go home where her friend John helped with her care. In June 2008 Margaret Payne died and her funeral took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Margaret Payne was a stalwart of the SMHA for many years, always ready to accept committee posts, always at meetings with characteristically cheerful personality and unflagging energy. She will indeed be very much missed.

Mrs Leslie dictated the following tribute "Margaret Payne was my Deputy Head in charge of boarding and made an uncalculable contribution to the School both as a housemistress at St Hilary and as a teacher of History. She won the respect and affection of both staff and girls, many of whom kept in touch with her after her retirement. John Mockford was Margaret's landlord and, with her, faithfully supported the school until the recent deterioration in her health. I know that you will be greatly saddened, as I am, to hear of her death and we send him our sympathy in his loss of such a good friend."

### **MARY (HAYHURST) McEWAN – SMH 1968-1979**

Mary wrote of enjoying her retirement with her husband, of her daughter's marriage in March 2007 and now living in Hawaii doing missionary work, and of her son in the Coldstream Guards and, at the time of writing, serving in Afghanistan. Mary wishes to be remembered to anyone she taught PE to during 1968-1979.

### **JESSIE (ARMSTRONG) REDFERN – SMH 1960s**

Read news of Transition teacher, Jessie Redfern, in the News of Old Girls section.

Below - Miss Margaret Payne, Mrs Olive Leslie and Miss Olwen Davies  
Drawing room 2004 reunion.



**MRS YVONNE MURDEN NÉE HARRIES FORMERLY ELLWOOD  
DECEASED - SMH 1934 – 40 and 1961-66**

Miss Laura Bristol wrote with news of Yvonne Murden's death on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 at the age of 81. Yvonne and her sister Joan were Foundation day-girls their father being at the time the vicar of Telscombe.

As a young widow Yvonne Ellwood came to SMH to teach English alongside Mrs Allan; daughters Katharine (Ellwood) Musson and Rosalind Ellwood also attended SMH at that time.

Our sympathies go to Katharine and Rosalind on the loss of their mother.

## St. Mary's Hall Association – SMHA – invites you to The Very Last Annual Reunion at the Hall on Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009

BEFORE you jump to the insert to fill in the registration form, please take a few moments to read the next few paragraphs. They're **IMPORTANT!**

Many, many old girls and staff have already said they want to come, with guests, to The Very Last Annual Reunion at the Hall. The safe management of so many people, all of whom understandably want their experience to be special for them, poses some logistical challenges. We have therefore felt it necessary to include three 'Asks' and hope that you will understand why we are making these requests.

### Cost

St Mary's Hall has entered into the agreement with Roedean because of financial difficulties and is unable to subsidise the costs of the Reunion as they have done in former years.

**Ask 1:** We are asking you to **pay in advance** for attending the Reunion in-school events and/or lunch. The grounds are freely available for picnics and walking if you prefer not to be at the in-school events.

### Parking

As ever, parking inside the school grounds is very limited and must be reserved for those who need to be close by, such as those with very young passengers, or those who are infirm or disabled.

**Ask 2:** If you or your passengers do not need easy access then we are asking you to **park somewhere else**, either on the street (watch the time limits) or at the Marina for free (No 7 bus back to the school).

### Timing

We must let SMH have accurate numbers by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April so that they can prepare for the expected invasion, make sure regulatory limits are observed, and organise catering etc.

**Ask 3:** We may have to limit numbers so we are asking you to pre-register. Please send the registration form (below) back as **early as possible** to the right place (SMHA not SMH!) with the right money.

### Reunion Programme - (collect your registration badge at the Elliott Wing door)

10:00 for 10:15	SMHA Annual General Meeting for SMHA members
11:45 for 12:00	All meet up at the drinks reception in the Hall
12:45 for 13:00	Enjoy a pre-booked Reunion lunch
14:00	Join a tour of the school, buy memorabilia and explore the Archives
15:00 match	Cheer or play - School v. Old School rounders
16.00	Closing tea





## THE FRANK BUTTLE TRUST

### Where are you now?

The Frank Buttle Trust\* is often contacted by former beneficiaries and we are always delighted to hear how they are getting on – and to tell them about the exciting work of the Trust today!

It is very heartwarming for us to know that our work has reached out and made a difference, however small, to the lives of so many individual children and young people.

If you were assisted by the Trust in the past, and would like to get in touch again, please email: [hello@buttletrust.org](mailto:hello@buttletrust.org)

\* Formerly known as The Buttle Trust

The background on the Trust is that for more than fifty years it has been helping with fees of children at independent schools, including many St Mary's Hall pupils. It has been of enormous assistance to many, providing support through family, emotional or educational difficulties.

## MAY EVENT - REUNION 2008

L to R: Sue Meek, Robina Methven, Sue Carnochan, Anne (Levisieur) Commin, Olive Ridge, Virginia James, Laura Bristol, Akiko (Hickey) Shaw



## FROM THE ARCHIVIST

### That's not an "old girl" - THAT'S an "OLDGIRL"!

Whilst looking through a box marked "PAST PUPILS" I came across two letters written home by S.M.H. pupils. One was dated 1838, the other 1840! The first was from Sarah Jane Alexander who entered S.M.H. in 1836. She was among the first batch of pupils and would have known Henry Venn Elliot himself. The other was from her sister Deborah, who came in 1840. There was also a third sister, Frances, nicknamed Fanny. Their names are in the original school register dated 1836-1885.

Sarah writes "My very dear Mama and Papa, We were glad to receive the parcel this morning and are very much obliged to you for it. [How polite our Victorian ancestors were!!]. We hope we shall improve very much in our studies. We, that is Fanny and I are going to have a tea party this evening. We are going to invite Ann, Charlotte, Louisa, Alice and Gertrude which will make seven of us and we have asked Miss Tomkinson (headmistress) to come. I wish you could be with us."

She goes on to mention her drawings and sends greetings to various friends at home. She ends "I now remain, with much love, your affectionate child, Sarah Jane Alexander"

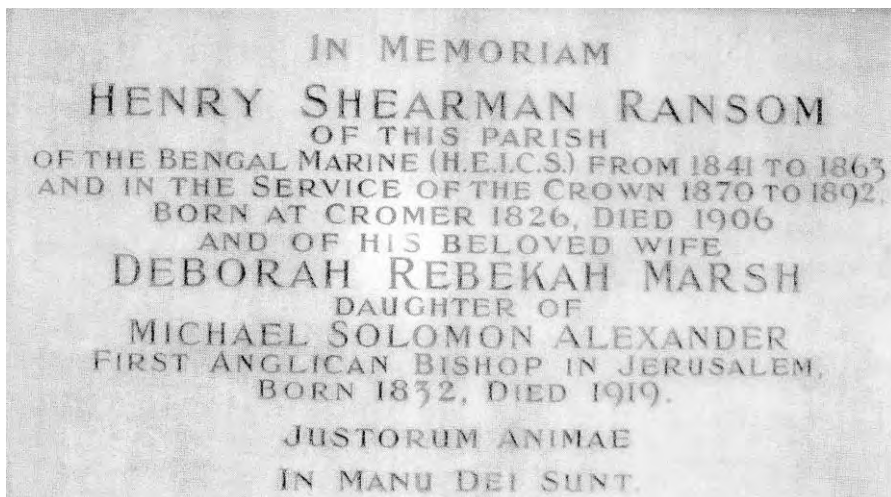
The second letter begins "My very dear Parents, I hope you are quite well. We would like to know why we have not received the parcel yet. We expected it last week. We hope nothing is the matter. We are very happy now because we are having a holiday. Fanny sends her best love to all at home. Miss Tomkinson (headmistress) told me to write to you. I must now conclude and believe me, your affectionate child, Deborah Alexander"

Those were the days when children respected their parents and yet we can tell they felt and received a great deal of affection for and from them. Sadly, Sarah Jane died in 1838, aged 12 years.

Deborah and Frances lived into adulthood and married.

They were the daughters of Michael Solomon Alexander who had been born to Jewish parents in Germany but whilst reading the New Testament began to believe in Christ as the true Messiah, left home to live in England, was converted to Christianity and baptised in Plymouth, became an Anglican vicar and was consecrated as Bishop in 1841. He was then sent by the church and government to Jerusalem in 1842 to set up a Protestant church community with the mission of converting Jews to Christianity. He had some success, despite opposition from Jewish Rabbis but unfortunately died young in 1845. His post continues to this day and there are descendants from his 8 children still keeping the family dynasty going.

These two remarkable letters will appear in a publication called "Letter in the Attic". Two biographies of Bishop Alexander are in print, "From Rabbi to Bishop" by Muriel Corey and "A Jewish Bishop in Jerusalem" by Kelvin Crombie. I also have a Journal/Diary which Deborah wrote between 1846 -1862. What an interesting link with the past!



Sue Carnochan, Archivist

## SMHA MEMBERS 'GONE AWAY' 2008

School last name	First names	Current last name
Birks	Eleanor Mary	Gaunt
Gray	Tina	Firkins
East	Susan	Miles
Vaizey	S	Vaizey
Rowe	Victoria Claire	Humphrys
Tan	Ziaohong	Tan
Randall	Barbara	Randall
Mackay	Sunny M	Warner
Symonds	Anna	Glover
Enahoro	Helene	Enahoro
Kent	Sophie	Kent
Mezny	Michelle	Mezny
Hall	Emily	Hall
Ferguson	Catriona Nancy	Markey
Schnetz	Catharina	Schnetz
Daviron	Emilie	Daviron
Fox	R	Fox
Gardner	Philippa Anne	Gardner
Trott	Georgia C	Trott
Moffat	Wendy	Clewes

**If you know the whereabouts of these members, please let Penny Gardiner know too! [stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshallassociation@btinternet.com)**

## THE CLOTHES LIST

An inveterate hoarder of ephemera, Penny (Buck) Gardiner '61-'65, daughter of Sheila (Humphrys) Allison '36-'40, recently re-discovered a boarder's clothes list.

Note, no tie on the list as this had been done away with for the new 1963 uniform which was, in colour and style, not dissimilar to the SMH uniform of today.

Remember too that as young ladies, we were not allowed to wash their own clothes; underwear went to the weekly laundry along with blouses and frocks.

And tights hadn't arrived to liberate us from the tyranny of the suspender belt!

- 1 Regulation Blue Suit (desirable but not compulsory, for day girls)
- 1 Regulation Blue Skirt for everyday wear
- 1 Regulation Grey Gabardine Coat
- 1 Regulation Blue Beret and Badge
- 1 Regulation Blue Blazer and Badge
- 4 Regulation Cotton Blouses (each girl must have at least one Blue Striped Blouse)
- 1 Regulation Blue Woollen Jersey
- 4 Regulation Summer Cotton Frocks
- 1 Regulation White Games Sweater
- 3 White Aertex Shirts for Games
- 1 Pair Plain Brown Leather Gloves
- 1 Pair Plain White Summer Gloves
- 2 Pairs Laced Brown Outdoor Shoes (regulation types)
- 2 Pairs Brown Indoor Shoes (not laced)
- 1 Pair White Plimsolls
- 4 Pairs Beige Ankle Socks –  $\frac{3}{4}$ -length in winter if desired
- 4 Pairs White Ankle Socks for summer
- 3 Pairs Navy Ankle Socks for games
- Service-weight Nylon Stockings for Form II upwards - not less than 30 denier
- 1 Pair Navy Shorts
- 1 Blue Overall for Science or Art (to fasten down front)
- 2 Cookery Aprons (for girls who take this subject)
- 1 Navy or Black Bathing Costume (style approved by the School)
- 1 White Bathing Cap
- 2 Regulation Pinafores (for juniors only)
- 1 Bible ("The Bible" published B. & F.B.S. recommended)
- 1 Prayer Book, with Hymns A. & M.
- 1 Oxford Pocket Dictionary
- 1 Navy cloak (optional)
- 1 Pair Wellingtons (optional for IV Form upwards)
- 1 Pair Bedroom Slippers
- 2 Plain Mufti Frocks and 2 Cardigans if desired
- 1 Dressing Gown
- 3 Pyjamas or Nightdresses
- 4 Vests

2 Brassieres (unnecessary for younger girls)  
 3 Pairs Navy Knickers  
 6 Pairs White Knicker Linings (strong for hard wear)  
 4 Pairs Light Knickers for Cotton Frocks  
 3 Petticoats (no frilly or stiff slips allowed and waist petticoats are not very practical)  
 1 Suspender Belt (II Form upwards)  
 2 Dozen Handkerchiefs  
 1 Rug and 1 Eiderdown (optional)  
 1 Brush, 2 Combs, 1 Nailbrush and 1 Pair Nail Scissors  
 1 Clothes Brush  
 2 Facecloths  
 2 Laundry Bags  
 1 Small Suitcase (overnight case, not large)  
 1 Writing Case  
 Sewing Materials in a Case  
 1 Music Case (for all music pupils)  
 8 Coat Hangers  
 2 Pairs Sheets  
 3 Pillow Cases  
 3 Bath Towels (2 extra for bathing in summer)  
 A Supply of Cash's Name Tapes  
 Shoe Cleaning Outfit  
 3 Serviettes (optional, but desirable)  
 Handwork, Games or Hobbies  
 A Second Bible for use in the House  
 1 pair Mufti Shoes – no stiletto heels (Sixth Form only)  
 The list ends "Nothing other than those items on this list is allowed". What an amazing amount of kit. No wonder we travelled to and from school with a trunk.



And here we are in our 'new' uniform. Speech day at the Dome 1965.

# St Mary's Hall Chapel & Arts Centre

Formerly St Mark's Church

If you have passed the Chapel recently, you may have noticed that repairs to the masonry and roof at the East end of the Chapel are now under way!

Exterior repairs have commenced, with slates and boarding over the Chancel Roof North Slope being stripped, along with parts of the eaves, which have also been cleaned and sprayed with preservative. Repairs to the stonework will soon follow.

Once exterior repairs are complete, internal improvements will take place, with priorities being the installation of a new heating system, flooring and new toilets for audiences.

The renovations will allow the beautiful stained glass window at the east end to be visible in all its glory once more and we, like you, will be absolutely delighted to see the back of the scaffolding!



*The Chancel roof, north slope*

We hope to have finished work by June 2009 and look forward to keeping you posted. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Andrew Russell, Chairman of Governors, on behalf of St Mary's Hall.

## 2008 SMH LEAVERS JOINING SMHA

Rachel Boxall, 43 Brentwood Crescent, Brighton, BN1 7EU  
Becky Broe, Coronation Studios, North Lane, 104 North Road, Brighton, BN1 1YE  
Harriet Butterworth, St Nicholas Vicarage, Saltdean Vale, Saltdean, BN2 8HE  
Clare Calder, 48 Shaftesbury Road, Brighton, BN1 4NF  
Sze-kei (Claudia) Ching, Flat G, 26/F, Block 2, West Kowloon D.S.Q,  
22 Fuk Lee St., Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Georgia Crumpton, 18 St Michaels Road, Portslade, BN41 1LR  
Domenique Duplain, 8 Melville Road, Hove, BN3 1TH  
Sarah Eade, 174 Wiston Road, Brighton, BN2 5PS  
Ting Ting Guan, Xingxing Light Fiber Product & Textile Co, Luan , An Hui, PRC  
Imogen Hine, 2 Elvin Crescent, Rottingdean, Brighton, BN2 7FF  
Weng In (Rainbow) Lam, Rua Sacadura, Cabral, No 77-B, R/C Macau, East Asia  
Nga Sze (Kiwi) Lau, Flat C, 9/F, Block 9, Site 5, Whampoa Garden, Kowloon, HK  
Charlotte Leak, Amberley, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 0SS  
Laura Lansdale, 102 Channel View Road, Eastbourne, BN22 1LJ  
Claire Macneill, 20 Blackpath, Polegate, BN26 5AP  
Sarah Margolis, 39 Green Lane, Seaford, BN25 1EG  
Phoebe Maskey, 38 King George VI Mansions, Court Farm Road, Hove, BN3 7QW  
Francesca Page, 75 Southover Street, Brighton, BN2 9UE  
Damilola Popoola, Plot 465, Babatunde Jubril Crescent, Omole Phase 1,  
Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria  
Rachael Smith, 3 Springfields, Newick Drive, Newick, BN8 4PQ  
Catherine Tait, 8 Hillbrow Road, Brighton, BN1 5JP  
Ka Ki (Bonnie) Tong, Flat D, 1/F, Block 4 Lakeview Garden, No 21 Ya On Street  
Tai Wai, N.T., HK  
Lily Vernon-Hunt, 23 Woodland Way, Brighton, BN1 8BA  
Yiwen (Sandra) Yan, No. 70-1 Kun Shan Hua Yuan, Kunshan 215300,  
Jiangsu Province, PRC.  
Lili Zhang, Room 602, No 16, Jiang Dong Qu Da he xiang, Ning Bo City  
Zhe Jiang Province, PRC  
Yi (Hellen) Zhang, 1202 Room, 22 Block, 333 Fangdian Rd, Pudong New Area  
Shanghai, 200135, PRC

## 2008 MOVERS

Rosemary (Baker) Hall, "Boughcliff", Tidenham Chase, W Glos, NP16 7JN  
Fiona (Cairns) Smith, Far View, Cliffords Mesne, Newent, GL18 1JN,  
fiona.j.smith@btinternet.com  
Beth Channing, 17 School Gardens, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7PG  
Candice Cheung, Flat C, 1/F, Jolly Garden, 7 Wang Fung Terrace, Tai Hang Rd, HK  
C Crutchley, 65 Sanderstead Road, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 0PF  
Renée Edwards, Perch Cottage, Binsey, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 0NG  
Gemma Finney, 19 Adela Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6LF  
Jodie Graham, 23 The Martlet, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6NT  
Sue (Graves) Sharman, Albury Farm, Gracious Pond Road, Chobham, GU24 8HJ  
Catherine (Hall) Morton, 9, Crystal Palace Road, East Dulwich, London, SE22 9EX  
Sue (Haydock) Forsyth, Ashley, Brookside Close, Runcton, PO20 1PY  
Sarah (Holder) Martin, Marlands, Easons Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5RE  
Sarah (Hollingsworth) Hall, Little Wickham Place, High St, Wickham Mkt, IP13 0HE  
p.hall0672@btinternet.com

Tamsin (Johnson) Kidwell, c/o The New Barn, 2 Batts Farmyard, Wilton, SN8 3SS  
Jennifer (Jones) Morris, Aperedown Fm Cottage, Cranmore, IoW PO30 4HS  
Gaynor (Jupe) McKinnon, 17 Cricketers Close, Ashington, West Sussex, RH20 3JQ  
Kate Lord, 106 Richmond Road, Montpelier, Bristol, Avon, BS6 5ER  
Katherine (Manktelow) Banks, c/o 14 Little London, Chichester, PO19 1NZ  
Lisa (Martin) Andrews, Henley House, Chelsham Road, Chelsham, CR6 9PA  
Vicky (Mokhtar) Riley, 40 Bramble Road, Hatfield, AL10 9SA,  
Vicky.riley@barclayswealth.com  
Heloise (Overshott) Prus, 30 Springwood Road, Heathfield, TN21 8JX  
prus@gotadsl.co.uk  
Rachel (Padfield) Nixon, 65 Bromley Gardens, Bromley, Kent, BR2 0ES  
Emelia (Papadamou) Marcou, 110 The Hornet, Chichester, PO19 7JR  
Alice Rawdon-Mogg, 40 Queen Street, Stirling, Stirlingshire, FK8 1HN  
Jenny (Riley) Wray, 3 The Old Barn, Clanna Road, Alvington, GL15 6BA  
jenny7@uwclub.net  
Amanda Jane Sara, 2a Mount Pleasant Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6PL  
Dega Stephenson, 27 Court Ord Road, Rottingdean, Brighton, BN2 7FD  
Naomi Stephenson, 27 Court Ord Road, Rottingdean, Brighton, BN2 7FD  
Liz Terry, The Rectory, 77 New Church Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 4BB  
Una (Trott) Conroy, 12a Binburra Avenue, Avalon, NSW 2107, AUSTRALIA  
Mary Whale, Beacons View, Tir Gwallter, Pontyates, South Wales, SA15 5TW  
Emma (Wills) Shotts, Shippen, Lashbrook Court, Talaton, Exeter, Devon, EX5 2RU  
Sally (Whittle) Harvey, 38 Broad Rig Avenue, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 8EW  
Marie York, 9 Fleming Way, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4SE  
Late additions  
Jenny (Mathews) Fletcher, The Grange at Osborne, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 4LA  
Brigid (Cooper) Sundaram, 12 Norman Avenue, Abingdon, OX14 2HQ  
Brigid40@hotmail.co.uk  
Jane (Goacher) Andrews, 31 Buckingham Road, Worthing, BN11 1TH  
Lindsay (Still) Cook, 36 Goldstone Crescent, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6BA  
Samantha (SurrIDGE) Oakeshott, 11 Edward Street, Southborough, TN4 0HP  
sam\_oakeshott@hotmail.com  
Miriam (Batten) Luke, 9 Chiltern Close, Henley on Thames, RG9 1RH  
m.luke760@btinternet.com

## NEWS\*NEWS\*NEWS of former pupils

[Ed: Mostly, but not always, in chronological order]

**Una (Trott) Conroy '33-'40** had the delight of receiving the SMHA Centenary Newsletter on her birthday, which brought back many happy memories. [Ed: I was so pleased to track down Una in Australia; she had been on our 'gone away' list for too many years.] Una writes that she has been very lucky to have had a successful career and a very happy marriage, an interesting life visiting many different countries, and the pleasure of a son Crispin who is currently Australian Ambassador in Chile. Una keeps in touch with **Barbara (Wilberforce) Schooling '34-'40** and Barbara's daughter **Ann (Schooling) Wood '65-'72**.





It was a delight to see old friends **Margaret (Jones) McCall** and **Jean Robertson** both '32-'40 (pictured left) at the May event, with their memories in fine fettle, helping **Virginia James '70-'76** (pictured below with **Akiko (Hickey) Shaw '71-'77**) recall a name she needed to find a relative in the old admission ledgers. Margaret, widowed in 2007, keeps in touch with several old girls who

left SMH, as she and Jean did, when the school closed for the 1939-45 war; **Angela (Wright) Waller '34-'40** living in Deddington, **Barbara (Wilberforce) Schooling '34-'40** living in Hove, and **Elisabeth (Kennedy) Phillips '36-'40** living in Tanzania where her family run their dairy farm and a safari camp by the River Ruvu. Jean Robertson has settled into a new home also in Hove, on the seafront, from which she enjoys views of the Downs as well as the sea.



Widowed earlier in the year, it was too much of a journey for **Mary (Chalmers) Scully '33-'39** of Manningtree to come to Brighton for the May event. Mary enjoyed the Newsletter and wished us all a happy day. Mary and the late Gavan Scully's daughters, **Caroline Scully '64-'69** and **Rosemary (Scully) Heald '60-'67**, are 'old girls' too.

Writing from Southwick, **Margaret (Harding) French '36-'40**, mother-in-law of **Mary (Ayling) Gibbs '53-'62** whose daughter **Daniella Gibbs -'88** also attended SMH, told us of 'being very happy in the kindergarten'. Margaret is retired and now does voluntary work in her local community.

Featuring in the 'Please get in touch' section of the 2008 Newsletter was **Isobel (Rowland) Chanin '51-'55**. Quite by chance, Isobel did get in touch later in 2008 with the news that she has been a resident of Beverly Hills since 1962. She was involved for many years in public relations and property management and is experienced in property sales from the Hollywood Hills to Malibu. Although the majority of her clients are from the entertainment industry, Isobel also works with many Europeans who are relocating or purchasing a second home in Los Angeles. Isobel very much wants to make contact with others from her year; email her on [Isobel.Chanin@SothebysInternationalRealty.com](mailto:Isobel.Chanin@SothebysInternationalRealty.com).

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**Anne (Bethell) Valentine '53-'59** would like to get in touch with **Gill (Weston) Townsend-Green**. Read why in a story which involves SMH past pupils **Barbara Bashford '49-'55**, Susan (**Snelling**) **Metzner '47-'55**, **Suzy Duncan '55-'58**, **Jill (Steiner) Soudy '54-'59** and **Morny (Pike) Pritchett '53-'59**.

As all good stories do, this one starts at SMH. In 1957/58 Suzy Duncan and Anne Bethell shared a room in Elliott during their UV year. After 'O' levels Anne stayed on for LV1 but Suzy left to go to the French Lycee close to home in Kensington, near to Imperial College. A dance had been arranged and John's great friend Taff Evans dragged him along. John and Suzy started going out together which Anne heard all about from Suzy's letters. [Just stay with us readers; all will become clear. Ed]

Gill Weston's wedding day arrived, 13th June 1959. Anne was invited so Suzy said 'change at my house'. SMH exeats didn't begin till after midday and the wedding was at 2pm in Ealing. As the bride and groom came out of the church, Anne arrived. Billy Bashford and Susan Snelling took her under their wing and in due course, Anne arrived at back at Suzy's house, to change into school uniform before returning to SMH. Suzy's boyfriend John kindly broke off from dusting down his 1935 Morris 8 to carry Anne's case to the bus stop and put her on the right bus for Victoria station.

Back at Brighton Anne was met and accompanied back to school, on a bus, top deck, by a boy from the 6th form club, but was spotted by a passenger who reported her to Connie, the headmistress Miss Conrady. A few days later Anne's parents received a letter requesting her removal from SMH as she had been drinking champagne at a wedding in London and Connie did not approve of her girls behaving in this manner. As it was, Anne stayed on for the few days left until the end of term and finished at SMH as planned.

Back in London, after an evening out with Suzy's parents, Suzy and John had a row and parted company, again Anne was hearing all about this at school in letters from Suzy. Later John and Suzy met up and John sent Anne his kind regards via Suzy. John who?

Three years later Suzy married, and again Anne was invited to the wedding, as was John who was just off to Spain for a holiday having graduated as a Chemical Engineer from Imperial College. More Imperial College connections followed with a chance meeting at the May Ball with Morny Pike and her future husband Malcolm Pritchett, also an Imperial College graduate. Morny had trained as a children's nurse at Great Ormond Street as Anne was doing her general training at The Middlesex Hospital. The connections continued as Anne later went to Great Ormond Street to do her children's training. An invitation to Morny and Malcolm's wedding followed, for 12th October 1963, but it was Jill Steiner's wedding on the same day which Anne and John attended.

And who is John? John Valentine, Anne's husband of the last 45 years, Taff was their best man and Suzy attended the wedding as one of the four friends Anne was allowed by a less than approving father. Suzy went on to work in Paris for many years but now lives in Rossendale to be near daughter, Stephanie, and her granddaughter.

Every year on June 13th, Anne and John raise a toast to Gill Townsend-Green and that is why Anne would like to re-establish contact as this year it will be the 50th anniversary of their meeting. So if anyone knows where Gill is, please let Anne know on [anne.m.valentine@ntlworld.com](mailto:anne.m.valentine@ntlworld.com).

[This story obviously carries personal memories but it is also a powerful reminder of how life was for young women during the late '50s and early '60s. Ed]

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**Frances (Hine) Barham '55 -'60** wants to contact former classmate Biruta Hulanicki. Any news please to Frances on [grahambarham@btinternet.com](mailto:grahambarham@btinternet.com).

**Kim (Kimmins) Cook '54-'60** emailed after news of the impending closure of SMH had been announced. She says 'The last five years have been difficult, mainly due to health problems. Although I'm still registered disabled, things have now improved considerably. Through everything my husband Roy has been an absolute rock, as have our sons, Jason and Adam, and our grandchildren Ethan (10), Lauren (5) and Amelie (8 mths) are a delight. The credit crunch has seen Roy's employers go into liquidation, so he's setting up his own business from home, and I'm kick-starting my family history business again. Meanwhile, I've been able to produce the autobiography of one of my clients and get it into print (*Policeman, Pilot and a Guardian Angel*, by Len Trevallion), other articles and books are in the pipeline, and my Family History teaching sessions are due to restart after Easter. Like most SMHA members, I've been shocked and saddened by the impending demise of SMH as we know it, but I hope the Association will continue to 'hold fast that which is good' (Babington House motto), perhaps via our own website and on-line Newsletter. Health and logistics permitting, I plan to be at the May reunion, and look forward to seeing many old friends there.'

**Jenny (Riley) Wray '51-'63** wrote with news of her move, with her beloved cat Beecham, to a flat in the Forest of Dean where she enjoys the strong local culture of which not much is known outside the area. She has had to give up their business activities as a result of her husband Terence's increasingly ill health. Jenny's new email is [jenny7@uwclub.net](mailto:jenny7@uwclub.net).

**Jane (Harvey) Porter '56-'62** just missed the May event when visiting from Australia in April 2008. She is celebrating 40 years of marriage to Robin and 40 years in Australia. Of seven grandchildren, four are in Edinburgh and three in Queensland. Jane keeps in touch with **Liz (Baker) Caudle '50-'64**. Jane's email is [rhjdjporter@bigpond.com](mailto:rhjdjporter@bigpond.com).

**Katharine (Campion) Minchin '57-'62** featured in the Midhurst and Petworth Observer for her work as volunteer and Christmas cook for the St Joseph's night refuge in Chichester.

**Anna (Anne-Marie Crowley) Crowe '57-'63** asks to be remembered to anyone from Babington who recalls her. Anna is a poet, translator and creative tutor living in St. Andrews, Scotland. She is also the co-founder of StAnza,



Scotland's Poetry Festival, and was its Artistic Director for seven years. Anna will be in Madrid in April for a translators' round table event. She has translated works of the Catalan poet, Joan Margarit, published by Bloodaxe as Tugs in the Fog.

Also in Scotland, in Perth, is **Rosie (Townsend) McAllister '57-'65** who established her own business McAllister Design in 1988.

[www.mcallisterdesign.co.uk](http://www.mcallisterdesign.co.uk). Rosemary has always offered a personal design service which can 'help convert dreams into a reality'. She works mainly in Argyll on the West coast and Perthshire on the East and is looking for opportunities elsewhere in central Scotland for future projects, no matter how large or small.

**Penny (Bastedo) Seddon '59-'66** is in touch with Serina (**Saunders**) Lane '57-'61, Jane (**Snelling**) Ogden '58-'63 and Fiona Clark '57-'66. She hopes to retire to the family home in Hove when it becomes possible but at the moment lives in London. Penny's oldest son lives in Hove and she stays there when visiting Sussex. Contact Penny on [pennyseddon@aol.com](mailto:pennyseddon@aol.com).

**Corinne (Hannant) Andrews '63-'69** wrote of her enjoyment of the 2008 Newsletter which helped to distract her from being flat on her back after surgery. With a surfeit of time to recall happy memories, she wrote from her home in South Africa of starting at SMH in 1963 age 10½ in Transition. Corinne remembers the 'old' uniform with the petrol-blue skirt, being a member of three houses, day houses Bristol and Adelaide split by a stint of weekly-boarding in Elliott, two headmistresses, Miss Conrady and her successor Miss Davies, maths lessons with Mrs Parsons, and going on the 1969 Easter school ski trip. Leaving after 'O's in 1969, Corinne accompanied her parents on their emigration to South Africa where she completed Matric(ulation) before doing a Speech and Drama teaching diploma. Corinne and her South African husband Bryan have five children and seven grandchildren, some now in the UK whom she visits annually in August. Corinne let us have a list of all the names in her 1969 autograph book which is rather too long to publish but her special contacts are **Lindsey (Heath) Plant '65-'70**, **Jane (Amherst-Clark) Watson '63-'71** and **Prisca (Baillie) Furlong '64-'69**. She'd love to hear from any others who remember her on [corinne.andrews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:corinne.andrews@yahoo.co.uk).

**Jennifer (May) Mann** and **Henriette (Coomber) Blanchard** would dearly love to contact anyone from their years (**1965 - 1970**) particularly St Hilary boarders and the **Hurd sisters, Alison and Sheila**. [jennifer.mann@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jennifer.mann@hotmail.co.uk)

**Anthea (Drake) Holland '67-'70** is in Qatar where her daughter is doing her GCSEs. She remembered Margaret Payne very well and enjoyed her lessons and although she was a very quiet, private lady, she looked after the girls very well. On the occasions of returning to the school since 1970, Andrea remembers her smiling face greeting everyone. [antheaholland@hotmail.com](mailto:antheaholland@hotmail.com)

**Harriet (d'Harcourt) du Pasquier '71-'72** was in Chichester House and the head-mistress was Miss Davies. She would love to have news of **Emma Savino**, **Virginia Slee**, **Pauline Shodeke**, **Felicity Bateman**, **Jennifer Rose** and so many others. Harriet remembers 'a particularly wonderful teacher: Miss Bristol.

Mrs Webb, the French teacher was not very impressed by my French and yet I married a Frenchman and we have four 'bi-lingual children!' Contact Hattie on [hattiedupasquier@hotmail.com](mailto:hattiedupasquier@hotmail.com).

**Julia aka Bag (Bagshaw) Dunicliffe '69-'72** wrote 'Hello from Suffolk where I have been living for the past 22 years. A retired nurse, I now work part-time as a caseworker for our local MP and also for Regional Government – all very interesting. I am in contact with **Liz (Clements) Gartside** and also **Diana (Markham) Kaars-Sijpesteijn** who is in contact with **Penny (Titheradge) Harrison**. Di and I met up recently with **Jackie (Bracher) Leask** who is between Quatar and England right now. I had not seen Jackie for about 16 years and Di had not seen her for 30 years! We were talking about all the good times we had at SMH! Di and Jackie were both my bridesmaids and Di is godmother to my 18 year old daughter Anne. Anne took up lacrosse in the 6th form at school and it reminded me of all the fun we used to have on the lacs pitches! - all those years ago - even the early morning team practices before school in the freezing cold – that wind used to blow in from the sea! Hello to **Marissa Gardiner (nee Harris)** if anyone is still in contact. I was glad to see from Newsletter 108 that **Anne Fridal** is still singing well – I can still hear her serenading us all throughout St Hilary house – it was lovely. The last I heard of **Debbie (Quinn) Salmon** was that she was in Shropshire and **Sarah Glover** came from up near King's Lynn somewhere. I hope we can track down a few more folk from our year.' Contact Julia on [jdunicliffe.eera@btinternet.com](mailto:jdunicliffe.eera@btinternet.com).

**Susan Judd '62-'66** became the new assistant Curate at Portsmouth Cathedral, joining after her ordination at Petertide 29th June 2008, as a Non-Stipendiary member of the clergy. In the Portsmouth Cathedral congregational newsletter of January 2008 Susan writes: 'I am an ordinand at the United Benefice of Blendworth, Chalton and Idsworth, and in my third and final year of study with the Southern Theological Education Training Scheme (STETS) based at Sarum College in Salisbury. I have lived in the northern part of the diocese for about 25 years and used to commute to London to work. A few years ago I took early retirement following redundancy from working in the oil business and have been quite surprised at what has happened since! I am very pleased to have been asked to join the Cathedral parish community as a curate following ordination next June and I am greatly looking forward to participating with you all in your work and worship.'

**Michelle aka Micki (Sheftell) Aston '60-'66** was put in touch again with her SMH Transition teacher **Jessie (Armstrong) Redfern**. Jessie worked at the school in Miss Conrady's time and also with Miss Davies and says 'I loved my work at the school and it remains like yesterday!' Jessie's email is [nera@aspiration.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:nera@aspiration.eclipse.co.uk).

**Heather (Gosden) McGregor –'80**, graduated from Newcastle University in 1984 and then worked in advertising and financial PR before joining an Anglo Australian biotechnology company for five years doing their corporate

communications  
While there  
MBA at the  
When she  
ABN AMRO's  
investment  
an eight-year  
Singapore, Hong  
PhD in structural  
of Hong Kong and is a visiting professor at Cass, City University Business School.



and corporate finance.  
Heather studied for her  
London Business School.  
graduated, Heather joined  
equities division as an  
analyst and worked, over  
period, in London,  
Kong and Japan. She has a  
finance from the University  
of Hong Kong and is a visiting professor at Cass, City University Business School.

**Jo (Grey) French '83-'88** tells us she is 'still going strong (though a bit crumbly) despite major health problems over the last 9 years.' Jo works as a full time volunteer chairing the Association for Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Disorders (AMEND). Once, at a conference for endocrinologists, she met **Dr. Maha Barakat '78-'86**, sister of her old friend **Hoda (Barakat) Shunnar –'84**, which was rather 'random', as Jo's daughter would say. She puts her resilience and determination to keep going down to her happy years at SMH as well as the desire to keep going for her two gorgeous children, Lois (12) who attends Tunbridge Wells Girl's Grammar School, and Cameron (9) who loves everything as long as it's football. Jo meets up with **Shani (Waller) Mason '80-'86** and her 'lovely family (3 kids!) at least once a year and is 'fairy' Godmother to the youngest.' In the last year or so she has also met up with **Catherine aka Woody Woodthorpe '79-'88**. Jo sends best wishes to everyone who remembers her. Her email is [jo.grey@amend.org.uk](mailto:jo.grey@amend.org.uk).

**Hilary Parkin '79-'86** got in touch with **Shani (Waller) Mason '80-'86** to exchange news by email now that she has broadband at home. She and her partner Gary are weathering the economic crisis in Cambridge. Hilary is on [gaznhil@ntlworld.com](mailto:gaznhil@ntlworld.com).

**Shani (Waller) Mason '80-'86** held a gathering to help raise funds for the charity AMEND which is chaired by **Jo (Grey) French '83-'88**. The event was supported by **Alison (Cox) Turner –'86**, **Vicky (Mokhtar) Riley –'86** and Jo, and another is planned. Details from [shanimason@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shanimason@yahoo.co.uk).

**Vicky (Mokhtar) Riley –'86** now lives in Hertfordshire with Zimbabwean husband, Anthony, and her four year old son, Alex. Anthony is running the 2009 Marathon de Sable, a 140 mile marathon in the Sahara Desert, in support of a Pancreatic Cancer Research. Vicky says 'Incredibly for someone who achieved the giddy heights of a C grade in Maths 'O' level I work in Banking, based in Canary Wharf. I am now UK-based but had a fantastic 7 years working in the Africa division travelling around sub-Saharan Africa and the Seychelles!' Full time work and a small child doesn't leave Vicky much time for a social life but she is still good friends with **Alison (Cox) Turner –'86** and they see each other regularly.

**Jo (Podd) Stubbs '77-'84** is hoping to be able to help with the Reunion on May 9<sup>th</sup> before SMH turns into Roedean. At the time of writing, Jo has the added anxiety of concern for her job at SMH, to which she returned full-time last September, and the arrangements for the future education of her daughters Lizzie and Zoe, both currently at SMH, not to mention the care of baby William, plus a 15 year old step-daughter and not forgetting husband Jonny.

Another businesswoman, **Renée Edwards –'83**, launched her new Magic Wanda website in 2008. [www.magicwandabooks.com](http://www.magicwandabooks.com). Renee is on [reneeedwards1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:reneeedwards1@yahoo.co.uk).

**Tamsin (Johnson) Kidwell '75-'82** has been sailing for the last year or so, overwintering in Spain and going round the Med this summer. In December last she was en route across the Atlantic to the Caribbean. **Libby (Ager) Thompson '73-'82** has been a regular visitor to the boat – at Venice and the Canaries amongst others. Tamsin's sister **Veryan (Johnson) Nield '73-'80** has been working for **Heather (Gosden) McGregor –'80** who runs a recruitment agency and writes a weekly column in the Saturday Financial Times magazine as Mrs Money Penny.

**Lilian Cooper –'83** (below) at work on a 2004 mural painted for the Islomanes symposium in Maritime Québec

Environmental artist Lilian was born in Paris and, after leaving SMH, travelled to the Netherlands for her second degree and to discover her Dutch side. After her studies she stayed in Amsterdam where her studio is presently based.



Image by Jean-Yves Vigneau

Lilian says on her website at [www.liliancooper.com](http://www.liliancooper.com) 'I can trace my fascination for this to my earliest roots and my Scottish and Swiss grandmothers who taught me to love rocks and mountains. It is a passion I have continued into adulthood. My field work and artist residencies have enabled me to travel in Europe, North America, Australia and South Africa. I have worked in many locations including a

quarry, a small cutting, Calanish Standing Stones, National Parks, forests and my own urban backgarden.'

**Sarah (Hollingsworth) Hall -'86** married Phil, an accountant, in 2005 and the couple now have a daughter Ellen Rose born January 2007. Sarah is taking a "career break" from the legal world to look after her baby girl.

News reached us of the sudden death on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 of Dr. Martin Hirigoyen Kelly, leading reconstructive surgeon who brought hope to hundreds of children through the charity Facing the World, and husband of actress **Natascha McElhone '82-'86**. We offer condolences to Natascha and her sons for their sad and untimely loss.

We are delighted to congratulate **Sarah (Cox)Fitzpatrick '83-'90** on the birth of a baby boy Ruari Shea Fitzpatrick on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Ruari was born at 2.05am weighing in at 8lb 4oz and is a brother for Leah now 2.

**Emelia (Papadamou) Marcou -'95** is currently living in Chichester and at the time of writing was expecting her first baby, due March 2009.

**Alice Rawdon-Mogg -'00** wrote 'In April 2008 I was posted to command a Technical and Logistic Recruiting Team for 12 months, based in Stirling but covering the whole of Scotland. Quite a challenge but lots of scope for enjoying myself!' a\_rawdon\_mogg@yahoo.co.uk

**Jenny Commin** left SMH in **2001**. Daughter of former Old Girl Governor **Anne (Levisieur) Commin '69-'79** and, at the time of this piece, aged 22 from Lewes, East Sussex, Jenny writes on the British Youth Council website [www.byc.org.uk](http://www.byc.org.uk)

'I volunteered full time for four months, with the British Youth Council (BYC) in London. My volunteering was funded by the 'v' charity and accredited by UK Youth Achievement Awards at Gold Level. I found out about the opportunity through the [www.w4pm.org](http://www.w4pm.org) site – which lists job and volunteering opportunities in the politics, charity and public affairs sectors. Having graduated from University in July 2006, I wanted to do something that would 'make a difference'.

During my time at BYC I worked in a press and policy role, writing press releases, briefings, articles and reports. I gave interviews and coordinated interviews with BYC's team of young media spokespeople to get young people's voices heard in the media. On the policy side I conducted research and wrote responses to government policy saying how their proposed laws and policies would affect young people. I got to meet with politicians to discuss issues of importance to young people such as voting rights at 16 and the national minimum wage

I worked with other BYC staff and volunteers to run a campaign to 'stop homophobia in Poland'. We designed publicity, secured press coverage, arranged demonstrations and a petition, lobbied MPs and MEPs, and worked in partnership with other interested organizations. We also campaigned for free HIV Aids treatment funding from the G8.



My time as a volunteer at BYC provided me with such valuable experiences. I developed my skills and sector knowledge base, which has allowed me to now get a full time job as a Press and Parliamentary Assistant for a big educational charity. I made wonderful friends through my volunteering experience and I learnt so much from the other young people I came into contact with.

I know that my volunteering will make a positive difference to the lives of many young people. I relish the fact that I had the opportunity to work for causes I cared about, giving people who would otherwise feel marginalised and disengaged a voice. I am so grateful that my experiences have enabled me to now make a career in a field I care about, so I can continue to do work that matters to me, and that will have continuing positive implications within society. '

[Ed: I have very much enjoyed hearing from, and of, SMH old girls and staff from around the world. Thank you for keeping in touch.]

Late News: **Morny (Pike) Pritchett '53-'59** hit the local Guildford news this month when she was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Ripley and Send Rotary Club for outstanding services to the local community. As my correspondent said, Good for Morny!

## OBITUARIES

### **Marion Manners (Bucke) Deschamps MBE b.29 Feb 1916 d.12 Mar 2008**

From France, early on in 2008, came the news, relayed by her good friend Joyce (Colman) Tinto 1930-33, that Marion (Bucke) Deschamps 1926 - 34 had died following a fall. Joyce and Marion boarded together at SMH, maintaining lifelong contact thereafter. On 27<sup>th</sup> January 1942 at St Michael's Camberley, Marion, the daughter of Rev. H E Bucke, married Roger Deschamps of the Free French Forces. After the war the couple settled in France raising three children Neil, Jocelyne and Romaine. Marion was a published author and received an MBE in the 1977 New Year's Honours for her work with Toc H, an organisation "committed to building a fairer society by working with communities to promote friendship and service, confront prejudice and practise reconciliation." In 1981 Marion was widowed when Roger died at Les Molières.

### **Hilary June (Gardner) Mack b.1 Jun 1924 d.13 May 2008**

June (Marigold) Mack '47 - '49 wrote to tell us of the death of her former sister-in-law June (Gardner) Mack 1933 - 40. In 2006 June wrote: "During the war I remember going down to the basement when there was an air raid. We had to put on thick knickers and extra sweaters under our dressing gowns - also thick and warm - and strong shoes were essential. I was in St Hilary in Sussex Square which meant group walking up to the School every day. I was confirmed at St Mark's and my grandmother came down from Yorkshire to be there. In those days we always sang a Non nobis Domine before meals - being tone-deaf I was always in trouble. On the day the beaches were closed for the rest of the War, we were

offered a last swim in the Black Rock pool - the first and last time I really dived well!"

June Gardner joined the Land Army after school and later became a nursing Sister. She married June Mack's brother David in Rottingdean; (thus becoming the second June Mack) with whom she had four children - Peter (Professor of English at Warwick University), Carolyn (a Probation Officer), Brian (a BBC Engineer) and Katie (a Lecturer in Film Studies at Bristol University).

**Janet Constance Luyken b. 8 Feb 1937 d. 18 May 2008**

Janet Luyken '47-'53, close friend of Evelyn (Waring) Daltrey '52-'54, died last year and from her cousin Carol Coffin came the following tribute to Janet:

Janet was always there, one year younger than me. We shared so much, we grew up together. Photographs remind me of school holidays in Brighton. Auntie Hilda and Uncle Gordon had a tobacconist shop; most exciting behind the scenes, the aroma, and the stock which we were allowed to tidy and stack neatly. After closing time we sat around the dining-room table playing cards, dominos and lexicon for many happy hours.

Janet went to St Mary's Hall in Brighton, a girls' boarding school; I went to an ordinary secondary school in North London. After we were tucked into bed we talked and giggled for far too long!! Comparing notes on goodness knows what – any and everything!! Especially school! Janet was a very clever girl; she read a lot and I'm sure my love of reading was born at that time. Auntie had been a school teacher and we were all encouraged to read; - also to walk – I remember Auntie, Uncle, Janet and me walking along the Undercliff Walk to Rottingdean on a Sunday afternoon – I think we came home on a bus!

Janet went to art college, I think Guildford; she had very good exam results. She worked as a librarian for many years; but took early retirement owing to poor health. The last twenty years we lived closer and were able to do things together again, especially Mothers Union. Although Janet didn't marry or have children of her own, she loved and shared ours.

She loved cats and dogs, particularly cats. She wrote many poems and limericks about them; and all her human friends too. She also wrote short stories; she was most artistic and loved to sketch and paint.

We all have memories of Janet – these are some of mine. I miss her.

**Rosemary Jeanne Crowley SMH '57-'63 b. 2 Nov 1946 d. Feb 2004**

Anna (Crowley) Crowe wrote of her sister Rosemary who died very suddenly and unexpectedly, of a pulmonary embolism, in February 2004, in Mallorca where she lived with her husband Gerardo. She left a daughter, Mimi.

**Helen Marion (Seth) Humphrey-Reeve SMH '28-'34 b. 1 Mar 1918 d. 2007**

Pepita Conlon, Helen's daughter, emailed us in March 2009 to let us know of her mother's death some 18 months previously in Australia where she lived to the age of 89. Helen's sister Katherine and cousin Mary Bain also attended SMH.



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