

ST MARYS HALL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter 112 2011

This newsletter is published by the SMHA Committee
on behalf of the St Mary's Hall Association

COMMITTEE

Hon. Life President:	Mrs. Susan M Meek
Hon Vice Presidents:	Miss N Olwen Davies Mrs. Clare Feaver Mrs. Teresa Broadbent Mrs. Pamela James
Hon Chairman:	Olive Ridge
Hon Secretary and Hon Editor:	Penny Harrison, assisted by Alice Rawdon-Mogg
Hon Treasurer:	Diana Sijpesteijn
Committee Members:	Jodie Graham Kathy Howard Virginia James Robina Methven Jo Stubbs Emma Thomas Frances Barham
Archivist:	Sue Carnochan

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Dear SMHA member

An important date for your diaries!

Saturday 15th June 2013 – BIG reunion meeting in Brighton for all Old Girls. Be there – or miss something well worth travelling for!!!

Committee Report

We are delighted to have had such interest in joining the Committee and have welcomed Alice Rawdon Mogg, Jo Stubbs, Olive Ridge, Virginia James, Kathy Howard, Diana Sijpesteijn, Emma Thomas and Frances Barham since the last General Meeting

We work by email, with the occasional Conference Call, and plan to meet once a year, only. We are able to consider assistance with travel costs for Committee members with long journeys to a meeting, if necessary.

We met briefly after the General Meeting where we agreed on the roles for the newly elected Committee.

It is with great pleasure that we can report that following the General Meeting's endorsement of appointing Sue Meek as Life President of the Association, Olive Ridge has agreed to take on the Chair.

New members, Frances Barham and Alice Rawdon Mogg, were welcomed in person and Emma Thomas in her unavoidable absence.

Alice has most generously volunteered to assist with the website updating, with a view to taking this on from January 2012. This will enable yet further financial savings to be made for the Association. She is also planning to work with Jodie Graham and with Emma Thomas as well as with Olive and Jo Stubbs to develop more enthusiasm in the younger membership; in particular looking at different social media. Penny is particularly grateful for this! Lastly, the same team is working to establish links with SMH Choir. They would greatly value contact with any individual choir members.

Very many thanks to Jo Stubbs who brought along items of memorabilia, sales from which netted over £80 at the General Meeting and to Committee members who helped on this "stall" and with the archive display, which was fascinating! Any member who wishes to purchase items of Memorabilia is most welcome to contact Penny to enquire on availability, price etc..

We remain anxious about succession planning and would welcome expressions of interest at any time. If you would like to know more about the "work" – which is more a pleasure than a chore – please contact Penny.

SMHA committee

A message from your Chair

Dear Friends,

With my recent retirement from teaching at Roedean, I shall have more time to give to the Association. Apart from opportunities to meet socially, one of my interests is to develop networking links among our members. I am so pleased that Alice Rawdon-Mogg, another Committee member, is keen to get involved in this project. We plan to meet up shortly and hopefully by the autumn, we shall have some concrete proposals for you. In the meantime, I would welcome your comments on what you would like the Association to provide. My e-mail address is okridge@ntlworld.com

Olive Ridge
Chair, SMHA

2011 GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the St Mary's Hall Association

92nd General Meeting; Saturday 18th June 2011

Present: Susan Meek (Hon President) Penny Harrison (Hon Secretary), Diana Sijpesteijn (Hon Treasurer) and 16 members.

1. Apologies for Absence

Many apologies were received. Mention was made especially of Clare Feaver also of Jodie Graham and Emma Thomas. Concern was noted regarding Teresa Broadbent, with whom we have lost touch. Sue Meek is endeavouring to follow up on this.

2. Welcome and School Prayer (Sue Meek)

3. Remembrance of those members who have died since the 2009 meeting. (Please see the Obituary section of this Newsletter)

4. Report from Hon President and Chair on the work of SMHA Committee since the 2009 meeting. (Please see News of former Headmistresses)

5. Report from Hon Secretary

Following the drive to create our on line database I have now been able to list 1145 Life members of whom nearly 460 have been in direct contact to add their details. Included in these are 16 new Life members who upgraded when we told them about the website. The remaining 650 or so have been sent three invitations to supply information about themselves, but we have to assume after this length of time that they have either "gone away" or do not wish to have active membership. Our reunion invitation on Friends Reunited put us in touch with several both Life and Associate members who had not received information about the website due to changes of address and so forth. An excellent, and free, service. A further 29 Associate members have been in touch to ask to be added to the on-line database and nearly 50 former staff, Governors etc. have replied to our invitation to have their details added.

Our income from new Life members is in the region of £800 which has been a very welcome contribution towards the costs of our transition.

We continue to seek contact with all Old Girls through such media as the website, Friends Reunited, Facebook and – most importantly – through word of mouth from active members, such as those of us here today.

I would like to touch on both the Choir and the Old Roedeanians. Regarding the Choir, I had hoped that we would be able to link to each others' sites – but the Choir website is not quite ready for this. Nadia Behdad tells me that they hope to relaunch with the progress of St Marks towards a home.

Adela Hussain has also kept in touch to bring her Old Roedean events to our attention so that I can publicise them – SMHA girls are most welcome at these. Jodie Graham, who is a nominated committee member, is hoping to work with Adela on social events.

I should perhaps just touch on the proposal which was made two years ago that we should make a substantial charitable donation from our funds. This has certainly not been ignored by the committee but we have been concentrating our efforts and our finances on setting up and running the new way of managing the Association. It may be that at some point our financial position is such that we could approach you for your views. If the committee feels able to suggest this then I would certainly propose that we consulted you first by means of a survey so that anonymously and without pressure or prejudice you could give us your views which could then be collated into a proposal for a future General Meeting.

I should like to close by thanking Sue Meek, on behalf of all of us, both present and absent, for the enormous support she has offered us as Chair and by adding my thanks to those of Sue to those who came along today to the meeting. I wish SMHA every success for a long future.

6. Report from Hon Treasurer (see page 8)

- 7.0 (a) Accounts of SMHA for 2010, were adopted as correct (see page 7)
- (b) The revised Constitution of SMHA was adopted (see website)

- 7.1 (a) Sue Meek was confirmed as Honorary Life President of SMHA
- (b) Committee members Penny Harrison, Diana Sijpesteijn, Jodie Graham, Kathy Howard, Virginia James, Robina Methven, Alice Rawdon-Mogg, Olive Ridge, Jo Stubbs, Emma Thomas and Frances Barham were elected for the period to the next General Meeting of SMHA.

8. Any Other Business.

Sue Meek mentioned the Yamaha Grand Piano and after much discussion it was agreed that the Committee was empowered to allocate funds of up to £500 towards relocation of this. The general topic of "assets" of the Association caused further discussion and the Committee asked that Sue Meek, Olive Ridge and Sue Carnochan/Jo Stubbs would clarify exactly what, if anything, the Association owned and that arrangements would be made by the Committee for appropriate paperwork documenting ownership and arrangements for perpetual loans (etc) of any items, including the archives, to either the Hospital or St Marks Chapel or any other permanent home.

If any member wishes clarification of this issue they are welcome to contact Penny Harrison.

The possibility of a "Blue Plaque" for the School was raised and PH will explore this with Sue Meek. Laura Bristol asked whether this could perhaps include Charlotte who wrote "Just as I am" in the summerhouse in the school grounds.

Members said the SMHA Prayer and the meeting closed at 4 p.m.

PS – although we were few in number, one member, Susanne Rea, had come from Queensland, Northern Territory, Australia! Now that IS dedication. Lovely to see you, Susanne.

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Archive information is regularly posted on our website.



Our archives are in the Old Reference Library at Roedean and Sue Carnochan is in Roedean School Library (01273 667574) on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 – 1.00, to deal with any queries from old girls and their families.

Sue is pictured, in the Library, on the left.

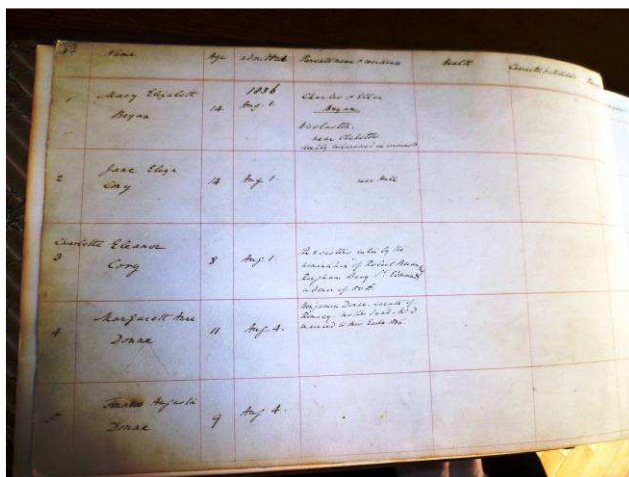
Other contact details for Sue Carnochan are: 01273 667612 (Archivist Office)
email: jsu@roedean.co.uk

On the right is a photograph of the first page of the School Register, August 1836

Thanks to Kathy Howard for both these photos taken during her visit to Roedean, 4/3/11

Sue has provided a summary of the work she has carried out which is posted on the SMHA website. This includes information on the **Paul Groves Memorial Cup**, awarded to **Catherine Harris** for community service in 1987.

A plaque to his memory is on a tree in the Stanley Deeson campus which has been photographed. He died collecting money for the Zeebrugge disaster.



In our Interim Newsletter we wrote about **Margaret Schurr** and Sue's attempts to find her. Hon Ed also tried with no joy. However, step to the front **Kim (Kimmins) Cook**, former Hon Ed! Kim wrote to say **Margaret Schurr** was, if I remember correctly, matron of Fulham Hospital before Charing Cross hospital moved onto the old Fulham Hospital site.

Using my family history resources, I've discovered that Margaret Christine Schurr, born on 28 December 1923, in the Brighton area, died in April 2003 in Ipswich, Suffolk. Sorry it's not good news, and I have no idea how she came to be in Ipswich, but at least it will save fruitless searches.

Hon. Treasurer's Report on the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2010

This is the first complete accounting year since the closure of SMH. As indicated in the 2009 Report, communication is now by way of the SMHA website.

Reunion

There was no annual summer reunion in 2010; a Committee meeting was held at Sue Meek's home. The next reunion was planned for 2011.

Subscriptions

Four new life members joined at £57 each. We do not envisage there being many new life members joining the Association in the years to come.

Website and database

These were set up early in 2010 and have been efficiently run thanks to Penny Harrison. The costs incurred for uploading the regular updates during the year have been a modest £215 which is within the projected budget.

Mailing

There was a final mailing to members in 2010 at a cost of £1114. This was requesting Members to return permission forms for their data entries on the website. All subsequent communications have been, and will continue to be, electronic.

Retiring gifts to Committee Members

A retiring gift was made to Susan Roller at a cost of £30 in grateful thanks for her work over two terms of office as the Hon Treasurer.

Purchase of SMH memorabilia

A one off payment of £458 was made for the purchase of the pair of SMH Piccadilly benches which were sold at auction by Roedean in the summer of 2010. In due course these will be placed with other archive items from the school – either back in the main SMH building or in St Marks.

Accounts to 31 December 2010

These accounts show that expenses exceeded income by £1433 in 2010. A large proportion of this sum relates to the non-recurring costs of the final postal mailing and the purchase of the benches. The retained funds at the end of the year were £19958 down from £21,391 in 2009.

Investments

Interest payments on investments continues to remain low. £15,275 is invested with Standard Life in a Fixed Rate Bond and £491 is in a Barclays Bank Premium Account. Total interest on investments during the year was £282 (£209 in 2009).

Future expenditure

The running of the Association using electronic means of communication will ensure that costs are minimised. Consequently, our capital funds should go a long way to ensuring that the Association will be able to continue for the next 40 or so years. However, any ideas from members for fund raising initiatives to modestly boost our reserves would always be welcomed.

**Diana Sijpesteijn
SMHA Hon. Treasurer
June 2011**

**ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010,
ST MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION**

<u>INCOME</u>		2010 £	2009 £
Subscriptions		229	1368
Donations		-	100
Sale of memorabilia		116	-
Reunion lunches		-	3413
Interest:			
	Bank Premium account	5	4
	Bank current account	2	-
	Standard Life Bond	275	-
	Scottish Widows account	-	205
		282	209
Total Income		627	5089
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		£	£
Website/printing costs:	Website	215	622
	Magazines	-	1410
		215	2032
Postage		1500	114
Bank charges		5	4
Reunions:	May lunches	-	3335
	Committee lunch	50	-
	Deposit for hall 2011	80	-
Other expenses: retiring gifts		30	76
Committee expenses		78	-
Purchase of archive items		458	-
Total Expenditure		2060	6947
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(1433)	(1858)

BALANCE SHEET

Current assets	£	£
Standard Life	15275	15000
Cash at Bank:		
Premium Account	4672	5688
Current Account	<u>11</u>	<u>703</u>
	4683	6391
Total Assets	19958	21391
Representing:		
General Fund at start of year	21391	23249
(Deficit)/Surplus of income over expenditure	(1433)	(1858)
General Fund at end of year	19958	21391

Letter from Sue Meek; SMHA Honorary Life President

Dear Friends,

I was delighted to welcome those who were able to attend the first General Meeting since the final SMHA reunion at St Mary's Hall on 9th May 2009. We were extremely grateful to Fr Andrew for allowing us to use the church for our meeting and to Martin Timmins and St John's School for providing our refreshments.

It gave us great pleasure to say our school prayer; the school may no longer be with us, but we who were privileged to benefit from being associated with St Mary's Hall were able to celebrate friendship and the values which were the cornerstone of the school and the Founder's vision.

So much has happened since our last General Meeting. The Senior School has closed, the staff dispersed, the pupils moved to other settings – to Roedean and a variety of other schools across the county and beyond; the Main School site has been sold for £10 million to the hospital for its administrative department and several old girls of the school with specific medical expertise have returned to their alma mater and are selecting their offices – in very familiar surroundings! Our boarding houses (other than Babington and Hilary – both previously closed and sold) will now be used as extremely comfortable accommodation for medical students. An extra £5 million is being spent on refurbishing the interior of the main building – and no doubt we won't like what we see when we eventually get invited in, but it is exciting to note that we will be welcomed once the work is completed.

Duncan Selbie, the Chief Executive of the Hospital, has assured me that he wishes to continue to call the main building St Mary's Hall and that he would like to display school photographs and portraits in the building to retain and celebrate its unique history. He will be happy for us to have a look round at our next reunion. Date for all your diaries!!!

Over the past two years, St Mary's Hall pupils who moved up to Roedean have been magnificently supported by Olive Ridge, who was appointed Transition Manager. Today it is appropriate that we celebrate Olive's recent and richly-deserved retirement after the tremendous challenges of the past two years. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Olive!

I am thrilled that she has agreed to join the Committee of SMHA (and indeed to take the Chair) to help us keep in contact with younger members.

Other members of the committee have been extremely busy too. I am so grateful to Penny Harrison for masterminding our website and for keeping the news up to date. So many people have enjoyed visiting the website, reading the newsletters and making contributions of articles and photographs. I do encourage all of you to visit it if you haven't already done so. Penny and I are also on Facebook (a mixed blessing!) and I have been contacted by several pupils, staff and parents via this networking site. Alice Rawdon-Mogg who has also joined the Committee is spearheading our Social Media endeavours, which will be a great help.

Sue Carnochan, our Archivist, is still employed on a very part time basis at Roedean. She has some of our archives carefully catalogued and stored in the Roedean Reference Library. Other archives are stored in her loft and my spare bedroom, awaiting a permanent home! In Sue's absence, she kindly sent a summary of the work and research she has undertaken over the past year and the enquiries she has received. This had been uploaded to the website. Sue has had a double hip replacement recently and I don't know

what we would have done without the stalwart help of Jo Stubbs who volunteered to help with the Archives while Sue was recovering. Jo has the added credentials of being an alumna of the school as well as being an ex-member of staff! Thank you so much for your support, Jo.

What we did not anticipate was that our wonderful new Junior School would close only two years after the merger. This was a terrible shock and disappointment to all concerned. The site was put up for sale to the highest bidder and there has been a buyer who (as at the time of the General Meeting) has not yet been announced.

As for the Chapel – here I have better news! I have been chairing a strategy committee with Margaret Ellis and Fr Andrew, as well as our Chairman of Governors, Andrew Russell and Helen Farquharson our Appeal Director, with the aim of having St Mark's Chapel returned to the parish. The Charity Commission has now approved this move and the proposed transfer is now in the hands of the solicitors. We expect completion in a matter of weeks rather than months – so it is our hope and prayer that our next meeting will be held in our own chapel and the SMHA will have a home on the school campus – and Margaret can ring the bells to her heart's content! It is a very exciting prospect.

With the transfer will come the remainder of the SMH appeal fund. Many of our membership had donated to the Appeal, so I know you will be relieved that the money will be returned to us. However, the £70,000 remaining in the fund will be insufficient for the completion of the work and we have been preparing applications for the Big Lottery fund and other sources of funding. Some of you will remember the wonderful Yamaha piano which was bought for the chapel and which really enhanced our school music. On the merger, I suggested to Huw May in the Junior School that he might like to make use of it until such time as were clearer on the future of the Chapel. He agreed and has stored it in the Junior School since the Senior School closed. Now the Junior School itself is closing, so we have moved the piano to St George's, as we cannot put it into St Mark's until the building work is completed or we would risk damaging it. SMHA agreed to support the cost this via the Committee, with certain conditions.

One last rather frivolous achievement is that we have asked Roger French at the Brighton and Hove Bus Company to name a number 7 or number 1 bus, which travel past the school – 'Henry Venn Elliott' – and he has agreed! There is a waiting list, but we are on it. The bus stop will continue to be called St Mary's Hall.

The Committee is investigating getting Brighton Blue Plaques for the school for both Henry Venn Elliott, our founder, but also, at Laura Bristol's suggestion, for Charlotte Venn Elliott who wrote "Just as I am" in a summerhouse in the school grounds.

Much has happened in 2 years but SMH and all it stood for is not forgotten. Staff and pupils continue to meet and enjoy each other's company in all sorts of informal meetings including 'The Grumpy Old Men' of the staff room and the National Trust ladies who enjoy a walk and a cream tea once a month! I am greatly encouraged that the Association continues to thrive in spite of challenges and on behalf of all of us, I thank the committee especially and Penny in particular for arranging this meeting and for helping us all to plan for the Association's future.

Sue Meek

Hon. Life President & Headmistress of St Mary's Hall (1997-2009)

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!

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

NEWS OF FORMER HEADMISTRESSES (SMHA Hon Vice Presidents)

**MISS N. OLWEN DAVIES 1965 – 1973,
MRS. CLARE FEAVER 1981 - 1988,
MRS. TERESA BROADBENT 1988 – 1991,
MRS. PAMELA JAMES 1991 – 1997.**

Olwen has been in touch throughout the year. She is a source of support and strength to the Committee. She continues to enjoy the company of her nieces, nephews and their families and her beautiful garden. At the end of May she went to the memorial service for Jan Bowes in Winchester Cathedral. Olwen writes "It was a fine service with the St. Swithun's School choir providing some of the music which brought back many happy memories for me. I was really delighted to meet Rachel Beckley again - bless her, she had come all the way from Northern Ireland." Olwen is always pleased to hear any news of "my" generation of old girls. She tried to answer any letters or e-mails she gets, subject to the usual technological hiccups. She still drives locally - but write "it is just so tedious not to have the energy of the past. For instance, I much enjoy my membership of the Jane Austen Society which has many activities in the summer months and I am looking forward to enjoying those that are in the area" Finally, she sent her best wishes for the General Meeting and to all former colleagues and students.

Clare says that her only news is that she doesn't have any news (!) but is still keeping very busy. She is happy to catch up with former pupils and colleagues, but needs advance warning. Hon Ed will put anyone in touch if they would like to see Clare or telephone her.

Pamela is still living in Brighton, and continues to be busy with St Paul's church in West Street. She has now stepped down from being Church Warden, but remains a deputy. St Paul's is still not properly open yet since the fire in the church just before Christmas; there was a lot of smoke damage. Pamela says she enjoys the quirky nature of Brighton. For example, some anonymous person knitted a tea-cozy type covering for the local bus stop (we assume for the cold weather?!), and everyone who walked by had a little smile! On another occasion she was sitting down somewhere and noticed a pram whizzing by at great speed, as it was being pushed by someone on roller skates. Pamela says there are always things to smile at when living in Brighton! She met up with Clare Feaver for lunch early in June and both send their very best wishes to all readers.

Witches' Brew

This poem was published originally in a Newsletter in the 70s

<p>When shall we three meet again In peace & quietness without pain? When the ghastly term is done When the packing's checked and won When the noisy brats have gone Then shall we rejoice with song</p> <p>All the rooms will tidy be No more searching for the key No more sounding of the knell At the seven a.m. with its ringing bell No more girls to drag from beds With sheets pulled off their lazy heads</p> <p>No more cloaks with hems to mend No more girls who're sick to have to tend No more talking after lights No more gaping holes in tights No more long & straggly hair No more cries of 'It's unfair'.</p> <p>No more girls to hurry along To get to breakfast by the gong No more small helpings for fussy Trans No more plastic bags with hidden cans No more quarrelling among the Firsts No more IV's eating fit to burst</p> <p>No more II's in the library chatting No more III's in Room G for Latin No more V's to the laundrette loaded Nor cryptic notes to be decoded No more VI's to drag from the phone No more beakers straying from home</p> <p>No more fruit salad at any meal No more water too cold to feel No more baths to overflow No more name tapes to have to sew No more mittens of varied hue Untidy drawers to have to view</p>	<p>No more shoes with heels too high No more records at full High Fi No more forms handed in late No more children for whom to wait</p> <p>No more visits to Brighton C Oh how peaceful that will be</p> <p>Now let us weave our magic charm That none of us will come to harm Round about the cauldron go In the depths now let us throw</p> <p>Mice that like the greedy forms And wander nightly in their dorms Bars of chocolate from pillows taken And all the bits from breakfast bacon Sticky sweets from dressing gown pockets Twisted rings and fancy locketts</p> <p>All the bits left on study floor These we'll add just more and more Bits of soup left in the sink Let us add into our drink Bottle dregs from the sixth form studies See how this our mixture muddies Confiscations left on the table Because they do not bear a label</p> <p>All the torches, crisps and eats Confiscated from midnight feasts Double, double, toil and trouble; fire burn and fruit cup bubble Now before you leave this place; happy children take a taste Brink your fill of our witches' brew Mixed for you by your servants true.</p>
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Susan (Roller) Harris (1975-82) generously shared this which was read by Miss Payne, Mrs Drew and Mrs Leslie.

We think it was at a boarder's party in the late 1970's.

Thanks so much to Susan for the poem.

Susan also sent these snatches from an "SMH Song" – possibly composed by **Jackie Jantuah/Heather Gosden**. Can anyone fill in the gaps?

We entered into Prep Form
Naïve and unaware
Of the things that were to follow
The pains we had to bear

Miss Plowman "How we loved her"
And all the others too
Despite the things they did to us
When we locked them in the loo

(First Year?)

Second and Third Year followed
And Latin with it too
So please to use the butter knife
Or Miss Payne will be at you

Mr Crowther in the dark room
A sight to behold
They say they're doing Physics
But little do they know

Fifth Form Da na na na
What secrets did it hold?
???
???

And now we've reached the Sixth Form
???

Things weren't that bad after all
In our younger days

So this is the story
Of the girls school by the sea
And you've been asked as you go out
To donate us 5p

Hon Ed was reminded of this chorus to a song which she,
Susan Corringham) Medley and Hattie Evershed composed for a
basement Hilary House party in ?1971...to the tune "John Peel".

**Oh the sound of the bell woke us from our beds,
And the cry of Miss Payne from above our heads,
Saying "wake up girls and get out of your beds,
And get dressed for the rest of the morning"**

Does anyone else recall any of the verses?

And speaking of St Hilary – if you can, do check this website out...
<http://www.sussexsquare.com/> If only walls could speak!

Obituaries

Jane (Harvey) Porter 1956-1962

Jane passed away suddenly in September 2010, in Queensland, Australia where she lived. Her husband, Richard, contacted us in December to let us know, but without any details.

Mrs E Olive Leslie, Headmistress from **1973-1981**, died peacefully at home on Saturday 18th December 2010. A memorial service was held on 7th January 2011 in Deddington. Anyone wishing to make a donation to RNIB in her name may do so c/o Humphris, 32 Albert Street Banbury OX16 5DG

Toni (Webber) Russell, 1948 to 1952 sister of Stephanie (also an Old Girl) died suddenly but peacefully at home on Monday 6th December 2010. She was married to Rodney for 47 years and was mother to Charlotte, Tom and Patrick.

Elisabeth 'Liza' Beresford, MBE (6 August 1926 – 24 December 2010) was a British author of children's books, best known for creating the Wombles. Born on 6 August 1926 in Paris, **Liza was at SMH between 1932 and 1940**. After 18 months' service as a Wren, she started work as a ghostwriter specialising in writing speeches. She began training as a journalist and was soon writing radio, film and television columns, and working for the BBC as a radio reporter. Liza married BBC tennis commentator and broadcaster Max Robertson in 1949. The first Wombles book was published in 1968. Within 10 years, Beresford wrote more than 20 Wombles books. Liza and her family moved to the island of Alderney in the mid-1970s. She also wrote a variety of adventure and mystery books for children, many based on the island, where she lived in a 300-year-old cottage in St Anne's. Liza was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her services to children's literature in the 1998 New Year's Honours List.

She died on 24 December 2010 in the Mignot Memorial Hospital on Alderney.

Barbara Margery Rivaz (Hunt) Millbourn, SMH 1929-1936, died on Saturday 19th March at the age of 93. Barbara had stayed with Sue Meek for the Millennium Reunion and Sue wrote that "we immediately hit it off. She was a most supportive and warm friend of SMH - and me - and she wrote regularly until her final illness when she became too weak to write; even then she would telephone to check I was all right. Barbara couldn't make later reunions but her daughter Diana would sometimes drive Barbara down to have tea with me when Barbara felt strong enough. I shall miss her and am grateful for having found such a dear friend through the SMHA. I was unable to make the funeral, but I have sent a donation towards a new wheel chair for her nursing home and a copy of the SMHA prayer to Diana."

Olwen Davies wrote to us in April with the sad news that **Jan Bowes** had died peacefully in her sleep on 31st March 2011. Many of you will remember Jan from the early 1970s both for her work as Deputy Housemistress at Hilary House and Housemistress of Elliott House and also in the main school where she taught Games and Home Economics. She had been unwell for some time.

Several Old Girls wrote with messages about Jan but perhaps most representative of them is this fond tribute from **Kate Lord**:

"I remember Miss Bowes very well. She was Head of Elliott for at least 2 years when I was in the U5 and Lower sixth. She appointed me Head of House the year she left so I served with her for her last term. She was also a breath of fresh air in Home Economics. I still think of her every time I pin my hems at right angles and have never tacked anything since meeting her (sorry Miss Forbes). Her introduction of spinning, weaving and generally more 'crafty' things was very welcome and she was hugely popular. I must admit I have blanked the PE connection but then I hated all that jolly running about in the cold and rain!" *(Hon. Ed: I remember the games connection VERY clearly but for exactly the same reasons as Kate's – because I hated it so much!)*

Poetry is a recurrent theme of this Newsletter. Cynthia (Palmer) Fabian sent these verses which she does not think any former pupil has seen. They were written by Cynthia, with Margaret Payne, in honour of Mrs Leslie on the occasion of her retirement. As Cynthia writes, unfortunately the last line is no longer true, but she will still live on in our memories.

A Farewell to Mrs. Leslie

At SMH dear Mrs. L
Alas we have to say farewell,
But we have not your ready wit
To make the apt and friendly quip.

We don't possess your Irish charm
And cannot match your eloquence, Ma'am.
So we're reduced to this poor ode
Which may not be quite 'a la mode',

But nevertheless let it provide
Our humble offering this summertime.

Your reign here long will be remembered
Through Xmas, Springs and new
Septembers.
The place will never be the same
Tho' SMH still will be its name.

No more we'll walk in fear of our lives
In case we split infinitives.
Nor have to think in great confusion
Of correct use of preposition.

We'll miss the literary allusions
You scatter round in great profusion,
And the regal grace and favour
Which you spread for us to savour.

At every social gathering
We've been impressed by what we've seen.

As concrete records of your reign
The Vith. form centre, Venn by name,
The pool, a flourishing concern,

And many a pupil in her turn
Who's gained from you such good
advice
To profit from in later life.

But above all we needs must mention
Qualities that defy contention

Both staff and girls will all bear
witness
To acts of sympathetic kindness.

You always had a ready ear
Whenever we needed a word of cheer.

To you all comers were the same
Whatever position, whatever the
name.
For this we thank you once again
And wish to make our feelings plain.

You've been our head, our friend as
well,
And now we have to say farewell.

But do not think you've got away,
We tend to keep our friends away.
So finally we wish to you
An 'Au revoir' and not 'Adieu'

NEWS*NEWS*NEWS OF FORMER STAFF AND PUPILS

It was a delight for me (*writes the Hon Ed*) to hear from **Laura Bristol** - remembered fondly by many readers of this Newsletter. **Cynthia (Fabian) Palmer** contacted me in September to say that Laura had not received her Newsletter(s) which omission I immediately addressed, thanks to one of the "Newsletter Elves", and I wrote to apologise and to commiserate with her over a shoulder injury sustained when exercising her dog last January (2010). Laura replied to tell me how pleased she is that SMHA is keeping the spirit of the school alive and that she sees some Old Girls and hears from more from time to time. She continued:

"**Henrietta Gray** comes to Harting to visit her mother, whom I have known since 1941 when I used to take my younger sister to play with her.

Katherine White lives in the next village and I meet her regularly at church. **Susan Judd** (a former head girl) lives in Petersfield and I see her now and then. She is now a priest at Portsmouth Cathedral. **Kathryn (Campion) Minchin** lives locally and I occasionally see her at Deanery gatherings.

I plod on and am never short of a long list of jobs...When I retired the girls gave me some money to buy a dog, so I found one at Chichester Dog Rescue and gave them the money. Lassie, half collie, had been found on Hayling Island and was very pleased to have a home. She lasted 16 1/2 years. I now have Blue, also a rescue dog and half collie. I think the other half could be Whippet in which case she could be a lurcher. I call her my Personal Trainer. She gets me out regularly. As you know, in January she pulled hard to get at a dog in a car and bulled me over, dislocating my shoulder, The arm was pushed back a few hours later but was in a sling for a fortnight which made life rather complicated. My best piece of equipment proved to be a proper shopping basket in which I could carry several things round at once. I can now move my arm freely again but it hasn't the power it used to have, though this may be old age! Three fingers on my right hand don't work very well which is supposed to be RSI caused by using a walking stick with the dog for over 20 years - stomp, stomp, stomp!"

(Hon Ed) I will happily put any readers in touch with Laura who definitely came to life for me through the pages of her letter, précised above!

Subsequent to this it was marvellous to SEE Laura at the General Meeting. She had driven across to join us for even this brief period. We were all so pleased. See page 17 for a photo taken at the Meeting.

Following on from the contact with **Laura Bristol** (see above) the Hon Ed was delighted to hear from **Katherine White**. Katherine wrote that she is currently membership administrator for the European Council of International Schools, in Petersfield, near her home which she shares with her Mum. Sadly her father died some 20 years ago but Mum still enjoys life although she is not in good health. Katherine enjoys seeing her brother and his wife and her niece and nephew and their families and loves her gardening – not only for herself but for two local couples who she helps out at weekends and another couple whose garden she tends every winter while they are in Malta.

Penny (Buck) Gardiner write: "I was interested to read of Dr Benyon in the Interim Newsletter. As a thirteen year old I was small and busy person, and quite frequently fell over my own feet; not much different at sixty plus really. My busy-ness got the better of me on the netball court one day which led to skinned knees, a visit to the San, plenty of sunshine yellow (iodine), and because he was there that particular day, an interview with the school doctor Dr Benyon.

The doctor asked me to undress to my knickers (two pairs remember, outers and inners, navy blue outers to be changed once a week, white inners to be changed every two days, and all sent to the laundry; ladies in the making didn't wash their own undies). The doctor asked me to stand on one leg and then the other to test my balance, pinged my knicker elastics, muttered - and wrote - "underdeveloped", and I was dismissed as fit. It was years before I understood what he meant!

More recently my mother **Sheila (Humphrys) Allison**, another small and busy person (I wonder where I got it from) fell top to bottom of the stairs at her home in Storrington, West Sussex. It has taken some months, hospital stays and determination to mend the resulting damage but she is now once again in full fettle (Aug 2010). Sheila left SMH before the war when keeping in touch meant handwritten letters, envelopes and postage stamps, but seventy years on she has fully embraced the digital age and uses email, Facebook, Flickr and texting to keep her up to date with the lives of her children (3), grandchildren (7) and great-grandchildren (2)."

Anne (Bearne) Bell wrote last September: "From your great database I have made contact with **Susanne (Nichols) Rea**. We were in the same form and also dormitory at Babington House! She was in New Zealand when I first came here in 1966 and we met up in Wellington where she was living then. Later I bought her lovely English pram for my first baby (now 43 years and 6'2"). However to get to the point we are both going to be in London on 20th November this year and we are meeting for lunch."

*Ed: Anne asked for help getting in touch with **Celia (Kim Kimmins) Cook** and other friends and I contacted all those I could find on the database and passed on the most recent contact details I had for them. Anne also arranged to pass me her school photo which has been loaded on to the website (where there are many lovely photos for us all to enjoy!) Kim Cook DID make contact and was happily also able to meet up with Susanne and Anne! Sadly all our efforts failed in tracking down **Jenny (Roberts) Hamer**, which was very disappointing and we would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows where she is now.*



Anne (Bearne) Bell and
Celia (Kim Kimmins) Cook



Carol (Pink) O'Connor

Kate (Hill) McHugh also sent her 1972 and 1975 photos to upload and gave us her news. "After a degree in English from St Andrews I drifted into IT I married Geoff McHugh and we have run our own consultancy in West London for the last 15 years. We have two children, Laura (in her second year at university) and Alex, in Vith form. I am in touch with **Jacquie (Giles) Wood** and, through Jacquie, with **Iona Wilson**.

Kathy Howard recently met up with **Jacquie Giles and Julian Hornsby**. (see below).

Sadly Rev Hornsby is very unwell.
Our thoughts and prayers are with him
and with his family



Laura Bristol, June 2011

Celia (Kim Kimmins) Cook (see also above) wrote that she has recently had emails from the **Read-Jahn** sisters **Pam** (Mrs Bailey in Australia) and **Shirley** (in California). (see also below). Kim wrote, apropos her meeting with Susanne Rea "Interestingly, a new movie on the story of the 1958 Munich air disaster, which killed 8 Manchester United players, has just been announced. It was Susanne who first told me about the crash! They say you always remember where you were when a major event or tragedy was announced (John Kennedy assassination, the release of Mandela, etc). In this case, it was in Babington, with Susanne coming downstairs sobbing, having just heard news of the air crash on her portable radio. I think she was a Man U fan at the time. **Julie Craig** (Mrs Cinque) was a fan of Peterborough United, who were nicknamed The Posh. When they got promoted in the Football League she broke all uniform rules and wore everything in their colours - purple I think! Amazing the things we remember!"

Kim ended "If you have any queries about old girls from my era (1954-1960), or thereabouts, do contact me, as I have a long list of names who've either been in direct contact with me in recent years, or who are contacts of contacts." Please do either contact Kim direct (through her contact details on the database) or email secretary@smhassociation.org.uk and your query will be passed on.

We also had news at Christmas from **Pam (Read-Jahn) Bailey**, who was in the Upper 5th in 1959. Pam writes that she did a lot of travelling in her youth, including a year in Barcelona, and three summers in Greece (where her sister Shirley and she are off to in June for the launch of a book containing photos and bits of diaries, etc. from their days of living in "the hippie Shangri-la in Crete")

She hitch-hiked from London to Australia twice, the second time with an Australian she met and married in London. David was a photographer, but sadly died in '03.

Pam hears also from three girls mentioned elsewhere in this letter, **Anne Bearne**, **Susanne Nicholls** and **Kim Cook**. Pam and **Susanne** between them updated us that a contemporary of theirs, **Rosemary Nolda**, sadly died recently. Another contemporary, **Carol Pink** still lives with her husband Patrick, whom she met and married shortly after leaving school, in Worthing. (see photo of Carol, above)

Pam also wrote "Rowan, Shirley and I have been having adventures together ever since leaving school, pretty much, apart from the times we were housebound having children. For my 60th birthday we walked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru. For my 65th we did the Atacama Desert in Chile, Bolivia, and Easter Island."

Pam is, of course, in constant touch with her sister **Shirley (Read-Jahn)**, (see right) who now lives in San Francisco. Shirley was two years behind Pam at SMH. They are in contact with **Rowan Cawkell** from Pam's year. Rowan was, Pam writes, expelled at some stage and went on to finish her schooling at Lillesden. Apparently she hurled an ink well at Connie, the headmistress! Rowan has a nice house near Granada, Spain, and an apartment on the coast which she rents out. She is travelling the world with a friend, in a huge, state of the art truck.



Shirley wrote: "As Pam said, this June she and I are returning to the Caves of Matala for a reunion of all the "hippies" who lived there in the sixties. I was there in 1967 so it will be 42 years since we've all seen each other.

After SMH I went to the Regent Street Polytechnic (1961-1963) in London studying modern languages. Various secretarial jobs followed, including one working for the 1st Secretary of the Peruvian Embassy in London.

Then off to Spain as a governess for the Director of Spanish Renault cars. I also was an interpreter in Madrid and Barcelona for the International Federation of Roller Skating which was at that time trying to get roller skating into the Olympics. I also worked for the Iberian Company of Clothes Labels while in Barcelona (don't ask!).

Then I had a stint of living in Greece, after our "hippy" days traveling in Europe with Pam. I married an American naval intelligence officer whom Pam and I had met while hitchhiking in Greece, and lived in Athens for a couple of years. With him I then lived in 9 of the United States, including a stint going to different colleges pursuing my degree (including Columbia University in New York City) and always working in various secretarial and paralegal positions at the same time. Twelve years later I divorced him and settled in San Francisco. I did get my BA degree after 19 years of studies (moving around so much meant repeating quite a lot of courses). I am proud to say I believe I am the only woman in our Read-Jahn family who got a degree, and even prouder to report that I got it Summa cum Laude!

Eventually I married another American, in San Francisco, with whom I had my son, now age 26. His father and I, along with a sound-and-light man, founded the San Francisco Jazz Festival in 1983. We also ran another business at the same time on the side, specializing in public relations for all kinds of circus, including the Moscow Circus and Cirque du Soleil, and various theatre and music groups. I remain on the Board of Trustees for SFJAZZ. Our son works for JetBlue Airways, which makes it easier for me to travel around!

I then went to the University of California in Berkeley and studied landscape architecture for domestic gardens. I now have my own business called The Queen's Garden, Gardens with an English Accent www.thequeensgarden.net and live in the East Bay, across the Bay from San Francisco, having sold my San Francisco home to marry my third husband. That marriage lasted five-and-a-half years and I am almost divorced from him now.

Early on in my time here in the United States I attended a college in Massachusetts. Thick snow was on the ground. I had to take a "sports" course and had no intention of playing anything outside...so I took Oriental Dance, and became an instant convert. For the past 30 years or so I have belly danced, belonging to various troupes and performing in many fun shows. I am currently with a troupe in El Cerrito, California, and we perform regularly for charity and in nightclubs. At age 66, I'd say that's not too bad!

There's a good possibility I'll be moving to Australia next.

When Pam, Rowan and I went back to the SMH reunion (in 1999?) to my great regret there was nobody else from my form there. I would love to know what happened to **Janina (Nina) Benoit** and to **Kuabrut (Nong) Sivadith**. Any idea? There was a rumour that **Shirley Foulsham** had died but hopefully it was a wrong rumour?"

The flooding in Queensland over the winter months (summer in Australia of course) prompted much contact with Susanne and we copied this to the Australian Old Girls which has meant renewed contacts and messages between them. This evidences a belief I have long held (writes Ed.) that out of even very bad things come small good ones!

Rima (Shuman) Warrell writes that she gave birth to her first child in February; a little girl named Kyra.

Nadia Behdad marries on 6th August this year and will become Mrs Bunker. She writes that she is still trying to become accustomed to the idea.

Another welcome return to the SMHA fold is **Olivia (Nedeham Browne) Gordon**. Olivia was at Babington / Elliott and writes I still keep in touch with **Helen (Cook) Miners** her sisters **Rowena** and **Margaret** and **Beatrice (Hulanicki) Porter** and recently found this photo of us all at the beach in Brighton. We spent a week together in France last summer (also pictured below) and are still just about recognisable from those carefree days! We are now grandmothers and enjoy reminiscing about our teenage years when we get together.



Gaynor (Jupe) Mckinnon was one of the girls who we found through Friends Reunited. She wrote; "I was at SMH between 1976-82 (class mate of Susan (Harris) Roller. I am married to Stuart, who is an airline pilot. I used to be an airline pilot myself but am now a full-time mum looking for part time journalist work. We have one daughter Amy who is 7.

Renee Edwards has moved back to London from Oxford, and is making a Documentary Feature Film about the New Orleans musicians. She has an App released for children called Magic Wanda for iPad and iPhone. Her sister **Lise (Edwards-Warrener)** and her husband Jasper have a lovely son, Max who is 6 years old.

Annabel (Burns) Marx who left in 1973 got in touch recently with the sad news that her husband had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. She told us that soon after leaving school she went to live in Israel for two years. After she returned to the UK she found work with a magazine publisher with a stable of publications. I worked on the advertising side for the African titles. She used to travel a great deal with the company and on a trip to Tanzania in 1989, met up with Jim, her future husband. Having taken the decision to move to South Africa, where Jim was based, the company suggested she set up an office in SA. By this time (1990), South Africa had begun to have decent relations with the rest of Africa and so the SA business took off quite well. After first eight years in Johannesburg they moved down to the Eastern Cape, where they spent the next twelve years. At the beginning of 2010 they moved to Somerset West (close to Cape Town). The plan was to spend half our time in the UK and half in SA, however with the news of Jim's condition, this is an unlikely scenario. Annabel is still working for the same company although she is semi retired.

School wise, she has maintained contact with **Sheila Rivett, Helen Parry and Fiona Marshall**. Like so many others, Annabel writes that she was saddened to hear the news of the closure of SMH A friend who works for the NHS recently went to view the building to help decide on the office layout. Annabel told her to watch out for all the ghosts of us girls rushing downstairs for lunch and upstairs to the labs for biology and physics etc, as well as visiting Miss Davies' office for a telling off!

Wonderful to see that **Miss Davies, Miss Fabian** and **Miss Bristol** are on the database, Annabel continued, "Please send them my very best wishes when you contact them again. I always wanted to be "Teacher's Pet" so tell them I owe them an apple."

Lauren [Hoskins] Lloyd is back living in Cuckfield expecting her 3rd baby. **Selena [Hoskins] Sandeluss** is living in London expecting her first baby. **Lynn [Benjamin] Tulip** loves being a grandma[!]. Lynn has seen **Miranda [Edwards] Grace** and **Elizabeth [Hayllar] Jeffery** and was delighted when they entered the zumba challenge at the recent Lindfield Arts Festival she organised. **Veronica Walker** has also joined the 3 of them on cultural outings.

Maddy (Pickard) Orme wrote to say she was unable to make the general meeting, but sent my love and very best wishes to any who may remember her. She left SMH in 1976, - Hilary House. Maddy writes "I would absolutely love to hear any stories from those days, or receive any photographs. Email: maddy@markshall.demon.co.uk www.drawinganddontaskwhy.blogspot.com" She concludes "Thank you for all your time sorting out the site, newsletter, emails etc, Penny, - much appreciated, and lovely to be in touch and hear news."

Rosie Cox sent a long newsy email about the leavers of 1968" – many thanks Rosie!

First of all out little group:

Myself - **Rosie Cox (Elphick), Vanessa Stuart (Cusack), Jo Pannett (Seymour) Liz James (Tiptaft), Fenella Rouse, Christina Fowden (Smallwood) and Liz Watts (Stewart-Wallace)** all left SMH in the summer of 1968 and largely went our separate ways staying in touch here and there until about 10 years or so ago when we began to have the occasional reunion.

Last year was a big one for us as we achieved the big 60 and Jo and Mervyn also made it to 40 years married. So we attempted an overseas trip, last June, at the very generous invitation of Jo and Mervyn to their beautiful summer home, in Virollet, near Cognac. In the end only, Liz James, Vanessa and I made it but we had a fantastic time. This picture attached shows us at lunch in the nearby historic town of Saintes. We are, from left to right, Mervyn (husband of Jo) Liz James, Rosie Cox, Jo Pannett and Vanessa Stuart.



The picture on the right shows Liz, Vanessa, Jo and me raising a toast.

The last picture, on the right, was taken at Fenella Rouse's wonderful 60th birthday party, in September, in the grounds of her beautiful London home. Here we met up with Liz Watts and enjoyed fantastic hospitality. Here we are L to R, Fenella, Vanessa, Liz Watts, Rosie and Liz James. Angie Pascoe was also there - we hadn't seen her since we left SMH so that was a wonderful surprise.



We have been gone from SMH 42 years now and so tend not to spend too long talking about our school days. Our various lives since then are far more interesting. But we do wonder what became of those with whom we have lost contact. If anyone could put us in touch with **Stella Hughes** (who was our Head Girl) we would be so grateful.

My details are on the website and I would be delighted to hear from any and all who remember me. I have been volunteering with Victim Support, both in my local community and at the Central Criminal Court, for 25 years now and would be interested to know if any other old girls are similarly involved.

Lastly, Hon. Ed. was delighted to receive a letter from Margaret McCall who sent her apologies for the General Meeting – commenting “87 has kicked in”! She made contact with several contemporaries through the database, extracts of which we were able to post to her, and write “I have had news recently of Marigold Dancy, now Durancem who was at SMH 1932-1937. She lives in Indiana in the USA and is now in the unusual position of being a Great Great Grandmother! She had five daughters.

Her recently deceased husband was in the military, latterly in the Pentagon, and was buried with full military honours in Arlington Cemetery.

Her brother John was at one time Head of Lancing College and then at Marlborough. I believe his wife Angela was a governor of SMH at one time. They are in their 90s and living in Cornwall/ Elizabeth Phillips is in Tanzania and was so pleased that she had been “mentioned in dispatches”



We thought you might like to see this doll which belongs to Jo Stubbs' daughter. Olive Ridge took one look and commented "non uniform shoes"!!!

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To benefit fully from your membership of SMHA be sure to register with Penny and (Life Members) use your log-on to view the full website. It is updated regularly and contains many articles and items of interest.
www.smhassociation.org.uk

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.