

ST. MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN e-NEWSLETTER

Please note that this information is confidential to SMH Association members only and should not be passed to anyone else. If you have SMH friends who have not received this newsletter, ask them to contact smhaenquiries@gmail.com so that we can ensure that they are correctly registered, thereby keeping all members' data protected.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR TEAM

Dear Friends

We (five) are still very happily soldiering on but hoping that **you** might feel you could offer some assistance to the Team to 'manage' the work created by a membership fast approaching 1,000.

A recent innovation is our LinkedIn Group <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8689113> which we have set up for Old Girls in the business community who may wish to network in this way. Click on the link to be approved to the group – then 'get on with it'! Many thanks to **Caroline Hearne (Simmons)** for getting this off the ground and to **Bethane Harland** who is managing it for us all.

We made a certain amount of work for ourselves by inviting your views in the Survey earlier this year but we were really appreciative of the feedback and that so many of you took part. However you do not need to wait for a survey to make a suggestion about something you would like your Association to do. We can be contacted by email, FB or even through the website if you feel inclined and we welcome any and all messages.

Now, the news about this year's Carol Service. We hope to be blessed with better weather and therefore to make a real impression on our host Church, **St Mary's Kemptown, on 16th December 2018.**

The 20% of members who completed our survey commented more about the Carol Service than about anything else which was astonishing since only a small handful of Old Girls attended. We HOPE that the poor turnout was due at least in part to the appalling weather, over which we have no control, since we have put other arrangements in place to encourage more Girls to attend this year.

Nearer the time we will be inviting every Old Girl and former Staff Member who lives in the BN postcode, to remind them of the Service "on their doorstep" – **Awareness/distance** addressed!

Parking – we suggest that you connect with others attending so that you can car share / arrange to park at the Marina & share parking of only one car near the venue...or use public transport.



That leaves

'not feeling welcome' and 'the after-party'

Two Old Girls who attended commented that Father Andrew had not specifically welcomed SMH Old Girls in his opening address. Those of you who read the Survey report will know that he had intended to do so but a small crisis about the service put it out of his mind. He absolutely plans to welcome us this year – and we therefore hope enough of us will be there to make it worthwhile! We also told everyone there that following the nibbles/drinks at the Church Sian had arranged for another venue to 'go on to' – but no one wanted to, when she asked them, (although they then commented in the Survey that they would have liked to – which we did think was a bit strange!) She will be the link between St Mary's Church, our hosts, and Association members again this year so please make yourself known to her at the Church. She will be stationed at the entrance to the church, identifiable by her 'SMH coloured attire' (as she was in 2017) for those to whom her face is not already familiar through the newsletter/VCR. She will also be looking out for you after the service. Please do seek her out and say hello! Lastly, if you have access issues someone at the Church can assist and we will put you in touch. So, please do **COME – ALL YE FAITHFUL!**

Finally, a little note about 'names' in the newsletters. As far as possible I have used 'name now, name at school and years' for the first appearance in the newsletter, with 'just' name now for subsequent mentions, to save space!

Very best wishes

Penny Harrison, (Titheradge, 1969-73) Team Manager SMHA

smhaenquiries@gmail.com / 07946772620

on behalf of SMHA Management Team, all of whom are listed at the end of the Newsletter.



If you want to be in it (and you need to be in it to win it 😊) then please drop Lis Eastham a message on FB or email her: smha100club@gmail.com
Please join, and support the longevity of your Association.
Members pay £12 a year per entry into the 100 Club and each month 50% of the 'pot' is paid out in prizes.

The first prize pays out more than your original subscription!

Payment is by BACS and winnings are paid straight into your bank account. Lis will ask for those details and explain how to pay when you contact her.

Winners (since summer e-Newsletter):

August 2018	September 2018	October 2018
1 st Margaret Ellis £13.50	1 st Diana Markham £13.50	1 st Lis Eastham £13.50
2 nd Hilary Briegel-Jones £9	2 nd Christine Edmondson £9	2 nd Christine Edmondson £9

In 1949 SMH was still recovering from its "occupation" by Canadian troops (of which more in a moment) and F Keeling Scott "late Vicar of St Marks" contributed a poem to the 1949 newsletter referring to this. Exactly sixty years on the school itself closed for good, making the poem suddenly all too relevant once more. I was very moved by it and happy that the work of so many people has resulted in "glory retained"

ST MARY'S HALL

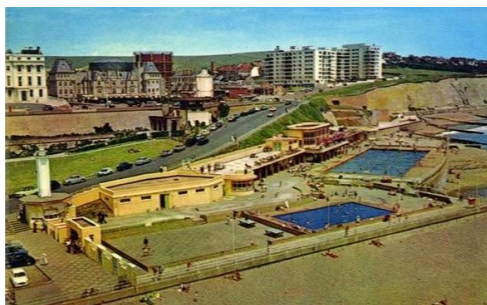
The life of a school, like the life of a soul,
Is spirit; in flesh; it can die and survive.
When pupils are scattered and buildings destroyed,
It still can recover, it yet can revive.
Its character lives in the lives it has trained.
Their love is not lost in the passing of time.
Unbroken by war, and its glory retained,
The life of this school is a record sublime.

I'd like to think that this item will please **Timothy Elliott** who almost invariably emails me to thank me for the Newsletters and mentioned how much he had enjoyed our acknowledgement of Miss Bristol's birthday. I was pleased to tell him how often "HVE" is mentioned and how his founding principles still play a part in our lives today.

NEWS

A little wander down memory lane with a photo and a newspaper clipping sent to us by **Heather Johnson (Heald 1948-57)** The photo was labelled, on the reverse, with the year (1986) and features **Anita Liddell (lost to us)**, **Jenny Booth (also lost)**, **Penny Wright (Strachan 1947-57)**, **Jill Radford (also lost)** and **Heather** on the back row; **Liz Males (Cockburn 1948-59)**, **Valerie Logue (Mileman 1954-59)**, **Pat Chapman (also lost)** and **Penny Peaty (Waddington 1954-57)** at the front. Sadly the Sussex Daily News, Wednesday 1 November, 1950, is 'tatty' but nevertheless a lovely memento of a very important day in our History – the laying of the Foundation Stone of Elliott House.





Memories of Black Rock

The 1960s image on the left contrasted with the Marina of today prompted memories aplenty!



We shared these in the VCR in May and heard from: **Mariam Verjee (1960-69)** who said "I learnt to swim there. It was cold but being a child it was also fun." Almost exactly the same phrase from **Juliet Rose (O'Hea 1961-67)** "Fun but freezing." **Patricia Blunt (staff 1988-96)** could not spot the diving board there (you have to zoom in) She remembered diving off it when she was a child. **Judith Barrington (1948-61)** "Loved swimming at the Black Rock pool. As you went in through the turnstile there was a huge thermometer on the wall showing water temp. Usually quite daunting. But we did lifesaving there- I got my bronze medal. Still have it in the bottom of some drawer!" **Susanne Rea (Nicholls 1956-61)** and **Carol Brace (Parker, 1958-64)** also gained their Bronze Medallions there. Not good memories, though for poor **Jenny Child (1972-81)** who reported she nearly drowned in Black Rock trying desperately to keep up with her classmates. As she said, a horrible memory.

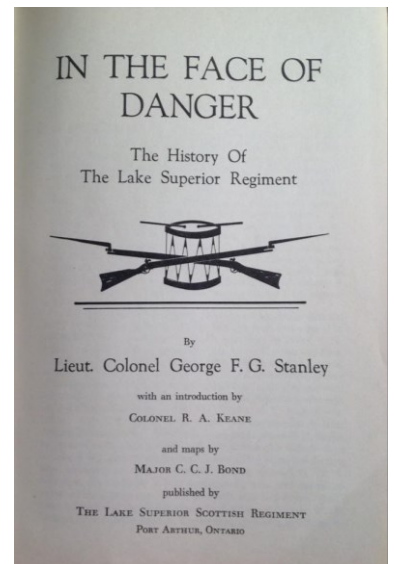
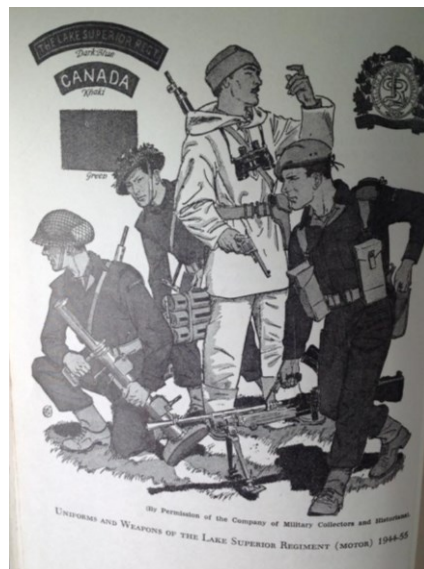
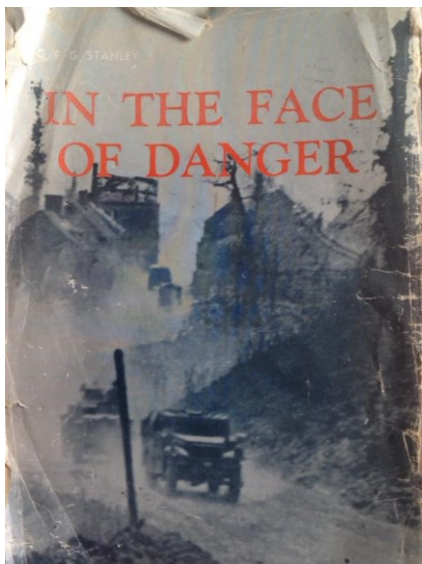
Heather Johnson added "I remember always having a tummy ache after swimming at Black Rock but I did enjoy swimming." **Judith Patten (1950-60)** commented that "It was f-r-e-e-z-i-n-g cold at the start of the summer term, and if we were in quarantine for any of the childhood things like mumps, measles etc. we had to swim in the sea instead (which was warmer), and were warned about the possibility of meeting flashers on the way to the sea (but not told that that was what they were, or indeed what they might be doing)" **Marguerite Oxley (Cook 1980-84)** proved that one does not have to be the same age to enjoy the same things in the VCR when she added that "It is before my time but I find the history fascinating. I had the luxury of the new indoor pool at the school and as a boarder remember sometimes swimming before school, lessons during school and then swimming after prep as well!" **Susan McDonagh** recalled that they had the inter-house swimming matches there in the summer. **Sarah Mylne (Boyd 1950-60)**: "I enjoyed swimming at Black Rock, even when it was freezing! I had extra swimming lessons after school on Fridays in the summer term, and was taught by Miss Dowling. I can recall that quite often my feet were totally numb and turned yellow and very wrinkly! Swimming off the beach was better - but the shingle was not nice to walk on!" **Anne Yeats (Royce – staff)** said that she "used to go there as a child with my mother and then Heloise came with us when she was born. I remember that the pool had its own small area of beach. Happy days!" **Olivia Gordon (Nedeham Browne 1950-55)** "Finally learnt to swim at Black Rock - remember it was absolutely freezing and put me off for life swimming in UK!" **Odette Ford (Terleski 1962-66)** recalled that it was "Lovely on a warm day, but on a cold day we shivered for hours afterwards!!!"

Liz England (Hodgson 1977-82) then took us in a different direction by asking "Did I dream it, or did we go there via a secret tunnel from the gardens in front of Hilary?" We were able to confirm that there was indeed a tunnel from the gardens which was famed for more than as an exit route for SMH! Wonder how many of you know this...?

<https://kte.org.uk/2018/02/22/the-link-to-lewis-carroll/>

Carolyn Jackson-Brown (Sycamore 1974-78) took us from Kemptown to Hove by saying "Black Rock - blue teeth chattering school swims - not missed at all. King Alfred's was okay though. I thought that became a bowling alley?" This led to comments from Heather Johnson and Penny Harrison on the history of King Alfred Leisure Centre with special reference to its Naval past and we turned at that point from the Navy to the Army...more specifically to the Canadian Army who as most readers know "occupied" SMH during WWII.

Kim Cook (Kimmins 1956-60) had been talking about standing outside Miss Conrady's study (where half the school appeared to be lined up as punishment!) and looking at the footprints 'dinting' the stairs. **Judith Barrington** observed that these had been made by the boots of the Canadian Troops and this prompted **Lis Eastham** to photograph the long-awaited extracts from a book her mother [**Ruth Ferguson (Powell 1948-50)**] had looked after



Lis has kindly photographed all the pages with information about the School from this book (which was presented to her father, then Chairman of Council in Cuckfield & Haywards Heath when the Regiment came visiting. The photos detail, besides the images shown here, information about their stay in Brighton, billeted at SMH*, a bombing raid on May 25th 1943, exercises at Pilt Down Lake and their later transfer to Worthing. Finally, they transferred to Norfolk but were back at Borde Hill Estate in Haywards Heath) in time for Christmas 1943 and then Possingworth Park (near Uckfield) before being deployed to France in July 1944.

(*The parade ground was the quad at Brighton College)

If readers would like the 'words' from the books they can be found on <https://www.smhassociation.org/history.php>. Our wartime history is now well recorded, with various 'histories' on our website, the lovely extracts from St Catherine's School, Bramley (also on the website and featured in a previous newsletter) but we could do no better than to round them off with these words from **Carol Brace** who told us that "Babington was used to house Canadian soldiers during the war and the basement still contained the gun racks. I was made to stand down there in the dark once as a punishment - pretty scary!"



I was delighted to have an email from new member **Diana Rawlinson (Sheppard 1963-69)** the very first day she reconnected with us! She wrote "Re the item on uniform - no mention of the 2 dozen white cotton handkerchiefs the boarders had to have and as for the hats - although I didn't use the end of term train up to London I know the leavers still threw them out of the train windows when they went over the Thames*. However one Sunday morning when we were getting ready for church we couldn't find our hats. Miss Payne, housemistress of Hilary, informed us that they had all been given to the orphanage next door. Why the orphans had to have them I don't know and as our parents had paid for them and were never asked about this I don't know why there wasn't an outcry about it! She continued: I was amazed to read that Miss Bristol was still going strong. My memory of her is the last day of my first term of her Latin lessons. She told me that she thought one term of Latin was enough for me, and it was certainly enough for her!"

*Those not in the Common Room have to wait another three months for the rest of this story...

Be sure to check out the Newsletters on our website – we recently added 1988 and 2004. I shared some snippets from these in the Common Room with photos of several of the 'class of 76' who don't currently network with us there – so if you want to see yourself as you looked back then, check them out! So many names I recognise in the 'news' pages, too, from all eras. You could lose yourself for hours on <https://www.smhassociation.org/newsletters.php> ! If you have a copy of 1965 please would you contact me???

Roedean St Mary's Hall Trust holds funds as a permanent endowment, which is invested on a total return basis to produce a return for the Trust's objects. In selecting beneficiaries Roedean (as trustee of the trust) may exercise the following preferences in the following order:- firstly, daughters or sons of clergy; secondly, daughters or sons of HM armed forces. Roedean has continued to increase the availability of bursaries and scholarships to further widen access. Details of the bursaries and scholarships offered by Roedean will be made available to beneficiaries in a variety of ways. The new awards are funded by both Roedean and Roedean St Mary's Hall Trust. In 2016 over £13 million was held in trust in the Roedean St Mary's Hall Trust account. In the same year 224 Girls received some kind of bursary or financial support. There were 13 fully funded bursaries. The ethos of a girls' school education continues and there are girls who are benefiting from such an education who would not otherwise be able to.

It can only hearten us to know that the torch of education for girls which burned brightly at St Mary's Hall from 1836 to 2009 continues to burn with the name of the school still associated with it.

Our own Team Member **Jan Johnson** tells us that before 1981 SMH Bursaries were solely for 'Clergy Daughters'. At this time, her Father retired from the Army and could no longer afford to keep her at SMH. Mrs Leslie went to the Governors and asked them to change the criteria for bursaries to include daughters of the Armed Forces. "My time at SMH (she wrote) from then on was about 90% funded. Mrs Leslie also suggested that I might want to raise my sights a bit and think about going to University. I was not only the first daughter of a member of the Armed Forces to benefit from an SMH bursary, I was the first member of my family ever to go to University (where I met my husband). My daughter is currently applying to St Andrews and won't even consider any other University because she wants to attend the same establishment that both her parents did. So whilst I absolutely appreciate how valuable those 13 fully funded bursaries are to the pupils concerned, I also know that they have the potential to change lives, not just in one generation but in those that come afterwards."

The preceding information came to our attention thanks to correspondence between **Jane Watson (Amherst-Clark 1963-71)** and **Jackie Riley (Rogers 1978-81)** concerning the sale of SMH Trophies.

The sale raised over £1000 net profit for SMHA and we're all most grateful to those who purchased cups, shields and so forth – some because they had their names on, others because they or their families had donated the original trophy. It is lovely to think that good homes have been found for items which languished in boxes gradually turning into 'rubbish'. One such story is the St Mary's Hall Guild Netball Cup.

The Trophy was first awarded in 1950 and shows the names of the Guilds, which were quite separate from "Houses" (hence the name of the Cup!) [see extract from 1949 Newsletter, below]. It seems the Guilds ceased at some point with House names being added to the Cup. Jackie Riley thought that it would be nice to leave a memento of St Mary's Hall at Roedean when her younger daughter left the school this summer. She was in the youngest group of girls who had also attended SMH, and was very grateful for the opportunity to take advantage of the bursary that was offered. The cup is now held in the sports cabinet at Roedean.



Miss Robinson next mentioned the four Guilds, named after and associated with the patron saints, which included boarder and day girls, and were quite separate from the three Houses. She spoke of the enormous amount of help given by Miss Ghey and Miss Galton in the furnishing of the School, and how immensely grateful she was. The inner garden was now restored from desolation to its old pattern; there was aubretia all over the rockery and wallflowers in the beds, and the tank was a lily pool. She ended her charming word picture by saying: "This is all told to tempt you. Thank you for your support, and for listening, and when you wake in the early morning, think of the old thrush, will you?"

The last lines of this extract are somewhat ironic since our fledgling project to help restore the front gardens is now on hold. The Trust is not in a position to give us access due to the poor state of the infrastructure. However they plan to address this (*I think partly due to having looked at it following our offer*) and hopefully they will then be able to start work on the gardens themselves. We have left our offer to help on the table and are most grateful to the ten OGs who promised assistance.

NEW HOMES!

Many readers will recall the sale of furniture in 2015. With nowhere safe to store items, and no possibility of having a home for them all together again, the then committee took the sensible decision of selling off Miss Bristol's desk, the two Piccadilly benches, the Grandfather clock and the desk from the Head's office to members who would give them permanent homes. We recently contacted those who now own these pieces of SMH history and are delighted to have permission to bring you some photos.

A close-up of a clock face with a smiling face. The clock has a silver-colored outer ring with Roman numerals and a gold-colored inner circle. The face has two eyes and a smiling mouth. A small clock is visible inside the main clock face.

A tall, dark wood grandfather clock stands in a hallway next to a dark wooden door with brass handles. A small, colorful, patterned object lies on the floor near the door.

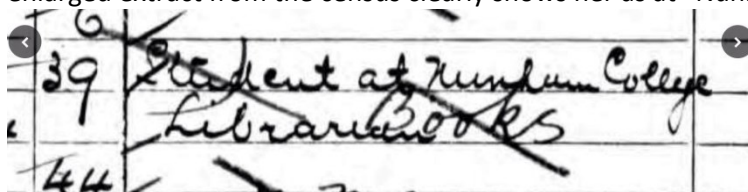


In loving and grateful memory of
MARY ELIZABETH FORREST
 Second Mistress of
ST. MARY'S HALL
 1902 - 1986
 This Table and these Chairs
 were given to the School by
 her pupils and friends

A Tournament, in which both mistresses and girls took part, was played on July 8th, the winners being Miss Forrest and Enid Sealy.

[illegible]

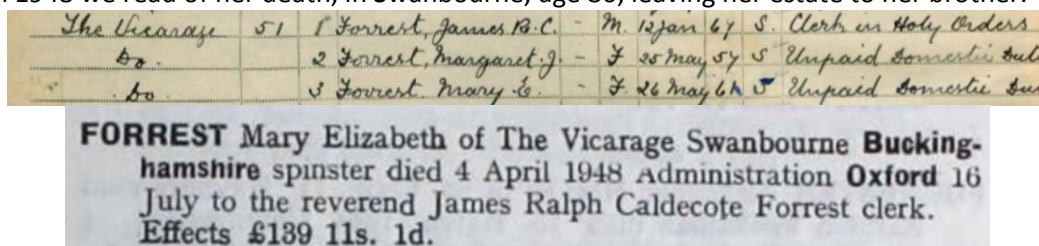
The innocent comment I made, to Lis, wondering whether ‘we’ knew more about Mary Elizabeth Forrest led to one of those delightful Facebook discussions which so enrich the life of those, like me, who ‘don’t get out much’. We were frustrated for ages by her ‘occupation’ in 1901. At that time she was in North Evington near Leicester and this enlarged extract from the census clearly shows her as at “Nunham” College.



6

Defeated, I posted the image on my own timeline and specifically ‘tagged’ Kim Cook who is not only interested in social history and researches into genealogy but is another ‘bulldog’ and I woke up the next morning to this: *“My first instinct was that this refers to Newnham College, Cambridge, and was written by an enumerator who had never heard of Newnham and had no idea how to spell it. Although most, if not all, students at Newnham would have been residential, Mary could well have been with her family on 31 March 1901 (census day), as it would have been during the Easter holidays. Easter that year was on 7 April.”* I had repeatedly been redirected by Google to Newnham, the previous afternoon, and just kept telling it “I know how to spell Newnham” without even considering that the 1901 census enumerator didn’t ☺. With “Newnham” as the clue Lis swiftly established Mary’s ‘credentials’ via the Cambridge University Alumni website. From there she went on to be Assistant Mistress at Normal College, Bangor for just two years, till 1919. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangor_Normal_College gives more information on the College)

Lis rushed on with MEF’s life finding that at some time after ‘academic life, she moved to live with her brother James and siblings. In 1939 they were in Winslow, Buckinghamshire (the three women undertaking “Unpaid Domestic Duties”) and in 1948 we read of her death, in Swanbourne, age 86, leaving her estate to her brother.



Touching tributes were paid to Miss Forrester in 1948’s Newsletter which I have collated for those interested to read more. <http://www.smhassociation.org/the-vault.php>

But what, I hear you ask, of the **table**?

<https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/1948%20No%2050%20Newsletter.pdf> gives details of the Memorial Fund for Miss Forrester!

A further update is found in <https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/1949%20No%2051%20Newsletter.pdf>



On the left is ‘Mrs. Leslie’s desk’ which I suspect was used by other Heads as well. **Clare Withrow (Smith, 1977-82)** writes: “The desk sits proudly at my father’s house in London. My father could not resist purchasing a little bit of history as a memento of the good times I had at St. Mary’s Hall. It is a working desk and every time I lay eyes on it, I vividly remember being sent up to Ms. Leslie’s study for a good telling off for one thing or another!”

Meanwhile, from far off history to the present day. Following my mention of **2009’s** ‘leavers’ in the summer e-Newsletter, when I speculated as to what they were ‘up to’ now, I was delighted to hear from **Bethane Harland** who told me she had completed her Law (LLB) Honours degree, and has recently graduated from the University of Bristol. She says “I am currently deciding whether to qualify as a solicitor or a barrister, and in order to help me decide which route to take, I will be undertaking internships in the area of social welfare law and human rights, as well as family, civil and criminal law”. As you know, I have filled some of her time with LinkedIn Admin. and she is also working for C.A.B. where many of us have spent (and are probably still spending) happy times ‘advising others’. Please scroll on down for a lovely ‘shot’ of Bethane graduating!

Hearty congratulations to her and indeed to others who completed their University studies in 2018. We would love to hear from more of you (with photos)

June & July brought more reunions! How lovely ☺



Left:
Olivia Gordon and Margaret Cook (Rawlings 1958-62) at the latter's lovely home.

Right: **Bethane Harland's graduation.**
(see above for details)



In May I visited **Prisca Furlong (Baillie, 1964-69)** but we forgot to take a photo. However here she is, (below) enjoying a delightful, but brief visit from **Jane Watson (left)**.



Centre, above, is **Caroline Hearne (Simmons, 1975-81)** at Henley Royal Regatta with **Tamsin Kidwell (Johnson, 1975-82)**. The previous month, on the same day as the Inaugural VCR Reunion **Caroline** welcomed **Susan Roller (Harris, 1975-82)** and her husband for a visit. On the right is a lovely photo commemorating the event. The backdrop is Tynemouth Priory. Caroline is on the right of both images. (I met Caroline in July at the lovely NT property close to both of us – Gibside – but we forgot to take a photo...I really am bad at this!) But please do as I ask, and not as I do - *it is always lovely to see your photos, even if you're only seeing one or two friends!*

Vicky Mokhtar Riley (1980-86) kindly allowed me to share this Facebook post as not only did I find it lovely, and quite moving, it put me in mind to ask our Common Room.....

"What piece of poetry from schooldays do you still think of, and why?!"

She wrote: 'I always recite this poem the first time I walk beneath the swifts. Committed to memory aged 15 for my O level English paper, but probably now misremembered.'

"The butterfly, a cabbage white, With its honest idiocy of flight, Can never now, it is too late, master the art of flying straight. Yet has, who knows so well as I, a just sense of how not to fly. It lurches here and there, by god and guess and hope and hopefulness, And even the aerobatic swift, has not its flying crooked gift."

My own **(1969-73)** memories are too many/muddled really, but a brief extract from "The Old Vicarage, Grantchester" by Rupert Brooke may be worthy of sharing as it encapsulates Miss Bristol's wish to teach me (I think - others may be able to confirm/correct) the subjunctive case in Greek and her amazing ability to give us sugar with our medicine. *"εἴθε γένοιμην. . . would I were In Grantchester, in Grantchester!"*

Prisca Furlong went with WB Yeats - An Irish Airman Foresees His Death: *"No likely end could bring them loss or leave them happier than before"* as she finds the poignancy of the whole poem on the futility of war in the larger framework of human existence very moving.

Chris Ellison (1983-91) "I wandered lonely as a cloud" by Wordsworth. She says, 'we sang it with Tony Jay, (this version: <https://youtu.be/YmamSTfu-H8>) and I sing it every time I see 'a host of golden daffodils' - oh and "Ode to Autumn" as well, when I'm out collecting mushrooms!' ("my" Head Girl, **Rosemary Batts (Haylock 1969-73)**, also adored the host of daffodils and I think about her when I hear it.)

Jane Fowlie (Badger 1965-72) also voted for "I wandered lonely as a cloud" by Wordsworth, remembering learning it in prep. form with Mrs Harmer, she thought, also "I must go down to the sea today" by John Masefield

Shirley Read-Jahn *"I remember, I remember the house where I was born, the little window where the sun came peeping in at dawn..."* or (she says) 'something like that. I lived in a house in Massachusetts years ago that had a dormer window that the sun would peep through; and also there was one of my first bedsitters in London, up in an attic, with a window high up, looking over chimneys and rooftops of London.' She also mentioned *"I must go down to the sea today, the lonely sea and the sky..."* and "the road not taken..." and Kipling's "the glory of the garden". That one particularly speaks to Shirley, to the extent that she had an artist paint the first lines all around the top of her San Francisco sitting room walls in gold italic script, interwoven with a white-flowering vine.

Micki Aston (Sheftell 1960-66) *"He's opened all his presents but the largest and the last, his hopes are at their highest, and his heart is beating fast. Oh little hippopotamus what gift awaits you here? He cuts the string. The world stands still. A pair of boots appear! Oh little hippopotamus the sorrows of the small, he drops two tears to mingle with the flowing Senegal, and the "Thank You" that he uttered was the smallest ever heard, in the Senegambian jungle, by the mouth of beast or bird."* This is without a doubt, she said, 'my all-time favourite poem learned at school.'

This was brand new to me - and I went straight to Google to find it is The Hippopotamus' Birthday by Emile Victor Rieu CBE (10 February 1887 – 11 May 1972) He was, I noted, a British classicist, publisher, poet, and initiator and editor of the Penguin Classics series of books. My learning started early that day! Other admirers included **Susan McDonagh** and **Annabel Marx (Burns 1967-73)**. **Susan** added that one of her favourites is one that Noddy sometimes read in morning assembly - "What is this life if full of care we have no time to stand and stare" and ends "A poor life this if full of care we have no time to stand and stare". By WH Davies and Susan said 'I think of it when I feel everything is trying to get on top of me.'

Marie Fieldhouse (York 1989-96) *"The Highwayman"* always comes into my mind on evenings when the moon is peeking out from the clouds (*"The moon was a ghostly galleon, tossed upon cloudy seas..."*). I also always loved The Listeners; we had to write an essay about who we thought the listeners were, which really captured my imagination!

Patricia Blunt *"Happy the man and happy he alone. He who can call today his own. He who, secure within can say "Tomorrow do thy worst for I have lived today""* to which **Chris Ellison** responded 'For some reason I always associate this poem with you: *"Big fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em, and little fleas have lesser fleas, and so ad infinitum."* But don't know why...also this one (that I say to my kids!): *"A wonderful bird is the pelican, His mouth can hold more than his belican. He can take in his beak Food enough for a week But I'm damned if I see how the helican."*

Lis Eastham chose W H Auden's *"This is the night mail crossing the Border, Bringing the cheque and the postal order"* so memorably used as commentary to "The Night Mail"

Maybe others of you now have had your memories stimulated - do let us know if you have favourites from school and if so why?!

A MYSTERY PAINTING!

Lucy Dinning (1992-97) shared this image with us with the comment that she had seen this in the Louvre on a visit in June and did a double take as the last time she saw it was hanging outside Room L!

I had no recollection of this, though Room L was my UVI form room and I did A Level English so spent significant portions of **1971-3** there! I requested: "Tell the art ignoramus in the corner (that would be me) what it is and 'whodunit' please." Lucy replied "I've learned it's called The Virgin of the Rocks by Leonardo Da Vinci I just thought 'it's the SMH painting' haha!"

I had guessed the artist (not exactly the toughest) but prefer Lucy's title...and I added that we were the Virgins on the (Black) Rocks (or so our teachers and possibly parents thought). Lucy retorted that "in the 90s the high school girls called us The Blue Virgins"

Lis Eastham, Deborah Harrison (1964-68) and **Shirley Read-Jahn** didn't remember it, either, but Shirley added that she "remembered the Laughing Cavalier in our dining room."

Lucy thinks the Laughing Cavalier was still there, when she was in senior school. Lucy commented that she thought the Da Vinci was dark and the babies were weird and muscular.

Jan Johnson DID recall it outside Room L. So it looks as though it was put up either in 1977 or shortly thereafter. Perhaps it came with Mrs Leslie?



In the summer e-Newsletter I asked if anyone could tell us the 'years' for various Girls who had not yet shared them with me. This led to an email from **Kathy Howard (1968-76)** who pointed out, (very gently), that I knew **Jackie Wood (Giles)** years as they were the same as hers, and many other of the 'little girls' I remember from the giddy heights of my three years' seniority! To 'prove it' she sent me a lovely photo of Jackie, Kathy and **Julian Hornsby** from a previous reunion which I showed off in the Common Room to 'remind' Julian of a lovely day out! (Thumbnail below) Kathy also sent me this great photo (L) of her meeting up with **Sue Hall (Davis 1968-76)** earlier this year. (Sue in white trousers)



In June I cleared my throat, called for 'ush and made an appeal in the Virtual Common Room. At that time less than £14,000 was needed to attain the point at which Rotary's World's Greatest Meal Initiative would pass the point of providing 15 MILLION vaccines worldwide.

I'm delighted to report that five of us, Judith Patten, Jane Fowlie, Heather Johnson, Penny Barnes and yours truly contributed £100 (meaning £300 for vaccines). We did not know we would be famous, with this lovely photo collage, created by our very own **Susanne Rea**, going on the **wgmeal.com** website.

So thrilled the School has been featured...



You will all know by now that Susanne has made it her life's work to eradicate Polio worldwide through this appeal. She travels the globe at her own expense speaking at events and fundraising and her work has been recognised not only by Rotary but by the Queen who awarded her the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

Susanne's original idea was for people to "meet together and have fun" whether it's with a meal/cup of tea/a few drinks or a full blown banquet either paying for tickets or putting a donation into the bucket at the time.

Because we come together only virtually this is not something SMHA can do directly, but some more of us could perhaps make a small donation which Old Girl **Penny Barnes (Ryall/Hunt 1957-61)** has kindly agreed to channel through her Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District as an "SMH get together".

It will then go on to WGM/End Polio Now where it will be tripled by the Gates Foundation. Of course you can host your own 'real' get together either with Old Girls or simply with family & friends...just collect the funds and contact Penny B artybarnes@btinternet.com to find out how to pass them on.

A donation of even £5 really does make a difference so please email artybarnes@btinternet.com and Penny B will give you the bank account details and the correct reference for your donation.

If you prefer to send a cheque she will supply details and the address to send it to.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if St Mary's Hall Girls could make a significant difference at this stage?

Penny Barnes will of course feedback on how much we raise.

World Polio Day is October 24th – what better day to 'give'?

Play Time!

Micki Aston commented, in the Common Room, "We played hopscotch up by the tennis courts." and asked what others did at playtime. **Vicky Mokhtar Riley** "We used to play spin the girl on the sports hall, let go and see how far she goes ... well-polished floor. Hitting a ball against a wall or just jumping off the high walls by the tennis court. That led to a visit to the Sussex County for me!" **Heather Johnson** "Here we go again, more memories, loved hopscotch, called peever up here in Scotland, didn't know what they were talking about for a while! Also jacks and cat's cradle." **Johanna Vicat-Brown (1969-76)** "I remember clackers - they were huge fun. Bit lethal though, more or less like playing with a bolas so I can see how they were banned. I tried making my own from conkers (**Lis Eastham** chipped in to remind us these are now an endangered species in the playground!)



Angelica Meletiou (1957-63) shared this lovely photo of herself playing the game of her era - jacks which **Miriam Delorie (Coleman, 1953-59)** loved - "Jacks, yes, I had forgotten all about them." **Janet Jones (Summerscale, 1947-53)**, **Sian Spencer** and **Sandra Russell (Hayes, 1964-70)** all agreed that jacks & hopscotch were 'their games'. **Jane Fowlie** "Yes jacks in late 1960's . I remember playing in prep and transition. Also remember potty putty!"

(The location of the photo is the glassed in area at Babington by the junior dorm)

Heather Wright (Stevens 1961-66) "used to love the hopscotch court! We joined packets and packets of coloured rubber bands together to play American Skipping! Why 'American'? Played jacks at primary school."

Lucy Dinning remembered "doing French skipping outside the Robinson Wing 1989 ish and then we moved to Elliott House when collecting bouncy balls was 'in' and we used to drop them from the top floor down the stairwell which teachers weren't too happy about"

Shirley Read-Jahn "Hopscotch, jacks, cat's cradle, but the very best "game" was building Indian houses out of twigs and grass, behind the tennis court at the bottom of the sloping field. **Pam Bailey (Read-Jahn, 1954-59)**, my sister, was in on that." **Very few memories from girls 1980s on – what DID YOU DO AT PLAYTIME GIRLS???**

The astute reader will note the frequent mention of our Facebook closed group, SMHA Virtual Common Room and this is because no fewer than 538 of our total membership (which is in the 970s) network there. Inevitably we share our news and photos there, “in the moment” although I make every attempt to include in these e-Newsletters items which are genuinely news to all of us. We (by which I mean, in this context, Lis Eastham, our Social Media Administrator and myself) are constantly astonished at how this group has grown since its inception and have set ourselves the goal of 550 members by Christmas. Would you like to help us attain this target? If you want to dip your toe in the water over half the members are waiting to welcome you there.

Click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SMHAclosed/> and wait to be approved.

MEMORABILIA

If you would like to order any of the items advertised on <https://www.smhassociation.org/buy-smh-memorabilia.php>, please contact Jan Johnson smhasales@gmail.com. She will let you know how to pay and then fulfil your order. The bonus of looking on this website page is the brilliant shot of “The Loos”!

LONG SCHOOL PHOTOS

These are available as downloads from the website at £3 per download.

Check out <https://www.smhassociation.org/gallery.php> then email smhaenquiries@gmail.com with details of the one(s) you would like. They are superb as downloads – really clear and able to be magnified to show you and your friends in all your glory!

HOW TO FIND US

Website: <http://www.smhassociation.org>

Log on smhmember

Password elliott18362009

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marys-Hall-Association/265334070191137>

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SMHAclosed/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8689113>

Contact Address: 1 Welburn Close, Ovingham, Northumberland NE42 6BD

Contact phone: 07946 772620

Please use address/phone only if email will not serve your purpose ☺ Thank you!

SMHA Management Team

Penny Harrison, (Titheradge 1969-73)

Sian Spencer, (Williams, 1967-77)

Lis Eastham, (Ferguson, 1969-76)

Sue McDonagh, (1969-76)

Jan Johnson, (Launchbury, 1977-84)

Team Manager

Finance Officer

Social Media & 100 Club Admin.

Website Administrator

Memorabilia & Special Projects

smhaenquiries@gmail.com

smhafinance@gmail.com

smha100club@gmail.com

smhaweb0@gmail.com

smhasales@gmail.com