

# ST. MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION

## SUMMER 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](mailto: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

As I mentioned in the spring edition, 2019 is the tenth anniversary of the closure of our School and, therefore of the establishment of our Association in its present form and we are asking all our members to mark this on Founder's Day, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019. Please see below for details

As this newsletter is circulated many of you will be preparing to travel to Brighton for the Reunion at Prezzo in Brighton Marina, on 6<sup>th</sup> July. The event is fully subscribed but we do intend to run another one in 2020, so keep an eye out for the date and then commit quickly to avoid disappointment!

A new addition to the offerings for your delectation – one for the gardeners, a new closed group, the **SMHA Virtual Garden** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2238659846193050/>) where members from as far south as New South Wales and as far north as Northumberland meet to exchange photos, share tips and generally chat about our gardens (from balconies to smallholdings – no flower too small ☺) If you would like to join us, click on the link and I'll approve you!

We received a lovely offer from an Old Girl to try out Instagram for SMHA but unfortunately we ran into all sorts of issues which were as unexpected on her side as ours so we have for the moment shelved it. It is not something we're closed off to as a Team but it needs to be carefully managed by someone with time and commitment to set it up in such a way that it fits with our Association's ethos. If you're that person – take a step forward ☺. Meanwhile anything you may see about "St Mary's Hall" on Instagram is not from, or about us!

We also received feedback that some members would prefer a short newsletter with links....and indeed this was also mentioned when we surveyed you last year. **If you would like to receive a quarterly email with the 'headline of the quarter' and a link to the rest of the news please let me know and I will set this up for you.** Our reticence at making this the default is the almost total inertia which members show in using the website! Traffic there is miniscule and yet it is an amazing resource offering history, newsletters, hundreds of photographs and, of course, the members' database. Until the 990+ members who have internet access move towards using it the Team can see only poor outcomes from ceasing to send out your newsletters by email. I have, however, included a few shorter items with links to more information as this is definitely something we could and should take on board for this and future issues.

Further on in the newsletter I have written an item about accessing the website. The most frequent comment is 'I don't know what my password is' and only my doctor and I know how this affects my blood pressure!!!!!! Unlike almost every other password, we urge you, on first log on, to ASK YOUR DEVICE to remember these – there are few security implications (none that we, who own and manage the site worry about, anyway) and the benefit is that the next and subsequent times you get straight in. So here's hoping that with the assistance of this quarter's 'feature' many more of you will now begin to at the least seek your 'lost friends'. And maybe enjoy the rest of the site lovingly maintained for you.

Finally, I have long been fascinated by the variety of careers our members 'fell into'. In this edition I have featured the account of one OG who has a career outside the norm. I hope to make this a regular item so if you do something different why not write and tell us all about it? My own working life was very conventional albeit I came to it accidentally (a tale I may share one day if there is a need for a page-filler) and I am sure I am not alone in being interested in "lives less ordinary". Don't be shy – email [smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com) with your story.

Very best wishes,

*Penny Harrison, Team Manager SMHA*

[smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com) / 07946772620

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

## CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF VIRTUAL PROGRESS WITH A GOOD DEED

On Founder's Day, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019, we hope as many of you as possible will have an Austerity Lunch (recipes available in the SMHA Cookbook, free to download from <https://www.smhassociation.org/the-vault.php>) and will take a photo of the meal / you eating it to share with us.

Our hope is that you will feel able to continue the spirit of the Austerity Lunch by donating the cost of the meal you saved to one of our three suggested Charities.

You can do this either by PayPal ([smhafinance@gmail.com](mailto:smhafinance@gmail.com))

or by BACS to SMHA, Sort Code: 30-92-92, Account No: 36910860.

Please use reference CHARITY1 CHARITY2 OR CHARITY3 depending which Old Girl's charity you wish to support.

If you have no preference then just use "CHARITY" and we will allocate it for you.

I'll update you on your generosity in the next issue.

**CHARITY1** is **Susanne Rea (Nicholls 1956-61)**'s work to eradicate Polio.

**CHARITY2** is **Jo Grey (French 1983-88)**'s AMEND charity and

**CHARITY3** is **Jan Johnson (Launchbury, 1977-84)**'s fundraising for Kidney Research UK

In depth information about these was in the spring e-Newsletter but if you would like to be reminded before deciding on your donation please let me know and I will send you more detail ☺ [smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com)



If you want to be in it (and you need to be in it to win it 😊) then email **Lis Eastham**: [smha100club@gmail.com](mailto:smha100club@gmail.com)

The first prize pays out significantly more than an annual subscription:  
A whopping £14.40 ☺ with 2<sup>nd</sup> place paying more than ¾ of an annual entry.

You've missed the first half of the year but you can still join, paying by BACS\*, and pay pro-rata for the rest of 2019. So there is no reason why £6 should not win you more than £14 – perhaps more than once!

\*Overseas members with no UK / sterling bank accounts can now join using PayPal.

100 Club rules are on our website.

Winners (since spring e-Newsletter):

<b>April 2019</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize Kate Thackwray (£14.40) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize Margaret Ellis (£9.60)	<b>May 2019</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize Lisa Andrews (£14.40) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize Margaret Ellis (£9.60)	<b>June 2019</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize Penny Barnes (£14.40) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize Jan Johnson (£9.60)
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One of the 'new Old Girls' whom I found on my trawl through old databases (see page 10) was **Elise Broach** who was in Adelaide House for three years during Mrs Leslie's headship (1973-81). Elise emailed me to say that she does not 'do Facebook' but would love to be in touch with Alumnae. She now lives in Connecticut, USA. Elise's email address (my all-time favourite, incidentally) is on the Find a Friend members' list or I can pass on a message to her.



Many of you have already seen and admired these lovely photos of (left) the San / Art Block (depending on your age) with the Prep / Maths Block (again depending on age) next to it and, on the right, Hilary House. However for the benefit of members who do not check out Facebook regularly, we're happy to reproduce them here.



Together with the photo, (left), of **Pam Bailey (Read-Jahn 1954-59)** with her baby daughter and the Bursar, Commander Martin,, these were sent in by **Shirley Read-Jahn (1954-61)** who kindly scanned them from her old photo albums.

We'd be delighted to feature any photos you find of your days at school, or of visits you made later on. Please email them to [smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com) or, if you have no access to a scanner, you can post them to me for scanning and safe return to you. (Address at the end of the newsletter)

I can't resist showing you this last one, of Shirley at 'her desk', taken in 2000!



**Shirley** also sent these photos of the Millennium Reunion. Thanks to **Kim Cook (Kimmins)** we've identified most of the Girls as follows: In the photo of the lunch, from left to right, are **Pam, Rowan, Anne Bell (Bearne), Kim, Carol O'Connor (Pink), Sarah Mylne (Boyd)** and **Shirley**. All (except Shirley, who is two years younger) were **1961** leavers. They can also be seen in the photo taken outside the Art Block (San in their day).



I scarcely need to mention, or commend to you the comprehensive and excellent History of our school written by **Tim Elliott**, a firm friend of our Association and unfailing supporter of our ongoing endeavours.

Thanks to his generosity in sharing it with us, his very interesting book is to be found, at:

[https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/History\\_school\\_various/History%20of%20SMH.pdf](https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/History_school_various/History%20of%20SMH.pdf)



Two other Histories of the Hall are also on our website and from one of these I have selected a few snippets about my theme for this issue – **“Founder’s Day”** although I was also moved to include an answer to the question I am so often asked: “why St Mark’s / St Mary’s churches?”

I have also included an extract mentioning our Founder’s will and memorial funds.

I’ve written previously of how Founder’s Day shifted round our calendar throughout the life of the school and how we therefore decided to settle it on the day the school first opened, namely 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Until I came to do some research for this article I was unaware that originally it also marked the end of the ONLY vacation of the year for our predecessors!

The following selections from Miss Meades’ History – to be found at

[https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/History\\_school\\_various/SMH%20Brighton%20-%20Meades'%20120%20Year%20History.pdf](https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/History_school_various/SMH%20Brighton%20-%20Meades'%20120%20Year%20History.pdf)

will hopefully not only entertain you here for a moment but also whet your appetites to log on and read more about past times at SMH.

‘ I fear, my lord, you will think me very insensible of your generosity, and ungrateful for your kindness, but I do not like to build St. Mary’s Hall close by a mews’. Instead of being vexed or annoyed, or saying, ‘ Well, I have done the best I can for you, and if you do not like this you must manage for yourself ’, he brought me into the field where this present house has since risen up, and said, ‘ Do you like this situation ? ’ I answered ‘ Yes, my lord ’. ‘ It is not mine,’ he replied, ‘ but I know to whom it belongs, and I will buy it for your Hall, but not the whole piece ; the frontage piece is too expensive, but I will give you about thirty feet for an entrance ’. Soon after there came a cheque for £500 from Lord Bristol, with which I bought the land. It was afterwards found necessary to buy the frontage piece also, as well as the playground. Lord Bristol has been a most liberal patron to the Hall. Besides various other gifts, he gave the body of St. Mark’s Church, where many of you go on Sundays ; when I am dead you will probably all go there, but the Trustees, out of a kind consideration for me, arranged that the first and second classes should attend St. Mary’s Chapel during my life-time . . . . .

The funds of St. Mary’s Hall were not, however, at that time, sufficient to allow of our having a good architect ; but let us mark how Providence provided for that want. One day, whilst travelling outside the ‘ Age ’ coach, a gentleman took his seat beside me, whom I recognised to be Mr. Basevi, whom I had met at Athens some years before, and whom I had not seen since. In the conversation which ensued between us, I mentioned the project which was ever uppermost in my mind, and he said, ‘ I am not rich, but I will do what I can ; I will be your architect for nothing ’. Accordingly he drew the most beautiful plans, worth about £500 in all, which are now in the Trustees’ room.

Holidays were very different from nowadays, for at first there was only one vacation—from June 1st to August 1st—in each year. Not until 1862 were two vacations allowed—the longer one as before and the shorter one a month at Christmas—though a concession was made in 1850 when three weeks’ optional holiday, which had to be spent with parents or guardian, was allowed at Christmas. Pupils could be visited by parents or guardians every day except Sunday, and taken out. Within certain limits, they could be visited, but not taken out, by other relatives or friends, at the parents’ written request, on the first Monday in each month between the hours of two and four. No other visits or holidays were permitted. No pupil might remain absent beyond one week after August 1st, as the absentee’s place would then be filled.

The Hall was opened on August 1st, 1836, with the arrival of the Lady Superintendent, Miss Tomkinson, and the first pupil, Mary Bryan, even though the building was not quite ready. Mrs. Elliott described the scene in a letter : “ We swallowed a little dinner as quickly as might be, loaded a fly with linen and provisions, and went up. You may think how our hearts beat. Oh ! if you could but have seen us, and been with us, in the pretty little mullion-windowed room over the entrance. It looked so pleasant ; a bright fire, the floor carpeted, the table spread with tea, happy faces round it, our hearts full of a thousand mingled emotions ! It was the beginning of the accomplishment of hopes so long cherished, the dawn of a day that should go on in increasing brightness ! ”

His death on January 26th, 1865, at the age of seventy-three, was a heavy blow to the Hall. He was buried at Hove, and on the following Sunday, funeral sermons were preached in many churches. The general esteem in which he had been held was shown by a widespread demand for some memorial to his memory, and for that St. Mary’s Hall seemed the most fitting object. In one week £1,100 had been contributed : this was later increased to £2,000, with which two permanent scholarships, in value about £48, were founded, each tenable for two years by a senior pupil who was to be elected by the Trustees for good conduct and proficiency in her studies. Another memorial fund was raised to remunerate the annual Examiners, and before long Founder’s Day—in October—was instituted to perpetuate his memory. His son, the Rev. Julius Marshall Elliott, was elected as a Trustee and at the same time the Rev. John Babington, his brother-in-law, became Secretary. A legacy of £1,000 from the Rev. Henry Venn Elliott was a last proof of his thought for the Hall, which also received one thousand books from his valuable library.

Commander Martin’s equally compelling account is to be found at:

[https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/History\\_school\\_various/A%20Short%20History%20of%20St%20Mary's%20Hall%201836%20-%201992.pdf](https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/History_school_various/A%20Short%20History%20of%20St%20Mary's%20Hall%201836%20-%201992.pdf)



Are YOU in the photo on the left?

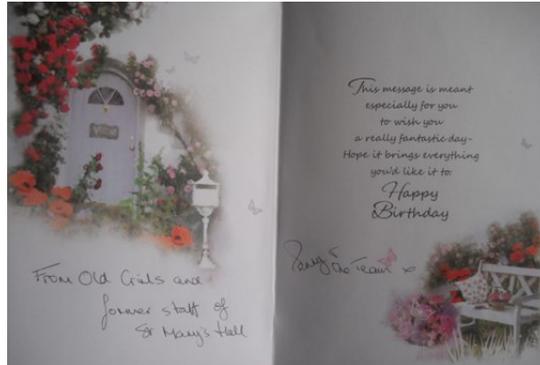
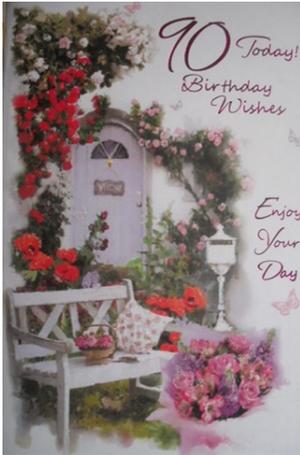
Or do you recognize anyone???

If so please let us know.

It is a photo we found on our Reunions page of the website and we are trying to date it and name at least some of the Girls.

Please help 😊

And please do continue to send us your photos whether of reunions from the past or meetings from last week – all are most welcome!



We were delighted to post a Birthday Card to **Mrs Valerie Boyes** for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday which was on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

Mrs Boyes' two daughters **Jemma Clark (1969-74)** and **Nicola Burbidge (1965-72)** both attended SMH and are members of SMHA ensuring that she gets 'all the news' of her many Old Girls.

Mrs Boyes taught Geography & English from **1966-85**. **Penny Wade (1970-77)** and **Jane Fowlie (Badger 1965-72)** both commented in the Common Room that they enjoyed Mrs Boyes' geography lessons. Jane left after IV<sup>th</sup> form in 1972 but went on to do Geography Higher in Scotland. She added "*she was a very vivacious person, always well dressed; and I also remember Nicola who was a few years ahead of me*"

**Anna Tinner (1967-77)** added "*I used to love her lessons, she was always kind. Happy Birthday Mrs Boyes!*"

Other Common Room greetings came from **Marguerite Oxley (Cook, 1980-84)**, **Juliet Rose (O'Hea, 1961-67)**, **Judith Scott (1970-76)** **Melanie Morrison (1976-84)** **Lis Ferguson (Eastham 1969-76)**, **Sian Spencer (Williams, 1967-77)** **Susan McDonagh (1969-76)**, **Mariam Verjee (1960-69)** and **Jenny Child (1972-81)**.

**Georgie Goddard (Golding, 1968-74)** added to her birthday wishes "*I loved her geography lessons!*" and **Miriam Luke (Batten 1974-81)** shared this delightful memory with us: "*When I was selected to row at the Olympics she sent me a cheque to help with costs. Her daughter Nicola rowed for GB too. Thanks Mrs Boyes*"

As a footnote to this, Nicola told me that she and Miriam "*cross paths once a year when I Doctor for the Women's Head of the River Race which she runs.*" Another fascinating insight into our Old Girls' varied activities.

Here's the website link: <http://www.wehorr.org/history/>

**If you have knowledge of a teacher of yours from SMH who is going to celebrate a special birthday, let us know and we will mark the occasion! [smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com)**

## And now a small detour to Louisiana!

Director/Producer (and Old Girl) **Renée Edwards (1979-82)** rightly took me to task for omitting to tell you sooner about her amazing documentary which deals with the embattled tradition of New Orleans' musicians, and their struggle for continued habitation and survival after their careers have been made barely tenable by natural disaster, poor flood defences and political machinations. One reviewer of "**One Note at a Time**" commented 'Somehow, by looking at a city ravaged by and recovering from Hurricane Katrina without focusing on the Storm Herself, this lovingly and masterfully assembled film swept me away'. Do click on the link – the film and whole website are really interesting!

<http://www.onenoteatitime.com/>

## <https://www.smhassociation.org/find-a-friend.php>

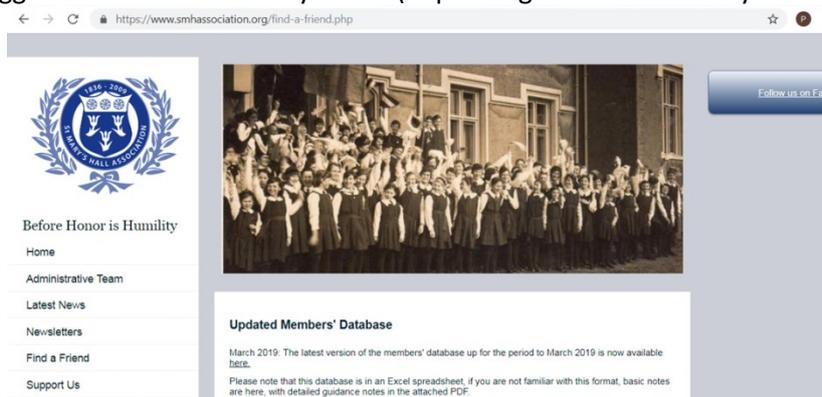
I wonder if that link means anything to you? It ought to, since it is the direct link to the database where your details and those of all 1000+ current members are maintained. It also features a database – Friends No Longer With Us – with details (date of death, information about the circumstances) of those Old Girls and former staff whose passing has been notified to us or our predecessors.

So now you know what the link is, what will happen if you click on it? Well, unless you have, like some of us, saved your details already, you'll see a screen asking you for your log on and password. YOU KNOW THESE, you really do! But if you don't think you do – in other words have not logged on, or noted them down over the past five years or so – they are on the back page of each of our newsletters and, this time, they're right here, too ☺

**Log on = smhmember**  
**Password = elliott18362009**

As you see, as a member you should even be able to guess them!

Great, so now you're logged in and here is what you see (depending on which device you are logged on through):

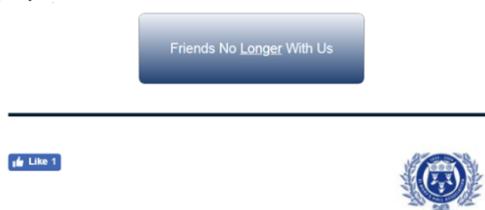


The text goes into detail about what you will see when you click to open the database (which is an Excel spreadsheet) and also includes a link to a PDF which explains in great detail, including screenshots, about how to save the sheet, how to look at it, find names, search for groups of people living near you, from your years at school, in the same country as you...really all you could possibly need.

This is the link to it so that you can have a look now, or save it for later:

[https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/Members\\_database/How%20to%20use%20the%20Old%20Girl%20Database%20to%20suit%20your%20objectives.pdf](https://www.smhassociation.org/resources/Members_database/How%20to%20use%20the%20Old%20Girl%20Database%20to%20suit%20your%20objectives.pdf)

At the bottom of the Find a Friend page you'll see this:



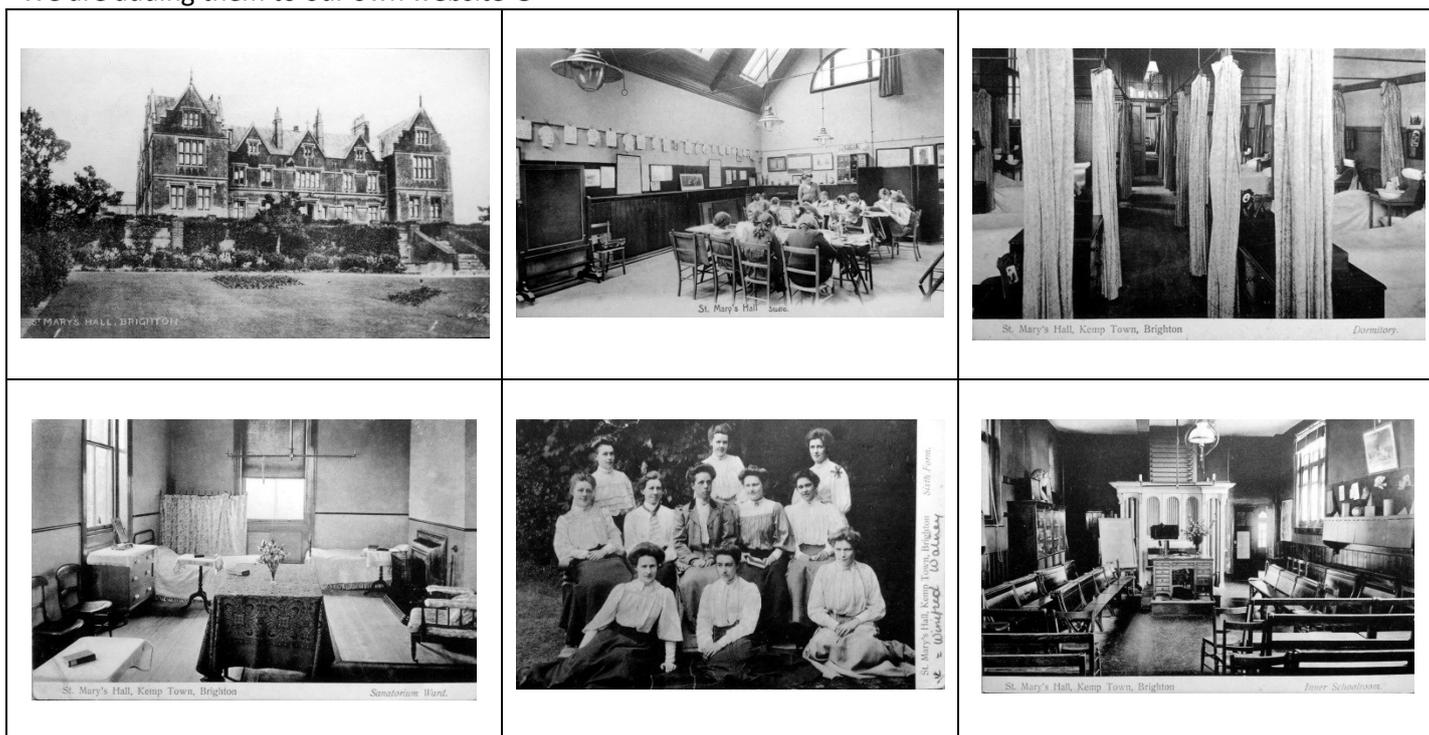
Clicking on the button (in the website, not in this image) opens the "Friends No Longer With Us" database.

The 'Like' button is at the bottom of each page of the website and in most cases has only 1 thumbs up and yes, that would be me. If you like what you see maybe the number will rise.

I hope that when you have explored this page you may linger awhile and look at the rest of the site.

<a href="#">Administrative Team</a>	<a href="#">Gallery</a>
<a href="#">Latest News</a>	<a href="#">Items of Interest and Past News</a>
<a href="#">Newsletters</a>	<a href="#">History, Archives &amp; Registers</a>
<a href="#">Find a Friend</a>	<a href="#">Non Member Visitors</a>
<a href="#">Fundraising - Join our 100-club</a>	<a href="#">School Prayers</a>
<a href="#">Fundraising - Buy from our Memorabilia shop</a>	<a href="#">Contact Us</a>

While 'on the web' let me show you some lovely postcards which appeared in a new Facebook Group for a group called East Brighton Bygones which had more or less folded but has been resurrected recently!  
 We are adding them to our own website 😊



The final image is a very early envelope – 1863 – complete with “Penny Red”, addressed to Cecilia Henslowe



I found her entry, in the transcribed Registers and, as you see, it shows that she left the following year 'on account of health'

604	Henslowe	Cecilia	13	August	1858	William Henry & Collin Louisa Norwich	Left May 1864 on account of health 3 <sup>rd</sup> class Age 19
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[www.doaneacademy.org/around-campus/voices](http://www.doaneacademy.org/around-campus/voices) (click link to open)

Quite a few of you will remember **Rosemary** and enjoy seeing the photos of her in “Ivy Leaves”, the magazine of our former sister school, **St Mary’s Hall Burlington New Jersey** (now Doane Academy) “Ivy Leaves” is a lovely magazine but this issue is interesting to us perhaps for the exchange article (*‘to be continued, we read*) and some beautiful archive photos:- *“Lacrosse, by Jove”* I exclaimed as the page turned. As always, gratitude is due to former exchange student **Jeanette Cureton (Smith, 1961-62)** who is my go-to source for all things exchange related! She worked closely with the editor over this issue. I am one of several Old Girls who follow Doane Academy’s various Facebook pages\*. It is interesting to note both similarities and differences in our education systems, then and now, quite apart from seeing glimpses of our shared past.

\*see <https://www.facebook.com/doaneacademy/> <https://www.facebook.com/societyofgraduates/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/155565227906701/> & <https://www.doaneacademy.org/alumni/>



On the left, an image from Ivy Leaves showing exchange students **Rosemary Gilles, (Boorne 1959-66; 1964-65 at SMH Burlington,)** and **Andrea Bigelow, (Pierce 1963-64 at SMH Brighton)**

Here is a reunion of two Old Girls who never knew each other at school. We come across Old Girls in many different places but this has to be one of the most 'random' to date. **Olivia Gordon (Nedeham Browne, 1950-55)** on the left and **Claudine Ickeringill (1974-80)** encountered each other in March of this year, skiing in Lech with the Ski Club of Great Britain. How lovely that they not only found each other but took the time to snap this for us! Further mention of Lech is to be found below...



**Penny Barnes (Ryall/Hunt, 1957-61)** (left) with *Julie Townsend*. This reunion photo was taken, Penny says, "about 15-18 years ago when she came to visit me! Julie was in Babington House a year below me and we have stayed friends ever since." Julie has not (yet) reconnected with us, but never say never! Her sister Rosemary is also an Old Girl. Maybe you remember them?

The three girls, pictured below have also been friends since schooldays – this was taken on a ski-trip to Lech 51 years ago this year.

**Prisca Furlong (Baillie, 1964-70)** **Jane Watson (Amherst-Clark, 1963-71)** and **Corinne Andrews (Hannant, 1963-69)** are still in touch & all are members of SMHA.



Here is Penny in Engleberg (Switzerland) in 1959/60 (below). Back L-R 'unknown', then Brita Yri (Seeberg), *Jean Kerr* and *Rosemary Dodd*. Front **Penny** and **Veronica Smith (Alsop, 1953-62)**



Let's 'Carry on Skiing'! This time (above) in 1985/6 in Marivella, Italy with **Emma Thomas (Davies 1982-91)**, **Kate Lowe (1982-91)**, *Marianne and Christine Proe*, *Gemma Jones* and???????

On the right **Katya Poberezhnaya (1997-99)**'s photo of Serre Chevallier in 1999. **Please let me know if you're in this and I will annotate it properly and add it to the website!**



Below, **Mrs Eggleton & Mrs Cowley** in Engleberg in 1957.



Ski trips were very much a 'thing' at SMH, as I have discovered when browsing snaps in the SMHA Virtual Common Room (looking for something else until I was distracted!)

**Did you ski with the school?**  
**Do send me your memories (and photos) of a trip if you did – it will cool us down later in the summer!**

## NATURE v NURTURE?

*The first in a series of articles about Old Girls with 'less usual careers'.*

*I was fascinated reading this and am sure you will be, too. I'm already looking forward to the next one. If you have a career shaped in spite or because of your time at school why not share your story with us?*

Lilian Cooper, (1979-82) writes:

Penny asked me how I turned to my career, whether I had been influenced by teachers, a subject or meeting someone at school and it was a good moment to reflect how I came to choose what I do. I suspect it chose me.

I work as an environmental artist. You may wonder what this is. It is a term I first encountered in the United States and in my case it defines me as someone who works with nature. I work with my immediate environs. At present I am more than 20 years into a project to map in drawings the changing rock edges of the North Atlantic Coast. I work outdoors on the shoreline recording the cliffs. Parallel to this I work on other independent projects for example studying the poisoned soil of my back garden and trees and tree diseases.



Hortus Leiden Photo credit Elisabeth Schelvis

The latter has already evolved into a five year study. As part of this *Life and Death of Trees* project I am presently researching as the Visiting Artist in Hortus Botanicus Leiden (the Leiden Botanic Gardens).



"Von Siebold Triptych: Japanese Elm" Lilian Cooper.

To the despair of my parents I informed them that I wanted to become an artist aged seven. I think they were hoping I would grow out of this.

I arrived at St Mary's Hall aged 13 with interests due in part to two teachers I had in secondary school - Lewes Priory Comprehensive where I had a really good art teacher and a geography teacher. St Mary's Hall, reinforced this. I had the wonderful **Mrs. Locke** for art classes and I have to thank her for pushing us and finding things in our own abilities we never knew we had, I discovered further happiness in creating art through her teaching. **Dr. Dixon** had just started at SMH and I discovered I really did like geography. A lot of those classes shaped me more than I realized at the time. For me school was a discovery about how much I came to really enjoy Physics, Chemistry, Maths, English... St Mary's Hall underpinned my work ethic and sometimes I have to stop myself from working too much!



Photo credit (above) Elisabeth Schelvis  
(below) Stephen Sheppard



I went to university to study Architecture and I thoroughly enjoyed many aspects of it (particularly architectural psychology and architectural history & theory). I graduated from the University of Portsmouth followed by a year of practical training in Australia (Part III of the architecture course). I then was accepted into Art School. I studied for a BA/MA at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. I chose it partly because my mother was Dutch and I wanted to discover my Dutch side. At the time it was a strongly Bauhaus influenced school and I kept finding myself creating structured work. **I suspect that need to create order in chaos has its roots in my St Mary's Hall experience.**

This architecture background has given me a drive to create large-scale work and wide-reaching projects. The passion for nature comes predominately from growing up in the Downland countryside particularly as I now live in a highly urban environment and I crave vistas and the simplest things like grass underfoot. Working as an artist is extremely tough, exciting, challenging and varied. What doesn't show from the outside is the enormous amount of time that goes into making art and making one's way in the art world.

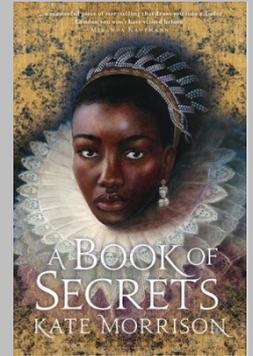
Right now I work with scientists in various fields, I have worked with researchers in the plant pathology department of Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, also in the University of Amsterdam and I have recently returned from a period this European winter as a visiting researcher at the State Herbarium of South Australia in Adelaide. I am translating their research into art forms to make this more approachable, more understandable. I feel incredibly privileged to be able to work with people who have an intense passion for what they do. I want to translate their joy into my own work.

**Lilian's website is: [www.liliancooper.com](http://www.liliancooper.com)**

We're just one big catwalk of talent this summer!

OG published author, **Kate Morrison, (1991-97)**, has written "***A Book of Secrets***"

Katy, as she is known to us, told me she thinks her contemporaries will remember how much she loved writing at school. Katy knew she wanted to write a book set in Elizabethan England after studying the period in her English Literature degree. A neighbour mentioned that Africans had lived and worked in England at the time and the idea for *A Book of Secrets* was born. Katy wrote the book over the next 16 years while working as a journalist and press officer, moving to Bristol and back to Sussex, getting married and having two children. It is finally due out this June! She hopes the next book won't take quite as long...



*A Book of Secrets* tells the story of a West African girl hunting for her lost brother through an Elizabethan underworld of spies, plots and secret Catholic printing presses.

<https://jacaranda-books.myshopify.com/products/a-book-of-secrets>

*is the link to follow for your very own copy!*

Lots of you in the 'Common Room' will recall that just before Easter **Lis** and I asked for your help in identifying people from photos of reunions. Thanks to all your assistance **Lis** has been able to make sense of the reunions – and other galleries – in the website. A vast improvement which would not have been possible without your help. Thank you! I also contacted a couple of OGs not in the Common Room, but whose knowledge is immense – **Penny Gardiner (Buck, 1961-65)** and **Susan Roller (Harris, 1975-82)**. Not only was I answered quickly and helpfully (as ever) but I was also sent a number of documents I'd not received before. Among them were some old databases and I spent a sunny Good Friday matching them to our current database and emailing lots of old contacts. Most bounced straight back to me (confirming 'the two Pennies' had done a good job of handing over / receiving data back in 2009) but some OGs have been re-found which is marvellous. I'll cheerfully send out 100 emails if it gets just one member back reconnected with us!

I also got some snippets for the website including a "History of SMHA investments in shares and funds of the CBF Church of England" - details of a sum of money which had been loaned, interest-free, to SMH by the Association. SMH had then invested it in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. In 2005 the situation was reviewed, the investment was sold and funds reinvested appropriately. We've added it to <https://www.smhassociation.org/the-vault.php> There was also a copy of the press release of our 2009 'merger' which we have added, for completeness.

**If you find any old photos from school days which you would like to share with us please do scan them and email to [smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com). If you don't have scanning facilities I am happy to do this for you and we can reimburse postage / return them if this helps. Drop us a line and we will sort it out.**

## Sad News - Amanda Nicholas

**Mary Panter (Noble, 1967-71)** told us that Amanda Nicholas, who was "horse-mad and boarded in Elliott House" had died in March at just 62 years old. This photo shows her with her father last September. Such a lovely smile from a brave lady fighting cancer. She left two children, Nick and Juliette. Mary kindly passed on our condolences to Amanda's children and her sister Sarah.

**Caroline Bradley (Edgcumbe Rendle, 1969-75)** wrote that she remembered Amanda very well. "We both rode horses and spent hours talking all things horsey. I'm so sorry to hear this and my thoughts go out to her family. Fond memories."



## Sad News - Susanna (Sooty) Pearn



Readers not in the Common Room will be as sorry as we were, in March, to hear from **Benice Deann Gross (Rents, 1975-84)** that Sooty passed away on 16th February. She was just 52. **Sam Oakeshott (SurrIDGE, 1979-81)** sent us the lovely photo of Sooty, above, with Benice and *Jo Hines (Sincock)* – we hope to reconnect with her – and **Melissa Earle (Royle, 1976-82)** kindly shared these lovely photos, one of Sooty by the tennis courts and the other of Melissa's 12th birthday party. She added "I'm very shocked about Sooty. Hadn't seen her since SMH but we were good friends back then. We were the naughty lot. Sooty was great fun, best swimmer in our Year especially at Butterfly. Her sister Pippa was very good too. Sooty also used to always suck her thumb and play with her ear at the same time."



1. Catherine Holt 2. Rebecca Pearson-Gee 3. Melanie Pearson-Gee 4. Juliet Elcock 5. Claire Calvert-Lee  
6. Melissa Webb 7. Victoria Firth 8. Lisa Grimes 9. **Benice Deann Gross** 10. **Melissa Earle** 11. Caroline Seare  
12. Sooty Pearn 13. **Sue Thomas (Standing)** 14. Angela Stone 15. not SMH 16. Alison Firth 17. Karen Bowerman  
18. Amelia Manzi 19. **Caroline King (Searle)**.

*Those 'lost' to SMHA are in italics - we would love to reconnect with any if you are in touch.*

**Vicky Mokhtar Riley** (contemporary with their brother Adam) was one of many to send messages of shock and condolence; **Jan Johnson (Launchbury)** being another. **Sam Oakeshott** remembered her clearly - they played lax together – **Janine Riddell (Riley)** commented that she knew Sooty from days at SMH but met again years later through her daughter at the primary school where Janine was working. **Gabi Barrett, Sally Edelsten Collins, Carole Walker (Barr), Sam Basing (Slumbers), Liz England (Hodgson), Alison Grimston (Pile), Juliet Elcock (Wenstrom), Rachel Manger (Hardaker)** and **Melanie Morrison** all wrote of their fond memories and sent sympathy and good wishes (which we passed on to her sister **Pippa Benton** by email at the time)

**Vicky Brown** added that 'Sooty was a fighter to the end and showed such amazing strength and determination. She never lost her fantastic sense of humour' and **Cynthia Palmer** ("Miss Fabian/Mrs Palmer") commented 'So sorry to hear this. I remember her well. It doesn't seem right that pupils pass away before their teachers.' As a happier footnote, **Sarah Naish, Jo Stubbs (Podd),** and **Ann Longhurst (Trustrum)** all plan to come to the lunch in July as a direct outcome of having been at Sooty's funeral. I know everyone will raise a glass in celebration of a life cut far too short.

[All these OG's years at school are in the 1975-84 bracket]

News of two more deaths; **Sandra Florence Russell (Hayes)**, who left in 1970 and **Sarina (Snooky) Saunders** (circa 1956) came too late for full inclusion in this issue. More detail will be given in the summer e-Newsletter about these Old Girls.

**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](mailto: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 'page topper' 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 [smhawww09@gmail.com](mailto:smhawww09@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!

**We also have a small stock of 'real' 1956 photos.**

**If you were at school then and would like to see yourself as you looked (cough) 63 years ago drop Jan Johnson a line and she will arrange to post one to you. [smhasales@gmail.com](mailto:smhasales@gmail.com)**

## HOW TO FIND US

Website: <http://www.smhassociation.org>  
**Log on = smhmember Password = elliot18362009**

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

Virtual Common Room: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SMHAclosed/>

Virtual Garden: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2238659846193050/>

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

Contact Address: 1 Welburn Close, Ovingham, Northumberland NE42 6BD (United Kingdom)

Contact phone: 07946 772620

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

### SMHA Management Team

<i>Penny Harrison, (Titheradge 1969-73)</i>	<i>Team Manager, FB Admin. Newsletter Editor</i>	<a href="mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com">smhaenquiries@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com">smhaenquiries@gmail.com</a>
<i>Sian Spencer, (Williams, 1967-77)</i>	<i>Finance Officer</i>	<a href="mailto:smhafinance@gmail.com">smhafinance@gmail.com</a>
<i>Lis Eastham, (Ferguson, 1969-76)</i>	<i>100 Club Admin, Asst. FB Admin. &amp; Website Administrator</i>	<a href="mailto:smha100club@gmail.com">smha100club@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:smhawww09@gmail.com">smhawww09@gmail.com</a>
<i>Jan Johnson, (Launchbury, 1977-84) (Vacancy, covered by Penny)</i>	<i>Memorabilia &amp; Special Projects Team Member, LinkedIn</i>	<a href="mailto:smhasales@gmail.com">smhasales@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com">smhaenquiries@gmail.com</a>

If you are not ready to commit to being a team member  
you can dip your toe in the water by being 'associated' with us.

Essentially that means taking on an identified task and 'working to' one of us.

It's a useful introduction to the necessary bureaucracy which running a large Association entails.

**We are particularly keen to recruit someone who uses and is active on LinkedIn to manage this for us.  
Could you be that person?**

**If you feel able to assist us in any way, or have ideas for changes or improvements in what we currently offer to members please do not hide your light under a bushel...  
e-mail [smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com)!**