

ST. MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION SPRING 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.

Dear Friends

As I start to write this, my last newsletter, the UK is slowly recovering from the romance between 'The Beast from the East' and storm Emma from the south, whose sparks, when they met, practically brought the country to its knees for a couple of days. A bit of snow in England and everything comes to a halt – even I decided against driving one day and took the train to work in Lewes – using my Senior Rail Card! One of the joys of reaching a certain age 😊

It has been a pleasure writing this newsletter over the last three and a half years, and if anyone would like to contact me personally in future, my contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

Very best wishes,

Jane

Jane Watson (Amherst-Clark 1963-1971)

MESSAGE FROM YOUR TEAM

Dear Friends

We hope it will not be long until a volunteer is found from within our 950+ members who might wish to take on the role of Newsletter Editor. We are very happy to discuss what the task entails and to hear your own thoughts as to how it can be improved by you!!!

Meanwhile we (Lis, Sue, Sian, Jan and Penny) all want to say a public and HUGE thank you to Jane. It really is impossible to quantify what we owe her for everything she has done although we have arranged for a small token of our esteem (and yours) to be sent to her. Jane has finished on a terrific high as you will read, further down this, her last letter, by arranging the sale of our trophies – (which I confess I would have taken to the nearest “we buy...” shop) – having cleaned and catalogued them all first. This was akin to the Augean Stables and she will forever be Hercules to me! She has secured our Association a wonderful windfall through the sale and many members have been reunited with their trophies. (Thanks, too, to all those members who bid for items.)

*Jane agreed to take on “just” the newsletter some time ago and shortly afterwards found herself catapulted to being in charge of the transition from a committee to a team. She managed this in her invariably good humoured and efficient manner and it is largely due to her that we are able to cope as a reduced group of five. However, we urgently need more help from members to assist in the tasks of running **OUR** Association and as well as a new Newsletter Editor we seek one more person to pick up special / specific projects.*

Seven is the ideal number for our team so please give it some thought and contact us if you can, to discuss how you can help.

For now, the news will be brought to you by your Team.

Jane, we all hope you enjoy your new-found freedom and we are looking forward to seeing a photo of you as Mother of the Bride in September. So exciting!

Very best wishes

Penny Harrison, (Titheradge, 1969-73) Team Manager SMHA
smhaenquiries@gmail.com / 07946 772620

Lis Eastham, (Ferguson, 1969-76) Social Media Administrator & 100 Club

Sian Spencer, (Williams, 1967-77) Finance Officer

Sue McDonagh, (1969-76) Website Administrator

Jan Johnson, (Launchbury, 1977-84) Memorabilia and special projects

The Team members are meeting (by Skype, as usual) in June to discuss outcomes from the Survey (please do complete this if you have not already done so – and contact smhaenquiries@gmail.com for the link if you have mislaid it) so that we can plan our work for the next few years. We have also updated our suite of management documents on the website www.smhassociation.org so that you can see how we arrange our workload. We are also adding the accounts shortly, together with our mandatory statement regarding GDPR – the upcoming changes in Data Protection Regulations which affect all organisations holding data on e.g. members. Please do check this out – it will be live by the end of May.

We rely on you, our dedicated members, to look at the website so that you can tell us if you want more things there or if you have spotted something you think is incorrect. It is an amazing source of interesting information including, of course, the members' database where you can "Find a Friend"!

Obituaries

We were extremely saddened to hear the news of the death of **Anna Campbell** who was



killed in March whilst fighting with an all-female Kurdish armed unit in Syria. Anna travelled to Syria in May last year to join the YPJ after being inspired by their goals to establish a democratic society for women following the invasion of the Islamic State. Anna's death was widely publicised in the national and local papers as well as on television. Her home town of Lewes held a candlelight vigil following the news of her death and a small memorial has been left on Cliffe Bridge in the town. To read the article in The Guardian, follow this link: [Guardian memorial about Anna Campbell](#)

News has also reached us, very belatedly, of the death of **Sue Hill**. A photo of our school on the Facebook Group "Brighton Past" generated lots of interest. It included a comment from a lady called Gillian Bliss who subsequently emailed us to say "My niece Sue Hill went to SMH at the end of the 1960s. Unfortunately, Sue was killed on February 3, 2001 in a glider accident in Australia. My sister Ann (now Mrs Hayes) was her step mother and is also **Clare Purkis'** Godmother. [note we are now on the trail of Clare who lives in Australia].

“We lived very close to St. Mary’s Hall and many, many years ago, Miss Hemsley (I think she taught French) ‘boarded’ in our house. Miss Hemsley subsequently moved along Eastern Road, very close to the school in 1949.”

Lis Eastham contacted Sue’s stepmother, Ann Hayes, who told her that Sue had helped set up the much loved Mouse House (Noddy’s inspired idea) and when the girls used to come out on 'croc' they would pop in to Ann’s house and clear her out of bread and cheese! Sue was apparently always 2nd or third in class, only beaten by (Ann thought) a girl who was the daughter of the then Vicar of St Mary's Church. Can anyone put a name to this girl???

Ann was delighted to be in touch with us and we are sharing this newsletter with her so that she can read how very fondly her friends, including **Elisabeth Tooms, Prisca Furlong (Baillie)**, and those junior to her, but fellow St Hilary’ites, **Susan McDonagh and Penny Harrison (Titheradge)** remember her. Sue recalls a ‘last day prank’ connected with an alarm clock and Elisabeth Tooms specifically remembered her prowess at lacrosse.

A back copy of the Argus provided a full and moving Obituary, extracts from which follow:

Susan Hill, 46, was an experienced glider pilot and spent several months a year in Australia flying a machine she had shipped out from Sussex. She died in an accident in Benalla, a remote area of Victoria.

A former pupil of St Mary's Hall, Brighton, she was one of the top pupils of her year and went straight into accountancy with the London firm Deloitte after leaving St Mary's Hall. Her former housemistress Margaret Payne, paid tribute to her former pupil.

She said: "She was a very determined girl who was very good at her work. I was shocked when I heard of the accident. She loved flying and the only consolation is that she died doing something she loved."

Susan, a chartered accountant, was membership secretary of the Horsham Samaritans and a spokeswoman said: "Susan was an invaluable member of our branch. She played an enormous part in its running. She also set up our web site and was even updating it from Australia."



If you want to be in it (and you need to be in it to win it 😊) then drop Lis Eastham a message on Facebook or email her: 100club@smhassociation.org

Members pay £12 a year per entry into the 100 Club and each month 50% of the ‘pot’ is paid out in prizes. (Anyone joining part-way through the year will be asked to pay pro-rata for the remainder of the year).

The first prize throughout 2018 will more than cover your 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 from Feb-April:

February 1 st Tracey Scott 2 nd Margaret Ellis	March 1 st Lis Eastham 2 nd Jo Grey	April 1 st Robina Methven 2 nd Hilary Briegel
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News ...

In an earlier e-newsletter we heard about a performance of St Nicolas in 1963 (others of us remember a later one!) and coincidentally, in January we received a packet of memories from **Jane Wharton (Alsop 1955-63)** including the programme of that performance, which was at St Peter's Church. We shared this, with other photos in the SMHA Virtual Common Room. **Carol Brace (Parker 1958-64)** was moved by seeing this to dig out and send us this photo of the event, filmed by the BBC! Unfortunately, when it was televised a power cut in Brighton meant that Girls were not able to see it. What a shame!



Recently we received photos of the cover of an LP made of the event which featured signatures of many of the choristers and a photo of the record itself, showing that Peter Pears, Benjamin Britten's long-term companion, had sung in it. We're grateful to **Alice Halliday (Kimpton 1963)** for sending this which is being enjoyed in the Virtual Common Room.

Other photos and news cuttings of the Princess Royal's visit in 1956 and of **Miss Doris Conrady's** 90th birthday celebrations, which **Jane** sent Penny, are also now on the website www.smhassociation.org for your enjoyment.

Kathy Howard (1967-76) wrote early in February to say: "I recently met up with **Sue Hall (Davies) 1968-76** in Leicestershire, which was lovely. Of course, we nattered about SMH memories, and how the committee kept the SMHA going (once the school closed) which I think so many people are pleased about and grateful for. Since then old girls have got back in touch with other old girls, which is wonderful."



Kathy also recently met up with **Jane Watson** in a pub in Steyning for a lovely evening, and were joined by her partner, David. Jane writes "Although we weren't in the same year – I was several above her – we had a good laugh while she reminded me (memory seriously deficient) about old staff and girls! **Kathy** was one of the first OGs who sent me some photos (plaits with red ribbons!) and input for my newsletters, and we have seen each other a couple of times in passing but never sat down for a good chat. Another evening with movies and photos is planned for the summer, so watch this space!"

The Eagle Star Insurance Company, Ltd.
 1, Threadneedle Street, LONDON, E.C.2.

IMPORTANT : To avoid delay and correspondence please answer all questions Nos. 1-8.

SCHOOL FEES INSURANCE.

I do.....wish to participate in the School Fees Insurance Scheme described in the forms you have sent me.

Name and Address of Parent or Guardian { Date.....

(1) Names of Scholar.....
 (2) Date of Birth
 (3) Boarder or Day Pupil.....
 (4) Fees paid per annum to be insured.....
 (5) Do you wish to include absence from tuition? Yes/No (Delete word not required)
 (6) Do you desire to include additional benefits for medical treatment and operations as a private patient? (Available during holidays as well as term time). Yes/No (Delete word not required)
 (7) Has the Scholar been continuously insured under a School Fees Policy? If so, give name of School and the date up to which the Insurance was in force

(8) Has the Scholar suffered from any of the following :	Yes or No	Date	If so, please give particulars
(a) Ear, Nose, or Throat affections (apart from ordinary colds)			
(b) Appendicitis, or recurrent abdominal pain			
(c) Glands			
(d) Hernia			
(e) Cartilage trouble (knee) . .			
(f) Any deformity or physical defect			
(g) Rheumatic Fever, Lung affection, or any serious accident or serious or recurring ailment or illness . .			
(h) Has the Scholar had an operation at any time or is an operation contemplated			

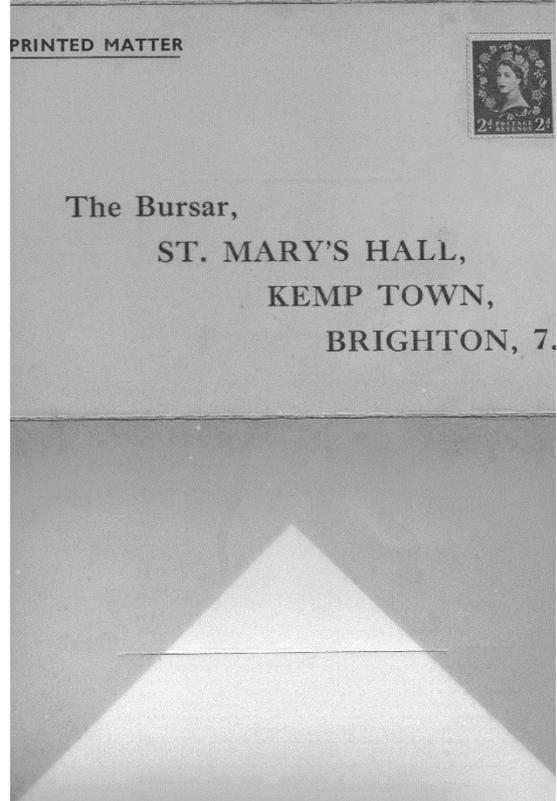
I, the Parent/Guardian of the Scholar, hereby declare that the answers given above are in every respect true and complete and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the Scholar is of normal constitution, in good health, and free from physical defect or infirmity (except as may be indicated above) and that I have not concealed any material information which should be known to the Company. I agree that this Proposal and Declaration shall be the basis of the contract between me and the EAGLE STAR INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

Date..... Signature.....

S. & D. Ltd.—77207

Kate Tordoff (Steiner) 1957-1966 found this school insurance application card amongst some papers and thought that SMHA might be interested. She believes it dates back to 1954 but it could be a little bit later.

2d postage stamp! Those were the days!!



Jane Campbell 1975-1981 (more about her later as well) recently posted this piece of news on the Facebook Virtual Common Room site: *When I arrived at SMH from Brussels at the age of 12 in 1985, I was told I had to study Latin (instead of Classics and subsequently needlework and cookery) because I spoke French. For some strange reason, I decided to do Latin A level (in addition to the O level), so I think I had Miss Bristol as a teacher for six consecutive years. At A level, there were only two of us in the class, so we got to know her quite well. Having only ever seen her in skirts (I always remember her in her purple suit), I asked her once if she possessed any trousers - yes, to do the gardening.*

My main reason for writing is because I wanted to say that I still quote Miss Bristol today - she said something to me all those years ago (I'm now 54) which still stands true today: "Most people think before they talk; some people think while they're speaking; but you, Jane, think after you've spoken" (when it's of course too late).

I once went back to SMH and had tea in the staff dining room - now that was an honour. I mentioned that it was strange hearing them all calling each other by their Christian names - but apparently there was one exception - Miss Bristol was always Miss Bristol. I thought about her again recently, as I went to Italy and visited Pompeii (amazing!). I learnt Italian fairly recently but being in Pompeii, all my Latin lessons and conjugations came back to me. Miss Bristol is someone who you do not forget - and I mean that in the nicest way:-)

This seems like a very appropriate point in the newsletter to wish



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MISS LAURA BRISTOL

who reaches the grand age of 90 in May. We all send you our very best wishes for a lovely day.

FUNDRAISING

SMHA AUCTION OF TROPHIES

Jane (and all on the Team) sends a very big Thank You to all those of you who have taken part in the Auction. It has raised just under £1000 to date – the exact figure has not yet been finalised. Jane admits to having become quite attached to some of the trophies after all the hours of cleaning!

There are still a few Lots left and she will be happy to take any offer on any of them + P&P, with the exception of Lot 19 (House Choral) which is silver and has been valued for auction at Gorrings Auction House:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 2 | Junior Inter House Netball | 21 | Best Improved PB 3/4 |
| 10 | SMH Senior Symposium | 22 | Shield |
| 11 | Most Improved Swim Yr 3/4 | 23 | Shakespeare Prize |
| 12 | Most Improved Swim Yr 5/6 | 24 | Gym Cup |
| 13 | SMH Senior Netball | 26 | Inter House Hockey |
| 15 | Best Improved PB 5/6 | 29 | SMH Drama |
| 18 | Leak Cup | 33 | Under 15 Tennis |
| 20 | SMH Papadamou Award | 34 | Under 13 Tennis Doubles |

You have only a fortnight left to do this.

After 1 May Jane will be disposing of all remaining items.

Email secretary@smhassociation.org IMMEDIATELY if you are interested.

We all hope that the Auction winners are happy with their piece of SMH history.

There have been a couple of lovely stories to come out of this Auction. The first involves **Jane Campbell** (as previously mentioned) who contacted Jane just after the last newsletter came out to ask whether, by any chance, she had a trophy donated by Wendy Keizer, who was her mother.

Jane continues: I confirmed that I did have the cup and that I would return it to her if she paid the postage. She was overwhelmed to find it at last. She told me that in all her years at SMH she had never located it. Her mother had died aged 33 and her father had also passed away in his early 50's so she and her brother and sister had very few mementoes of their parents. She asked me if I could ship the cup to her sister **Tracey Van Putten (Campbell) 1974-1979** in America, which I duly did. I also sent **Jane** some photos of the cup, which made her day I think! **Tracey's** reaction on receiving the packet on return from holiday: "OH MY GOD!!! How on earth did you get your hands on this?? This is incredible. Thank you!!!" Happy to oblige!



Caroline Hearne (Simmons) 1975-1981 also contacted me about the SMH House Swimming Cup (one of my personal favourites – I think it has a special character!) She wrote: *"My sister swam in the inter house team for Hilary (aged 8 and only just learnt to swim) in 1976. She was the only person in Prep in Hilary at that time so had to swim. She hadn't learnt to dive by that stage but jumped in, and came to the surface at a point when the others were past the halfway length of the pool. She finished her length quite a bit later to huge cheers. Anyone who was there would remember it. Anyway, St Hilary won and she was part of the winning team."*

MEMORABILIA

If you would like to order any of the following items, please contact Jan Johnson imajonit@sky.com. Jan looks after all our memorabilia other than tea towels and will let you know how to pay and then fulfil your order.



Colour print of the school,
measuring 14" x 18" landscape
£9.85 including p&p within UK

Coloured notelets, ten to a pack,
with envelopes
£3 including p&p within UK

B&W notelets, ten to a pack, with envelopes
£3 including p&p within UK

B&W notecards, with image 'postage stamp
size' top right of card, ten to a pack, with
envelopes
£3 including p&p within UK





B&W notelets, ten to a pack,
with envelopes
£3 including p&p within UK.

Tea towels – SEVEN ONLY REMAINING –
Teal/school blue, bigger than a normal tea
towel and a snip at £7 for one, £10 for two
including p&p within UK

Contact smhaenquiries@gmail.com to
enquire/order tea towels.

LONG SCHOOL PHOTOS 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!

Feedback from previous newsletters

Jean Peters (nee Pearson) 1957-1964 wrote about the Winter newsletter which she found
very interesting and nostalgic!!

She says: “Re the 1963 sixth form photo I can add a few
more names to those provided by Bridget and Penny.

The first girl on the left on the top row is Sandra
Capilado. I think the fourth girl might be Roseanne. The
girl between **Rosemary Bellamy** and **Elizabeth
Allwright** is Jane Tan and the one between Jane Boyer
and Heather Gray is Rachel Clarke.

In the second row the girl on the right of **Gay Gosnell** is
Elizabeth Philpin, then Patricia Bagnall, then Pat
O'Connor (deceased).

In the front row the second girl from the left is Fatima (I cannot recall her surname).

The photo contains some fifth-year girls (those in the summer dresses), and lower/general
(those who did one year only in the sixth form) and upper sixth year pupils. I was in the lower
sixth at this time.”



Leila Yateem – we have received an email from Vickie Lee Yateem who is the wife of Leila's
baby brother Mohamed (the family spell her name as Layla). She said that she has been
trying to gather information about Layla's life and the people she touched, for their children
to learn about their aunt. **Layla** was never spoken about in the family and Vickie Lee said
that it was a shame for her to be forgotten and she understands that **Layla** was a very
special young lady. She and Mohammed were delighted to have heard from **Sue Carnochan**
and very happy to have the two paintings illustrated in a previous e-newsletter. These have
now been dispatched.

Mystery Photos

Not so mystery photos this time. The last three are all sporting ones and self-explanatory:



Bits and Pieces ...

Q. Why is English so much fun?

A. Because in what other language can you write four identical words consecutively in a sentence and it still make perfect sense:

"All the faith he had had had had no effect on the outcome of his life." 😊

One of my favourite Face Book Groups is one called 'Brighton Past' and I know that several fellow Face Bookers also follow this Group. If you want to know anything about Brighton past – and present – someone in the Group will be able to tell you and I love people's personal recollections of places and events. Those of you who are not local to Brighton may not be aware that the Royal Sussex County Hospital is undergoing some major rebuilding. If you want a virtual reality view of what the hospital will be like when all the building has finished, have a look on YouTube: [RSCH Virtual Reality Tour](#)

Email address

Please note that the email address that Jane has been using [secretary@smhassociation.org] will no longer go to her. It will still be monitored pending the appointment of a permanent Newsletter Editor but your fastest point of contact with your news or queries will be: smhaenquiries@gmail.com

AND FINALLY, JUST A REMINDER...

Please do have a look at the website: www.smhassociation.org where new things come along all the time!

Logon: smhmember

Password: elliot18362009

If you have any problems please email: smhaenquiries@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Contact phone: 07946772620

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

Well, that's my last newsletter ready for the press. It just remains for me to wish you all a very happy Summer, and I will no doubt catch up with some of you in the VCR or at a gathering. If anyone would like to contact me I have put my personal details below.

Jane

Jane Watson (Amherst-Clark 1963-1971)

My Email: janewatson13@outlook.com

My Address: 58 London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 9NU

My phone: 01273 846755

STOP PRESS!!!

A reunion is being arranged by **Micki Aston (Sheftell 1960-66)**

Details in the VCR but if you are not a member of that august body you are still warmly welcomed ☺ All years included; young as well as young at heart!

Date Sunday 3rd June 2018.

Venue "Brighton Marina – exact place tbc".

To be included – email smhaenquiries@gmail.com

Thanks so much, Micki!