

ST MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION Newsletter

No. 101

Mar 2000



1999/2000

COMMITTEE

President and Chairman

Mrs Susan M Meek, MA

Vice Chairman

Mrs Penny Gardiner (Buck)

Vice Presidents

Miss N O Davis, Mrs E Olive Leslie, Mrs C Feaver,

Mrs Teresa Broadbent, Mrs Pamela James, Mrs Joyce Tinto (Colman)

Old Girl Governors

Mrs Susan Roller (Harris), Mrs Penny Gardiner (Buck)

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Mrs Frances Bearn (Moojen)

Hon Secretary (Overseas Members)

Mrs Jo Stubbs (Podd)

Hon Minutes Secretary

Mrs Anne Commin (née Levisieur)

Hon Treasurer

Mrs Anne Nelson (Finch)

Hon Editors

Miss Melanie Morrison, Mrs Kim Cook (Kimmins)

Committee Members

Mrs Valerie Boyes, Mrs Janine Johnson (Launchbury)

Miss Margaret Payne, Mrs Anne Stapleton (Gosnell)

Head Girl

Miss Alice Rawdon-Mogg

*Members
SMHA
for 1999 -
pictured
portrait of
Founder.
(left to
Margaret
Valerie
Stapleton
Pamela
Susan
Leslie,
Bearn
and Anne
(Finch).
to right),
Gardiner
Podd (now*



*of the
Committee
2000 are
beneath a
the
Standing,
right) are
Payne,
Boyes, Ann
(Gosnell),
James,
Meek, Olive
Frances
(Moojen),
Nelson
Seated, (left
are Penny
(Buck), Jo
Mrs Stubbs)*

and Alice Rawdon-Mogg. Not shown are Anne Commin (Levisieur), who had to leave before the photo was taken, and Kim Cook (Kimmins) who was behind the camera!

EDITORIAL

Surprising things happen when you attend a reunion! For me, at the last reunion, the biggest surprise was to find myself Joint Honorary Editor of this Newsletter. When pressure of work made it impossible for Melanie Morrison to continue, the task fell to me. I'm sure all Association members will join me in thanking Melanie for the invaluable work she has put in as Editor over the last two years.

I must thank former Editor Linda Kings (née Belasco) for the help and support she has given me in preparing this issue, and also Penny Gardiner (née Buck) and Frances Bearn (née Moojen), without whose assistance this Newsletter would not have reached you even now. My thanks go, also, to all who have contributed news, letters and reports for this edition. Your excellent input has resulted in more pages and I hope your enjoyment is correspondingly increased.

Reunions have brought other surprises too. I've enjoyed meeting again people I hadn't seen for nearly forty years, renewing old friendships and making new ones. It's been good to see the tremendous advances in the school, and (dare I say it), to lay some old ghosts. But perhaps the biggest surprise has been the activities on offer, particularly Liz Fincham's excellent creative writing seminars. These have encouraged many former pupils to write about school memories and so many other things. Some of this work, together with poems by pupils, parents and staff, can be seen in the school's Millennium Anthology, *Light Years*. The Association has certainly been harbouring some hidden writing talents, and I wonder what other talents still lie latent, waiting to be exercised.

This year's May reunion, over the weekend of 13/14 May, is to be a very special one, open to all former pupils and staff, whether or not they are currently members of the Association. We are expecting a really large gathering, and I know a number of former pupils will be travelling from overseas to join us. If you are still in touch with a former pupil or member of staff who isn't an Association member, please let us know, so that we can make sure that they, too, receive an invitation for this great weekend. I look forward to seeing you all then!

Kim Cook (née Kimmins)

LETTER FROM MELANIE MORRISON

Having edited the SMHA Newsletter for only two years, I very much regret that I have had to relinquish my Honorary Editorship. The magazine's compilation falls at one of my busiest times of the year at work, and I have found that, unfortunately, the two do not mix! I have greatly enjoyed receiving news of Old Girls known and unknown, and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contributions. I wish Kim Cook the best of luck as she takes over the mantle of Honorary Editor.

Melanie Morrison

HEADMISTRESS'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

We began the Autumn Term in buoyant mood, encouraged by excellent examination results at both GCSE and A level - and after twelve weeks of hard work and play, the term ended in a veritable whirlwind of activities! The Senior Christmas Concert was a most joyous occasion with which to begin the festive season. The Christmas story was beautifully re-enacted by the Nursery in their lively performance of *'It's a Baby'*. This was followed by the delightful and moving presentation of *'Bells over Bethlehem'* by the children of Gloucester House. In the last week, there were two Carol Services: Elliott House children accompanied choirs and congregational carols on a wide range of stringed, wind and percussion instruments; and on the final day of term the candlelit Senior Carol Service was, as always, a memorable way to conclude the term.

There have been many highlights this term. The Advent launch of the St Mary's Hall poetry anthology, *'Light Years'*, was a particularly outstanding occasion, marking as it did the culmination of two years of creative writing inspired by our head of English, Mrs Liz Fincham, herself a published poet. I was so grateful to the members of SMHA who were able to attend and participate in the launch. The anthology is a marvellous document recording thoughts, fears, memories, aspirations and concerns at the end of the millennium. It will be treasured by all who read it, but especially by the poets (young and old) featured in its pages, who are delighted to see their efforts in print.

Another memorable occasion was the 'Swim to France', in which the Houses competed to complete the distance in our own pool (not the Channel!) in aid of charities which are supported by each House: Cancer Research, RNIB, Leukaemia Research and the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children. Miss Whittaker, head of PE, organised the event superbly, and two girls, Kerrie Trembling and Simin Kiani-Lirhani, surpassed their wildest expectations by swimming 400 lengths each - which is five miles! Chichester House won the prize for completing the distance in the shortest time, and Year 7 competitors were awarded the prize for the year group which completed the greatest number of lengths. Their total was 22,560 metres. We are still counting the sponsorship money, but we are optimistic that we will be able to send handsome cheques to our chosen charities.

We were sorry to bid farewell to the congregation of St George's Church, which has been in exile in St Mark's Chapel while St George's crypt was being converted into a community centre. The clergy and congregation celebrated their return to their own church with a special service in the presence of the Bishop of Chichester on All Saints' Day. We are pleased that the link with St George's will continue, since our boarders attend Sunday services there, and Father Andrew and Father Colin are our School Chaplains. We also hope to set up a community service programme to involve Sixth Form girls in the work of the new centre. On their departure the church wardens of St George's presented SMH with a generous cheque which, combined with funds raised by the PSA, will purchase a much needed new carpet for the Chapel. In 1999, we were pleased to welcome our first Gap year student as a House Assistant in St Hilary. Nichola Chapple from South

Africa, was a most valued addition and greatly appreciated by the boarders. We have just welcomed her successor, Margot Carruthers, who joins us from Tasmania. Mrs Hazel Hawtin has taken over as Head of Gloucester House and led the department through a very successful Ofsted Inspection - quite an ordeal in her first term! Mr Adrian Sefton has been appointed as head of the Design Technology department, and Mr Neil Lockwood is teacher in charge of Economics.

We all congratulate Jo Podd upon her marriage to Jonathan Stubbs. The wedding took place in St Mark's Chapel in the Christmas holidays and was a real SMH celebration! It is not often that we have a member of staff, old girl and SMHA committee member getting married! The Elliott choir were spell-bound on the arrival of the bride, and it was a wonderfully happy occasion for us all. We wish Jo every happiness in her married life.

On a sadder note, I should like to pay tribute to one of my predecessors, Miss Doris Conrady, Headmistress of SMH from 1950 to 1965, who died peacefully on the morning of 8 February 1999 at Westerleigh Nursing Home in Seaford, aged 94. Several members of staff, Governors and SMHA attended the Requiem Mass to commemorate her life. Miss Conrady never visited the Hall in my time, but she appreciated being kept in touch with School events, to which she was invited right up to the end of her life. Miss Conrady took over as Headmistress at a time when the Hall was re-establishing itself after the closure during the war. These must have been challenging years, and in the Inspection report in 1962 the Hall was congratulated on its recovery, commenting that a 'first class staff had achieved wonders'. The School History reports 'St Mary's Hall contrived to do well under the guidance of a first-class Headmistress, its reputation stood high and excellent results were being achieved'. Miss Conrady's portrait on the stairs serves to remind us of a remarkable and dedicated teacher whose contribution to the Hall we remember with gratitude.

And so, here we are in the second millennium and the third century for SMH! Very different challenges lie ahead of us, and at the Hall we are striving to build upon the very best of the past, whilst adapting and responding to the demands of an unpredictable future and a rapidly changing world. Exciting times, indeed!

I do hope many of you will be able to join us at SMHA and School events in 2000, and in particular at the Grand Reunion on 13 and 14 May. We so enjoy your visits and reminiscences, so do keep in touch!

I should like to conclude my letter with lines from a millennium prayer written by Sarah Johnson in Year 9.

So many things have happened since the year of our Lord.

Ideas have been created, things have been invented.

And many people's lives have been changed for the better.

I hope everyone will be able to celebrate the new millennium.

Please let the year 2000 be good for everyone,

And let world debts be cancelled

To give the poor and the wretched something to celebrate. Amen.

I send you warmest wishes from us all at SMH, and we look forward to seeing you.

Sue Meek

HEAD GIRL'S REPORT

We've had a suitably active year with which to end the Millennium, building on our previous sporting, musical and theatrical and fund-raising achievements.

The beginning of my year in office coincided with an excellent musical workshop led by Andrew Carter, enjoyed by both the school and the local community. More recently, the Chamber Choir took part in a joint concert which celebrated youthful musical talent in Brighton and Hove in a very entertaining manner.

For the first time, Year 8 took part in a weekend activity camp which was fun, and a rather soggy experience for all involved!

To mark the solar eclipse, Mrs Lewis gave a very interesting presentation to both parents and pupils. This helped us appreciate the natural wonder of the event.

This year's school play, *Vivat, Vivat Regina!*, by Robert Bolt, was a huge success. The costumes, scenery and unbeatable performances by the cast amalgamated together perfectly to produce some top class entertainment.

We looked forward to the launch of our millennium poetry anthology, *Light Years*. This combined effort from so many pupils (both past and present), their parents and members of staff, should prove to be a rewarding and entertaining memento for the millennium.

We've had many fund-raising activities this year. Among some of the most memorable was the sponsored silence by Rebecca Arghiros in aid of Leukaemia Research, and the enthusiastic response from Year 7 to help the children of Kosovo by providing us with several deliciously tempting cake sales! Once again the Harvest Festival generated many gifts which have since been donated to St Patrick's night shelter and the Brighton Soup Run.

We also enjoyed the challenging 'Swim to France' campaign to raise money for the swimming pool and the different House charities. Also, next term the Dance Competition, organised by Babington House, will be another chance for us to display the varied and cultural talents present throughout the school.

Such success is very encouraging, and I am sure that as a school we will further our achievements in these fields and many more, during the start of the new millennium.

Alice Rawdon-Mogg, Head Girl, 1999-2000

WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

In June 2000, SMH is running a Work Experience Week for Year 11 and Year 12 students. This will be an annual event. If any member of SMHA can offer a work experience placement, either for this year, or in the future, please contact Mrs Judy Hollands, Careers Co-ordinator at SMH.

LETTER FROM OLIVE LESLIE

Dear SMHA Members

Over the past year I have been collecting information for the magazine, intending to write to you from South Africa. On the day after our arrival we were evacuated overnight because of mountain fires. The hospitality of those who rescued us was just one example of the bravery and care of those caught up in the fires. Although the house we were in survived, five houses nearby were destroyed. In the confusion my notes were mislaid, so this must be a different letter from the one I had intended to send.

It always gives me great pleasure to have news of you, and I am fascinated to hear of the strange new careers on which some of you have embarked where even the vocabulary is alien to me. Many of you are following the SMH tradition of caring for others through voluntary work in your spare time. Salutations to you all!

This year for the first time I managed to get to the Garden Party, where I found myself in the company of two other former heads, and of Mrs Meek. That was a memorable day. Then I went back again for the Autumn Supper. How lovely it would be if more of you would make a special effort to come to the reunions in this millennium year!

Best wishes, and may God bless you all.

Olive Leslie (Headmistress, 1973-1981)

LETTER FROM PAMELA JAMES

Dear Friends

I am writing this letter in December and have been privileged to attend - and enjoy immensely, the end-of-term events at the School. The last of these, the end of the final day of term, was the Senior School Carol Service. It is, as many of you will know, held in the School Chapel of St Mark, by candlelight. At its conclusion, the whole congregation - Governors, pupils, staff, parents and friends - pours out of the church doors on the crest of the reminder we have experienced, in word and song, of the wonderful Christmas message. Last-minute cards, hugs and greetings are exchanged, and the Christmas holidays have really begun.

Mr Anthony Elliott, retired Chairman of the Governors and direct descendant of the School's Founder, Henry Venn Elliott, who was at the Carol Service, asked me whether it had changed much since I joined the School.

Thinking back, I remembered that at that time there was a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. My only direct involvement then, as head of English, was to rehearse the readers. They read in order of age, the youngest first, and I always thought how unfair it seemed that the youngest reader (an eleven-year-old) always had to read the lesson from Genesis - by far the most difficult. At that time the service took place at St George's, the whole school walking there in crocodile fashion.

Nowadays the School has its own Chapel. There are no longer nine lessons. In addition to the scriptures, poems tell the Christmas story. There is now an Advent ring, the lighting of whose candles adds to the story too, in its special way, and the Chapel is lit by candles, by whose warm glow we worship. But the carols and Bible readings are traditional, the message is the same. 'Evolution, not revolution', said Mr Elliott. His words summed up my feeling that we do always need to be moving forward, but at the same time to retain and hold onto what is good about the past, to provide the strong roots by which the future must be anchored.

It is with those sentiments in mind, appropriate surely for all we who are linked together by our connection with a school whose foundation goes back to 1836, that I wish you all a Very Happy Millennium (though **not**, as I was wished in a card from the United States, 'a very happy millennium and many, many more'!).

With affection and every best wish to you all.

Pamela James (Headmistress 1992-97)

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Minutes of the 82nd Annual General Meeting of the SMHA, held at St. Mary's Hall on Saturday September 18th 1999.

Present: Mrs Susan Meek (Chairman), Frances Bearn (Moojen), Valerie Boyes, Penny Gardiner (Buck), Pamela James, Margaret Payne, Jo Podd, Alice Rawdon-Mogg and Anne Stapleton (Gosnell) (all committee members); Sheila Allison (Humphrys), Laura Bristol, Anne Commin (Levisaur), Kim Cook (Kimmins), Moyra Corscaden, Margaret Ellis, Diana Gosnell (Moore), Angelica Meletiou, Melanie Samuel (Grove).

Prayers: The meeting opened with prayers for Miss Conrady, Miss McCormack, Susan Bannister and Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake all of whom had died since the last meeting.

Apologies for absence: A list of apologies follows:-

Names are listed in alphabetical order of names by which people were known at school, with school dates, where known. Former members of staff are indicated *.

Paula Ashley (Mrs Atkins); **Mary Ayling** (Mrs Gibbs), 1953-62; **Elizabeth Baker** (Mrs Caudle), 1950-64; **Penny Barnes**, 1957-61; **Margaret Barrett** (Mrs Hughes), 1954-59; **M Bastable**, 1983-88; **Christine Bean** (Mrs Edmondson), 1952-59; **Katrina Beck**, 1988-90; **Linda Belasco** (Mrs Kings), 1955-63; **Ruth Belson** (Mrs Witham), 1978-82;

Eleanor Birks (Mrs Gaunt), 1926-31; **Rosemary Boorne** (Mrs Gillies), 1959-66; **Ruth Bradbrooke** (Mrs Wiffen), 1952-57; **Sally Buck** (Mrs Watts), 1974-83; **Jane Burditt** (Mrs Byrne), 1966-74; **Louisa Canavan**, 1986-95; **Mary Chalmers** (Mrs Scully), 1933-39; **Beth Channing**, 1962-85*; **Barbara Cole**, 1988-95; **Katherine Cole**, 1986-91; **Sarah Cole**, 1984-91; **Jennifer Cornewall-Walker**, 1953-62; **H Crockett**, 1989-94; **Vanessa Cuddeford**, 1988-96; **Mary Cunliffe** (Mrs Cole), 1950-59; **Dr Caroline Currer**, 1960-67; **Vanessa Cusack** (Mrs Stuart), 1962-68; **Abigail Delow**, 1990-97; **Joan Edwards** (Mrs Edwards), 1947-51; **Claire Feaver**; **Mary Fosh** (Mrs Randall), 1947-51; **Julia Franckeiss** (Mrs Clayson), 1948-52; **Joanna French** (Mrs Grey), 1983-88; **Liz Gartside**, 1965-72; **Heather Goddard**, 1987-97; **Joyce Gosney**, 1929-35; **Aletha Gunnery** (Sister Ruth), pre-1918; **Miss Lois Hall**, 1992-97; **Susan Harris** (Mrs Roller), 1975-82; **Heather Heald** (Mrs Johnson), 1948-57; **Barbara Hunt** (Mrs Millbourn), 1930-36; **Roxy Hunt** (Mrs Waddell), 1966-70; **Pamela Hyams**, 1947-51; **Janine Launchbury** (Mrs Johnson), 1976-84; **Katrina Lewis**, 1981-89; **Margaret Lloyd**, 1921-30; **Rachael McClaughry**, (Mrs Gregson), 1974-79; **Mary McEwan** (Mrs Hayhurst), 1968-79*; **Fiona McWalter** (Mrs Carter), 1947-57; **K H Marshall** (Mrs Lacey), 1934-39; **Lisa Martin** (Mrs Andrews), 1975-82; **A L Miller**, 1974-77*; **Melanie Morrison**, 1976-84; **P A O'Connor** (Mrs Bostel), 1959-64; **C H Oliver**, 1918-27; **Morny Pike** (Mrs Pritchett), 1954-59; **Mary Rand** (Mrs Abbis), 1960-62; **Mary Reeson** (Mrs Clements), 1932-40; **Dame Mildred Riddelsdell**, 1924-32; **Jenny Riley** (Mrs Wray), 1951-63; **Helen Roberts**, 1988-95; **Katherine Ross**, 1993-97; **Elizabeth Ryan** (Mrs Herdon), 1928-32; **Jean Scatliff** (Mrs Weston), 1950-57; **Marilyn Shelley** (Mrs Fergusson), 1954-64; **Jenny Sheppard**, 1979-86; **Christine Simmons** (Mrs Hearne), 1975-81; **Naomi Slater**, 1986-93; **Alma Smallpiece** (Mrs Fosbery), 1922-25; **Gloria Smart**, 1953-60; **Judith Spaven** (Mrs Davies), 1955-64; **Juliette Stebbing** (Mrs Littlewood), 1924-31; **Jean Strike** (Mrs Witherick), 1948-53; **Dorothy Stranack** (Mrs Cook), 1949-57; **Bridget Sudworth**, 1960-63; **Lucy Telford**, 1991-96; **Mary Theobald** (Mrs Pashley), 1952-62; **Megan Warner**, 1955-61; **Katherine White**, 1968-71; **Christine Yates**, 1957-64; **J Yates**, 1970-75; **Pamela Young**, 1931-39.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting, printed in the 1999 Newsletter, were taken as read but not signed.

Matters arising: Several letters were read out covering aspects dealt with in other parts of these minutes. Margaret Payne gave a résumé of the Motto discussions, following the item in the 1999 Newsletter. (see pages 13-14.*Ed*)

Chairman's Report: The Chairman gave her report. Exam results were excellent, various rooms in the main school were being refurbished, houses rewired and general security updated. Special courses for dyslexic and overseas students had been started, and desks phased out. John Rutter will be holding a workshop in the chapel; St George's returns to their own renovated church in November, after two years of sharing St Mark's. Mrs Meek thanks everyone for their support and loyalty.

Hon Treasurer's report: Frances Bearn (Moojen) presented the following report:

“This year's report is not dissimilar to last year's, in that the accounts are quite healthy. We managed to balance our budget quite well, and are in profit to the tune of £500. However, as the accounts show, we really do not make much profit. £1,300 was transferred to the Church Board of Finance Deposit Account, where we are achieving a slightly better rate of interest than that on offer from Barclays Bank. New subscriptions for the summer just gone number 36 (£1080). I understand that sixth form numbers are down this year, and that this may be the case for the next few years. However, on the balance side, we can thank Penny Gardiner for stirring up the 'undergrowth', and finding quite a few old girls who left before the automatic debiting system came into play. If this good work can be continued, with everyone's help we shall be able to maintain the status quo.

Last year's anticipated increase in postage costs did not materialise. At present the Newsletter package weighs approximately 77g, and the next second class postage rate of 40p kicks in at 100g. However, as our database is increasing, these costs will rise marginally.

Revenue from the raffle held at each reunion has continued to increase. My thanks go to Margaret Payne for being the main initiator and organiser of the raffles, and best wishes to Anne Stapleton and Diana Gosnell who will be running it at future events. My thanks go also to Chris Elkins for auditing the accounts.”

Constitution: Amendments to the constitution were discussed and referred to the Committee to be presented to the next AGM.

[Editor's Note

It was felt that a number of changes were needed to bring the Constitution into line with current practice, and to reflect more accurately the current aims and policies of the Association. The 1951 Constitution is printed in full on pages 15 and 16. It stipulates that notice of any proposed change should be posted to members with the notice of the forthcoming AGM.

Notice of the AGM is included on page 11 of this newsletter, and therefore the following list of proposed changes (with new wording in bold italics) complies with this requirement.

Amendment to paragraph 1

add to the end ‘. . . to serve as a source of support, both spiritual and practical, to the Hall ***and to former pupils and staff.***’

Amendment to paragraph 4

delete whole paragraph and replace with '*Each member shall pay a life subscription, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the Committee.*'

Amendment to paragraph 7.4a

delete 'Hon Secretaries of Home Counties and Sussex Branches', and replace with '*Hon Secretary for Overseas Members*'.

Amendment to paragraph 7.4c

delete 'four other elected members' and replace with '*six other elected members*'.

Amendment to paragraph 7.5

add '. . . members *to serve for a period of one year*'.

Since the AGM, SMHA has received requests for membership from members of the wider SMH community, for example Governors and ex-parents, who would welcome the invitation to join SMHA. It is thus proposed that the Constitution be amended to provide for Associate Members along the following lines.

Paragraph 3

Add at the end '*In addition, present and former Governors, parents of former pupils, and others involved in SMH or SMHA but not eligible for full membership, shall be eligible for Associate Membership, at the discretion of the Committee*'.

Paragraph 4

Add at the end 'The amount of subscription, if any, for Associate Members, shall be determined from time to time by the Committee'.]

End of Editor's Note

Committee: Dame Mildred Riddelsdell has written resigning as Vice Chairman. Anne Commin (Leviseur), Kim Cook (Kimmins) and Anne Nelson (Finch) accepted nominations to serve on the Committee, and in addition to the aforementioned Committee members, were duly elected.

Any other business:

Mailshot: Following the mailshot, 98 forms were returned. Moyra Corscaden and Sue Meek came closest to guessing the correct number, and Moyra Corscaden was presented with a bottle of wine from Leeford Vineyards, Whatlington, donated by proprietor Pam Sax (Cryer).

Marketing: Robin Bellerby has taken up a headmaster's post in Muscat and is succeeded by Maryam Kisray.

Future Events: The Spring Reunion lunch will be on 13th May 2000 and the next AGM and Supper will be on 16th September 2000. The Garden Party will probably be on 5th July 2000.

Year 2000 celebrations: Penny Gardiner said that although the school calendar was full, suggestions had been made for celebrating the new century. These included fireworks, a concert, a ball, a barbecue, talks by Old Girls etc. In consultation with Mrs Meek, it was decided that SMHA should present the school with a flagpole. Laura Bristol spoke of her school's Gift Fund which enabled pupils to take part in field trips and outings. It was agreed that SMHA would set up a similar fund for current pupils. It was also agreed to set up a fund to pay membership fees for Old Girls in straightened circumstances. The first donations to these funds were received.

Leadership: Alice Rawdon-Mogg spoke of a leadership course she had attended, sponsored by the Rotary Club.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Later, the following additional members attended the Supper, Jane Wharton (Alsop), Veronica Smith (Alsop), Nadia Behdad, Amoret Abis, Sonia (Sunny) Warner, Olive Leslie, Anne Nelson (Finch), Mr and Mrs Jack Liddell.

2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Committee of the St Mary's Hall Association hereby gives notice that the next Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the School on Saturday 16 September 2000, at 4 pm.

Light Years

The thoughts of Sheila Allison (née Humphrys) on the school motto (following page) come from the SMH Millennium Anthology, *Light Years*, published in December 1999.

As the compiler, Liz Fincham, says in the preface to the book, 'It reflects very clearly the concerns of our school community, global and individual, universal and personal'. Current pupils write of school events, the plight of refugees, environmental issues, the eclipse, and everyday things they enjoy. Staff, Governors, parents, and of course old girls, have contributed their thoughts and concerns too - thoughts of the past, enjoyment of the present, concerns for the future. In the pages of this book there is joy and anguish, fear and hope, fun and peace. Association members, of which ever generation, will find much to admire and much to identify with.

The first edition has virtually sold out. Just a few copies remain, at £6.00, plus £1.95 postage and packing. If you'd like a copy, please send a cheque for £7.95, payable to SMH, to St Mary's Hall, Eastern Road, Brighton, E Sussex BN2 5JF.

BEFORE HONOR, HUMILITY

How do I feel about the school motto?

To tell the truth

I never took much

notice of it at school,

it was never a guiding light for me,

but I did absorb its meaning

in some fundamental way.

Humility may be seen by some

as old-fashioned, unsuitable,

and out of step with 1999.

However, if you translate

from 1904 to 1999,

the sentiment is still real, living,

and should be one of the first concepts

of any teaching environment.

Humility is not about being humble

or bending a knee,

it is about being modest

and recognising your own faults,

shortcomings and strengths

in order to become a person able to accept

Honours with honour

and eventually

to be able to return those gains

to the community from which they sprang.

Sheila Allison (née Humphrys) SMH 1936-40

SMHA DATABASE

A database of names and addresses of former pupils and staff, whether or not they are currently members of SMHA, is being maintained by Mrs Penny Gardiner (née Buck). This database is far from being complete. Many details are missing, and many addresses are no longer current. Any information that will help to maintain and update the database will be gratefully received by Penny at Handsel Farm, Staplecross, E Sussex TN32 5SH, or via e-mail to <<101473.234@compuserve.com>>. Enquiries about former pupils and staff should be addressed to the Hon Secretary, Mrs Frances Bearn at 34 Fitzjohns Road, Lewes, E Sussex BN7 1PS. Postal enquiries should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, please.

BEFORE HONOR HUMILITY

The use and suitability of the School Motto

Following comments made at the 1998 AGM, it was decided to have a discussion on the subject of the motto at the May 1999 Reunion. The meeting was chaired by Miss Payne, who prepared this report.

Mrs **Jean Roberts**, SMH's honorary archivist, noted that the earliest references she had found to a School Motto were in 1902 and 1903, and at that time the motto was rather more long-winded.

Aim high, and always try once oftener than you fail.

The origin of 'before honor is humility' is in two Biblical references in the book of Proverbs.

The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; before honour is humility.
Proverbs, Chapter 15, verse 33.

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty and before honour is humility.
Proverbs, Chapter 18, verse 12.

I must confess I thought Henry Venn Elliott a great student of the Bible and that our Founder must have suggested this motto, but this was obviously not the case, as the first reference Jean Roberts could find to it was in 1904. Despite the fact that it carried the note 'Our Founder's motto for the School', it must have been the proposal either of the then Headmistress, Miss Potter, or perhaps of the Chairman of the Governors. No reference to this motto appears in Bateman's biography of H V Elliott.

Over the years, notably in the 1930s and in 1954, the motto has changed slightly, with variants of the spelling honor/honour, and the inclusion of the word 'is' before humility.

I know many Old Girls have expressed concern that this motto has been omitted from the new school logo. Many of those present at this discussion wanted *Before Honor Humility* included wherever possible. However, many of those currently involved with the school thought it was important to make the change to facilitate the increased marketing of the school abroad.

Mrs Meek explained fully that the motto had not been dropped completely, but that when used in small publicity material it had not reproduced successfully. She was very ready to listen to suggestions.

When views were asked for from Old Girls and former members of staff, there was a strong feeling that the Motto should be in a prominent place in the school, and that it should be explained fully, perhaps at Assembly.

Kim Cook (1954-60) has produced an excellent account in which she points out that:

... the concept of humility has nothing whatever to do either with Uriah Heep or with doormats. Rather, humility is about recognising that God is greater than we are, and acknowledging our debt to Him for all that we have and all that we are. Assertiveness and ambition are both fine in that context. In fact, it is quite clear that God wants each of His children to achieve his or her full potential, and to use wisely the gifts and talents He has given. So I see no difficulty in retaining the motto in the light of the school's aims to turn out young women who can have fulfilling roles both in the home and in their working lives. ... What is important is that it has been a valuable guideline for staff and pupils for at least 95 years and, properly understood, still has relevance and validity today.

Other suggestions for use of the motto included incorporating it on the cover of the School Magazine, retaining it on the Association Newsletter, and perhaps including it on the badges presented to all the Sixth Form.

Alice Rawdon-Mogg, the present Head Girl, was also in favour of the motto being promoted in the school. She felt that the true concept of humility involves a combination of consideration for others, rectitude, and perseverance. However, there were those who felt that a lack of understanding of the true concept of humility was a distinct drawback. There was, too, and awareness that not all pupils come from Christian backgrounds, and that in some cultures humility has a negative image.

Unfortunately, time for discussion was very limited, but perhaps there can be a fuller discussion on another occasion.

After the meeting I found an interesting passage in Miss Meades' *History of SMH, 1836-1956*. This extract from an address made by Henry Venn Elliott on 1 August 1859 to the staff, pupils and friends suggests that our Founder would certainly have approved of the current motto.

Have true unity. Humility and love are necessary to produce it. Pray for me. St Paul asks the prayers of his youngest converts, and I will ask yours. Pray for your Superintendent; pray for the Governesses. Remember that without the blessing of God on their teaching, it is labour in vain; you learn everything in vain if God is not with you, to bless both those who teach and those who learn.

Miss Margaret Payne

SMHA (1951) CONSTITUTION

New Constitution as proposed by the Constitution Sub Committee chaired by Mildred Riddlesdell, amended and approved at the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday April 14th 1951 at the YWCA, Great Russell Street, London WC1, chaired by Miss Conrady.

Objects

1. The objects of the Association shall be to link Old Pupils of the Hall together and to serve as a source of support, both spiritual and practical, to the Hall.

Patrons

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

Membership

3. All Old Girls and all past teaching staff of the Hall shall be eligible for membership. Present teaching staff and members of the VIth form shall be invited to attend Annual General Meetings without becoming members of the Association, but shall not be entitled to vote.

Subscription

4. From 1st January 1952, each member shall pay an annual subscription of at least 5/- or a life membership subscription of at least £3 except that existing members at that date may have the option of continuing to pay an annual subscription of 4/-. The name of any member (not being a Life Member) who fails to pay her subscription for two consecutive years shall be removed from the membership list. After forty years continuous membership a member may apply for Hon Life Membership.

General Meetings

5. (1) There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association.
(2) The Chairman shall call such Extraordinary General Meetings as may be necessary. The Chairman must call an Extraordinary General Meeting if at least twenty members of the Association ask her in writing to do so.

Notices of Meetings

6. The date of the Annual General Meeting shall be fixed provisionally at the preceding Annual General Meeting and items for the Agenda shall be sent to the Secretary at least six weeks before the date so provisionally fixed. The Secretary shall send members firm notice of the time and place of the Annual General Meeting at least one month beforehand, and the agenda of the meeting shall be circulated with this notice. The Secretary shall send members notice of the time and place of an Extraordinary General Meeting as early as possible and at least a week before the date when it is to be held. Notice of the Agenda of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given with the notice of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.

Note: Proposed amendments to the constitution are as noted in this Newsletter, on pages 9 and 10, publication of which is in accordance with Paragraph 9 above. The formal notice of the 2000 AGM is on page 11.

Management

7. (1) The Headmistress shall be the Chairman and President of the Association.
- (2) An Old Girl may be elected to fill the office of Vice Chairman and Vice President of the Association.
- (3) The other officers of the Association shall be:-
 - (a) An Honorary Secretary (elected)
 - (b) An Honorary Treasurer (elected)
 - (c) An Honorary Secretary of the Home Counties Branch (elected)
 - (d) An Honorary Secretary of the Sussex Branch (elected)
 - (e) An Honorary Editor of the News Letter (elected)
 - (f) Such Honorary Vice Presidents as the Association may appoint, including all ex Headmistresses.
- (4) The Association shall be managed by a Committee which shall consist of:-
 - (a) The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Editor of the News Letter, and the Hon. Secretaries of the Home Counties and Sussex Branches.
 - (b) All Old Girls who are Governors of the School.
 - (c) Four other elected members.
- (5) The committee may co-opt two other members.
- (6) The Officers shall be elected for a period of office of three years and shall be eligible for re-election. Other elected Members of the Committee shall serve for a term of two (three from 5th May 1979) years. They may be elected for a second term, but after serving for two consecutive terms they shall be ineligible for membership of the Committee for two years.
- (7) Elections of officers and Committee Members shall take place at the Annual General Meeting. Vacancies occurring between Annual General Meetings maybe filled temporarily by co-option, the vacancies being filled by election at the Annual General Meeting.
- (8) The Committee shall meet at least once a year. The quorum shall be seven.
- (9) The Committee may appoint sub-Committees. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary shall be ex-officio members of all sub-Committees. In the event of the Chairman not wishing to serve as Chairman of a sub-Committee the sub-Committee shall appoint its own Chairman.

Balance Sheet

8. The balance sheet shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting. The accounts shall be audited.

Amendments

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

SMHA GRAND REUNION 13-14 MAY 2000

This year our Spring reunion is to be a special two-day event. It is open to all former pupils, former staff, Governors, and others who are part of the school community, whether or not they are members of the Association, including spouses/partners and families.

The Reunion Lunch at 12.30pm on Saturday 13th May will be preceded and succeeded by lots of “meeting up time” starting at 11.45am in the Drawing Room. It is also hoped to stage a display of photographs of school people and events, with the opportunity to identify yourself and your friends in the photos.

Reunion Lunch Cost £5.00 (SMHA £3.50) Raffle prizes gratefully accepted.

After lunch there will be tours of the school and activities organised by the boarders, tea at 3.30pm will be followed by tours of the boarding houses (including Babington, courtesy of some of the owners of the several privately-owned homes into which 2/3 Chichester Terrace was divided in 1967)

From 7.30pm we are invited to travel Back to the Future with the St Mary's Hall Parent School Association in the driving seat. Dress is “nostalgic” and families are invited. Food, Music, Dancing, jugglers, etc, all for the modest cost of £10 per head (£2.50 for students and accompanied children). Plunder your wardrobe for those fashions of the 50s, 60s, and 70s and join in the fun.

For those who wish, the Association can arrange overnight stays either with members of the PSA (£20 per head) or in local hotels.(variable) Please advise accommodation requirements as soon as possible. This is the weekend of the Brighton Festival Street Festival and there will already be many extra visitors in the town and consequent pressure on hotel rooms.

On Sunday morning we are invited to a special Commemorative Service at St Marks followed, we hope, by the dedication of the Millennium Gift flagpole.

Mrs Leslie (left), Miss Bristol (centre) and Miss Payne (right) were all in good form at the September reunion supper



NEWS

Please note that news has been divided into three sections - visits from overseas, news of pre-war pupils and staff, and news of those at SMH after 1945. In each section, news has been collated in alphabetical order of names by which the people concerned were known at school, with current surname in brackets. This has been done at the request of many readers, in order to make it easier to find information about old friends.

Visits from old girls living overseas continue to be a regular part of school life, and an excellent means of the Association catching up with 'lost' contacts. In December 1998 **Gillian Kingham** (Mrs Lewis) and her daughter Jennie called in at SMH while on a visit from their home in Wellington, New Zealand. Gillian (1953-59) and Jennie also visited **Margaret Payne**, and Margaret recalls that 'Jennie was very amused at some of our recollections!'. Gillian has now joined SMHA.

When **Shirley Read-Jahn** (1950s) called in during the late summer, she was on a trip from her home in San Francisco, where she is an ex-officio director of the San Francisco Jazz Festival. Shirley extended an invitation for musicians from SMH to visit the festival this year. Shirley will be returning to the UK for the Grand Reunion in May, meeting up with her sister **Pam** (Mrs Bailey) who is travelling from Sydney, Australia.

Barbara (Babs) Stewart (Ms Woolf) visited SMH in June while meeting up with cousins in the UK, but sadly, shortly after Barbara returned to Australia, her mother died. While in Brighton, Barbara (1950s) had greatly enjoyed being given a tour of the school, which 'brought back so many happy memories' of her time at SMH, initially in Elliott House, and later in Babington.

In addition to those who were unable to attend the AGM and sent apologies for absence (qv), many more have sent in news.

Memories of SMH in pre-war years are recalled by a number of old girls.

Eleanor Birks (Mrs Gaunt), at SMH 1926-31, writes: 'I belong to the generation which wore liberty bodices, thick black and brown stockings, gym tunics with overalls on top, embroidered on the shoulders by an assistant matron (poor soul), and other horrors, but it didn't stop us enjoying life.' Eleanor is still in contact with **Joan Eastham** and **Hildegard Francis**.

Margaret Broughton-Thompson (Mrs Mortimer) joined SMH in 1937 and left when the school closed down in 1940. She recalls how one of her sisters took part in the great Centenary Pageant in 1936, and worked a cross-stitch stool seat in blue and gold, with the monogram of SMH in the centre, and the legend '1836-1936 - Before Honour is Humility' around the edge. (*Does anyone know what became of the stool?* - Ed). **Sheila Humphrys** (Mrs Allison), (qv) a contemporary of Margaret's, was at the September 1999 reunion.

Mary Chalmers (Mrs Scully) was delighted to be at the Spring 1999 reunion - her first since 1984 - but was unable to come to the September one, as she was waiting to have an eye operation. Mary (1933-39) was saddened to learn of the death in June of **Pat McCormack**, Art Mistress at SMH from 1938-40, at the age of 81 (see Obituaries). Mary's daughter **Rosemary Scully** (Mrs Heald) (qv) is also a member of SMHA.

Moyra Corscaden was able to attend both the spring and autumn reunions in 1999, and at the September reunion was nearest in guessing the number of returned forms. Her prize was a bottle of wine, donated by **Pam Cryer** of Leeford Vineyard.

Dorothy Emmet (1918-1923) dictated a lively and fascinating letter from The Hope Residential Care Home in Cambridge. Obviously still in fine fettle, Dorothy has just brought out what she says will be her last book, *Outward Forms, Inner Springs*, published by Macmillan. Dorothy recalls that in an earlier book, *Philosophers and Friends* (Macmillan 1996) she included a brief account of Miss Ghey and her engaging gift of writing light verse. Dorothy adds: 'For a number of years we had an annual event of doings in an imaginary village, Muddle on the Marsh, in which Miss Ghey was Lady of the Manor, Lady FitzPelham de Montague, and I was the village schoolmistress. [In the play] the vicar always had to be called away on urgent business elsewhere, as it was not thought proper that one of us should portray him on the stage.'

Hester Girdlestone (Mrs Oliver) is the middle, and only surviving, Girdlestone sister, and was at SMH from 1918 to 1927. Hester writes, in a very clear hand, of her sisters and their achievements. **Charity** (Mrs Robins), who gained a degree in History, was for a time school secretary at SMH. After her marriage to a clergyman, Charity lived first in Keighley and then in Devon, and is survived by two daughters. **Angela**, the youngest of the three sisters, won a gold medal as Nurse of the Year at the General Hospital, Birmingham, where she trained. **Hester** herself gained diplomas in Music and Theology, and taught in schools in the dioceses of Chester and Birmingham. She has a daughter, now in Canada, and three surviving sons, one of whom is Headmaster of a comprehensive school in Leighton Buzzard, and one is the well-known composer Stephen Oliver.

Although **Joyce Gosney**, now 82, retired from teaching in 1977, she continued with private coaching for many years. Since then she has been busy with various committees, meals on wheels, and church work, as well as being a keen bowls player. Joyce (1929-35) is still in touch with **Barbara Taylor** (Mrs Barton) and her sister **Gay Taylor** (Mrs Barton). Barbara, who 'must be about 84', was still farming in Nayland, Essex last year! Gay, who lives in the wilds of Scotland, near Ullapool, was widowed some years ago, but now has a daughter living nearby, and between them they run a small-holding with a few animals. Gay has a son who works in the Antarctic from time to time. (*The Taylors are obviously a very hardy bunch!* - Ed)

Congratulations to **Aletha Gunnery** (Sister Ruth, CSD) who reached the grand age of 100 on 25 November 1999! After leaving SMH in 1918, Aletha went to Chelsea College of Physical Education and later taught at a school in Lincoln. In 1927 she went to St Denys, Warminster, Missionary Training College, and after two years joined the Anglican community at St Denys convent 'to test her vocation'. In 1932, Aletha was professed as Sister Ruth. Six years later, the Community of St Denys sent Sister Ruth to India, where she taught at their school for Anglo-Indian girls at Nankom in Chota Nagpur, and was in charge of a hostel for small boys. During the war, under the threat of Japanese invasion, the school was evacuated to Allahabad, and while there Sister Ruth was appointed Sister-in-

Charge. Later, the school passed into lay hands, and Sister Ruth worked at village centres in Itki and Manoharpur, before returning to England in 1947. Two years later she was sent out to Transkei to take charge of a new community house there. In 1957, Sister Ruth was elected Mother Superior, a post she held for twelve years. After her retirement, Sister Ruth continued to help wherever she was needed, both at the community house in Chiswick, London, and in the convent at Warminster. She is now at Sarum College, Salisbury. Although Sister Ruth can no longer read much, Sister Frances Anne reads the magazine to her, and tells us that Sister Ruth is still very interested in her old school.

Sheila Humphrys (Mrs Allison) was delighted to be at the 1999 AGM and reunion, with her daughter **Penny Buck** (Mrs Gardiner), (qv) who is now a Governor of the School. Sheila's contribution to the motto debate is printed on page 12.

Barbara Hunt (Mrs Millbourn) appreciated the warm reminder for the September reunion, and was very sorry that she could not attend. However, Barbara (1930-36) plans to be at the Grand Reunion in May, adding that it is 'an excellent way to celebrate the Millennium for us all'. In anticipation of the great welcome awaiting everyone, Barbara hopes to persuade a contemporary old girl to come with her. (*Who will it be? We look forward to finding out in May! - Ed*)

Margaret Jones (Mrs McCall) had many pleasant surprises at the May 1999 Reunion Lunch, where she met many people she hadn't seen since her last visit to SMH in the 1960s. Margaret (1932-40) spent Christmas in Euschede, Holland, with three generations of her family. The only one missing was her elder son, John, still working with Christian Aid in the Congo. However, during a week of 'rest and recreation', John was able to travel to Sringa, Tanzania, to visit another SMH old girl, **Elizabeth Kennedy** (Mrs Phillips).

Margaret Lloyd (1921-30) is now 87, and has also lost touch with most of her contemporaries. After many years of working for CMS in their headquarters, Margaret now lives in a CMS residential home in Tunbridge Wells, (appropriately called Venn House!). Despite her years, Margaret remains fairly active and mobile, and regularly plays the piano at evening devotions in Venn House.

Sonia (Sunny) Mackay (Mrs Warner) made her first visit back to SMH for many years when she attended the reunion in September, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Sonia left SMH in 1940.

K H Marshall (Mrs Lacey) (1934-39) was unfortunately away in September, and was unable to come to the AGM.

Mary Reeson (Mrs Clements) (1932-40) thinks the idea of a lunch-time reunion is an excellent one, and in 1999 brought three of her contemporaries to the spring reunion - **Angela Wright** (Mrs Waller), **Jean Barker** (Mrs McEwan) and **Alyson Nunn** (Mrs Knight).

Elizabeth Ryan (Mrs Herdon), who was at SMH from 1928-32, is now 86 and finds travelling difficult, but does occasionally manage to see her sister **Patricia Ryan** (Mrs Storey) who lives in Topsham, Devon. Elizabeth wrote that she hoped 'one day to visit the Hall and bring my great grand-daughter (aged 4) - wish I could win a lottery and send her to the Hall!'. That hoped-for visit became a reality in

December when Elizabeth was on a visit to Sussex and spent some time at SMH. Elizabeth is still in touch with **Elizabeth Moore**, **Katherine Seth** (Mrs Ross-Thomson) and **Diana Harris** (Mrs Bruton).

Although unable to attend the September AGM and reunion, **Alma Smallpiece** (Mrs Fosbery) was delighted to receive the prize as the winner of the draw for returned forms. Alma (1922-25) is now in a Warminster nursing home which has a large staff, so her box of biscuits was generously shared round. Before moving into the nursing home, Alma met **Clare Sangster** (Mrs Milsted), another old girl of SMH, whose father was Canon Sangster. Although unable to get around much, Alma is still constantly reminded of SMH. Her contemporaries included **Margaret Lloyd** and **Eileen Vaughan** (Mrs Reekie). Alma is still in touch with Margaret, and with **Jean Reekie** (Mrs Payne), who was at SMH from 1950-56. In another coincidental meeting, Alma spoke to a visitor to the home who had come from Brighton, and was amazed to find that the visitor not only knew SMH, but had had six cousins who were pupils! (*Please, can anyone identify who this might be, and who the six cousins are?* - Ed)

Juliet Stebbing (Mrs Littlewood) also has memories of this era, although she has lost touch with her contemporaries. Juliet (1924-31) was the third member of her family to attend SMH, and remembers her oldest sister, **Margaret Joy Stebbing** (now deceased), as being the best scholar. 'I was only good at hockey', Juliet recalls, and despite achieving five credits in GSC, didn't gain her matriculation as she failed to pass in Latin 'in spite of special tuition with Miss Ghey'. Juliet visited SMH in August, and records that her two daughters and grand-daughter, who accompanied her on the visit, were much impressed with the school buildings. Juliet and her husband live in Bradford on Avon.

'Advancing age and infirmity' prevented **Jean Stuart** (Mrs Baxter) from making the 180-mile round trip from Thatcham to Brighton for either of the 1999 reunions, but she sent news of her two daughters **Alice Baxter** and **Kate** (qv), both also old girls. Jean (1928-1936) very much enjoyed the last newsletter, with 'lots of news of my contemporaries'.

Moving on to pupils from more recent times,

Amoret Abis (1989-98) was among those who attended the reunion supper in September.

Libby Ager (Mrs Thompson) is separating from her husband. She has been very well supported by her friends, particularly those from SMH, and has recently bought herself a house in Brighton.

Veronica Alsop (Mrs Smith) and her sister **Jane** (Mrs Wharton) were both at the September 1999 reunion. In July this year Veronica (1953-62) is hoping to take early retirement from teaching and move to Northampton, where she and her husband have a share in a canal boat. Their two daughters are also teachers 'despite both their parents being in the profession!'. Jane (1955-62) keeps in contact with **Rosemary Boorne** (Mrs Gillies), who was the exchange student with SMH New Jersey in 1965. Rosemary (1959-66), who hopes to be at the Grand Reunion in

May, wonders what happened to the other New Jersey exchange students, including **Sheelagh Dodds**, and whether they will be able to come to the reunion. (*The first SMH New Jersey exchange student was **Tricia Dahl** in 1958. Can anyone help find Tricia, Sheila, or any of the other exchange students?* - Ed)

Julia Bagshaw (Mrs Dunncliffe) lives with her husband Charles and nine-year-old daughter Anne near Diss, on the Norfolk/Suffolk border 'in the middle of nowhere, with a labrador dog, pony, a few chickens and half of the country's wild rabbits!' Having trained in business studies, nursing, and yoga teaching, Julia has just completed a teaching diploma.

Liz Baker (Mrs Caudle) and three friends had a mini-reunion in London in May. Liz (1950-64) travelled from Cheltenham, **Sherry Coe** (Mrs Carter) from Ditchling, **Jane Harvey** (Mrs Porter) all the way from Queensland, Australia, and **Jenny Riley** (Mrs Wray) from Purley, Surrey. Jenny (1951-63) has her own executive recruitment business, set up in 1991, recruiting mainly management consultants and IT professionals. She is active in the Liberal Democrat party, and was their candidate for Wantage in the 1997 general election. Jenny is also in touch with **Vicky Burge** (Mrs Schofield).

Penny Barnes (1957-61) was disappointed not to be able to get to the September reunion as her job 'is so unsociable, especially at the weekends', but sent her best wishes for a very successful day.

Anne Barr (Mrs Carr-Hill) has returned to work with the Lawn Tennis Association. Her son Oliver is thriving, and they stayed with Susan Roller (qv) on their way up to Scotland last July.

Alice Baxter now lives in Banbury and has two small children, Wilfred and Emma, while her sister **Kate** lives on Dartmoor and has four children between the ages of 4 and 14. Alice and Kate are the daughters of **Jean Stuart** (Mrs Baxter) (qv), who was at SMH from 1928-1936.

Christine Bean (Mrs Edmondson) is one of the SMH e-mail correspondents. Although unable to attend either of the 1999 reunions, she is hoping to be at the Grand Reunion in May this year. Christine (1952-59) still keeps in contact with **Rosemary Douse** (Mrs Lea) in Oxford, **Elizabeth Cockburn** (Mrs Males) in Old Basing, **Heather Heald** (Mrs Johnson) in Glasgow, and **Penny Waddington** (Mrs Peaty) in Canonbie, Dumfriesshire. Heather (1948-57) writes that her husband is now Chairman of the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, which means that they lead a very busy life. Their elder son now lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and a grandchild (American!) was due to arrive in September, which will doubtless mean many more visits to the USA. They already have a 2-year-old grand-daughter in Edinburgh. Heather is keen to attend the Grand Reunion in May.

Anne Bearne (Mrs Bell) is living in Whangaparaoa, New Zealand, where she and her husband Riley have a house overlooking the ocean. Anne (1955-59), who has three children and four grandchildren, is heavily involved in embroidery, and is Secretary of Embroidery 2000, an International Stitched Textile conference being held in Auckland in April. Shortly after that, Anne and Riley leave for the UK, and plan to be at the Grand Reunion in May. For many years, despite the distances separating them, Anne kept in touch with **Virginia Reid** (Mrs Hoare), but sadly

Virginia died in 1998. At the time, Anne felt as though she had 'lost her childhood', but is delighted that she is now back in touch with others who remember her from school days. Having obtained her MEng degree in Chemical Engineering at Nottingham University, **Katrina Beck** (1988-90) went on to complete a PhD course at Cranfield University, and is now working as a chemical engineer with Dow Corning in Barry, S Wales.

Former Editor of this Newsletter, **Linda Belasco** (Mrs Kings), has recently had to give up her job in a surveyor's office, and has also had both her children living back at home again. Linda (1955-63), who keeps in contact with **Frances Moojen** (Mrs Bearn), is looking forward to the Grand Reunion in May.

Ruth Belson (Mrs Witham) (1978-82) writes of her move to Ewell, Surrey.

Hanizah Besar (1993-95) is studying at the South Bank University in London, while her sister **Hafizah** (1993-96) is at the Oxford Brookes University.

Alison Bonny continues to work for Richard Branson.

Sarah Boyd (Mrs Mylne) who lives near Berwick-upon-Tweed, describes herself as 'a merry widow', and is delighted at becoming a grandmother for the first time. Sarah (1954-60), is working as a supply teacher, and enjoys long walks with her five terrier dogs. She is still in contact with **Amy Easter** (Mrs Ayling) (1954-60) who now lives in Worthing, **Jenny Covern** (1954-60), now in Cumbria, and **Kim Kimmins** (Mrs Cook)(qv).

Valerie Boyes (staff, 1962-86), who visited Pakistan in August, and **Laura Bristol** (staff, 1958-88) were both at the September 1999 reunion.

Ruth Bradbrooke (Mrs Wiffen) writes that 'Miss Conrady's death has severed a link with my childhood. However, gratitude for a full and dedicated life does alleviate the sadness of parting'. Ruth was one of those who attended Miss Conrady's 90th birthday lunch. Recalling how much she enjoyed the 1996 reunion at New Milton, Hants, organised by **Kim Kimmins** (Mrs Cook) (qv), Ruth plans to try and get to the Grand Reunion at SMH in May.

Penny Buck (Mrs Gardiner) is now an Old Girl Governor of the School, and Vice Chairman of SMHA. Penny's tireless work for the Association has included setting up and maintaining a database of all old girls (whether or not they are SMHA members), designing and setting up the SMHA web site, organising the SMH e-mail Community (see page 37) and getting together the group organising the Grand Reunion in May. She also rescued this Newsletter when all the prepared material disappeared into the inner recesses of the Editor's computer and seemed determined to stay there!

Sally Buck (Mrs Watts) is another e-mail correspondent. Although unable to attend the September reunion, Sally (1974-83) would like get back in touch with others of her year and perhaps meet up with them again. *(13/14 May at SMH would be an ideal opportunity! - Ed)*

Cindy Bulteel (Mrs Coté) and her husband Réjeau are teaching at the ISB school in Beijing.

Jane Burditt (Mrs Byrne) (1966-74) was away at the time of the September reunion. She and her husband are now living in Wrexham.

Penny Burgis (Mrs Lowe) very much enjoyed the last Newsletter, and sends her best wishes. She is still in touch with **Belinda Lindeck**. **Jill Burwell** (Mrs McKean) (1956-60) and her husband Gordon spent some time in Africa, but have been back in their home town of Dumfries for some years. In an e-mail, **Jane Campbell** writes that although she left the UK directly after A-levels, and has not returned since, she would love to come back and see how it is now. Jane manages to keep in touch with quite a few old girls, finding e-mail a real boon, and asked if we could include e-mail addresses in the Newsletter. (*See page 37 - Ed*)

Louisa Canavan (1986-95) spent a gap year teaching art in Melbourne, Australia, and is now at Durham University studying Geological Sciences.

Lorna Champion (Mrs Franks) writes from her new home in Oxford, having moved there following the death of her husband. She is now much nearer to her large and close family of five children, 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Lorna is still in touch with **Frances Woolgar**.

In January 1999 **Beth Channing** (staff, 1962-85) went on a 'holiday of a lifetime', flying first to Istanbul, and then cruising on the P&O *Island Princess*. The ship called at Athens, Ashdod, Port Said, Suez, Salalah, Bombay, Cochin, Singapore, Siam Seaport, Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Manila, Sydney, Hobart, Freemantle, Mauritius, Réunion, Durban, East London and Cape Town, with a flight home from Cape Town in March.

Dr Jenny Child (Mrs Hocken) is now a consultant medical microbiologist with the Surrey and Sussex Healthcare Trust, based in Crawley and Redhill. Her husband, Glen, was recently appointed team vicar in Crawley. They have a daughter, Morwenna, nearly three years old. Jenny (1972-81) remembers **Derek** and **Irene Avis**, who were part of the music department, and has 'a great love of early and renaissance music, for which they are partly responsible!'. As a result, Jenny is trying to make contact with a group in the Crawley area to enable her to take up music for that era again. Jenny's sister **Isabel Child** was also at SMH, and left in about 1969.

Liz Clements (Mrs Gartside) (1965-72) has strong links with SMH. Her mother, **Mary Reeson** (Mrs Clements) (qv) is an old girl, and Liz's daughter Sarah is now a pupil. Liz has been in contact with a number of old girls from her era, including **Julia Bagshaw** (Mrs Dunncliffe) (qv), **Diana Markham** (Mrs Kaars Sijpesteijn) (qv) and **Penny Titheradge** (Mrs Harrison). Liz also mentions **Deborah Salmon** (Mrs Quinn) who lives with her husband and three children near Telford. Some time ago, when Liz took her son to the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital for some stitches, one of the nurses there was **Jennifer Phillipson** (Mrs Hutchings). Jennifer, who lives in Henfield, is married to a policeman and has three children, and her sister **Diana Phillipson** lives in Hove and works in a nursing home.

After graduating from Salford University with a 2:1 honours degree in Geography, **Barbara Cole** (1988-95) set off to travel to Singapore and Australia for three months, before returning to the UK to start job-hunting. Her sister **Katherine Cole** (1986-91) is now teaching at a junior school near Heathrow Airport, and living with their older sister **Sarah Cole** (1984-91), who works for a computer company.

Jennifer (Jiffy) Cornwall-Walker, (1953-62), worked for many years in the film industry, and travelled the world from her base in London. Then, a few years ago, she opted for a completed change of lifestyle, took over a plant nursery at Lifton in Devon, and moved down to her present home near Exeter. Jiffy is enjoying the challenge of quite literally growing her business, and is delighted that her efforts are now beginning to achieve results. Among her recent customers were **Sue Reynolds** (Mrs Walker) (qv) and her husband Ian. Jiffy, who has recently joined SMHA, recalls nine very happy years at SMH, despite 'a running battle on the discipline front' with Miss Conrady!

Despite the difficulties of MS, **Ken Crowther** writes cheerfully from his home in Teston, near Maidstone, where he has regular visits from **Ralph Wood**, another former teacher at SMH. Ken wonders how many of his first 1st Form at SMH (whom he remembers as being a very cheerful bunch) remember their promise to meet up again in 2000. (*You don't have to organise anything - just come to the Grand Reunion at SMH on 13/14 May! - Ed*). Ken has also been in touch with **Valerie Boyes** (qv), and with **Kathleen Holloway** who had been working overseas in Burma, India and Nepal for many years, but returned to London recently to complete her PhD.

Mary Cunliffe (Mrs Cole) continues to keep in touch with many old school friends, and the information she has given has been extremely useful in enabling the Association to make contact with many 'lost' old girls. Mary (1950-59) had kept in touch with **Suzi Bannister** (Mrs Veazey) (1949-61) who died last March after a three-and-a-half year battle against cancer (see Obituaries).

Abigail Davis (Mrs Rapp) is currently working as a specialist recruitment consultant for the fashion industry. After her wedding in October, at which **Charlotte Hill** was a guest, Abigail and her husband Stephen had a wonderful honeymoon in Mauritius, but are now 'back on the ground, and working hard'.

Audrey de Baughn, Domestic Science teacher at SMH in the 1950s, writes of her move back to Brighton, and sends her good wishes. (*I remember Miss de Baughn's lessons very well, and still have my old SMH exercise books, with advice on kitchen planning, and loads of recipes. Who else remembers cheese and tomato tricorns? - Ed*)

Abigail Delow (1990-97) is in her third and final year at Reading University where she is reading Geography, and 'loving every minute of it'. Last year the course field trip was to Crete, to study the geomorphology of the island, but Abigail was expecting to manage quite a bit of sunbathing as well! Unfortunately, the visit to Crete coincided with the AGM and reunion, so Abigail was unable to make the trip to Brighton. She still plays lacrosse for the university's 1st team, and now serves on the Sports Federation Executive Committee as treasurer. Her role is to manage all the finances for all the sports clubs, which involves looking after 'huge amounts of money - very challenging'.

Anthea Drake (Mrs Holland) and her husband Jon moved to Cairo in August, where Jon is working for two years on the master plan for the Cairo sewers! Anthea (1967-70) confesses that her social life 'has not been as busy since I was in my 20s!'. They have been to the Red Sea, and her 10-year-old daughter has been

windsurfing. Anthea's niece **Nicola Weatherley**, (at SMH in the 1970s), lives in London with her solicitor husband and their first baby was due in January. Anthea, another e-mail correspondent, is keen to renew contact with **Madeline Green** and **Jane Smithard**, but would be happy to make contact with any old girl who might be living in, or visiting, the Cairo area. **Johanna Dwyer** (Mrs Hill), who has two children, occasionally produces work for Woman's Hour. She has started writing a novel, in addition to her children's books.

Jane Eadie, at SMH during the 1950s and 60s, is now a GP working in a practice in Brighton. She has recently become one of the visiting doctors at SMH.

When **Joan Edwards** (1947-51) married, she didn't change her surname, as she married a second cousin of the same name, which makes it easy for old friends to remember her name! These include **Ruth Raven**, and **Pat Eggleton**, who has lived in Sydney, Australia, for many years. Joan retired in December 1998 after working as a part-time haematologist in Salisbury. Joan is another Association member who is using e-mail to good effect.

Elizabeth Elliott (1963-70) was at the September reunion.

Margaret Ellis (1967-75) very much enjoyed the SMHA AGM and supper in September, and has registered on the Association's e-mail list. Margaret's job with American Express has taken her abroad a great deal in the last year - to Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Spain, Switzerland and the US. Margaret continues to be a keen bell ringer, ringing at St Mark's for all special SMH occasions. In her capacity as Tower Captain at St George's, she has also had the pleasure of ringing at St Mark's every Sunday during St. George's 'exile' there. In May, following her move to Ovingdean, Margaret took part in a play based on the life of Sophia Jex Blake, the first British woman doctor, and was amazed to find that the part of Sophia's mother was being played by **Mrs Sheasby**, history teacher at SMH in the 1970s! Margaret is also in touch with **Kathy Howard** (another campanologist), **Nathalie Lowe** (Mrs Soanes), whose third child was born in May 1999, and **Jackie Morgan** (Mrs Wiercinski), who in turn is in touch with **Ruth Pollock**.

Although **Katherine Ellwood** (Mrs Musson) was at SMH for just five years (1961-66), her links with the school cover a much longer period. Her grandmother, Mrs Harries, was a house mistress for some time, her mother **Yvonne Harries** (Mrs Ellwood) and aunt **Joan Harries** were both pupils before the war, and her sister **Rosalind Ellwood** was also a pupil in the 1960s. She writes of mixed memories of SMH - enjoying music and RE, but hating 'dip pens' and school meals! She particularly remembers her 'wise' RE teacher Mrs Jackson, with her 'iron grey hair' and a gown looking as though it had been worn 'for at least half a century', 'lessons delivered with great enthusiasm' and her hallmark 'simplified map of Palestine'. *(These memories are shared by so many who had great affection and respect for 'Jackie' - Ed.)* Katherine was inspired to follow in Mrs Jackson's footsteps and read Theology at Durham, gaining the coveted fur-lined hood to her gown! She then went on to teach RE in the Kesteven area, and after marrying a curate settled in Harlaxton, near Grantham, where their daughter was born. Katherine, who has since resumed teaching, and her husband moved to Eastbourne in October.

Kathleen Farmer (Mrs Milton), who taught at SMH from 1955-85, regrets that caring for her family and very close friends makes it impossible for her to attend school events, but values very much receiving the SMHA Newsletter, and looks forward to receiving it each spring. **Rosemary Farr** (Mrs Southworth) (1947-48) is married to the actor John Southworth and they have three children. One son is a photographer, their daughter is an artist, and their second son has just finished his PhD in SE Asian Archaeology and has recently left for Cambodia.

Congratulations to **Alexandra Fearn** (Mrs McCreery), who was awarded the MVO in the 1999 New Year's Honours. Alexandra (1979-83) writes that **Francesca Buckroyd** and **Jane Simmons** (qv) have both married. Francesca is now Mrs Collin, and Jane (1976-83) is now Mrs Linney.

Liz Ferguson (Mrs Eastham) and her mother **Ruth Powell** (Mrs Ferguson) both came to the autumn reunion. Through the information compiled on the Association's database, Liz (1969-76) was able to renew contact with **Cynthia Fabian** (Mrs Palmer), her former French teacher. Liz (an e-mail correspondent) and Cynthia both had daughters at the same playgroup in Haywards Heath, prior to Liz's move to Milton Keynes. Liz's daughter 'has a very keen interest in France and all things French' and taps into French internet 'chat rooms'.

For **Julia Franckeiss** (Mrs Clayton) SMH (1947-52) was a comfortable haven from a very difficult home life. She adds 'I owe an openness of mind and ability to appreciate good qualities in others to the atmosphere and education I received at the school'. Julia trained as an SRN, married, had four children, and later gained an honours degree in History and Literature at what is now Anglia Polytechnic University. Following her divorce, Julia ran a bookshop in Long Melford, Suffolk. Now, having retired, she has 'taken to sculpting, mostly birds, and am granny of one delightful baby girl, Phoebe'. Julia, another e-mail correspondent, asked to be put in touch with **Jean Scatliff** (Mrs Weston) (qv) and **Mary Boswell**. Julia also wrote of the death, in July 1994, of **Jeannette Saunders**.

In May 1999 **Joanna French** (Mrs Grey) gave birth to her second child, a son called Cameron. Joanna (1983-88) still keeps in contact with **Shani Waller** (Mrs Mason) and **Mary Blee** (Mrs Hionos). In spring 1999 **Hannah Gale** (1991-98) was taking her first year nursing exams and fund-raising for her nursing elective which she hopes will take her to New Zealand for nine weeks this summer.

Jane Garland completed her nursing training at Eastbourne Hospital in 1995, and continued to work there for three years before emigrating to Canada. She is still in contact with **Mireille Blass**, **Clair Joynt** and **Holly Stokes** (Mrs Garmston), and enjoys hearing news of SMH.

Philippa Graham (Mrs Biles), with husband Gerry and daughter Eleanor are enjoying the less pressured (and less polluted!) environment in Malton, North Yorkshire.

Hana Grisdale is working as personal assistant to violinist Vanessa Mae.

Melanie Grove (Mrs Samuel) returned to SMH for the first time in many years for the 1999 AGM and enjoyed the Creative Writing seminar led by **Liz Fincham**. Melanie (at SMH in the late 50s) now lives very close to SMH, and hopes to be back for more SMHA events in the future.

Rachel Hardaker (Mrs Manger) and her husband Garth are delighted to be back in England from Virginia, USA - despite the price of petrol here! Garth is now working for the Ministry of Defence. They and their sons Hamish, four, and two-year-old Sebastian, enjoy walking the dog in nearby Richmond Park. Rachel and Garth were anticipating the arrival of their third child in January.

Susan Harris (Mrs Roller), who lists no fewer than 16 of her contemporaries (1975-88) with whom she is still in touch, wrote with news of many of them. Susan herself continues to enjoy life in Cheshire looking after her two small children, although a move may be in the offing as her husband's company has recently been taken over and he is looking for a new job. She flies down to Brighton on a regular basis to attend Governors' meetings at SMH, and has stayed with **Libby Ager** (Mrs Thomson) (qv) many times. On one occasion they gate-crashed a party held by **Pippa Pearn** for **Nicky Currie**, **Anne Anthony** and **Katy Taylor**. Susan also attended the reunion lunch in May and enjoyed seeing many familiar faces there, particularly staff such as **Mrs Leslie**, **Miss Payne**, **Miss Bristol** and **Mrs Channing**.

Sue Haydock (Mrs Forsyth) and her husband returned from the USA in May and then moved out to Mons, Belgium. They recently celebrated their Silver Wedding with the 21st birthday of their eldest daughter. Sue (1968-72), who is looking forward to returning to the UK in 2001, still keeps in touch with **Carolyn Mitchell** (Mrs Hawker) (1968-71), currently living in Blantyre, Malawi.

Susan Hennings, who is currently working part-time for her former employer, expects her second child in April.

Stephanie Hirst (Mrs Duncan) (1960-65) writes from East Lothian to say she is still in touch with **Frances Sprigge** (Mrs Tweedie). Frances (1959-66) is now living in Auckland, New Zealand.

After giving birth to a daughter, Hebe, a year ago, **Jane Hitchcock** (Mrs Bunclark) has since returned to work as an English and Drama teacher at West Buckland School, leaving her capable husband to try and run his surveying business from home while keeping an eye on Hebe. **Susan Harris** (Mrs Roller) (qv), is to be Hebe's Godmother.

Terri Howard is due to be married in March.

Christmas in Australia, with a temperature of 36°C, isn't nearly as good as Christmas back home 'in good old Blighty', according to **Sarah Hunt** (Mrs Ashford). She writes from Perth, WA, where she lives with husband Peter and sons Benjamin, Tristan and Sebastian. As well as coping with all the family chores, running a book club, and handling administration at the local playgroup, Sarah is also studying to complete her WA Lawyer Accreditation course. The family greatly enjoys camping out, and took a three-week trip to the Kimberley area, 3400 km away, where they explored gorges, swam in waterholes and saw some spectacular scenery. Having spent most of 1999 at home, they hope to go travelling at Easter this year, and may even manage to visit old friends in the UK.

Caroline Johnson (Dr Currer), who was at SMH from 1960-67, keeps in touch with Rosemary Scully (Mrs Heald) (qv). Caroline's eldest daughter has graduated from Sussex University with a 2:1 in English, her second daughter has started a

Philosophy and Theology degree course at Heythrop College, University of London, and her third is doing a nursing degree at the University of Manchester. **Tamsin Johnson** (Mrs Kidwell) is still with SmithKline Beecham as an internal auditor and travels abroad extensively on business. Her sister **Veryan Johnson** was married last summer.

Kasma Kassim is now married, and gave birth to a son in October. **Mona Kassim** has also married, and **Yani Kassim** is practising as a barrister in Brunei.

Kim (Celia) Kimmins (Mrs Cook) and her husband Roy recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary with a house-warming party in their new home in Tenterden. Kim and Roy were joined by their two sons and daughters-in-law, and one-year-old grandson Ethan, as well as a host of other family members and friends, including **Penny Buck** (Mrs Gardiner) (qv). Kim is recovering well after a period of serious ill-health, and plans to get back to her writing career very soon.

As part of the team working to update the SMHA database, Kim (1954-60) has traced a number of Old Girls who had been out of touch with the Association. These include **Anne Bearne** (Mrs Bell) (qv), in New Zealand, **Sarah Boyd** (Mrs Mylne) (qv) and **Jill Burwell** (Mrs McKean) (qv), both in Scotland. Through **Julie Craig** (Mrs Cinque) (1954-60) who lives in Barnes, London, Kim was able to obtain a current address for **Jenny Pigg** (Mrs Clauton) (1954-60), who is now back at her parents old home in Orsett, Essex. Following the visit of **Shirley Read-Jahn** (qv) to SMH in September, Kim was able to contact Shirley's sister **Pam** (Mrs Bailey) (qv) in Bondi, Australia, and Pam in turn put Kim in touch with **Rowan Cawkell** (Mrs Fookes). As Rowan now lives near Rye, not far from Kim's new home in Tenterden, they were recently able to meet up for the first time since Rowan left SMH in 1957. Kim also keeps in touch with **Mary Theobald** (Mrs Pashley) (qv) and her husband Roger, **Gloria Smart** (qv), and **Sue Reynolds** (Mrs Walker) and her husband Ian (qv).

Doreen Lai is now working in corporate finance in Singapore.

Writing from Dunfermline, Scotland, **Janine Launchbury** (Mrs Johnson) describes a wonderful family summer holiday in Kentucky which included a boat trip down the Ohio river, and a canoeing expedition down the little Miami river. They also enjoyed a Christmas visit with family members in the USA. Janine and her husband Mark have recently bought an old cottage dating back to the 1700s, in Kingsbarns.

Having completed her MA in Later Mediaeval Studies at Royal Holloway and Bedford College, London University, **Katrina Lewis** (1981-89) worked for a year with adults with learning difficulties, before going on to Homerton College, Cambridge to do a PGCE Secondary in English and Drama. Katrina is now in her second year of teaching at a secondary school in Crowborough. Katrina also has news of **Cheryl Gansey**, living in Epsom, who is in her fourth year of teaching secondary French at a school in Redhill, and is now Head of the French Department there.

Mary McEwan (Mrs Hayhurst), who was on the staff from 1968-79, was unable to attend the September reunion as she was in Abu Dhabi, where her husband was working. They have now returned from Indonesia and are based back in Brighton. Mary's daughter Sarah has completed her first year at university in Indianapolis,

USA, and son Mark is in his final year at Worth Abbey school. Mary continues to keep in touch with **Kathy Howard**, who lives in East Malling, Kent. Having gained a Physiology degree, and then a post-graduate diploma in Dietetics, **Diana Markham** (Mrs Kaars Sijpesteijn) has been working full time as a dietician in Harrogate. In 1977 she married Jan, a Dutchman, and they have two children, Casper (15) and Alexandra (13). Diana keeps in touch with **Julia Bagshaw** (Mrs Dunncliffe) (qv), and is Godmother to her daughter.

Heidi Massey (Mrs Bloore), is now an Australian citizen, having lived in Sydney for 10 years. She and her husband Andrew, a financial consultant, have a three-year-old son Henry. Heidi continues her work as 'Massey Recruitment' for senior executives in the advertising world.

Amelia Manzi (Mrs Roberts) writes from her new address in Ealing. 'I always find the Newsletter interesting, and love reading about people I knew, pupils and staff.' Amelia still keeps in touch with **Sarah Batchelor** (Mrs Turck), **Catherine Holt** (Mrs Tilbury), who recently celebrated her tenth wedding anniversary, and **Fiona Wright** (Mrs Hendry). They are hoping to have a gathering of the class of 1982 at the 2002 reunion at SMH.

Lisa Martin (Mrs Andrews) is involved in a number of societies in Bletchingley where she lives. **Susan Harris** (Mrs Roller) (qv) and her family stayed with Lisa last October when they attended a Christening in Lindfield, and Lisa and Susan were both at the reunion party given last summer by **Caroline Simmons** (Mrs Hearne) (qv).



Left to right: Caroline Simmons (Mrs Hearne), Lisa Martin (Mrs Andrews) Susan Hennings, Tamsin Johnson (Mrs Kidwell) and Susan Harris (Mrs Roller) enjoyed a reunion at Caroline's home.

Angelica Meletiou (1957-63) was in good spirits at the September reunion, with delightful photos of her grandchildren.

Holly Mellors is working in television.

Lucy Middlemas (Mrs Rothman) (1975-82) and her husband James have three lovely daughters, Georgia (7), Isabella (5) and Emily (2), and now live in Wimbledon.

Audrey Miller (house mistress 1974-77) keeps in contact with **Margaret Payne** (qv), **Betty Drew** and **Jack Liddell**, and enjoys hearing news from **Nathalie Lowe** (Mrs Soanes), **Rachel McClaughry** (Mrs Gregson) and Rachel's mother **Virginia Crowe** (Mrs Garner-Richardson). Having moved house shortly before the birth of her third daughter, Rachael is planning to return to work, initially for one day a week, undertaking a paediatric physiotherapy research project. Rachael (1974-79) keeps in contact with **Susan Harrison**, **Jenny Child** (qv) and **Nicola Filmer**. **Margaret Payne** has written to advise us of the death, in September 1998, of **Audrey's** brother John, who had been such a tremendous help to Audrey and her sister Dorothy.

Anna Millyard (1991-95) went travelling in Australia for six months before starting an MA course in Social Anthropology at Goldsmith's College, London.

Lisa Moore is travelling around the world.

Margaret Payne (History teacher and Deputy head, 1966-82) continues to keep in touch with many old girls and forwarded news from many of them. **Gaile Ashby** (Mrs Carey) is in Pulborough, W Sussex. **Carol Fraser** (Mrs Wheatcroft) and her husband Charles are happily settled in Singapore with their children Laura and Peter. Carol's sister **Fiona Fraser** (Mrs Lloyd) and her husband Graham have been through a hard time recently, after Graham was made redundant, but things are now improving. They have a daughter Grace and son Paul. **Anne Fridal** lives in Brooklyn, NY, but was visiting England last year and sang at the Royal Festival Hall in September. **Susan Hill**, who lives in West Chiltington, W Sussex, has gained her pilot's licence. **Katie Hodgson** (Mrs Griffiths) is living in Hinwick, Beds, and has twin daughters, Joanna and Rebecca. **Sarah Hunt** (Mrs Ashford) (qv) is now in Perth, Western Australia, and has three sons. **Susan Hennings** and her partner live in Henley on Thames and have a son, Ross. **Judy Reynolds** (Mrs Hart) was working at Addenbrookes Hospital until she and her family moved to the Wirral. Judy has three children, Alice, Samuel and Joseph. **Penny Titheradge** (Mrs Harrison) writes that her husband Charles has a serious illness, but was a little better at the time of writing. They and their daughter Charlotte managed to take a holiday in Switzerland, France and Germany. News of Penny also came from **Liz Clements** (Mrs Gartside), (qv) who adds that because Penny works from home as an administrator and conference organiser, she is on hand to care for her husband.

Pam Read-Jahn (Mrs Bailey) faxed news from her home in Bondi, Australia. Pam stopped being a secretary when the first of her four daughters was born, and for 21 years ran a childminding business, but now works with the elderly, disabled and retarded. Pam and her sister **Shirley**, now in California (qv), have both kept in touch with **Rowan Cawkell** (Mrs Fookes) (1954-57), and all three are planning to be at the Grand Reunion in May.

Sue Reynolds (Mrs Walker), who was for many years an instructor at the Royal Duchy College in Launceston, has recently taken early retirement. Visiting a plant nursery near their home on the Devon/Cornwall border, Sue and husband Ian were amazed to discover that it had been bought by **Jennifer (Jiffy) Cornwall-Walker**, (qv) a fellow Babingtonian! Sue continues to keep in contact with **Gloria Smart** (qv) and **Kim Kimmins** (Mrs Cook) (qv).

Having graduated from Manchester University with a 2:1, and from the London College of Law with commendation, **Helen Roberts** (1988-95) is now working for a firm of solicitors on London Bridge. She is also busy planning her wedding in July to Simon Fraser, a computer programmer.

Katie Ross is greatly enjoying her studies in Pharmacology at Portsmouth University. Her family has recently moved from Fareham to Norfolk.

Melissa Royle (Mrs Earle) has moved from Wadhurst to Hawkhurst, and writes: 'I love receiving the magazine and hearing about old friends, and lock myself away for an hour as soon as it arrives!' Melissa, who married in 1991, has three children aged seven, six and two, who take up all her time. Her sister **Lucinda** is married and also has three children, and her younger sister **Amanda** lives in Australia with her husband.

Elizabeth Scatliff (Mrs Putnam) called in briefly to the May 1999 reunion, and was pleased with the 'pleasant format and nice range of activities'. In the debate on the school motto, Elizabeth (1950-60) felt that it could, in certain circumstances, 'be unhelpful to young women setting out on a career in today's world'.

Jean Scatliff (Mrs Weston) was most disappointed not to be able to attend the September reunion as she had a prior engagement. She writes that she was 'one of the group who had the amazingly successful reunion last year, after 45 years!'. Jean's husband, Dr John Weston, sadly died after a long illness in 1996. Her daughters **Anne Weston** (Mrs Clarkson Webb) and **Amanda Weston** (Mrs Staley) are both Old Girls. Anne, who lives in Essex has twins - a daughter and a son, while Amanda and her husband are in Dubai with their two sons and two daughters.

Rosemary Scully (Mrs Heald) was unable to come to either of the 1999 meetings as she was in Vienna in the spring, and preparing for a trip to San Francisco in September. When Rosemary and her husband Gordon celebrated their silver wedding in January 1998, **Caroline Johnson** (Dr Currer) and her family were also at the party. Caroline (qv) was also at Rosemary's 50th birthday party, and Rosemary reciprocated by attending Caroline's silver wedding and 50th birthday parties.

Marilyn Shelley (Mrs Fergusson), who trained as a nurse at St Thomas's hospital, is married to a gynaecologist who now works there. Marilyn (1954-64) is a practising counsellor, in general practice and privately. She has four children, one of whom has recently made her a grandmother. Marilyn is a churchwarden in her local church, where she and her husband are both involved in running Alpha courses. Any spare time is spent fishing - in Scotland if possible! Marilyn, an e-mail correspondent, is still in contact with **Adrienne Allsworth** (Mrs Hirschfeld).

Jenny Sheppard (1979-86) writes with news of **Debbie Cavalli**. While Jenny was au pairing in Chicago, back in 1993, she visited Debbie at her parents' home in San Rafael, California. In 1995 Debbie went to Taiwan to learn Chinese while working in an American school there. Jenny visited her in Taipei for six weeks, and they both went to Bali on holiday. Later, Debbie returned to the US and is now living in Los Angeles.

Last summer **Caroline Simmons** (Mrs Hearne) held an SMH reunion party for others of her era (1975-81) at her home in Berkshire (see photo). Among those at the party were **Lisa Martin** (Mrs Andrews), **Tamsin Johnson** (Mrs Kidwell), **Susan Harris** (Mrs Roller) and **Susan Hennings**. Her sister **Jane Simmons** (Mrs Linney) is working from her home near Crewe as an investment administrator for an offshore investment fund.

Naomi Slater (1986-93) really enjoyed the reunion last May. In September, Naomi moved to London to start her PGCE Primary, and was planning to visit her sister in Cape Town for three months after the course. Expressing her thanks for 'yet another wonderful Newsletter', Naomi sent her kind regards to Mrs Thomason, Mr Grant, Mr Wells, Mr and Mrs Scandian, and 'of course, Mrs James'. Naomi keeps in contact with **Alison Bonny** (qv), **Judith Green** and **Yani Kassim** (qv), but would like to hear from others of her year.

Margaret (Maggie) Sloggett (Mrs Foulkes) writes that she is a qualified practitioner of reflexology, aromatherapy and beauty therapy. Although bringing up three children on her own, Maggie now works from a small studio within a local hair salon in Saltdean, and finds life busy and satisfying.

Gloria Smart lives in Southampton, where she works for the local Christian bookshop. She keeps in touch with **Susan Reynolds** (Mrs Watson) (qv) and **Kim Kimmins** (Mrs Cook) (qv), and hopes to be at the Grand Reunion in May.

Jane Snelling (Mrs Ogden), writes from Shoreham with news of her sister-in-law, **Ann Ogden** (1958-65). Ann, who is a successful fashion designer, worked for some time in Paris, but for the last ten years has been living and working in New York, where her husband Joe is a photographer and artist. Jane, who helps run a Citizen's Advice bureau in Shoreham, is married to Ann's brother Richard (they used to sing in the choir together when he was at Brighton College). They have a married daughter of 26 and a 24-year-old son.

Judith Spaven (Mrs Davies) writes from her new address in Newton Longville that she is particularly keen to come to the Grand Reunion in May. Judith (1955-64), another e-mail correspondent, keeps in touch with **Alexandra Rolt** (Mrs Wooster). Judith's niece, Rebecca Spaven, may be starting at SMH in September this year. Having begun her Guiding at SMH, under the leadership of **Miss Farmer** (Mrs Milton) (qv), **Dorothy Stranack** (Mrs Cook) has been awarded her 40-year badge as a Guider. Dorothy (1949-57), who is also in contact with **Jean Roberts** and **Olive Ridge**, was very proud to have been nominated for the Age Concern 'Best Neighbour' Award for Brighton and Hove.

Jean Strike (Mrs Witherick) (1948-53) was unable to be at the September reunion as she was away on holiday.

Kathryn Taylor (1989-96) has graduated from Manchester University with a 2:1 in maths. She then returned to Brighton and was hoping to work in London as an accountant. Kathryn keeps in touch with **Clare Newman** (now at Brunel University), **Marie York** (now at the University of Kent), **Jennifer Mathews** (at Royal Holloway) and **Rima Shuman** (at Oxford Brookes).

Mary Theobald (Mrs Pashley) and her husband Roger continue to be very involved in the life of their local church in Ottershaw. Both are members of the bell-ringing team, and Mary (1952-1962) is also responsible for producing the parish magazine. Mary continues to keep in touch with **Mary Radford** (Mrs Bennett) in Indiana, and with **Veronica Alsop** (Mrs Smith) (qv), **Kim (Celia) Kimmins** (Mrs Cook) (qv), and **Megan Warner** (qv).

Zena Thompson (1981-1984) is a director of a coffee and tea wholesaler to the catering trade in Sussex, and combines this with studying for a part time BA in Cultural Studies at the University of Sussex. She is also a trustee of Brighton's Community Radio Open Workshop, an organisation which provides training for anyone interested in broadcasting as a career. Zena has now moved from Newhaven to Brighton, and is looking forward to another reunion with girls from her year.

Georgia Trott has returned to Brighton and is considering a career as a probation officer.

Megan Warner (1955-62), an e-mail correspondent, writes of her move to a new address, still in Oxford. Although unable to be at the September reunion, Megan asked to be kept informed of future SMH events.

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IN TOUCH

We are often asked for addresses of old girls, many of whom are not SMHA members. However, we know that many who are Association members, still keep in touch with non-members, and could help to put old friends back in touch again. We hope this addition to the Newsletter will help re-establish contacts. If anyone has news of old girls who are not currently in SMHA, we would like to have details for our database, so that we can keep them informed of class reunions, etc. Please send details to **Penny Buck** (Mrs Gardiner), at Handsel Farm, Staplecross, Robertsbridge, East Sussex. TN32 5SH or email 101473.234@compuserve.com.

Baverstock, Antonia, (1988-91?), also **Clare House** (1998-90?) and **Anna Stapleton** (1983-88?). Does anyone have a contact address for any of these? If so, please contact **Naomi Slater** at 19 Salisbury Road, Seaford, E Sussex BN25 2DD.

Class of 71. Liz Clements (Mrs Gartside) is trying to contact all members of her class, (O-level 1971). She would like to organise a special 30-years-on reunion to coincide with the May SMHA reunion in 2001. Please contact her at 71 St Leonard's Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 4QQ, or e-mail her at <<jcgartside@talk21.com>>.

Class of 73. Where are Gail Ashby, Kate Baxter, Sarah Bernard, Katherine Fletcher, Shanti Hayler, Sheila Hurd, Sarah Mont, Hazel Phelps, Hilary Porter, Fiona Robinson, Edwina Sabine and all the others? Margaret Ellis at 66 Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BL, would love to hear from you.

Green, Madeline and Jane Smithard. Anthea Drake (Mrs Holland), now in Egypt, would love to have news. Please, can anyone help her get in touch? Please write to Anthea, c/o 14 Morely View Road, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4JY.

Mardling, Joanna and Jenny Roberts (Mrs Hamer). Joanna lived in Newhaven and London in the 1960s. Jenny married Robert Hamer and lived in Staplehurst and then Egerton, Kent. Can anyone help trace these two from O-level year 1959? Please contact Hon Editor, Mrs Kim Cook, Cherry Trees, Ingleden Park Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6NS

CHANGED AND NEW ADDRESSES

Bagshaw, Julia (Mrs Dunncliffe), Box Farm, Allwood Green, Rickinghall, Diss, Norfolk IP22 1LU

Bearne, Anne (Mrs Bell), 25 Chelverton Terrace, Red Beach, Wangaparaoa, New Zealand

Bearne, Jill (Mrs Bell), 6603 Law Drive SW, Calgary, Alberta, T3E 6A2, Canada

Beck, Katrina, 82 Salop Street, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales CF64 1HF

Belson, Ruth (Mrs Witham), 26 Seymour Avenue, East Ewell, Surrey KT17 2RP

Boyd, Sarah (Mrs Mylne), Sunnyside, Hutton, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1DS

Bracher, Jackie (Mrs Leask) c/o NBB, PO Box 106, Manama, Bahrain, or 6 Tavern Gardens, Weare Gifford, Nr Bideford, N Devon EX39 4QR

Burditt, Jane (Mrs Byrne), Arrol Cottage, 16 Chester Road, Gresford, Wrexham LL12 8TN

Burwell, Jill (Mrs McKean), 58 Cardoness Street, Dumfries, Scotland DG1 3AG

Child, Dr Jenny (Mrs Hocken) Holy Trinity House, Titmus Drive, Tilgate, Crawley, W Sussex RH10 5EU

Davis, Abigail (Mrs Rapp), 28 Karina Close, Chigwell, Essex IG7 4EN

de Baughn, Audrey, 8 The Woodlands, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 8NA

Doyle, Charlotte, Urbanizac. Prado de la Navata 22, Calle Velazquez, La Navata, Galapagar, E-28420 Madrid, Spain

Drake, Anthea (Mrs Holland) c/o 14 Morely View Road, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4JY

Ellis, Margaret, 66 Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton, E Sussex BN2 7BL

Fearn, Alexandra (Mrs McCreery), 128 Mallinson Road, London SW11 1BJ

Franckeiss, Julia (Mrs Clayton), 10 Gilmerton Court, Long Road, Cambridge CB2 2HQ

Garland, Jane, 151 Riveredge Drive, Keswick L4P 2P4, Ontario, Canada

Golding, George (Mrs Goddard), 131 Oeskern Road, Hurstpierpoint, W Sussex

Graham, Philippa (Mrs Biles), 2 Green Dykes, Malton, N Yorks YO17 7YZ

Graves, Susan, 5 Bray Gardens, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey

Green, Judith, 4 Highlands Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8ND

Hardaker, Rachel (Mrs Manger), No3 The Keep, Kings Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 5UA

Hart, Dr Judy, Hyfield, Mill Lane, Ness, Neston, CH64 8TP

Haydock, Sue (Mrs Forsyth), 324 Chaussée Brunehaut, 7050 Masany-St-Jean, Belgium

Hitchcock, Jane (Mrs Bunclark), Shuteley Cottage, Shuteley, High Bilkington, Umberleigh, Devon EX37 9BT

Hollingsworth, Sarah, c/o Linden House, 2 The Nightingales, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8HN

Kassim, Yani, 726, Simpang 720, Kg Sungai Besar, Jalan Kota Batu, BD2517, Brunei

Kimmins, Kim (Celia) (Mrs Cook), Cherry Trees, Ingleden Park Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6NS

Kingham, Gillian (Mrs Lewes), 144 Newlands Road, Wellington, New Zealand

Markham, Diana (Mrs Kaars Sijpesteijn), George House, Scotton, Knaresborough, N Yorkshire HG5 9YH

McClaghry, Rachael (Mrs Gregson), Cornerways, Lockerley Green, Lockerley, Nr Romsey, Hants SO51 0JN

McEwan, Mary (Mrs Hayhurst), 24 Friar Road, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 6NG

Manzi, Amelia (Mrs Roberts), 3 Woodstock Avenue, Ealing, London W13 9UQ

Middlemas, Lucy (Mrs Rothman), 29 Mostyn Road, London SW19 3LL

Mitchell, Carolyn (Mrs Hawker), PO Box 593, Blantyre, Malawi

Ogden, Ann, c/o Mrs Jane Ogden, 21 Church Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, W Sussex BN43 5DQ

Rand, Mary (Mrs Abbis), Little Acre, Perry Lane, Bledlow, Bucks HP27 9QS

Reynolds, Judy (Mrs Hart), Hyfield, Mill Lane, Ness, South Wirral L64 8TP

Ross, Katie, Glebe Farm, Rectory Road, Weston Longville, Norfolk NR9 5LF

Royle, Melissa (Mrs Earle), Dog House, High Street, Hawkhurst, Kent TH18 4PX

Sheppard, Jenny, 24 Greenfield Crescent, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 8HJ

Simmons, Caroline (Mrs Hearne), 1 Myrtle Cottages, Hinton Road, Hurst, Berks RG10 0BX

Simmons, Jane (Mrs Linney), Birtles Farm, London Road, Woore, Nr Crewe CW3 9SF

Sloggett, Maggie (Mrs Foulkes), 19 Brambletyne Avenue, Saltdean, Brighton, E Sussex BN2 8EL

Spaven, Judith (Mrs Davies), Old Priory Place, 5 Drayton Road, Newton Longville, Bucks MK17 0BH

Thompson, Zena, 2 White Street, Brighton, E Sussex BN2 2JH

Thomson-Nunn, Maria, 93 Bear Road, Brighton, E Sussex BN2 4DB

Addresses needed

Each year a certain number of the letters mailed out by SMHA are returned to sender, because people have moved on and forgotten to let us know. Can anyone help with news of the following?

C Adam, Zee Agoro, N Alshaikhley, S Alshaikhley, M Barltrop, Julia Bramwich, D Chandler, Emma Chapman, Henrietta Coomber (Mrs Blanchard), Marguerite Cook (Mrs Oxley), Brigid Cooper, Helen Critall, Mrs Barabara Daniell, Beryl Day (Mrs Holdstock), Mrs F de la Motte, Madeline Farr, Alison Forster, Cheryl Garnsey, Natasha Greaves, C Hitch, K Holt, S Jantuah (Mrs Pepera), Jennifer Jones (Mrs Lambert), Susan Knight, Judy Law, Lucy Major, Hilary Marvin (Mrs Spofforth), Wendy Moffat (Mrs Clewes), Nina Motylinski, Anne Payne (Mrs Grapes), Sarah Naish, Asuka Nakamura, Erica Nakpo-Ewien, C Parker, L Richardson, Nicola Sanderson, K Sartori, N Sautter, S Scates, Emmeline Smith, Charlotte Steventon, Sarah Terrot, Anne Tissier, E Tuckwell, Elizabeth Warburton, L Wright.

St Mary's Hall email Community

A number of Association members have suggested that e-mail addresses be included in the Newsletter but publication of these addresses is fraught with problems, particularly as some are business addresses. Nevertheless, anyone with a genuine involvement in SMH has a way of making contact via SMHemC.

SMHemC was formed in September 1999 and is hosted on the World Wide Web at <<www.onelist.com>>. The purpose is to provide a quick, easy and inexpensive way of communicating with all members of the SMH community, not just OGs, but Governors, Staff (current and ex), pupils, parents and other interested parties from the local area. It is an unfortunate fact of the www that a predominantly female presence may attract unwelcome attention. To prevent this, the SMHemC is both a restricted and a moderated e-mail community. This makes it harder for you to join up, but also makes it more secure when you do join.

'Restricted' means requests for membership can be screened to make sure that each request is from a genuine member of the SMH community. 'Moderated' means all messages posted on to SMHemC are screened for content before going out to all members. Already the membership encompasses Governors, an ex-Headmistress, current staff, and old girls of all ages across the world. The oldest of these is 76, so there is no excuse for you younger ones to say you are too old for all this modern stuff! Best of all, membership of SMHemC is FREE! No cost, no obligation. If you don't like it, just leave the community - it's as simple as that. So if you're wired, why not join today. Just send an e-mail to <<101473.234@compuserve.com>> with your full name, school surname, dates at school, and mailing address (though this last isn't vital if you don't want to give it). SMHemC will do the rest.

Watch out, too, for the SMHA website at <<www.smha.org.uk>> currently under construction, which should be published on the web during Summer 2000. If there are any potential or actual Web Masters out there who would like to help with this project, please e-mail <<pgardiner@swain.co.uk>> as soon as possible.

B I R T H S

On 8 August 1998, to **Cynthia (Cindy)** (née **Bulsteel**) and Réjeau Côté, a daughter, Evelyn Jane Bulsteel Côté.

In spring 1999, to **Jane** (née **Hitchcock**) Bunclark, a daughter, Hebe.

In May 1999 to **Joanna** (née **French**) Grey, a son Cameron, brother for Lois.

On 12 July 1999, to **Susan** (née **Graves**) Sharman, a son Alistair.

In January 1999 to **Rachael** (née **McClaghry**) and Professor Peter Gregson, a daughter Christina, a sister for Eleanor and Maria.

M A R R I A G E S

Davis - Rapp On 10 October 1999, at Middle Street Synagogue, Brighton, Abigail Rachel Davis to Stephen Rapp.

Podd - Stubbs On 18 December, followed by a blessing the next day at St Mark's Chapel, Eastern Road, Brighton, Jo Podd to Jonathan Stubbs.

Wooderson - de la Billière On 21 August 1999, at St Mary's Church, Reigate, Surrey, Phillippa Wooderson to Edward de la Billière.

D E A T H S

Bannister, Susan Jennifer (Mrs Veazey). On 21 March 1999, in Westlake Village, California, after a long battle with cancer, Susan (Suzi), wife of Wesley and mother of Jonathan.

Burden, Nora May (Mrs Callow). On 22 December 1999, after a long battle with cancer, Norah Callow, formerly Priestnall, née Burden.

Cooper, Kathleen. On 1 June 1999, Kathleen, aged 79. At SMH 1934-36. Miss Cooper bequeathed a generous sum to the School.

Leach, Annabel. On 16 November 1996, Annabel, aged 26. At SMH 1988-90.

McCormack, Mary Patricia Alacoque. On 26 June 1999, Pat, former teacher of Art at SMH and co-founder, with her friend Anthea, of Abson Press.

Miller, John. In September 1998, John, devoted brother of Audrey and Dorothy.

Munn-Baker, Dulcie. In February 1999, Dulcie, known affectionately as Billie Munn. Accountant at SMH, 1970-87.

Reid, Virginia (Mrs Hoare). In June 1998, in Scotland, Virginia, (Ginnie), wife of William, mother of James and Jonathan.

Rivett-Drake, Brigadier Dame Jean, DBE, JP, DL. On 8 August 1999 at Oaklands Victoria Nursing Home, Dyke Road Avenue, Hove, Jean (Betty).

Storey, Elizabeth Enid (Mrs Clark). In September 1999, in Warminster, Elizabeth Storey, aged 93. English teacher at SMH in the 1930s.

Wood, Patricia (Mrs Vedast). On 16 July 1999, in the North Middlesex Hospital, after a brief illness, Patricia, aged 92. At SMH until 1924.

OBITUARIES

SUSAN (Suzi) JENNIFER BANNISTER (Mrs Veazey)

Suzi died in California on the first day of Spring - 21 March 1999 - after a three-and-a-half year battle with cancer. Suzi initially had surgery for bowel cancer in the autumn of 1995. She fought the illness she faced with courage in her typically brave and optimistic way.

Susan was a day girl at SMH from 1949-1961, and she and her parents lived variously in Lewes Crescent, Saltdean and Hove. After leaving school she trained as a nurse at the Westminster Hospital, and later joined BOAC as a stewardess. She flew all over the world to many faraway places where, in those days, there was plenty of time off! It was during her flying days that she met her husband Wesley, an American. Suzi and Wes married in January 1976 at Preston Old Church, in Preston Park (my daughter was her bridesmaid) and they moved to Dallas/Fort Worth. Subsequently they moved to Lafayette, Louisiana (where her mother still lives), to Dothan and then Enterprise, Alabama, to San Diego, California, and finally to Westlake Village, between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

Their son Jonathan, who was born in 1978, attended Westlake High School, where Suzi was a tireless worker for the School Scholarship Foundation and the PTA. As a result of her work, she was awarded an 'Honorary Service Award' by the school and, shortly before her death, a newly-established scholarship was set up in her name. Many tributes came from friends and others who knew her in this work. On a personal note, Suzi was a life-long friend, only from school days, but also from pony riding in Saltdean, a flatmate in London, my bridesmaid, and Godmother to my daughter. After her parents moved from Hove to Lafayette in the early 80s to be closer to Suzi and her family, Suzi would stay with us whenever she came to the UK. I travelled to the US on quite a number of occasions to see her. My last visit was in August 1998.

I, like many others, miss her wit, her happy disposition, and above all her friendship, which she maintained, despite the distance, through frequent and usually lengthy telephone calls. She was an example to us all.

Suzi is survived by her husband, son, and her mother.

Mary Cunliffe (Mrs Cole - SMH 1950-59)

NORA MAY BURDEN (Mrs Callow)

Nora was born in 1914 in Mengo Hospital, Kampala, the daughter of CMS missionaries. For most of her schooldays she was a boarder at SMH, where she was a contemporary of my mother Mary Wade (Mrs Bell).

After leaving school, Nora trained as an SRN at St Bartholomew's. She then married and had two children, but sadly, she lost her first husband when the children were very young. After his death she ran a nursing home in Devon for some years, and later met and married a Devon farmer, Ronald Callow. They were married for 25 years until his death.

Nora then moved to Radstock, where she soon settled in to the local church and community. I first met her in 1967, and after the death of my mother in 1973, Nora became like a second mother to me.

Her final illness meant that Nora had to give up her home, but her strong Christian faith continued to sustain her throughout her last illness. When I visited her, I was struck by her peace and serenity.

Nora will be sadly missed, but she knew she was going to be 'with Christ, which is far better'. She leaves a son and daughter, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, as well as two brothers.

Catherine Hives

PAT McCORMACK

Pat McCormack taught art at SMH from 1938-40. In the Association's survey form she returned in 1986, she gave her career details as follows:

'Art Teacher at St Mary's Hall, Wrekin College, The Grove School Hindhead, Huyton College and Badminton School. Tutor at Bath Academy of Art, Corsham, and now, with friend and partner, running Abson Books - publishing.'

Asked for other information about work, achievement, etc, Pat wrote:

'Bits and bobs - not worth talking about! Enclosed is our Book List if it's of any interest. We only publish original paperbacks. We ourselves printed our first three books but as they were best sellers we had to put the printing out! We do not [doubly underlined!] publish fiction.'

Editor

Pat came to SMH as Art Mistress in 1938 - her first teaching post. She was a breath of fresh air, an excellent teacher, coping with much out-of-date equipment. My happiest hours were spent in the studio. Then came the war and we all scattered, but we kept in touch.

Years later we lived in Bristol and my husband, an architect, helped Pat and Anthea buy two tumble-down cottages, which developed into a lovely studio and home, and the birthplace of the Abson Press.

To comply with a request made by Pat some years earlier, the poem 'I am not there', was read at her funeral. Somehow it epitomises just how she felt.

Mary Chalmers (Mrs Scully)

VIRGINIA (Ginnie) REID

Ginnie came to SMH as a boarder in 1957 when her parents were posted to Washington DC, and stayed until she had completed her GCEs in 1959. After leaving SMH, she went to secretarial college in London, and subsequently worked in advertising and the film industry. In January 1966 Ginnie married William Hoare, an officer in the Royal Air Force.

William's service in the RAF took them to many postings in the UK, as well as to Canada. Their elder son James was born in 1968, and Jonathan two years later. The family settled in Scotland in the early 1980s, and both boys were educated there. Ginnie was a keen gardener and particularly cultivated a wide variety of heathers. Sadly, she developed cancer, and died in June 1998, soon after the birth of her first grand-daughter.

Despite the distances involved, we kept in touch, and managed visits whenever I was in the UK. Ginnie was a good friend for over forty years, and I feel her loss tremendously.

Anne Bearne (Mrs Bell - SMH 1955-59)

BRIGADIER DAME JEAN RIVETT-DRAKE, DBE

Jean Elizabeth Rivett-Drake, who was born on 13 July 1909, spent her early years in Sussex, and was educated at SMH. Known as Betty by her friends (including those from SMH), during her army career she acquired the affectionate nickname Puddleduck - a parody of her surname rather than a comment on her character!

Betty began her military career in the 1930s in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry. This was the nursing division of the Territorial Army, at that time the only military career open to a women. She became a military driver and in 1940 transferred to the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS).

During the war years transport was vital. Despite the often haphazard nature of vehicles available, Betty's leadership and organisational skills solved many problems, and these qualities were quickly noticed. In 1942 she was commissioned, and by 1944, having been promoted to Captain, she was involved in the D-day landings.

Her company was the first ATS unit to land in France, where they worked tirelessly round the clock, delivering ammunition, fuel and all kinds of supplies. Despite the pressures, 'Puddleduck' was renowned for showing great care for the drivers under her command. She was mentioned in despatches, and in 1945 was promoted to second-in-command of the ATS North-West Europe Group. For her services with this group she was appointed MBE in 1947.

With post-war changes in attitudes to women officers, Betty was accepted for a regular commission. In 1949 she became Acting Lieutenant-Colonel, and in 1954 was posted to Singapore as Assistant Director, Far East Land Forces. At a time when there was fighting in Malaya and much unrest in the region, she commanded almost 1000 women soldiers who fulfilled key tasks supporting the British military presence in the Far East.

1961 saw Betty back in England, where she was promoted to Brigadier, appointed Director, WRAC, and honorary ADC to the Queen. She fought to widen the range of trades and specialities open to women soldiers, reorganised WRAC deployment world-wide, oversaw the establishment of new WRAC barracks at Guildford, and established a WRAC museum.

In May 1962 Betty returned to SMH as the Speech Day guest of honour. Miss Conrady spoke of her as 'an Old Girl of the Hall, of whose honours and achievements we can feel justly proud'. Betty in turn recalled that in her career she had learned 'to see so clearly what School and training does for each one of us'. She stressed the importance of standards, imposed in school days, but maintained by determination and self-discipline in later life. In addition, she noted that a readiness to serve others encouraged selflessness, and brought its own rewards. But she emphasised too, the need for humour, enjoyment and enthusiasm, advising that humour could smooth over many difficulties.

In 1964, the year of her retirement, Betty was appointed DBE and returned to her home county of Sussex. Retirement is perhaps not the appropriate term, for she was active in many areas of local life. In 1966 she joined Hove Council, and served as a Councillor for 18 years, becoming Chairman of the Education Committee, and serving on Policy and Housing Committees. In 1977 she became the first woman to be elected Mayor of Hove. She also became a JP, and later Chairman of the Bench. In this capacity she was part of a team which visited Canada, in response to a request from the Canadian government, to advise on the introduction of a similar justice system there.

From 1973-78 Betty was a lay member of the Press Council, and in 1983 was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for East Sussex. A keen supporter of Brighton Youth Orchestra, she became its President, and was also Divisional President of the Brighton and Hove Guides Association.

Tall and distinguished, a quick thinker, straight talker and excellent organiser, Betty was also legendary for the care she showed for those around her - the women who served under her command, and the local people with whom she worked. After her death, aged 90, in August 1999, many of those people - politicians, magistrates, Army personnel, local dignitaries and friends, joined in a memorial service at All Saints' Church, Hove.

Editor

ELIZABETH ENID STOREY (Mrs Clark)

Elizabeth Enid Storey (later Mrs Clark), who died last autumn aged 93, taught English at St Mary's Hall in the 1930s. Later she taught at Roedean, and subsequently in London, where her pupils included Vanessa Redgrave. In recent years she had been living in the same nursing home in Warminster as Alma Smallpiece (Mrs Fosbery), and they had shared their memories of SMH.

PATRICIA WOOD (Mrs Vedast)

Don Campion, a long-standing friend of Patricia, sent this tribute to her.

Patricia Wood was born in Cookham Dean, near Henley-on-Thames on St Patrick's day 1907, and was educated at St Mary's Hall. After leaving school in 1924, Patricia worked on a farm and as a nanny to raise the £10 needed to fund her training as a nurse. She entered nursing in the early 1930s at what was then the

London Hospital, now the Royal London (a change of name she didn't like and would never use!). In 1940, when the London Hospital was bombed, Patricia moved to the West Middlesex Hospital, only to be bombed out again. A move to the North Middlesex Hospital followed, but she was again bombed out, forcing another move, this time to Grovelands Hospital. After the war, Patricia returned to the North Middlesex Hospital, and worked there as a Ward Sister until her retirement in the 1960s.

During the war she had married the Hospital Engineer, and they survived together to celebrate their Golden Wedding in 1994. A few months later her husband died. They had no children.

Patricia often remarked 'Whatever did I need such a good education for? I'll never know.' But her good education stood her in good stead throughout her life.

With a little watching over from her friends, she survived alone in her own home in Edmonton, north London, still fending for herself, until her death at the age of 92.

Don Campion

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MILLENNIUM GIFT

During the late 1990s, a number of SMHA members suggested that we should present a Millennium Gift to the School. These proposals were forwarded to Mrs Sue Meek, and then discussed fully at the 1999 AGM (see page 11).

Mrs Meek expressed a wish for a flagpole, which seems both suitable and affordable as an SMHA gift. It is hoped that planning permission will be received and this gift can be financed and delivered in time for a grand inauguration on Sunday 14 May, in conjunction with a Commemorative Service in St Mark's.

We need approximately £500 for the Millennium Gift which works out at less than £1 for every SMHA member receiving this magazine. Your donations (cheques payable to SMHA) to the Millennium Flagpole will be gladly received by Mrs Anne Nelson, 15 Slindon Road, Worthing, W Sussex BN14 9LJ.

Donors names will be inscribed in a book to be presented to the Hall so please make sure we have all your details with your cheque. Thank you.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you know any former pupil or member of staff not at present a member of SMHA, please encourage them to join by sending a cheque, payable to SMHA, for the current Life Membership subscription of £30, to Mrs Anne Nelson, 15 Slindon Road, Worthing, W Sussex BN14 9LJ.

Contributions to the Millennium Subscription Fund should also be sent to Anne at the above address. Any Old Girl, or SMHA member who knows of an Old Girl, who would like to join, but who is in straightened circumstances, may apply to have her subscription paid by the fund.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please send all material for the Newsletter (articles, photographs, news items, births, marriages and deaths) to the Hon Editor, Mrs Kim Cook, Cherry Trees, Ingleden Park Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6NS, to **arrive before 1 November** each year. Please note that this deadline is absolute, to ensure that the Newsletter reaches everyone in good time to advise them of reunions and other meetings.

Financial Note: We apologise for the rather cramped style of this Newsletter which is most definitely not as the Editors wanted it but the cost of printing the original 64 pages was prohibitive and rather than cut content we cut style. If you feel very strongly about the loss of style, the Hon Treasurer would be delighted to receive your contribution towards next year's printing budget, cost approx. £2 per copy.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

31 March	Spring Concert, 7.30pm
13 May	Grand Reunion Lunch and Back to the Future Celebration
14 May	Commemorative Service and Millennium Flagpole Dedication
5 July	Garden Party, 11am - 4pm
16 September	SMHA AGM (4pm) followed by Reunion Supper

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SMHA PRAYER

O God, who art everywhere present, look down in Thy mercy on all those who have gone forth from this school. Grant that by the light of Thy divine inspiration and the gifts of Thy bountiful providence they may fulfill Thy purpose for them here on earth and may attain at length to that blessed home where they shall go no more out but serve and praise Thee continually in Thy temples; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCHOOL PRAYER

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

This newsletter is published by the SMHA Committee on behalf of the St Mary's Hall Association, c/o St Mary's Hall, Eastern Road, Brighton, Sussex BN2 5JF © SMHA 2000