

## ST. MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION

### WINTER e-LETTER

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

Dear Friends

Let me start by wishing you all a very happy, healthy, and whatever else you would wish for, New Year!

This year is going to have a few changes for me. I am now working considerably longer hours in a new job than when I first started this newsletter. I have also become involved in several other organisations locally which are taking up more of my spare time, and lastly, but not least, my daughter got engaged last year and is getting married in September so I have a wedding to help plan. I have consequently decided that something must go and regrettably will be standing down from the SMHA Team at the end of April. Therefore, this newsletter will be my penultimate one, and the Spring newsletter in April will be my last.

I took on this job, with a little arm twisting from **Penny**, and was given carte blanche to make it my own. I didn't really know what to expect from doing it, and wondered where on earth I could start. I thought back to the annual newsletters that I used to receive (until I dropped off map – but we are talking about pre-internet and computer days) and the first thing that I always turned to was 'News of Old Girls'. It was always interesting to see who was doing what, or where in the world they had ended up even if I didn't recognise their names, so that was really my starting point. One problem though, I hadn't really kept up with any old school friends except for a couple (you know who you are **Corinne** and **Prisca**!) so scratched about for some news of what I could determine a few old girls were up to, a bit of news from the Committee and a plug for the 100 Club, and sent it out – all six pages. Luckily, lovely members, you didn't let me down and ever since, I have received great messages with your memories, confessions (!) and photos – 22 pages worth for the October 2017 edition - which have kept me going ever since. I have also reconnected with some of you who I was at school with and others who I was not, but the link that keeps us all joined is that lovely old building and all who have traversed its corridors over its 173 years as a school.

### TEAM NEWS

After nine years taking care of the Association's finances, **Diana Kaars Sijpesteijn (Markham) 1969-1973** decided towards the end of last year, to step down from the role of Finance Officer at the end of December. **Diana** has done a sterling job keeping us on the straight and narrow financially since the closure of the school. We are very grateful to her for her contributions initially on the SMHA Committee and latterly, as a member of the new Administration Team. **Sian Spencer (Williams) 1967-1977**, as a Team Member without Portfolio, has very kindly stepped into **Diana's** shoes to take on the role of Finance Officer with effect from 1 January 2018, so the changeover has been seamless.

- *Needless to say, our Management Team is sad to be losing Jane – more on that in the Spring edition.*

*However, we need to alert all readers of this newsletter that with notice of Jane's departure after the Spring e-newsletter, the remaining five team members are already looking closely at our workload. We are going to be two members short of the optimum number to manage the huge 900+ Alumnae Association we are dedicated to looking after.*

*We need a Newsletter Editor, who as a member of a team which works extremely closely by email and meets twice a year through the medium of Skype would be part of every decision taken regarding the administration of the Association and of its future direction.*

*The specific role of the Newsletter Editor would principally be to receive and process items of news and interest and create the four quarterly editions of the e-newsletter, both via direct contact from the association members and 'harvested' from the Virtual Common Room. This would necessitate the incoming Newsletter Editor being a member of the VCR. Future e-newsletters could be redesigned if you have ideas for changes – we are always open to improvement! There are other minor tasks which, depending on the skill set of the new incumbent, could also be within her remit.*

*That may sound a daunting amount of work but we are taking steps to ensure that this, and the other team vacancy, are no more demanding than we would hope anyone who benefits from all SMHA offers would feel you could undertake. If you have maybe an hour a week when you could, while having a cuppa, log on to your laptop or tablet and catch up on correspondence from the Team and from other Old Girls in emails, messages and in the VCR, and create news for us all to enjoy; or if you have other skills which you could bring to the team allowing another of us to take on the Editor's role, then please contact Penny to find out more.*

***Penny Harrison (Titheradge) 1969-73 Team Manager SMHA - [smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com) or 07946772620 if you prefer.***

- Following some discussion in the VCR on this topic, I have been asked to clarify the position regarding your data held on the Association's database. It is the responsibility of each member to check what information is shown against his/her name on the web-based database. The mandatory information is your name/name at school, years at school and some indication (even simply "SE"/East Sussex) of whereabouts you live. Your full address, telephone number and email address can (as you were informed when joining) be hidden. The latter is always available to the Team member(s) responsible for contacting members but will not be shared if you wish them to be kept private. Despite repeated reminders about this, members seem not to check their data and it would be appreciated if you would take the time to do so.

This is the link <http://www.smhassociation.org/find-a-friend.php>

(log on smhmember password elliott18362009)

- Just a mention that the Admin Team has been preparing a survey which will shortly be coming out to all members. It is in the form of a short on-line questionnaire, so do please complete it to give the Admin Team an idea of your ideas for the Association.

- The Team are deeply indebted to **Jeanette Cureton (Smith) 1961-1962** who was one of several visitors from our sister school St Mary's Hall Burlington New Jersey. We ran an exchange programme with SMH for some years during the 1960s and it is both a regret and a puzzle that these ceased. However, they have left us with 'hands across the sea' and thanks to **Jeanette**, many of the girls who exchanged, both from and to Brighton are in touch with each other still. Later this year we will be adding a 'history' of this programme to the website.

During her research through her own papers, **Jeanette** came across the original of a scanned booklet of Miss Meades' history of the first 120 years of St Mary's Hall, which she thinks may have been given to her by 'her' headmistress, **Miss Doris Conrady**. This will shortly be on the website and we would encourage you to have a read.

## THE CAROL SERVICE AT ST. MARYS, KEMPTOWN

We were honoured to have been invited to share their traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service held on 10th December 2017 at the Church where our Founder, **Henry Venn Elliott**, served as Curate and after whose Patron Saint our School was named, St Mary's Church, Kemptown, Brighton. We are most grateful to Team Member **Sian Spencer** for co-ordinating and reading one of the lessons and to the ten brave souls and their partners who braved the weather to go along - **Joanna Vicat-Brown (Vicat) 1969-1976**, **Alison Herga (Edmonds) 1963-1970**, **Lyn Colman (Johnstone) 1963-1970**, **Jane Watson (Amherst Clark) 1963-1971**, **Diana Kaars Sijpesteijn** (all the way from London where it was snowing!), **Lis Pile 1970-1979** and her sister **Alison Grimston (Pile) 1976-1983**, **Kathy Howard 1967-1976** and **Olive Ridge** (staff) for coming along. We have been invited back this year on Sunday 16th December 2018, 5 p.m., where **Sian** will again act as the SMHA host.

**Kathy Howard** wrote this for me following the Carol Service:

The carol service held at St Mary's in Kemp Town on 10 December 2017 brought back a few happy memories for me of the SMH Christmas services St George's, and the centrally heated church packed full of pupils and their parents. Despite very few ex-SMH girls attending, it was an enjoyable festive event. On the day, we needed to wrap up warm for the wintery evening weather, so I unearthed my old SMH scarf; thankfully moths had not got to it and it proved to be warm and cosy. I had forgotten the tradition we had of swapping scarf tassels with other school scarves – I noticed mine had a few on it as well as my old embroidered name tag.

**Sian Spencer** read one of the readings, and there were the very familiar carols. One, in particular, reminded me of **Miss Ratner**, enthusiastically conducting the choir and waving her arms around during the choir's input into the last verse of 'O Come All Thee Faithful', and the temptation to sing it instead of sticking to the main tune!

After the service, I enjoyed sharing memories with **Jo Vicat**, who was at school at a similar time to me. We talked about **Mrs Webb** and her French lessons, **Mrs Alan** and how many girls were fearful of her and that she played the viola, **Miss Bristol** and how she has been part of (dedicated to) the school for decades, and **Mrs Martin's** English lessons when many of us tended to misbehave!





Nativity Crib in St. Mary's



Jo

Sian and Kathy wearing 'The Scarf'



Lyn, Alison and Jane



Diana, Olive and Jane

Sian, Lyn and Alison



Happy memories!

## NEWS FROM YOU

I have received these lovely stories for the newsletter from **Sue Carnochan**, who was previously the archivist for the school:

### IN REMEMBRANCE

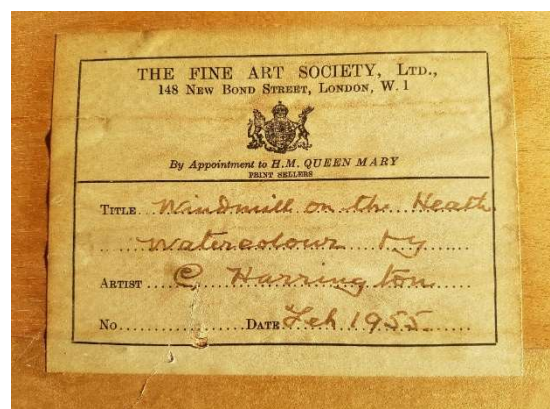
#### Heather Ford

**Margaret Ellis 1967-1975** and I have been clearing out the last Archives from St. Mark's church and came across a framed embroidery given to S.M.H. in memory of **Heather Ford**, Head of P.E., who died in 1994. It was a great shock to all at the school and her family. There was a memorial service in St Mary's church, to which the whole school went. A kind parent made a beautiful embroidery dedicated to **Heather** and it hung in the Drawing Room until the school closed. I was able to contact **Heather's** brother and arranged for his son to collect it from me. So, the family now have it in their safe keeping and will treasure it. The Bird Table which the school purchased with donations given in memory of **Heather**, is still on the top terrace at S.M.H. There was also a Trust Fund set up to give Bursaries to pupils with sporting promise and several girls benefited.

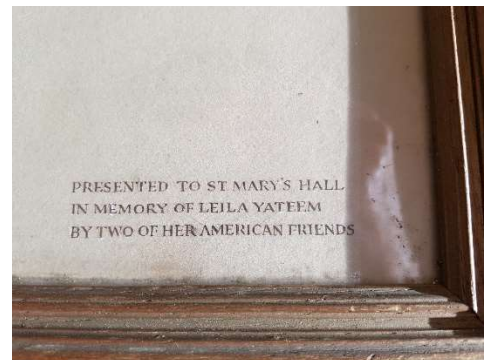
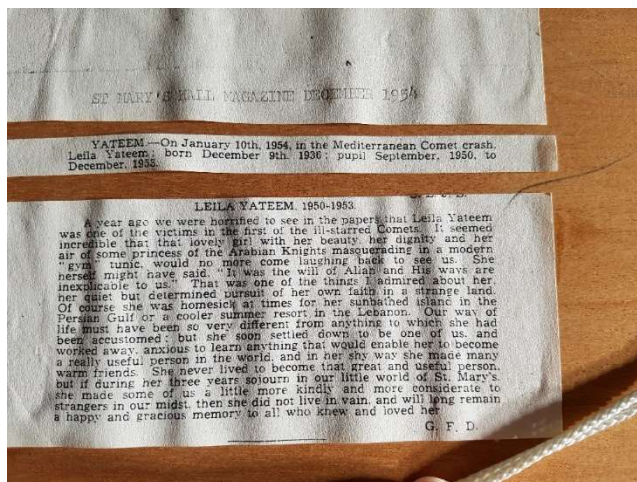
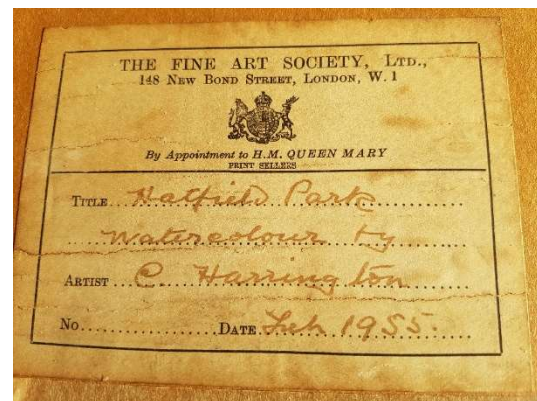
#### Leila Yateem

We also found two water colours painted by Charles Harrington, which had been dedicated to the memory of **Leila Yateem**, a pupil who tragically died when a Comet Airliner crashed into the sea near Elba off the Italian coast on 10 January 1954. **Leila** was travelling back to S.M.H., after the Christmas holiday, spent in Singapore.

She was a pupil from 1950-1953. Two of her American friends decided to purchase these paintings and dedicate them to her memory. They also hung in the Drawing Room for many years. I did some research and found a family address, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and on the off chance that it was still valid after 60 years, I sent a letter asking if they would like these paintings. Amazingly, I had a reply! I am now arranging to send them to the family unframed, and hopefully they too will be treasured once again.







I am so pleased that these memorials will no longer sit forlornly in a dusty cupboard but be lovingly appreciated by their families.

**Sue Carnochan**



**Shirley Read-Jahn**  
**1954-1961**, a regular contributor to the newsletter, sent me this a few months ago with the notation: "In 2013 **Rowan Fookes (Cawkell)** 1954-1956 sent this postcard of our school science lab to me. It's got no information on the rear about the year it was taken at the



school. I just came across it again and thought you might like to use it in the newsletter?" Her sister **Pam Bailey (Read-Jahn) 1954-1959** was also copied into the email and commented: "It must have been before our time. I didn't do chemistry, so wouldn't know what the lab looked like. However, the girls are wearing those traditional school uniforms with the box pleats and square neckline. I recall ours were not like that."

**I have only one comment to make – Pam Bailey how did you not 'do' chemistry? We had to do it up until we made our 'O' level choices!**

**Bridget Sudworth (Last) 1960-1963** has very kindly sent in a photograph of the Sixth Form July 1963 'just before they launched themselves on the world!!' as **Bridget** put it. **Bridget** has named some of those in the photo, and **Penny** has done some detective work and filled in some of the gaps (in green). **Bridget** says: "I can't remember all the names by any means but have identified all those in the Upper 6th (10 of us) plus **Jean Ann Ellis 1954-1963** who was also in Babington House (Lower Sixth)."



Back Row (L-R) 1 ?? 2 Jane Pascoe 3 ?? 4 Diana Feather 5 **Jean Peters (Pearson) 1957-1964** 6 **Rosemary Warren (Bellamy) 1960-1964** 7 ?? 8 **Liz Julyan (Allwright) 1958-1964** 9 Jane Boryer 10 ?? 11 Heather Gray

2nd Row down (L-R): first four girls from LHS – 1 Liz McCleish, 2 **me Bridget Sudworth (Last) 1960-1963**, 3 **Sherry Carter (Coe) 1950-1963**, 4 Vicky Burge 5 **Helen Hurford** 6 **Susanne (Flo) Bray (Fopp) 1961-1963** 7 **Gay Stapleton (Gosnell) 1957-1964** 8 Tishy Bagnall 9 ?? 10 Pat O'Connor

3rd Row down (L-R): 1 **Anne Marie Crowe (Crowley) 1957-1961**, now a poet 2 Ros Williams (Reid) 3 Jenefer Riley, deputy Head Girl (who I believe died a while ago - awful to think about) 4 **Connie (Miss Conrady)** 5 **Mrs Hora** with **Coco** on lap (!) - she was Head of Sixth Form as well as Biology teacher (she taught us the Facts of Life through rabbit reproduction

- you can imagine the excitement!!!! 6 **Tina Challacombe (Cocks) 1959-1963**, Head Girl now retired GP 7 Jill Gooding 8 Hava Ben Yehuda from Israel.

Front Row (L-R) 1 **Alison Vaughn** 2 ?? 3 **Anne Nelson (Finch) 1960-1965** 4 **Jean Ann Ellis** 5 **Liz Caudle (Baker) 1950-1964** 6 **Liz Salmon** 7 ?**Elizabeth Douse?** 8 **Valerie Horton Stephens**

Hope it is of interest. I am still in touch with Anna, Roz and Tina - all four of us have been married now for nearly 50 years - my anniversary in March. Amazing to think about. We must have learnt something about team spirit from school to have made that record!

## MURDER MOST FOUL

It has come to our attention that our archives include: Letters (2) and petition concerning the demolition of the shed which was the site of the murder of Edith Jeal (aged 5) Letter from Thomas Griffiths, builder and contractor, 106 St George's Road, Brighton, to H Hebbert [School Treasurer], enclosing a letter from Robert Burmann, Arlington House, Eastern Road, Brighton, 17 Dec 1891, and a petition to the Trustees of St Mary's Hall from local residents requesting the demolition of the shed or barn which was the site of the murder; copy of reply from HH, 22 Dec 1891. Edith was murdered on 10 December 1891, and her body was found in a shed in a field between Eastern Road and Chesham Road, which was rented from St Mary's Hall by RB as a playground for Arlington House School [see SMH 1/12/3]. This was actually, what was the lacrosse pitch on the south side of Eastern Road) so from that we've researched and found Criminal Records, Newspaper articles from across the country and an in-depth Chapter written by Douglas D' Enno in his book 'Foul deeds and suspicious deaths around Brighton'. Douglas' mother and grandmother were at SMH so he has been extremely generous in permitting the extracts to be reproduced by us. A prolific writer, Douglas also referred to the murder in a different book, 'Brighton Crime & Vice 1800-2000', which is replicated below, but if you wish to see the full chapter (with sketches and photographs) from 'Foul Deeds...' you are going to have to go to the website to read it!

### WOOD, GEORGE

On the afternoon of Friday, 11 December 1891, the mutilated body of 5-year-old Edith Jeal from Bedford Buildings was found by a Corporation workman. It lay in a large shed in a playing field bounded to the north by Eastern Road, Kemp Town and to the south by Chesham Road. She had been strangled and sexually assaulted, her private parts being severely lacerated.

The previous evening, Edith had been sent on some errands, in company with her 9-year-old brother, Bertram. When he went into Trengrove's, at the corner of Manchester Row, off Upper Bedford Street, he left his sister standing outside. It was there that she met the stranger who violently murdered her. Bertram, on emerging from the shop, thought she might have run home. Neighbours whom the little girl might have gone to were visited and Edith's father went out searching for her all night, to no avail.

The perpetrator was, however, quickly traced. George Henry Wood, 29, a delivery man at Brighton Station, lived a couple of hundred yards away from the crime scene, at 11 Rock Street. On the night of the murder, he had left his work at the station at about 6 pm and, still in railway uniform, had gone out drinking locally. The police were able to trace his movements without difficulty. After visiting a number of pubs in Trafalgar Street, he was seen around 45 minutes later in Sydney Street carrying a small child in



his arms. When he fell over in the roadway, she ran off. Several people noticed him staggering about on his route eastwards to Edward Street, where he found another tavern. At about 8 pm, he was met in Lavender Street by a policeman who had known him for 10 years. PC Tuppen advised him to go home but he went off unsteadily round the corner.

Wood actually fell up against one witness, Rose Leggatt, at the corner of Montague Street and Upper Bedford Street. She saw him putting his hand towards a little child outside Trengrove's and saw her follow him to the middle of Somerset Street. There he was sighted by Mrs Alice Guy, who saw him pass her house at 8.20. She was standing by her front door and watched him walking unsteadily carrying a little girl, who was crying. She called out: 'Don't hurt that poor little thing.' The man turned round under the lamplight and she saw his face distinctly. She was sure it was Wood. Harry Spicer, a printer, saw a man carrying a child pass him in Eastern Road at about ten to nine. His face was hidden in the child's clothes.

Blood was found on the murderer's clothes when he was arrested on the afternoon the body was found. He had, in addition, apparently talked about the murder before it had been announced. His response throughout subsequent proceedings, and in personal letters, was that he had been drunk and could not now believe he had committed such a terrible act, of which he had no recollection.

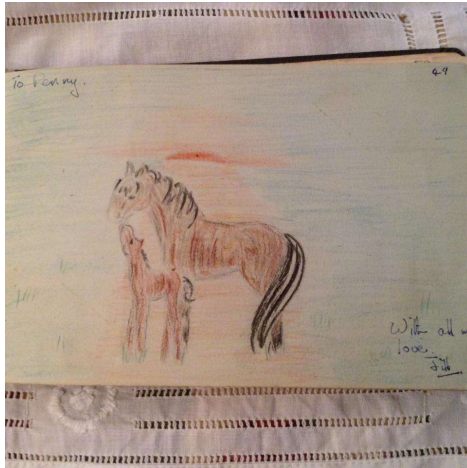
Wood (who had, incidentally, been engaged to be married) was brought to trial for Edith's murder at Lewes on 6 April 1892 before Mr Justice Mathew. Defending counsel, Mr CF Gill – a noted Sussex barrister who was MARSHALL HALL's senior partner – told the jury that the prisoner had been suffering from epileptic insanity. The crime was so horrible that it must have been performed by an insane man. He said Wood was a confirmed epileptic and when drunk had no idea what he was doing. Dr CE Saunders, Medical Superintendent of the Sussex County Lunatic Asylum, said he had made a special study of insanity and epilepsy. He had examined the prisoner twice and he seemed perfectly rational. There were no indications of epileptic mania. Dr Sheppard, another specialist, gave evidence that he had found Wood depressed but quite collected. He was not insane by any means.

The judge had no time for the epilepsy/insanity speculations. If Wood had no recollection of what had happened on the fateful evening, why had he claimed that he had been at the circus? Was he unconscious when carrying the child through the street? The jury, too, were quite clear in their view. After only eight minutes, they returned a verdict that Wood was guilty of wilful murder and sentence of death was duly passed.

The Home Secretary rejected a petition started in Brighton for Wood to be sent to a criminal lunatic asylum. He saw no reason to interfere with the law and child-killer George Henry Wood was executed at Lewes Prison on 26 April 1892.

## EXTRACT FROM THE FACEBOOK VIRTUAL COMMON ROOM (VCR)

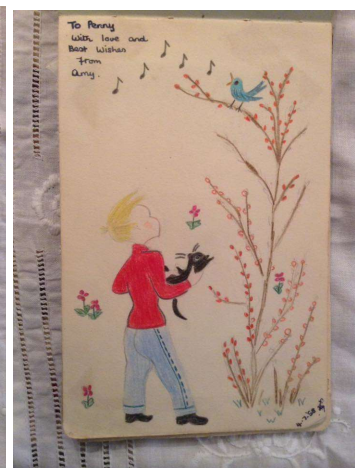
**Penny Barnes (Hunt) 1957-1961** has recently been sharing pages of her autograph book on the Facebook Virtual Common Room, which led to a flurry of other autographs making an appearance. Most autograph books have a witty ditty and the signature, and mine is no exception. **Penny's** autograph book is filled with lovely drawings from her friends at school – here are a few examples –



Jill Gooding

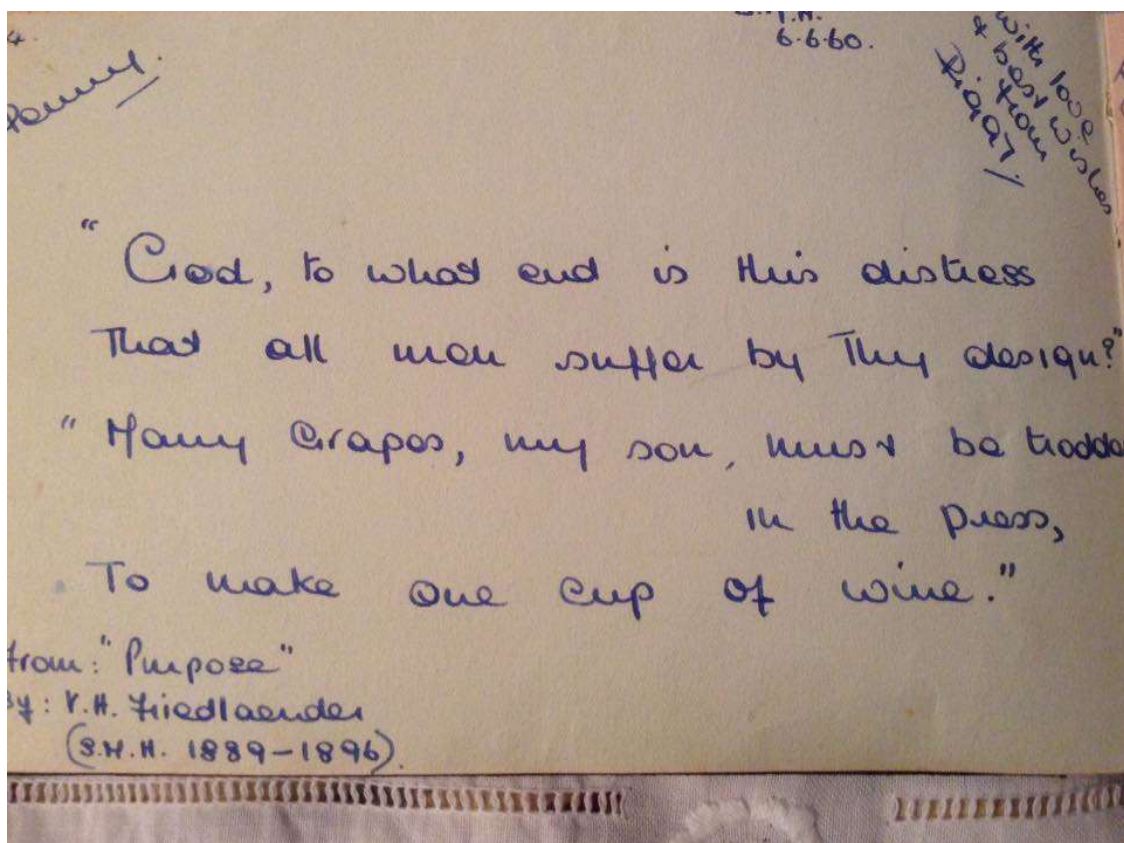


Celia Mallins



Amy Easter

but the one that caused **Penny Harrison** and **Lis Eastham (Ferguson) 1969-1976** to investigate further was this one from Jennifer Pigg (Piggy) quoting from another old girl or member of staff: V H Friedlaender SMH 1889-1896:



This is the story of **Violet Friedlaender**:

**Violet Helen Friedlaender** wrote under her initials as **V H Friedlaender**; the surname was sometimes anglicised as Friedlander. She joined the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1908, and became honorary secretary of the Forest Gate branch during the summer of 1909. She was born 'in the East', probably Palestine, as it was from Palestine that



she travelled as a child to foggy London, where she was sent to St Mary's Hall (age 10). Her book *Pied Piper's Street* records memories of going home for school holidays in horse-buses coloured 'blue, green, red, yellow, white and chocolate-coloured', but lacking a display of numbers or destinations; how the colour-blind ever got home is a mystery. **Friedlaender's** father seems to have died while she was still young, but her mother and brother shared her enthusiasm for women's suffrage.

By 1909 the women's movement had split, and although the WSPU was still dominant, the women of East London, who had been so prominent in it in the early days, were largely sidelined, and the Canning Town branch was in disarray, if not totally disbanded. When a serious attempt to revive the fortunes of the movement in West Ham was made, it happened in the more prosperous side of the borough, in Forest Gate. There had been open-air meetings in the north of the borough before **V H Friedlaender** set about reinvigorating the WSPU there.

That same year in summer she and her mother organised a WSPU camp on the coast, and the following year **VHF** was busy organising WSPU publicity during the two General Elections that occurred in January and December 1910. The WSPU grew increasingly militant nationally in its tactics, and in 1912 she took part in a window smashing campaign, and was sentenced to four months' in jail.

Somewhere about this time, West Ham WSPU made a banner, in silk and velvet, inscribed with the words 'Courage, Constancy, Success' beneath 'West Ham' and a logo – a medallion adapted from Sylvia Pankhurst's 'angel of freedom'. The lettering was produced by **V H Friedlaender** and her brother. (The flag is now held by the Museum of London. and an image can be viewed on their website. Search the catalogue under the appropriate years to find it.)

In March 1909 the weekly paper *Votes for Women* published the words of a song VHF had written to the tune of 'Marching to Georgia'. It goes with an appropriate swing:

Hurrah! Hurrah! We battle for the right,  
Hurrah! Hurrah! For peace with honour fight;  
Prisoners of war, we greet you!  
Victory is in sight;  
March with the Women's Army.

The *Woman's Press*, the publishing arm of the WSPU, also produced two calendars for the year 1910. The cheaper one cost a shilling, and was said to include 'mottoes'. the number and authorship of which were not noted in advertisements. The dearer calendar, costing 1/6d, was designed by Sylvia Pankhurst, and a motto was provided for each day by **V H Friedlaender**. Since both Sylvia Pankhurst and **V H Friedlaender** were writers, it seems very likely that they belonged to the Women Writers' Suffrage League, which was very active about this time; in 1909 the League was cooperating with the Actresses' Franchise League to put on shows starring Ellen Terry at the Scala Theatre. **Friedlaender's** novels show she was very conscious of her position in society as a woman and an artist. Her first published novel came out in 1922. In *Mainspring: the Growth of a Soul*, a man says to the leading female character: 'And in all these years I've never met the woman – the woman artist – who was willing to burn her boats; who, when it came to the point, really had the nerve to do it, and to know she had done the right thing, as I see you know it'.

**Friedlaender** published poems for many years, and a collection was brought out in 1931, called *Mirrors and Angles* (often miscalled *Mirrors and Angels*). Most of the verse had previously appeared in *Country Life*, but poems were also culled from a wide variety of



other journals and newspapers, from the Spectator and the Nation to the Manchester Guardian and the Queen.

Her time in West Ham cannot have been entirely to her liking. In the poem 'Solace' she asks:

How do the city folk, when their hearts are aching,  
Keep them from breaking?

This sounds as if it was written for Country Life, but sometimes she is sharper, and some of the satire is not irrelevant today. 'Ripe for Development', for instance:

Green is the pleasant glade  
Where birds and children go.  
In the oak's broad pool of shade  
Five sun-flecked horses show  
But soon, where the tree is laid,  
Shall squat a bungalow.

**V H Friedlaender's** stay in West Ham was brief, but it was a time of intense excitement and activity. After living in various parts of the country, in 1950 she died at Buckhurst Hill, on the Essex fringe of East London. Her collection Mirrors and Angles had come out only a few years after women had finally achieved equality in the franchise. Suffragettes such as **Friedlaender** knew that in time the rights they had fought for would be taken for granted. One of the poems reprinted in the book could have served as her epitaph:

Swan-Song of any Pioneers  
They reap with singing where through bitter days we sowed the seed;  
They eat the bread for which our dearest perished their need;  
They say, "Behold our easy, just reward who never went Your unenlightened  
way to work."  
They reap; we are content.

Votes for Women, 5 March 1909

Pied Piper's Street; and other essays, Bristol: J W Arrowsmith, 1922

Mainspring: the growth of a soul, London: W Collins, 1922

Mirrors and Angles, illustrated from pencil sketches by Margaret Dobson, London: Country Life Ltd, 1931

Source, East London History Society Newsletter, Summer 2008

Violet Friedlaender was indeed an Old Girl. Here is her Register entry from our website. Her father's diocese seems to have been Jerusalem. What a shame that most pupils were unaware of this inspirational Old Girl!

Addendum: **Kim Cook (Kimmins)**

**1956-1960** also commented in the VCR "I knew something of **VHF**, and greatly enjoyed reading the signed copies of her books, which were in the SMH non-fiction library." **Kim** also managed to find Jenny Pigg, whose married name is Claughton. She and her husband John were living in Orsett, Essex, in the same house that Jenny and her parents had lived in while she was at SMH. She and **Kim** kept in touch briefly, but **Kim** wasn't able to keep up the

NAME	AGE	ENTRANCE	DEPART	LEAVE	OTHER
Violet Friedlaender	17	1909			
Her father's diocese seems to have been Jerusalem.					
What a shame that most pupils were unaware of this inspirational Old Girl!					
Addendum: <b>Kim Cook (Kimmins)</b>					
<b>1956-1960</b> also commented in the VCR "I knew something of <b>VHF</b> , and greatly enjoyed reading the signed copies of her books, which were in the SMH non-fiction library."					
<b>Kim</b> also managed to find Jenny Pigg, whose married name is Claughton. She and her husband John were living in Orsett, Essex, in the same house that Jenny and her parents had lived in while she was at SMH. She and <b>Kim</b> kept in touch briefly, but <b>Kim</b> wasn't able to keep up the					

contact. An Internet check found that Jenny and her husband are still listed on the register of electors for Orsett. Jenny and John are due to celebrate their Golden Wedding next year. Anyone living nearby out there??

Rima Warrell (Shuman) 1988-1996 has sent this lovely photo of the 5<sup>th</sup> Form 1994



Front row: LR Isabel Walker, **Clare Newman 1989-1996**, **Jennifer Fletcher (Mathews) ?-1996** (being carried)

Back row: LR **Victoria Tarrant (Lewis) 1989-1996**, Hannah Crockett, **Rima Warrell (Shuman)**, **Zoe Richmond-Smith 1991-1994**

As many of you know through our Facebook pages, Rima is working tirelessly to fundraise for her six-year-old daughter Kyra who needs potentially life-changing surgery. If members would like to read more about this please go to these links:

News story - <http://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2017/12/12/brighton-girls-family-launches-fundraising-bid-to-save-her-leg/>

Fundraising - <https://chuffed.org/project/step-by-step-with-kyra-the-first-hurdle>

Rima also wanted to say that although she is still in Brighton and many of her close school friends have moved away - some as far as Australia - and many years have gone by since some of us have seen each other, they are all rallying around her and her family. True friendships last forever and she is very grateful for the 'SMH girls'!



A New Year, and a new 100 Club Administrator – Lis Eastham. If you want to be in it (and you need to be in it to win it 😊 ) then drop Lis a message or email her: [100club@smhassociation.org](mailto:100club@smhassociation.org)

Members pay £12 a year per entry into the 100 Club and each month 50% of the 'pot' is paid out in prizes.

At present there are only 44 entries giving significantly better odds! But - the prize pot is smaller. Even so, the first prize this month more than covers a whole year's subscription!

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

November 2017 45 entries

1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Hilary Briegel-Jones</b>	No 85
2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Margaret Ellis</b>	No 76

December 2017 45 entries

1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Robina Methven</b>	No 2
2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Margaret Ellis</b>	No 59

January 2018 44 entries

1 <sup>st</sup> <b>Margaret Ellis</b>	No
2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Kate Thackwray</b>	No 25

## MYSTERY PHOTOS

As this is my penultimate newsletter I am publishing the last of my Mystery Photos and hope to have some answers to give you all in the Spring edition.



Obviously, a staff room photo as even I recognise a few faces!





Another staff pic – and obviously the lady on the right has had too much coffee judging by the size of the tin!



Any ideas on who, what or when? I suspect that I have that trophy in my collection though!



Who let this lot loose on London? Again, when, why and who?

Christmas Party Time, but who is celebrating and when?



Look at these little cuties. Do you recognise yourself in the photo? Please let me know who is who and what year.





I recognise Pamela James, former Headmistress, but what is the occasion and who are the girls?

Last, but not least, a classroom scene, but no uniforms are worn. Who, what, when?



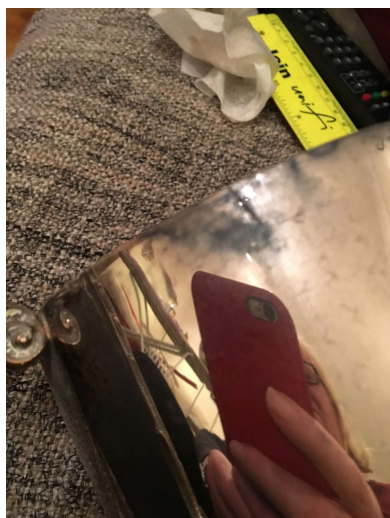
## A MYSTERY SOLVED

A Mystery Solved - In 2003 the then Archivist found a large silver cup in Tina Johnson's room. It was engraved "Paul Groves' Memorial Cup". She could find no reference to Paul Groves or why the cup had been presented or to whom. It remained a mystery for seven years but recently she was given a collection of memorabilia which the caretaker of SMH had been gathering together and amongst them was an album containing newspaper articles kept by Teresa Broadbent. Included in these she discovered one headed "Catherine wins the Cup in memory of Paul". Paul Groves had been walking between the Goldstone Football Stadium and Aston





Villa's stadium to raise money for the Zeebrugge Disaster Fund, 1987. Sadly, he was knocked down by a car and killed. His family and school, Stanley Deeson, decided to present a cup in



his memory to someone "serving the community" and Catherine Harris from SMH was awarded it for taking a mobile library round a local hospital every Saturday morning. So, the mystery solved. But it has led to another – why was the cup still at SMH in 2003? We unfortunately have not been able to make contact with Catherine Harris, who might be able to answer the second mystery, above. Letters to her address have not been answered. If any contemporary (1984- 1990 approx.) can assist this would be enormously helpful. Please email [smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com)

As you can see, the trophy is enormous. It is EPNS and some of the plating is damaged. If we are unable to make any contact with Catherine, this trophy will also be offered for

sale at some point in the future

## FUNDRAISING

### SMHA AUCTION OF TROPHIES

It's finally here! I've been hinting for a few months, but they are now all polished up, valued by Gorrings Auction House in Lewes, and ready for a new home that's not a box in my dining room! If you would like to own a little piece of SMH history now is your chance. We are auctioning these Trophies off to Association members in the first instance.

Due to the limitations with emailing and the size of the list of trophies, I will be sending a brochure out separately and you should receive this in the next couple of days.

If you are interested in taking part, this is how to go about it:

1. To place a bid, either email [secretary@smhassociation.org](mailto:secretary@smhassociation.org), marking the subject field 'Trophy Auction and the Lot Number'. In the context of the email, state the amount you would like to bid, your name and address; or mail your bid to: Jane Watson, 58 London Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 9NU, stating the Lot number, your bid and your name and address
2. Several trophies have been valued by Gorrings Auctioneers, Lewes, and a minimum bid has been placed on these items.
3. Only one bid per email
4. The closing date for all bids is 28<sup>th</sup> February
5. The highest bid for each Lot will win that trophy
6. In the event of a tie, the bid received first will win that trophy
7. Trophy winners will agree to pay for packing and postage of their trophy or can arrange to collect from me in person.

## MEMORABILIA

If you would like to order any of the following items, please contact me on [secretary@smhassociation.org](mailto:secretary@smhassociation.org) and let me know what you are interested in. I can then send you the payment information.

Still available for sale:



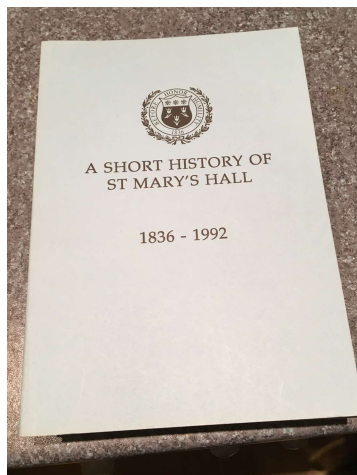
Colour print of the school,  
measuring 14" x 18" landscape

£9.85 to include postage and  
packing

Long School photos for:

1949 – 10+ copies  
1956 – 2 copies  
1963 – 10+ copies

Each photo is £5 to include  
postage and packing



I have 5 x A5 booklets 'A Short History of St Mary's Hall'  
1836-1992.

£5 each including postage and packing to the first five takers.

Also for sale are some of the long photos found on the **Gallery** page of the website <https://www.smhassociation.org/gallery.php> These images will be sold as downloads for £3. For further information please contact [smhaenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:smhaenquiries@gmail.com)

## A RECENT REUNION ...

You may remember a shout out in the last newsletter from Mandy Knight (who is not on the Association database!) with the help of **Jane Fowlie (Badger) 1965-1972** who were trying to organise a get together with their leavers year group. Well, they did and this is what **Jane** posted on the VCR:



“A few of us who were at SMH from around 1968 to 1975 got together in Brighton recently. From L-R Mandy Knight, Judy Eaton, **Kate Lord 1970-1975**, Sarah Berlis, **Jane Fowler**, Jane Anthony, Sue Goodchild (sorry not sure of your first name you came after I left) Edwina Sabine and **Lizzie Turner 1970-1973**.

46 years since I had seen most of these! It was a fantastic evening.”



Edwina and Lizzie



## Shhhhhhhhhhh...

A little bird has told us that Miss Bristol will be 90 in May and that this year also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her retirement from SMH. For those of us who were at the school during her years there, she was an inspirational teacher (if a little scary), and most of us can remember a 'Miss Bristol' incident. Mine was kneeling in a row while she measured the height of our skirts from the floor – everyone had unrolled their waistbands before – and then the height of the heels of our shoes. Letters home if they were not regulation! She was strict but fair and I think most of us remember her with fondness. Anyway, I digress; we would like to send her a gift and a card, as we did for Olwen Davies (Noddy) a couple of years ago.

If you would like to make a donation to this, please make your payment to:

Account: St Marys Hall Association  
Sort Code: 30-92-92  
Account No: 36910860  
Reference: Bristol + your name

If you would like to write anything for the card, please email me  
[secretary@smhassociation.org](mailto:secretary@smhassociation.org)

Thank you!

## AND FINALLY, JUST A REMINDER ...

Please do have a look at the website. There are constant updates being added -  
[www.smhassociation.org](http://www.smhassociation.org)

Logon: smhmember  
Password: elliot18362009

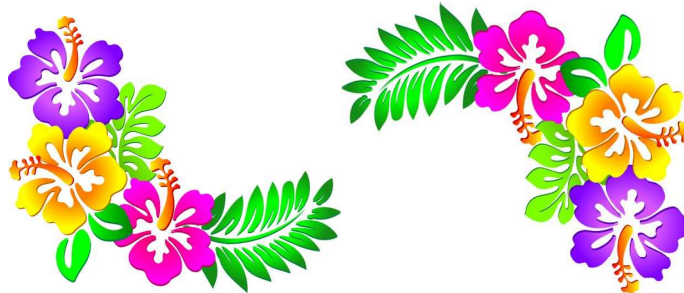
If you have any trouble logging in do please contact me.

The snowdrops are out here and the odd crocus has appeared – Spring is on the way in the UK!

Best wishes

**Jane**

**Jane Watson (Amherst-Clark 1963-1971)**



Email: [secretary@smhassociation.org](mailto:secretary@smhassociation.org)

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

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

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

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

My phone: 01273 846755