

ST MARYS HALL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter 113 2012

This newsletter is published by the SMHA Committee
on behalf of the St Mary's Hall Association

COMMITTEE

Hon. Life President:	Mrs. Susan M Meek
Hon Vice Presidents:	Miss N Olwen Davies Mrs. Clare Feaver Mrs. Teresa Broadbent Mrs. Pamela James
Hon Chairman:	Olive Ridge
Hon Secretary and Hon Editor:	Penny Harrison, assisted by Alice Rawdon-Mogg and Emma Thomas
Hon Treasurer:	Diana Sijpesteijn
	Committee Members: Frances Barham Jodie Graham Kathy Howard Virginia James Robina Methven Jo Stubbs
Archivist:	Sue Carnochan

Committee contact details, and roles, are listed at the end of the Newsletter.

INDEX

Page 3	Letter to SMHA members from the Committee
Page 5	A message from your Chair
Page 5	School Prayer
Page 6	From the Archivist
Page 8	Memorabilia
Page 9	Letter from Hon. Life President and former Headmistress, Sue Meek
Page 10	News of former Headmistresses and Staff
Page 12	Message from your Secretary
Page 13	Accounts for 2010 and 2011
Page 14	Obituaries and tributes
Page 14 on	News of Old Girls
Back Cover	Contacts and SMHA Prayer
Appendix	Committee Contact details and roles

Dear SMHA member

Our Committee has been very busy since we last wrote to you. Olive Ridge and Alice Rawdon-Mogg organised a most successful **reunion in London last March**. It's disappointing not to have heard back/more from those who attended. You know who you are! Do you have photos to share? Have you met up again since? Tell us your news either by email or on Facebook. Olive and Alice are also working to establish **links with SMH Choir** and would greatly value contact with any individual choir members. Alice has also taken on the website editing which has saved money.

Frances Barham and Penny Harrison have been in touch with **OGs in East and West Sussex and Surrey** with a view to networking closely with them and achieving a record turn out for the reunion next June. We are most grateful to many of you for feeding back your thoughts on local meetings. We know these are ongoing (and would love to hear about them!) and have decided, in view of the work the committee has regarding organising the 2013 reunion, not to try to add committee input at this stage. It is very much on our minds and agenda for 2013/14 though so please do let us have your thoughts on any meetings you might like to have our help with.

Emma Thomas has, of course, done a marvellous job of organising the **100 Club** which is raising much needed funds for our future plans. Please contact her if you would like a number / numbers.

Emma has also taken on the **SMHA Facebook page and Twitter** which we are all thrilled about as we know this will engage and entertain many of you who we are not reaching by emails or from the website.

Sue Meek continues to work tirelessly with the **St Mark's initiative** (see her report on page 9) and we are all most grateful for this wonderful work.

Jo Stubbs has worked with Sue Carnochan on the **Archive and memorabilia**. Sue's report is on page 6 followed by details of items for sale.

Diana Sijpesteijn and Penny continue in their roles as Treasurer and Secretary.

We work by email, with the occasional Conference Call, and meet once a year, only. We are able to consider assistance with travel costs for Committee members with long journeys to a meeting, if necessary.

We met in June this year and were pleased that Sue Meek, Olive Ridge, Pamela James, Diana Markham, Kathy Howard, Virginia James, Jo Stubbs, Emma Thomas, Robina Methven and Sue Carnochan were all able to attend. Teresa, Olwen, Clare, Alice and Frances had to send their apologies. As ever, Sue Meek provided not only a venue, at her lovely home, but also delicious food. Olive took us for a trip down memory lane with her rock cakes...we all remembered those mid-morning treats!



Pictured, left, are Sue Meek and Sue Carnochan at the Committee meeting at Sue M's home with, in the background, our much loved long-case clock, restored and chiming beautifully.

Those of you who receive and read our monthly email updates are well aware that we have been successful in our application for a **"Blue Plaque"** to commemorate Henry Venn Elliott and Charlotte Elliott.

We are most grateful to BSUH Trust for allowing us to place this at the school entrance and to the Brighton Blue Plaque Committee for agreeing to an unveiling date of the reunion – 15th June 2013.

Members of the Elliott family have been wonderfully supportive and Tim Elliott will be performing the unveiling. We hope that Anthony Elliott will also be with us to share in this important event. The wording on the Plaque will be confirmed soon and we will share it in a monthly email update with you all. We very much hope that it will include a reference to "Just as I am, without one plea". *Just as I am* has a very special place in the life of the school as it was composed in a summerhouse in the grounds and sung by all of us many many times, however space on the Plaque is, of course, an issue!

SMHA has had to fund the £1300 costs of the Plaque. Several Old Girls and former staff have kindly sent us donations towards this sum. If anyone would like to send a contribution this will be greatly appreciated. We are using the money raised by the 100 club to help with costs but as our income is more or less at a standstill we would be most grateful for any assistance.

We have established a sub group to work on the Reunion. Olive, Sue Meek, Jo, Emma, Diana and Penny are corresponding and meeting up to ensure that it will be a day to remember for all the right reasons. If you have any thoughts or would like to be involved in any way please drop any of us a line. Otherwise "watch this space"

We wondered if any Old Girl who is perhaps less mobile, in a residential home or is otherwise less able to socialise, would welcome a **visit or a phone call** from a younger old girl who could chat, do shopping or run other errands? Would any younger old girls like to engage in this? We're happy to put this together – please let us know. The other thought we would like to plant in your minds is if you can offer a lift to **any OGs who may want to attend the Reunion** and find this problematical. If you could, please email secretary@smhassociation.org.uk. Likewise, if you would find a lift helpful please let me know.

Elections for the Committee will be required in 2013 so it is time to consider whether you may wish to step forward and take your place – younger Old Girls, in particular, would be welcomed. We remain anxious about succession planning and would welcome expressions of interest at any time. If you would like to know more about the "work" – which is more a pleasure than a chore – please contact Penny.

SMHA committee

A message from your Chair

Dear Friends,

We have much to be encouraged by during this past year. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our totally committed Secretary, Penny Harrison (Titheradge), who has worked tirelessly to enlarge our contact base with a greater number of hits on our website and growth into other social networking sites. She has spent hours and hours uploading archive material onto the website for the benefit of members. Her monthly updates are always prompt and greatly valued. Thank you so much Penny for all you do for the Association.

Last summer, Alice Rawdon-Mogg (1993-2000) and I thought it worthwhile to offer a London venue for a reunion. Amanda Jones' (nee Hobson) son, Dominic, who manages "etc.venues" in Moorgate, kindly provided the location for us, free of charge. I am pleased to report that some fifty old girls and a few former members of staff met together. Former pupils ranged from those who had attended the School during the 1950s to some who had left in the 2000s. We all had a very enjoyable evening renewing friendships and remembering old times. Those who attended travelled from diverse parts of the country and appreciated the opportunity to attend a reunion in a Central London location. Alice and I would like to thank Diana Markham, our Treasurer, for her unstinting support of the event.

I would remind you again of the 100 Club so ably managed by Emma Thomas which continues to expand. You can see details of this fund-raising venture on our website and elsewhere in this magazine.

The most recent SMHA event was at St James' Church in Louth on the 14th July when an old girl, Anne Fridal, performed with the Louth Male Voice Choir. See elsewhere in these pages for a report of this.

We look forward to 15th June 2013 when our next reunion is scheduled to take place in St Mark's Chapel. In the meantime, I send my greetings to you and hope to see many of you next year.

Meanwhile, as ever, I would welcome your comments on what you would like the Association to provide. My e-mail address is okridge@ntlworld.com

Olive Ridge
Chair, SMHA

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

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Archive information is regularly posted on our website.



Our archives are in the Old Reference Library at Roedean and Sue Carnochan is in Roedean School Library (01273 667574) on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 – 1.00, to deal with any queries from old girls and their families. Sue is pictured, in the Library, on the left.

Contact details for Sue Carnochan are: 01273 667612 (Archivist Office)
email: jsu@roedean.co.uk / sueian@gmx.com

Sue writes: "This year I have researched Edmund Oxborrow b.1896, a market gardener who sold produce to S.M.H. between 1946 and 1950. I've searched the Confirmation Register for Camilla Vaid.

As mentioned during the year, and later in this Newsletter, I have researched Joan Hope Volk S.M.H. 1923-1927 and discovered that she was granddaughter of Magnus Volk of Volk's railway fame. I then contacted her daughter, now 73, who lives on the Isle of Skye and sent her a lot of photocopied information.

I also looked into Jill Martin who taught Maths between 1960 and 1965 and found her name in a Register of Mistresses' salaries. The same register provided information on Helen Warburton, housemistress 1950, which was sent to her niece

I've worked with Sue Meek on future of St. Mark's Church and helped her produce a presentation for a public meeting. Further research has also been undertaken on relatives of a Mr. Thompson, Namely Maud and Lily Oliver, Nancy and Lorna Thompson.

I also researched Elizabeth Ann Waller S.M.H. 1946-51 who lived in Lewes Crescent and Jane Upsdale S.M.H.1948. Elizabeth married Keith Jones whose family owned the Jones shoe shops in Brighton and Shoreham. They emigrated to Australia but she kept in touch with S.M.H.A. and her name appears on the 1969 list.

I provided information also on Elizabeth Brice, an old girl of S.M.H. soprano soloist in a concert at St. Georges during Brighton Festival and on Dr. Helen Boyle who was doctor at S.M.H. during 1930's, for Karen, who works at Brighton Museum.

Research on Anita Maccario, thought to have been at either Roedean or SMH in the 1950s, and on Beatrice Garraud was not successful. The latter was at the request of "Who do you think you are"

I made a list of Junior School archives recovered after closure in July 2011. They are now catalogued and stored in the office in the Old Reference Library at Roedean until eventual removal to a permanent home either in St. Mark's Chapel or at Lewes Record Office.

Andrew Bennett from Lewes Record Office has said he would be happy to house all the written documents in the new building being built but not before Spring of 2013. Other archive material would have to be stored at St Marks. (see *below*).

I asked Richard Poffley, Roedean Bursar, where the black box was which contained the Deeds of S.M.H. He did not know but gave me a cardboard box of papers. These have been checked with help from Jo Stubbs and Sue Craig and are the deeds. The (empty) black box was found in St. Mark's and is now being refilled! Enquiries are ongoing with the hospital and Brighton College to find out if their lawyers still have any.

A collection of photos of S.M.H. taken during the occupation by Canadian soldiers was left with me, after being discovered in school before the final handover to the hospital. They show men in uniform guarding the grounds including the postman's stairs. I will contact the LAKE SUPERIOR REGIMENT of Canada to ask if they have any others.

Michael Thompson visited on Feb 8th to look at the archives. He studied box 15 on Past Pupils and found a photo of a cricket team, which had names on the back and one was of his relative Maud Oliver. He was delighted. He also looked at a photo taken outside St. Hilary to look for two other relatives. He was very pleased with his visit, which was gratifying because he had come all the way from Scotland, on way to see daughter in Hampshire

I have met with Mrs. King re. future contract at Roedean and agreed a review every 6 months with the next one to be in August 2012."

It has been a great pleasure to see the Registers available on the SMHA website. Thanks to Penny Gardiner for making her photos available and to those who worked so hard to load them all up!

Jo Stubbs adds " I have been up to Roedean a few times this year – an historian was working with Sue - she is trying to prove that a wall somewhere near Sussex Square (not actually one in the school grounds) should be listed. It was fascinating - I learnt a lot about bricks! I also didn't realise that the Marquess of Bristol's family name was Hervey - my aunt told me this; the ancestral home was Ickworth House which is very close to where I used to work in Suffolk and apparently he owned much land in that county. I now understand why the four houses which made up Elliott House were originally in what was known as Hervey Terrace. We have been archiving many documents - it's great - handwritten deeds from the mid 1800s. Anyway, I could go on, but suffice to say it's very interesting."

Sue and Jo reported, at the committee meeting, that the Archives will indeed be going to Lewes in Spring 2013 but all pictures, artefacts etc. are either to be replaced in their original home at the School when it reopens as the Hospital Administration building, or will be stored in St Marls Chapel. Included in the latter will be "slides" which Jo is arranging to be digitised and added to the website in due course. These, together with some Videos and DVDs will be available for future reunions etc..

Memorabilia for Sale – own a memory and support your Association!

We are delighted to bring you the opportunity to purchase mementoes of SMH!

Items, photographed and / or detailed below, are available by contacting our Secretary to confirm availability and reserve items which will be posted to you at a UK address immediately on receipt of payment.

Whether as a gift for an old-girl-friend, or just to treat yourself with a happy memory we are sure you will enjoy your purchase.

Notecards

£3 per pack of four cards;
white slightly textured card
(approx 5" x 4")
with a black and white
reproduction of a Victorian
painting of the school building
in the top right hand corner
(shown below and on right)



A Short History of SMH

By Mr Martin. £2.50 per copy



Elliott House Blazer Badge

Most with the original Harrods price
(65p) stuck on the back!
£2 per badge

Postcards

£1.25 per set of five
(one of each of five
designs, some shown
here)



Mugs

£13 each

All prices INCLUDE p&p to the UK and 100% of the proceeds,
after p&p has been covered, will be retained by SMHA to help secure our future.
e-mail secretary@smhassociation.org.uk, telephone 07946 772620, or write to
Penny Harrison, Apartment 5, Liber House, Olympian Court, York, YO10 5UF

THE FRANK BUTTLE TRUST

Where are you now?

The Frank Buttle Trust is often contacted by former beneficiaries and we are always delighted to hear how they are getting on – and to tell them about the exciting work of the Trust today!

If you were assisted by the Trust in the past, and would like to get in touch again, please email: hello@buttletrust.org

Letter from Sue Meek; SMHA Honorary Life President

Dear Friends

I am writing this following the Committee's latest meeting on June 16th, 2012. It was a happy opportunity for members to report back on activities during the past year and we were all encouraged by the number of reunions and chance encounters that have taken place between ex-pupils and ex-staff since we last met. I am so grateful to Committee members for their ongoing commitment and loyalty to the Association.

Please do report back to the Committee on any meetings you have enjoyed this year and send photos for us all to share! Not only do we have our own website but we can also be found on Facebook and Twitter, so there is no excuse not to keep in touch and we welcome news via any means you prefer – we really do love to hear from you – and every contact we receive strengthens the Association!

My main project for SMHA this year has been the ongoing negotiation of plans for the future use of St Mark's Chapel. The Chapel has now been returned to the parish and following several consultation meetings with the local community, the overwhelming request has been for an Arts venue in Kemp Town, to facilitate music, drama, dance, cinema, circus skills and art workshops and exhibitions. Sue Carnochan assisted me in providing a display of the Chapel's history for the public meeting, which evoked much interest. It was heartening to discover the affection with which the Chapel is held amongst local people and how much its special atmosphere is valued

In preparation for the building work, the Strategy Committee and Sue Carnochan have since cleared the Chapel, storing SMHA memorabilia in the upper rooms, the grand piano and liturgical items in St George's, the portraits in the hospital (our Senior School) building. We have a detailed inventory and know where everything is. There are some archives in the Chapel but it has been decided that our records should be sent to the new Lewes Record Office, where they will be secure and available to all.

I know many of you will be happy to read that the piano is regularly played by professionals at St George's and Tony Jay (ex SMH Director of Music) who bought the piano for SMH keeps it tuned and overhauled and uses it himself for the Brighton Consort - at no cost to us. We are so happy that it is destined to be returned to St Mark's, whence it came.

Our fundraising efforts have been laborious and frustratingly slow. This is a difficult time to find donors and sponsorship. However, while we have been preparing lengthy applications for funding, the Brighton Festival Fringe group 'Dip Your Toe' has been using the space during this year's Festival to create the iconic Beach Huts, so much in evidence around the city, presenting a variety of street theatre productions, which have been greatly enjoyed. It has been good to see the Chapel as a hive of creative activity once again! The Beach Huts are now stored in the Chapel, in readiness for the company's forthcoming tour – so they may be coming to a town near you!

The Strategy Committee comprising myself, Fr Andrew from St George's, Margaret Ellis (SMHA) and Anna Moulson (who is the concert administrator for St George's) have visited various churches which have become arts centres, including All Saints in Lewes and St Mary's in Ashford. Both these venues are extremely successful and the latter has managed to combine its commitment to being an arts space with being a full-time parish church. We are currently in discussion with the Brighton and Hove City Council Arts Officer, the Fringe Festival and two theatre groups with a view to forming a partnership for the running of the Chapel as an Arts 'hub' in East Brighton, for use by various groups, amateur and professional. The Chapel would become a separate charity and, if all goes well, would be self-funding. Morning Prayer and experimental worship on some Sundays each month would also be part of the planned schedule. Collaboration with these groups and with Brighton and Hove Council, would give us access to further artistic expertise, wider sources of funding and a much more extensive database of contacts.

Meanwhile, Margaret Ellis and her stalwart band ring out the bells over Kemp Town on festival days to ensure St Mark's is not forgotten! It is a joy to hear them.

We are on the cusp of a new phase of development of the Chapel, which I hope and pray will secure its future. It would be wonderful to welcome you to St Mark's next summer as part of our Blue Plaque celebrations. I am keeping everything crossed that this dream will come true!

With warmest wishes to you all – and hoping to see you in 2013.

Sue Meek

Hon. Life President & Headmistress of St Mary's Hall (1997-2009)

NEWS OF FORMER HEADMISTRESSES (SMHA Hon Vice Presidents) MISS N. OLWEN DAVIES 1965 – 1973,

Olwen wrote earlier this year to say that she had a spell in hospital during March and after a couple of weeks in the local hospital indulged herself by being thoroughly spoilt in a nursing home. She has really no news but asked for us to give her love to everybody and say how much she enjoys reading about what everyone else is doing.

We're delighted to report that thanks to the kindness of Susan Mitchell, who is chauffeuring Olwen, she will be able to be with us on 15th June 2013 for the Reunion and unveiling of the Blue Plaque.



Thanks to Kathy Howard for providing this photograph of Miss Davies which many of us remember from "the stairs"

MRS. CLARE FEAVER 1981 - 1988,

Kathy Howard was kind enough to telephone Clare for news and says that she still enjoys being a guide at Chichester Cathedral and would be very pleased to see anyone who is in the area. If you would like Clare's number please email secretary@smhassociation.org.uk Clare said she was still feeling very sad that the school closed

MRS. TERESA BROADBENT 1988 – 1991,

Since my husband and I retired, we have lived in Greenway Lane, Bath. We loved living there and did not want to leave the friendly community or the fantastic views over National Trust fields. We had a very large and demanding garden. Since my brain operations I was no longer able to do any significant gardening, so it all fell to Martin. He was also doing the shopping, cooking etc, so I thought the time had come to be sensible and decide to move house. We were fortunate enough to find just the right place fairly near the city centre.

It is now possible to walk into town and last Sunday I walked on my own to Bath Abbey. We are so fortunate to be a part of the worshipping community of this great church.

The other great bonus of our new location is that our small garden runs down to a boundary stream. On the other side is our daughter's garden. It is lovely that they can just step across and see us. They are such a joy and considerable help.

Chris and his family are in Switzerland where he works at Unilever HQ. Their two boys are now fluent German speakers.

We delight in being able to fly easily to see each other. Tempus fugit!! Next July we celebrate our Golden Wedding.

If any readers come to visit Bath, we are in a handy location for free parking and coffee. We would love to see you.

Find Great Pulteney Street with the Holburne of Menstrie Museum at the east end. Take the road to the right of the Museum, Sydney Place. Continue pass the Bath Orthodontists, immediately afterwards turn right into Sham castle Lane. Continue straight to the very end of the Private road and Willow Bank is in the left hand corner.

Best wishes to all

MRS. PAMELA JAMES 1991 – 1997.

Pamela was happily able to attend the recent Committee meeting and was in fine form! She is playing an active role in arrangements for the 2013 Reunion and looks forward to seeing many of "her" Old Girls there.

Pamela told the committee members about "ET", the school's last lollipop lady, whom she sees regularly and who always says that it was the best job she ever had. ET asked to be remembered to OGs who remember her.

A message from Penny Harrison, Honorary Secretary and Editor

I have been privileged to be your Secretary and to edit the Newsletter, email information and share in the web editing during perhaps the most interesting and challenging era for the Association.

Those of you who were able to attend the last reunion at SMH in 2009 will recall that my original intention was to “pitch” to you the concept of a *virtual association* rather than to become the person tasked with achieving it, however, surprising and “interesting” as the outcome has been I have enjoyed – and continue to enjoy – every minute of it.

At the forefront of my mind at all times has been that during the four years I spent at SMH, under the headship of Olwen Davies and in Hilary House with Margaret Payne as Housemistress, these two inspirational women instilled in me – and many of my contemporaries – the concept of service. Sadly, Margaret is no longer with us for me to thank her in person, but Olwen, I do hope that you know how your teachings and examples have helped me. It took me a while, but I think I have got there in the end!

Many Old Girls have gone on to live lives inspired by the concept of service to others, with a preponderance working in the Health or Education Sectors in the UK and abroad. Our teachers must be commended for guiding us to think and act in this way.

Few Old Girls have been able to serve each other through the Association as directly as I have in the last three years and I am truly honoured to have held this role.

However, during this period, I have been deeply concerned about succession planning. With a couple of exceptions younger Old Girls have been less keen to participate in the Association or to volunteer for the Committee. It is unclear whether this is because you are not sure what this entails; are genuinely not interested in fellowship; feel that you are “too busy” or have other reasons for not coming forward.

I write these words to ask you to look at what St Mary’s Hall gave to you. I am absolutely certain that under the headship of Sue Meek and her immediate predecessors you understood the importance of giving in expectation of receiving. I have been quite overwhelmed with the friendship I have received in exchange for what I have done and I would be bitterly disappointed if there was no one to experience this in the future.

Please get in touch with Emma, networking on Facebook and Twitter, with me by email or indeed with any of us and let us know what you want for the 2020s.

Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy this Newsletter and look forward to meeting many of you in 2013

Penny (Titheradge) Harrison
1969-1973

Association Accounts: 2010 and 2011

Extracts from the full, audited, accounts which were presented to the Committee in June 2012 and will be formally presented with 2012's accounts to the General Meeting next June

ST MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 2010				ST MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 2011			
		2010 £	2009 £			2011 £	2010 £
Sales		285	4,880	Sales		-	285
Other business income		400	209	Other business income		1,083	400
Expenses				Expenses			
Telephone, fax, stationery and other office costs		2,025	6,943	Telephone, fax, stationery and other office costs		503	2,025
Bank, credit card and other finance charges		5	4	Bank, credit card and other finance charges		-	5
Other business expenses		30	-	Other business expenses		45	30
		<u>2,060</u>	<u>6,947</u>			<u>548</u>	<u>2,060</u>
Loss		<u>(1,375)</u>	<u>(1,858)</u>	Profit/(loss)		<u>535</u>	<u>(1,375)</u>
Notes		2010 £	2009 £	Notes		2011 £	2010 £
Fixed assets				Fixed assets			
Other fixed assets	3	15,275	15,000	Other fixed assets	3	15,482	15,275
Current assets				Current assets			
Bank/building society balances	4,741	6,391		Bank/building society balances	5,069	4,741	
Net current assets		4,741	6,391	Net current assets		5,069	4,741
Net assets		<u>20,016</u>	<u>21,391</u>	Net assets		<u>20,551</u>	<u>20,016</u>
General Fund				General Fund			
Balance at start of period		21,391	23,249	Balance at start of period		20,016	21,391
Net loss		(1,375)	(1,858)	Net profit/(loss)		535	(1,375)
		<u>20,016</u>	<u>21,391</u>			<u>20,551</u>	<u>20,016</u>
Profit and loss account analysis		2010 £	2009 £	Profit and loss account analysis		2011 £	2010 £
Sales				Sales			
Subscriptions		285	4,880	Subscriptions		-	285
Other business income				Other business income			
Interest receivable		282	209	Interest receivable		209	282
Donations		2	-	Donations		2	2
Sale of Memorabilia		116	-	Sale of Memorabilia		126	116
		<u>400</u>	<u>209</u>	Reunion Lunches		144	-
Telephone, fax, stationery and other office costs				100 Club Membership		468	-
Postage		1,114	1,500	March 2011 Reunion		134	-
Stationery and printing		-	1,410			<u>1,083</u>	<u>400</u>
Reunion lunches etc		130	3,335	Telephone, fax, stationery and other office costs			
Retirement gifts		30	76	Postage		15	1,114
Committee expenses		78	-	Reunion lunches etc		180	130
Purchase of archive items		458	-	Retirement gifts		-	30
Website		215	622	Committee expenses		108	78
		<u>2,025</u>	<u>6,943</u>	Purchase of archive items		-	458
Bank, credit card and other finance charges				Website		200	215
Bank charges		5	4			<u>503</u>	<u>2,025</u>
Other business expenses				Bank, credit card and other finance charges			
Sundry expenses		30	-	Bank charges		-	5
Other fixed assets				Other business expenses			
		2010 £	2009 £	Sundry expenses		45	30
Investments - Standard Life		15,275	15,000	Other fixed assets			
						2011 £	2010 £
				Investments- Standard Life		15,482	15,275

Obituaries

Sally Dixon, former head of Biology at SMH, aged only 54, of ovarian cancer.

Sheila Nancy (Humphrys) Allison, died on 3rd January 2012 at her home in Storrington, West Sussex. She was a pupil of SMH from 1937-1940, date of birth 27 February 1924. Mother to Penny Gardiner who wrote "She caught us all by surprise as she had been in good shape recently. But then that's the best time to go isn't it, when you're at the top of your form. I can't be too sad - she knew that her independence was threatened as she became increasingly infirm, and she was worrying about the potential restrictions and cost of a nursing home."

Penny (Hunt) Barnes wrote to Penny Gardiner "I was so sorry to hear about your mother - by complete coincidence, as I live just outside Storrington, I had the privilege of knowing Sheila whilst she was a resident of White Horse Court. I belong to our local Rotary Club and through that we organise a number of events for the elderly in Storrington - Sheila was amongst our guests on a number of occasions; a lovely lady.

Losing one's mum at any age is traumatic but you are right in saying that it was better she was enjoying life to the end and did not suffer the indignities and trials that old age and nursing homes bring.

I am really sorry that I cannot be at Sheila's funeral as we are in NZ until April but my thoughts will be with you on the day."

Margo Child neé Bond, 1926-1933 until last year one of our oldest, if not our oldest, Old Girls died 95 years young on 7th February 2011.

We very much appreciated her son Peter taking the trouble to call and tell us this. He was also kind enough to offer a message of support for the Association and was pleased to hear of all the activity which is going on.

NEWS*NEWS*NEWS OF FORMER STAFF AND PUPILS

Where are they now?

JOAN HOPE VOLK

Joan was the granddaughter of MAGNUS VOLK of Volk's Railway fame. She was born 3/8/10 and came to S.M.H. 1923~1927. She lived at 8, Marine Square Brighton. She married in Brighton and had two daughters who went to the High School presumably because S.M.H. was closed during the war. One daughter now lives on the Isle of Skye but at one time lived in Winchester and sent her daughter to a school where the headmistress was none other than Miss Davies who was previously head at S.M.H. What a coincidence!! Daughter Shirley would like any info about her mother from anyone who went to school with her.

ELIZABETH ANN WALLER

Elizabeth was born 3/12/1933 and lived at 10, Lewes Crescent Brighton. She was adopted by Mr. Waller and sent to S.M.H. in 1946. She came with the new girls who reopened the school after the war. She left in 1951. She married Keith Jones who owned the "JONES" shoe shops in Brighton, Hove and Shoreham. She went to live in Perth, Australia and her half sister lost touch with her. If anyone recalls Elizabeth at school or knows where she now is, please get in touch with Sue Carnochan. By sheer coincidence, Sue still has a carrier bag from "Jones Bootmaker since 1857". "I must at one time have been able to afford a pair of their very expensive shoes" Sue comments!!

My name is **Pauline Burfitt (née Trowell)** and I attended St. Mary's Hall in 1963/4. I was in Hilary House and I had a good friend there called Joan Victoria See. After being in Australia for some years, I lost contact with her. If anyone can assist Paula please do contact her directly on wpburfitt@inet.net.au or with any of the contact details above.

Stephanie Duncan (née Hirst) replied to the email request, above, to say: "Sorry unable to help with contact details for Joan See but I remember her with affection as she was in my class and dormitory. I was very jealous of her bedcover blanket because it had satin edges! **Frances Tweedy née Sprigge** may be able to help. I know that you have her email address."

Frances responded to say "All I can do is echo Stephanie's recollections – although I don't think I was so intrigued by the blanket! I remember her to be wise beyond her years and a good companion to everyone around her. Unfortunately, I did not keep her address in Hong Kong and so I cannot help Paula to contact her. However, it is nice to hear about another SMH person from our years who is now in the Southern Hemisphere (albeit indirectly)!"

Margaret Habershon got in touch to ask if we have any contact with either **Sue Fingland or Valda Lambert.**

I had a quick look on FRU and found Susan. I emailed her as follows via the site

Dear Susan

Margaret Habershon from St Mary's Hall has asked me if you are a member of the Assn...I did not have your details but I have found you on FRU. Please would you drop me a line to secretary@smhassociation.org.uk if you would like to get back in touch with her? She is also trying to find Valda Lambert - do you know where she is now?

kind regards

Penny (Titheradge)

Secretary, SMH Association

I'm sorry to report that she did not contact me, but ***if anyone "out there" has details of either Susan or Valda and can incentivise them to get in touch, please do!***

Other News:

Sue Meek had an amazing experience at a school inspection as the couple running the hotel where the team of inspectors was staying was an ex head girl (**Jenny Mathews**) and her husband and she had spent the previous weekend meeting up with SMH friends! I also saw her parents who used to accommodate our boarders' parents in their hotel (the Arlanda) in Brighton before their move west. They were lending a hand at the hotel as Jenny now has a seven month old daughter. It was wonderful to see her!

Old Girl **Jane Brookes** wrote:

My children are at Handcross Park School and I am Chair of the "Friends of Handcross Park". We are about to start organising a Summer Fun Day and a Ball to celebrate 125 years of the School.

Do you know if any Old Girls are also old pupils of Handcross Park? We are looking for any old anecdotes, photos, stories etc of their time at the school to tell and show to the present pupils.

PH had a letter from **Ruth Wiffen neé Bradbrooke** (1952-1957) as follows: Your recent email was passed to me by **Christine Bean, neé Edmondson**, and I was interested to see the piece from Jane Brookes about her children attending Handcross Park School.

I'm a computer dinosaur so thought I would write and ask you if you could kindly get in touch with her for me.

I'm interested because I grew up in Handcross from 11 until I was married at 24 in 1964. My father was rector of Slaugham, Handcross being the main village in the parish was where the rectory was situated. I never visited the Park myself but I remember it was a convalescent home and then a Jewish School; perhaps Handcross Park School moved there later after I, and my family, had left.

I could, of course, be barking up the wrong tree but thought this might be an interesting link even though I had no children at Handcross Park.

I would be pleased to hear from Jane sometime to let me know if I am right. 125 years is a great achievement and I hope the celebrations go well.

Ruth concludes, to PH's delight – I have made a note of 15th June 2013 (reunion of SMHA). Only an earthquake would keep me away!

Jane was delighted to receive this news and both she and the current head of the school intended to contact Ruth.

Alice Halliday was in touch and asked to be remembered to **Frances Sprigg, Catherine Steiner, Deidre Butt, Alex Gebbie, Ursula Penney, Geraldine Hooper, Carol Parker, Julia Pargeter, Ann Ogden** who were all contemporaries of hers in the 60s.

"Thanks very much for all your hard work in keeping us together," writes Rev **Helen Fraser (Roberts)** "Having left the law, I've been doing a theology degree for two years in Bristol which I completed in June. I was ordained at Southwark Cathedral on 3 July and I'm serving a curacy at St Margaret's Church in Chipstead, Surrey. Consequently, we (husband Simon, children Caitlyn (4) and Ben (2)) have moved to Coulsdon, in Surrey."

Jane Wharton/ Alsop wrote: "Thank you very much for the Newsletter and for all the news. I am sorry that I could not come to the General Meeting but I will try and come next time!

"I can remember playing in the little summer house, by the tennis court. We used to play 'Mothers and Fathers' and I can remember sweeping it out with branches! When I went to SMH, the week after it had closed, I saw the foundations that were still there. It brought back so many memories. I did not know that Charlotte Elliott had written ' Just as I am' in there- I am so pleased to know this and that a Plaque will be placed on the school."

In organizing the London reunion this March Olive Ridge made contact with many more recent OGs.

Tracie Axford wrote "I must say I was most surprised to see an email from my geography teacher in my inbox this morning! It was a nice blast from the past. Unfortunately, I can't make the reunion this year in London as much as I would love to. I now live in Qatar, so it would be a little bit far for me to get to and I don't plan to be in the UK at this time. It is a shame as I think that I will be in the UK a couple of weeks after this for a visit to see friends and family. Have you contacted any of the other girls in my year? **Janan, Rachel, Alanna, Henny, Panita, Michelle Corfield and Sarah Harvey** are all still really good friends and would possibly be interested, although most of us have little ones under 5 at the moment, so it is a little more difficult to get out!

"It is lovely to hear from you and I hope that you are doing well. As I said previously, I live in Qatar now as my husband has a job here and I love being a 'stay-at-home' Mum to my daughter Annabel, who has just turned 1. We have been here nearly a year now and will probably stay another 2-3 years before returning to the UK but we are really enjoying it. It is a great place to bring up little ones and the expat community is really good.

"Take care and I hope to make another reunion at some point in the future. SMH will always have fond memories for me, and it is sad that it is no longer there. I would have loved Annabel to go there too."

Maria O'Connell wrote "I am not really in touch with many from SMH days. Lost touch as everyone went to uni! I will encourage the little sis to join me and the London reunion in March. I am a partner in a legal aid law firm in London. I am doing a masters in international human rights law. Charlotte and Finn are now 7 and 6 and in the old SMH building that Brighton College have taken on. Usual working mum with endless school letters and rugby filled weekends and school birthday parties to fill what little time I have."

After the event **Jocelyn Pannett** contacted Olive "Just to say a big thank you for organising such an enjoyable evening on Thursday. Please pass on my thanks to the others. It was such fun and it was so nice that everyone just waded in looking at name badges and recollected times even if the details are now a bit hazy. It was a great evening. Thanks again Jocelyn"

Amanda Hobson, whose son Dominic, was so generous regarding hosting the event, wrote

"My dear Olive, Alice and Diana

"You really did bring together a hugely successful, vibrant and fun evening last night and I want to thank you all so much for your tremendously hard work, for having the initial idea for the event and for succeeding in having such an excellent response to this first-time initiative. It was such a pleasure to meet you all and thank you so much for your generous remarks about Dominic. He was delighted to be able to host the evening and to meet the members of the Association - he does now believe that his mother DID actually go to school....!

"I met so many interesting Old Girls from all eras and was delighted that my only other true contemporary, **Judith Patten**, managed to make it. In fact, the dear girl drove me back to my daughter's home in Wimbledon afterwards, thus enabling a much longer catch-up!

"I think the idea of the feedback form, Alice, was very good. And the 100 Club is a splendid innovation - I was lucky enough to win 2nd prize a few months ago and am delighted to support the Association in such a way.

"Thank you all again most sincerely for all your work in organising last night and I do hope we'll be doing such an event again. It was such fun and had a really buzzy atmosphere - 3 cheers for the Old Girls!"

Alice Halliday wrote to say thank Amanda whose son kindly provided the venue and also to thank Olive, Diana and Alice who took part in hosting a very worth while gathering. She commented: "It was great fun, well organised and a lovely venue. I so enjoyed meeting people again I thought had been 'lost' over the aeons of time."

PH wrote to the Sussex Old Girls who do not "do" email and to some others in the Home Counties who might have been able to attend the London reunion.

She was touched and pleased to get several replies, extracts from which read as follows:

From **Fiona Carter (née McWalter)** "Thank you for your letter inviting me to the London reunion. Unfortunately I shall not be able to attend. I am now a full time carer for my husband who was 90 last week and am very limited in the amount of time I can leave him. However if there was a reunion nearer home I might be able to make it.

"I am so pleased that the Elliotts are to be remembered with a plaque. I always think of Charlotte when "Just as I am" is sung. I also remember the plaque in the "house" near the tennis court which was built when I was at school.*

"I would be pleased to be told of any relevant dates if that is possible.

"I was at SMH from 1947-1954 and on the staff (PE) in the middle 60s. My mother, **Marjorie Fuller**, was at the school 1923-1930 approx.

"Robina Methven might remember me. My special friend was **Marilyn Saunders** who still lives in Hove. My other friends are all abroad."

*** Does anyone remember this? What was it?**

The next letter was from **Margaret McCall (née Jones)** who lives in Hove "Thank you for the SMH information. I would have loved to have come to the March get together but reality and my legs tell me it is quite impossible. A Hove-Brighton one would be a different thing and I would certainly be for it, though past being able to do anything to help with it.

Two weeks ago I had an SMH encounter as I went to the funeral service of **Sheila (Humphries) Allison**. It was a lovely way to remember Sheila and to meet once more with her daughter **Penny Gardiner**. Afterwards I met ?Anne, Penny's contemporary at SMH.

I keep in touch with members of SMH now in their 80s. One is **Marigold (Dancy) Durrance** who lives in Terre Haute and another, **Elizabeth (Kennedy) Phillips** in Tanzania, while I see **Jean Robertson and Barbara (Wilberforce) Schooling** often. They are in nursing homes in Hove.

Considering I have lived out of Europe for most of my life and they have, for periods of their lives, it shows what a strong fellowship bond we have.

If I am still on two legs in June 2013 I shall be with you!"

Vivien Thompson (née Greenyer) wrote:... "I only know of one other of my year group. We all had to leave the school in 1940 when it closed for the war and we all went our separate ways. We all thought the war would be over in a year and we would all return to the school but of course it was not to be.

Thank you for sending me the magazine. I was so sorry to read of **Elizabeth Beresford's** death. She was my "mum" when I went up from kindergarten to the first form in the junior house, known as St Nicholas in Sussex Square. I sat next to her but she moved up to the next form after that term as I see that she was over a year older than me. I saw a programme on TV featuring her life in Alderney in 1992 and wrote to her. I had a very nice letter back which began "of course I remember you"! She told me that her two best friends, the **Messenger twins, Angela and Rosemary**, had both died from leukaemia in their teens. She also mentioned **Jean Wallace and Nancy Greig** whom I met at a reunion in 1986 at the time of the 150th anniversary. I like the idea of the drop-ins in the Hove area, although of course there would be few, if any of my vintage there. Still, it would be interesting. With many thanks and my best wishes!"

From Essex, **Mary Randall (née Fosh)** wrote:

"I left school in 1950 and find, when I have attended the reunions, that I knew nobody... I do hope, though, that the meetings are well attended and I do like to receive the Newsletter"

Mariam Verjee was one of many Old Girls who contacted us, regarding **Anne Fridal's** 2011 concert in London. Mariam wrote to say that she used to sing with Anne in the Madrigals and in fact took part with her in the BBC recording of 'Songs of Praise' at St. Peters Brighton.

Carolyn Pumphrey wrote "Wish I were in England. My sister **Charlotte** was her classmate. She and I have found huge satisfaction in knowing she has had such a splendid career. We both remember her fondly."

From **Anthea Holland (néé Drake)**

"I was sorry to miss Anne Fridal's London concert but will have only just got back to Qatar where I now live, after 2 months in Europe! Anne was in my year, so I am particularly disappointed I could not get to see her." Anthea was in touch again to say that she was in England for the Louth concert – but sadly (for us) has a family event that weekend so again will miss hearing Anne. Better luck in 2013 Anthea!

Lis Eastham (Elisabeth Ferguson-1969-76) & husband **Michael Eastham** of Brighton College (1967-73 and ex leader of BC Choir) were interested to hear of Anna. "She left a year or so after I started at SMH", write Lis, "but she couldn't be forgotten!"

"As you've prompted me I thought that the old girls who knew me might like to know that we have moved - lock, stock and barrel - to France. We are in the Loire Valley about equidistant between Le Mans & Saumur in the middle of nowhere - but also everywhere! For the records I can be found at La Petite Touche, 49490 Genneteil, France. My personal email address is lis.eastham@tesco.net and our website www.la-petite-touche.com

We have a 1 bedroomed gite for rent. There will be a second but we are currently living in it until phase 2 of our renovations of the farmhouse take place - probably at least a year before it completes.

We'd love to hear from (or see) anyone we knew/know."

Lis's Mum, **Ruth Ferguson**, has been in touch to let us have her email address and confirm that she would be interested in receiving news but any activities will depend on when or where they are. She had a carpal tunnel release operation on her right hand at the end of February and Lis was staying with her at the time of contact. Ruth wrote, with regard to local get-togethers, that she might well be interested but would not be able to get there herself unless the venue was to be very local to Haywards Heath as she no longer drives very far from home

Lynn Tulip néé Benjamin - previously Hoskins (daughters - **Lauren Lloyd néé Hoskins** and **Selena Sandeluss néé Hoskins**) was in London to hear Anne together with **Miranda Grace - néé Edwards** and **Elizabeth Jeffry - néé Hayllar**. They were all in Anne's class - peers of **Jane Smithard, Elisabeth Tooms, Jenny May, Henrietta Coombes, and Fanny Johnson. Caroline Sims, Penny Titheradge and Diana Markham and Sandra Jantuah** were also at the concert (or dinner afterwards!) given by Anne Fridal at St James' Piccadilly which also featured Jane's son, Oliver.

Fanny Johnston emailed to say what fun the concert had been! "It was terrific to hear Anne sing again and to re-connect with so many old girls." Fanny was amazed to read about Penny bumping into **Cathy Milliken**, who was often in the same dorm as Fanny in Elliott. She would love to get in touch / meet up with her. "Do you remember **Liz Nickalls**? She was also in my year/dorm and was a very good friend of Cathy Milliken. Liz and I have remained close friends and I am Godmother to one of her sons - she has four children and lives in Australia. Funnily enough I have just seen her (in August) as she was over visiting her mother in Oxfordshire, and we were talking about Cathy! I know she'd love to hear news. How on earth did you bump into her? And did you recognise one another after 40 years!"

PH writes "I actually encountered Cathy at work and passed on the invitation to get in touch with Fanny. I hope she did so as I have not seen her since (but there are around 4500 of us on site, so that's not altogether surprising!)"

On leaving SMH **Anne Fridal** studied at the Royal College of Music, London. Her theatre credits include Porgy and Bess, Cavalleria Rusticana, Carnival Messiah, Carmen and many more. She toured the world with Peter Klein's Living Arts International, singing the role of Gershwin's Serena from Porgy and Bess. Anne's recordings include "From Opera to Kitchener", "With all my Love at Christmas" and "Toute Bagai La". She sang for President Barack Obama at the opening of the 5th Summit of the Americas and performed in concert at the Kennedy Center, Washington DC. Anne has also performed at Glyndebourne, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, New York City Opera, the ancient amphitheatre in Caesarea, Israel, the International Forum in Japan, the St Petersburg Opera House with the Russian Philharmonic and at Harewood Castle by special invitation of the Earl of Harewood, amongst other venues. Anne is the owner/proprietor of "La Cafe Opera", a venue promoting young performers in Trinidad and Tobago.

Thanks to the terrific organizational skills of **Prisca Furlong** (Baillie) Anne's concert in Louth on 14th July was a resounding success (in more ways than one – the rafters rang). **Sandra Pepera (Jantuah)**, **Diana Markham** and PH were lucky enough to be there and are pictured, with others, at a pre-concert dinner on 13th July



Pictures of the concert taken by Prisca's son, a professional photographer, will be added to the SMHA website soon and hopefully linked from Facebook.

Maddy (Pickard) Orme says she would absolutely LOVE to see Leonie Ratner again. "She was an enormous influence on my life." Thank you so much for all your emails etc. Please give out my blog details to anyone you think might be vaguely interested!

www.drawinganddontaskwhy.blogspot.com

Leonie Ratner keeps in touch with PH and was disappointed not to be able to get to Louth. She very much enjoys getting the news (hard copy!) and sends her best wishes to all who remember her. If anyone would like to be put in touch PH will facilitate this.



Another former member of staff fondly remembered by many is **Mary McEwan, now Mrs Hayhurst.**

Kathy Howard sent us this photo and commented:

"....a small Smart car is just her sort of car, isn't it! Do you remember, she used to have a blue MG midget when she was at SMH"

In January Old Girls **Sarah Cox, Catherine Hall, Alice and Pegeen Armstrong** met for lunch in London following a series of chance encounters around the Capital. They had a splendid time reminiscing and hope to repeat the "lunch club" on an annual basis perhaps with more OG's (5th formers of 1990) in attendance. **If anyone reading this would like to network, let Hon Ed have your details and she will put you in touch (or use the database on the website, of course!)**

"Hallo, Penny", from the Outer Hebrides/ Western Isles wrote **Sarah (Boyd) Mylne.** "I was at SMH from Sept. 1950 - July 1960, when I left to go to Salisbury Teacher Training College, in the cathedral close.

"I have lived in Scotland from October 1980, when I inherited a cottage in the Scottish Borders from my Godmother, the same year that my marriage broke up. Last year, 2011, I moved to North Uist, in the Hebrides. I have had holidays out here since 1989, in a motor caravan, firstly with my husband, and then after he died, on my own, but always with an assortment of dogs! When I no longer had a 'van, the thought of not coming out here again was enough to spur me into looking for a house here.

"My new house is in Sollas, with amazing views of the Atlantic ocean, and two wide bays called Malaclete and Grenitote. I can see the hills on south Harris, which looked beautiful in the winter with snow on them. From an upstairs bedroom I can see the isles of St. Kilda, and a couple of lighthouses on islands not so far away. Every island is different, so to get a feel of these wonderful islands you need to visit each, as I have done many times. The weather can be unpredictable, so if you visit, bring clothes suitable for every season of the year!

"The wildlife is exciting - this year I have been able to watch a snowy owl from the sitting room, with a telescope, and I get diverted from tidying the garage when golden eagles float over. A short drive round here can almost guarantee short eared owls, lapwing, oyster catcher, redshank, eagles, buzzard, hen harrier, greylag geese, and other small waders. Some I see from the house. The beaches could be in the tropics - silver sand and the bluest sea, but you would also have it to yourself.

"The likelihood of getting to any more reunions is remote - time, cost and distance being the drawbacks.

I hope you all have a great time in Lincolnshire. Please say Hallo! to anyone who remembers me - and tell them to call in if they are passing the door! The staff at the Co-op know where I live!
"Thanks for all the work you do for SMH, and the informative emails."

Tricia Liddell, wrote to say it has been 20 years this coming September since she and her friends started at SMH and she is hoping to organize a reunion.

Diane Style (nee Hudson) is hoping to organise a group of her friends (leavers from 1980) to come to the reunion on 15th June.
If anyone reading this would like to be put in touch with either Tricia or Diane please let secretary@smhassociation.org.uk know.

Anne Valentine sent this delightful photo.
L-R (identified by names by which they were known at school) are:
Mariota Fardell, Anne Bethell, Nicky Bruton, Judith Patten, Janet Strachan, Suzy Duncan
(Seated, L to R) Mary Cunliffe, Amanda Hobson and Morny Pike.
Nicky and Judith are not 70 until next January but the rest of the group celebrated this year.



Anne wrote: *"You asked for a photo "then and now" but the only one in which we are all present is the long school photo taken in 1954. We think we look great and we don't think we have changed ONE BIT!!!!!!"*

Carole (Bartlett) Williams re-found SMHA after some email issues and wrote that she was in Surrey in May and was at last able to pop in to **Mary Cole (Cunliffe)** for a coffee and a chat. "It was so good to see her and catch up on news of our 'year'. We are all 70 this year and I have just joined that 'club'! I've lived in Bury St Edmunds for many years but plan to move to Norwich in the not too distant future to be nearer my daughter. I still travel to Sussex to see friends and have often taken a nostalgic look at the School - I was there for the final Old Girls' day."

"Hello from Down Under!" writes **Shirley Read-Jahn**

"As many of our family and friends know, I relocated permanently to Australia in late November and married Horst on December 3rd 2011. The second wedding, with the reception, was on January 7th, 2012.



"I have kept my maiden name, so here's our contact info: **Shirley Read-Jahn** & Horst Reimann
189/47 Shoalhaven Heads Road,
Shoalhaven Heads, N.S.W. 2535, Australia"

From left to right:

Pam (Read-Jahn) Bailey; Horst Reimann; Shirley Read-Jahn; Sam Kline (Shirley's son); Rowan (Cawkell) Fookes. Sam and Rowan both flew out for the wedding. Three SMH Old Girls!

Shirley continues: "Shoalhaven Heads is a lovely little country/seaside resort town about 2-1/2 hours' drive south of Sydney. We live in Horst's little house in a holiday park. Our back garden gives onto the bush, filled with glorious singing birds, and the occasional wallaby thumping past!

"The front garden has mandevillas and gardenias, both blooming rampantly; the gardenias' scent wafts into our house. We have a covered front porch, and a rear & side verandah, so plenty of place to sit outside. We're a fifteen minute walk from the beach and can hear the constant pounding of the surf. I already love it here! My sister, Pam, lives in Sydney but is down here very often, visiting her partner, Ray, who lives next-door-but-one to Horst (that's how I met Horst, on one of my visits to Australia)."

Victoria Lewis is another of our "Australian Branch" She wrote to Olive Ridge "I now live in Sydney and run my own company. I have a consultancy that delivers strategic communications planning to the defence and aerospace sector (I bet you could not have predicted that one).

"I came out to Australia to teach and was offered a role after a few months working for one of the largest defence companies in the world in Sydney. I worked my way up very quickly in the company, and was soon head of all external communications for a billion-dollar business - 12 months ago I decided that there was a gap in the market and started Defence Connect.

"I have just finished working with the Department of Defence on their largest sale of war fighting assets. I travel back to the UK at least three times a year and so plan to head back for the reunion.

"I am getting married in 2012 to a wonderful Australian man and Mum plans to move out here shortly.

Warm regards,
Victoria"

Anne (Bearne) Bell responded to good wishes sent to our NZ Girls after the Christchurch earthquake

"It is a dreadful sight to see the lovely Cathedral in ruins together with most of the major churches and the Catholic Cathedral too is a shell of its former self.

The main trouble with these places is the mortar which held the stones and or bricks together was well past its use by date and so they just collapsed. The liquefaction which has hit some of the eastern suburbs was horrendous and after any shake bigger than 5.0 up it bubbles again. These poor souls have to continually clean up after these, their land covered in grey thick silt.

"Enough of that! We are home safe and sound, the rain is outside and it is very humid today. We hope to spend a few days down at our little place at a lake near Rotorua and get some trout fishing in before my husband has to be back at work!"

PH was in touch with Anne in April of this year and Anne expanded on Christmas as follows:

"I went to Christchurch to visit our daughter at Christmas, and arrived in the airport just as quite a big one struck! Then about 40 minutes later when I was collecting a rental car a bigger one struck, I saw that I was under an awning and there were pillars holding it up, so thought I could hold onto the pillar - the lady I was with grabbed me by the arm and dragged me into the open!! Awnings are not safe!!

"I belong to the NZ Embroiderers Guilds and our Biannual conference is being held in Christchurch this July - Mmmm numbers are down and they seemed surprised! I will be going as I am on the Executive."

Leading on from Anne's news, PH found this story on the internet in April:

Cardboard cathedral for quake-hit New Zealand city



The Christchurch cathedral, built in the 19th century, sustained significant quake damage.

A cardboard cathedral will be built in the New Zealand city of Christchurch to temporarily replace the one damaged by the 2011 earthquake, officials say.

The 25-metre-high NZ\$5m (\$4.1m, £2.6m) cardboard version, to rise close to the quake-damaged cathedral, is to be completed in December.

Christchurch cathedral itself is to be demolished after it was deemed beyond repair.

The 22 February quake left 185 people dead and many buildings badly damaged. The Transitional Cathedral, to be made mostly out of cardboard tubes, will be built about 300m from the cathedral, Anglican church officials said.

Designed by Japanese architect Shigeru Ban, it will have a seating capacity of 700 people. The structure, which will also incorporate timber beams, structural steel and a concrete pad, will be used as a place of worship until a permanent replacement for Christchurch cathedral can be built.

The proposed temporary structure, described as weather and fire-proof, is projected to last for at least 20 years.

Anne (Gosnell) Stapleton heard on the grapevine that there "might be a chance of going back to SMH one last time." Anne was at SMH from 1957- 64 and is a past Hon. Sec.. Anne asked whether any of her Mother's contemporaries were still in touch. **Diana (Moore) Gosnell** was there 1931-36, leaving at the Centenary. Anne still sees or keeps in touch with about 10 of her contemporaries, day bugs and boarders; "our form was unusual in that we did not consider day bugs to be a lower species of life as did most of the years in the late 50's!"

PH replied to Anne " We have several of your Mum's era still going strong indeed I heard from one only the other day **Betty Sharp (née March)**, who lives in Lindfield and she is in touch regularly with **Cecile Edgley (née Cooper)** and **Pat Carr** who also keep in touch with me.

The database has a sort facility by "era" and 30-40 will cover your Mum while 55-65 will cover you. The website has past Newsletters on and we are in the process of uploading all the registers, some past census documents and much more, as well as many many photos. It is a terrific timewaster!"

Cecile Cooper, wrote to thank us for thinking of local meetings but to say that she did not feel able to attend. She keeps in touch with **Betty March and Pat Carr** (cf) and would not know anyone else as they are (she comments) VERY Old Old Girls! Cecile very kindly enclosed some stamps so that PH could easily continue to keep in touch with her by letter and it is a pleasure to do this. Cecile, Pat and Betty are a formidable triumvirate and will hopefully long continue to keep in touch with each other – and, from time to time, with us!

Betty Sharp (née March) wrote from Sussex to thank PH for the update had sent to members not on email. She said "It is most kind of you to keep me in touch. Although I have not attended anything in the past years I have followed all the Newsletters and was devastated to learn of the closure of the school. I still cannot believe it has happened. Very sad. I talk on the phone sometimes with two of my classmates – Cecile and Pat - but I am less mobile than they are and I do not get about these days."

All these ladies are, of course, in their 90s now, but still very much Old Girls! I have also heard from Cecile and from Pat and sent the three of them print-outs from the pages of the School Registers where their names occurred, for their interest. Life members will all be able to find your own names on these pages via the website www.smhassociation.org.uk

Cecile followed up, in June, with a note to PH to thank her for sending the pages from the Registers. She had found them very interesting and commented that she had been "gone" on one Girl whose name she recognized! Cecile's daughter, **Claire Leaphard**, was at SMH between 196 and 1961. PH wonders if any OGs remember her?

Contacts (see also the Appendix to this letter):

Penny Harrison secretary@smhassociation.org.uk

Hon Secretary and Hon Editor SMHA Newsletter,
Apartment 5 Liber House
Olympian Court
York YO10 3UF

Alice Rawdon-Mogg, Assistant Secretary, a_rawdon_mogg@yahoo.co.uk
(website)

Emma Thomas, Social Media Editor, smhassociation@gmail.com
(Facebook and Twitter)

Diana Markham, Hon Treasurer treasurer@smhassociation.org.uk

To benefit fully from your membership of SMHA be sure to register with Penny and (Life Members) use your log-on to view the full website. It is updated regularly and contains many articles and items of interest.
www.smhassociation.org.uk

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 fulfil 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.

Sue Meek	Life President	Assets /	St Marks	01273 697758	meeksmm@aol.com
Olwen Davies (VP)					olwen.davies@btinternet.com
Clare Feaver (VP)					
Teresa Broadbent (VP)					
Pamela James (VP)					
Olive Ridge	Chair	Assets /	Youth engagement	01273 502943	okridge@ntlworld.com
Penny Harrison	Apt 5 Liber House	Olympian Court,	York	YO10 3UF	07946 772620 secretary@smhassociation.org.uk
	Committee Secretary	Database /	Newsletter /	Secretary	
Diana Markham	Treasurer				diana.markham@btinternet.com
Frances Barham					grahambarham@btinternet.com
Jodie Graham					j_graham21@hotmail.com
Kathy Howard	Hard copy contact /	Phone contact			kathyxhoward@gmail.com
Virginia James	Hard copy contact /	Phone contact			
Robina Methven					
Alice Rawdon-Mogg	Web editing /	Youth engagement			a_rawdon_mogg@yahoo.co.uk
Jo Stubbs	Archive coordination /	Memorabilia sales /	Youth engagement		jo.stubbs@ntlworld.com
Emma Thomas	100 Club /	social media /	Youth engagement	07525 627998	smhassociation@gmail.com
Sue Carnochan	Archivist				sueian@gmx.com

Committee contacts sheet as at July 2013